



**Mustard Seed Children Lesson Summary for May 24, 2009
Released on Wednesday, May 20, 2009**

“Family Life God’s Way”

Background Scripture: Ephesians 5:1–6:4.

Lesson Text: Ephesians 5:21–6:4.

Memory Verse:

“[Submit] yourselves one to another in the fear of God” (Ephesians 5:21).

Ephesians 5:21–33

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Ephesians 6:1–4

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

TEACHER'S NOTES

Jesus said, "Love one another" (John 15:12). Paul talked about serving one another (Gal. 5:13). In this week's lesson, the word is "submitting" to one another. Actually, this

conveys the same idea, for loving is not mere feeling; it is also doing. Perhaps biblical love is best explained as acting for the betterment of another person.

We tend to think of submitting as obeying. But the thought behind the original Greek word was to subordinate oneself, to put oneself under another. A believer, then, who submits to a fellow Christian in the New Testament sense is saying, "In whatever way I can, I will serve this other person so that his need might be met."

Happy the church and happy the home where this attitude prevails.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that Jesus wants His people to consider themselves servants, whose job is to help others have what they need.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Jesus wants all His people to do what is for the betterment of one another.
2. The job of each family member is to serve others in the family.
3. The result of serving each other is to have a happy home.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, make a flash card that says "Love." Take a flannelgraph figure or picture of Paul. Have a Bible handy.

For Telling the Lesson, take a flash card that says "Serve" and the picture of Paul. You will need your Bible.

For Helping to Remember, provide for each student a sheet of white construction paper and crayons.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His friends two things He wanted them to do. One job was to tell the people who did not know that Jesus had died for them that He did and that they could have their sins forgiven. Telling that news is one of the jobs Jesus' friends have today.

Jesus gave His friends another job. It was a job for His friends then; it is a job for His friends today. He said, "Love one another." (Show "Love.") Jesus was not talking about liking. It is easy to like some people and not easy to like other people. But Jesus says to love *all* of His people. How do we do that?

(Point to Ephesians in your Bible.) This is the letter Jesus' friend Paul wrote to believers in the town of Ephesus. (Show Paul.) In it he told them *how* to love Jesus' way. (Show "Love.")

TELLING THE LESSON

Paul told the people what loving is. Loving is not just liking. Loving is also doing. Loving is being a servant, and you know what servants do. They serve. (Show "Serve.") They work for someone else. They help the people they work for. Paul said, "Be a servant, a helper for one another, for that pleases the Lord." To serve others, we will have to keep thinking, What does this other person need that I could help with? You help somebody else; somebody else helps you with what you need. That is the way God wants it to be.

(Show Paul.) Then Paul began talking to different people in his letter. (Point to Ephesians.) He started with the mothers and told them one way they could serve someone else. (Show "Serve.") Instead of trying to be leader of the family all by themselves, mothers should let fathers lead. God wants fathers to lead mothers and the rest of the family the way Jesus is the Leader of all His people. Mothers should be good helpers. That is the way God wants it to be.

Paul wrote to fathers too. How should fathers serve mothers? (Show "Serve.") They should care for them and love them the way Jesus loved His people. And you know what Jesus did. People needed something. We needed our sins taken away, and Jesus did what would do that. He died for us.

I wonder what Paul said to the boys and girls. How should they serve their fathers and mothers? (Show "Serve.")

"Children," Paul said, "obey your parents." Show you love Dad and Mom by doing what they say. "Fathers," he said, "you are serving your children when you teach them to know and please Jesus."

Did you happen to notice that Paul was telling Jesus' people how to have a happy home? When Dad is the good leader, Mom is the good helper, the children are good learners, and they all serve one another, home is a happy place. (Show "Serve.") Thinking about what the other people in your family need and helping them get what they need—that is the way God wants it to be.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

We should stop thinking just about what we want. Let us start thinking about what the other people in our families need that we could do something about—and then do it. Let us serve one another and love one another as Jesus said.

Sometimes people need help doing something, but many times they just need to hear a kind word or see a friendly smile or hear somebody say, "Yes, I will do that." Be the kind of boy or girl who does what others need. That is the way God wants it to be.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Tell the children, "Not all families are the same. In some there are a father, a mother, and one child. In some there are two children or more. In some there are children and just a mother or maybe just a father or a grandmother. Draw the people in your family, and make them holding hands. Under your picture print "We serve each other."

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"[Submit] yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:21).

This verse is in a letter to people who believed in Jesus. It is telling them, "Be like a servant to each other. Think about what others need. Help others have what they need because you want to do what pleases God."

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "**Protected by God!**" and explains that reading the Bible, praying, and other spiritual weapons protect believers from evil. Study Ephesians 6:10-18.

Lesson Summarized By:

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"Family Life God's Way" Puzzle (Ephesians 5:21-6:4).

G P D N Y O N K R P H N T P W
J U R L H U I E Q S X E I A A
L C O O R M H B I C C R P R T
S H R T M T N M T O A D F E E
T D U Q A I E S M I P L D N R
T R N F E L S M G V E I R T Z
E S K A B O A E Y S R H O S P
W I I T B N A H H F J C W R C
U I A R D S E V L E S R U O Y
R M V M H T U T I M B U S H V
O G E E F C K H S E N O B C D
E N T K S F Z M O T H E R R R
T V N Q M Y S T E R Y R Z U W
T V O L I V E F K B W T B H M
P R Y L X I S I O C I B Z C E

BLEMISH
CHRIST
FATHER
HUSBANDS
MOTHER
PARENTS
WATER
YOURSELVES

BONES
CHURCH
FLESH
LIVE
MYSTERY
PROMISE
WIVES

CHILDREN
COMMANDMENT
HOLY
LOVE
NURTURE
SUBMIT
WORD

22 words were placed into the puzzle.

"Family Life God's Way" Puzzle Solution (Ephesians 5:21-6:4).

+ P + + Y + N + R + H N + P W
+ + R L + U + E + S + E + A A
+ + O O R + H + I + C R + R T
S H + T M T + M + O + D F E E
+ D U + A I E + M + + L D N R
T R N F + L S M + + E I R T +
E S + A B + A E + S + H O S +
W + I + B N + + H + + C W + +
+ I + R D S E V L E S R U O Y
+ + V M H + U T I M B U S H +
+ + E E + C + H S E N O B C +
E N + + S + + M O T H E R R +
T V + + M Y S T E R Y + + U +
+ + O L I V E + + + + + H +
+ + + L + + + + + + + C +

(Over, Down, Direction)

BLEMISH (5, 7, NE)
BONES (13, 11, W)
CHILDREN (12, 8, N)
CHRIST (6, 11, NW)
CHURCH (14, 15, N)
COMMANDMENT (11, 3, SW)
FATHER (4, 6, NE)
FLESH (13, 4, SW)
HOLY (2, 4, NE)
HUSBANDS (8, 11, NW)
LIVE (4, 14, E)
LOVE (4, 15, NW)
MOTHER (8, 12, E)
MYSTERY (5, 13, E)
NURTURE (7, 1, SW)
PARENTS (14, 1, S)
PROMISE (2, 1, SE)
SUBMIT (13, 10, W)
WATER (15, 1, S)
WIVES (1, 8, SE)
WORD (13, 8, N)
YOURSELVES (15, 9, W)

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