

This lesson series has been prepared for use in

Home Group Meetings

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:42

Series 4: *The Lordship of Jesus Christ*

Number of lessons: 13

Focus of series:

Jesus is the Lord of every aspect of our lives. This series goes into detail in showing what it means to allow Him to be the Lord of our minds, our bodies, our mouths, our eyes, our ears, our marriages, our homes, our money, our jobs, our time, and the harvest.

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Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 1. Jesus, Lord of All

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

To the Teacher: This lesson begins a new series on the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This first lesson is designed to establish the fact that Jesus is the Lord of All and has every right to tell us how to live and what to do. True peace and joy come only by obeying Him in every area of life.

Read 2 Peter 1:10-11

Jesus has made an entrance into heaven for everyone who allows Him to be both their Savior AND their Lord. Jesus becomes our Savior when we respond to the gospel and are born again. He justifies us by declaring us innocent and saves us from the penalty of our sins. Once we are justified, we must begin to walk down the narrow pathway of sanctification. It is during this time that we must allow Jesus to become our Lord. It is ultimately impossible for Jesus to be our Savior unless He also becomes our Lord.

The word *lōrd* has very little meaning to many of us. We don't have lords in our country and many of us cannot relate to the idea of being under the lordship of another person. We are Americans! We are free to do as we please!

Webster's Dictionary defines *lōrd* as one having power and authority over others; a ruler by hereditary right or preeminence to whom service and obedience are due. The Greek word translated *lōrd* is *kurios*, which means supreme in authority; one who controls others; he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has the power of deciding.

Read Acts 10:36

Peter declared under divine inspiration that Jesus is the Lord of All. In Luke 6:5, Jesus claimed to be Lord of the Sabbath. This means that He alone has the right to say what can and cannot be done on the Sabbath day. In John 13:13-17, Jesus claimed to be *our* Lord. "This means He alone has the right to tell us what to do...and He tells us to serve our brethren. Jesus has the right to tell us what to do and how to live because He owns us.

Read Acts 20:28 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

According to these verses, we are no longer our own; we are literally the property of

Jesus Christ, which He can do with as He pleases. Since the only way to be saved is to be redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, if we don't believe we belong to Jesus, then we are denying that we are saved.

Read Luke 6:46

It is not good enough to simply say that Jesus is the Lord; He must actually BE our Lord. We must be submitted to Him and be willing to do whatever He says. Jesus is not a tyrant or a dictator. He does not force His will upon us. He only governs us as we consent. If we will not consent, He may try to persuade us, but He will never force us to serve Him.

The Roman emperors during the time of Christ often compelled their subjects to worship them and call them Lord. The Jews would not submit to this because to them Jehovah was the only Lord. After Jehovah came in the flesh (Jesus), the Christians also refused to call the emperor Lord. Rome was outraged at this and persecuted the early Church. The world still despises and rejects those who make Jesus their Lord. But each of us must answer this question: Will we seek to please ourselves and the world, or will we seek to please the Lord Jesus?

Read Philippians 2:9-11

The test as to whether or not Jesus Christ is our Lord is our conformity to His Word and our willingness to serve our brothers and sisters in love. Though some may refuse to acknowledge Jesus as the Lord, that doesn't change the fact that He is their Lord. One day everyone will acknowledge that He is Lord of All to the glory of God.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why is it important to Jesus that we allow Him to be both our Savior AND our Lord?
When He saves us, we show that we are willing to trust Him to do something wonderful for us. When we allow Him to be our Lord, we show Him that we are willing to trust Him completely, even when it means doing something painful or unpleasant..
2. What advantages can you think of that come from being only a servant under the lordship of someone else?
You don't have to figure everything out. You just obey.
3. Name some other reasons why it is wise to allow Jesus Christ to rule every aspect of our lives.
He loves us and wants only the best for us.
He is the only one who really knows what's best for us.
He is honest and trustworthy.
He is gentle and kind.
He alone knows what is going to happen in the future.
He is worthy!
4. Why do you struggle to allow Jesus to be the Lord over every part of your life?
Fear of what He might want me to do.
Desire to do whatever I want to do.

Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 2. Jesus, Lord of our Minds

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

To the Teacher: The next 10 lessons will examine specific areas of our lives in which Jesus Christ claims the right to be Lord. These areas are our minds, our bodies, our mouths, our eyes and ears, our marriages, our homes, our money, our jobs, our time, and the harvest. This week's lesson focuses on Jesus as the Lord of our minds.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:16 and Proverbs 23:7

Jesus desires to be the Lord of every area of our lives. An important area we need to allow Him to rule over is our mind. Proverbs 23:7 teaches that whatever occupies our thoughts is what we will eventually become. This is because we frequently act upon our thoughts. And the way we act determines what we become.

Read Colossians 1:21

Before we were saved we were all enemies of God in our minds. In other words, our own thoughts led us away from God because we didn't focus our thoughts on Jesus as our Lord. When we were lost we could not understand God no matter how hard we may have tried.

Salvation begins with repentance, which literally means to change your mind. Repentance involves a decision in the mind to change directions. It means turning away from sin and toward God. Once we have turned to God, He begins to teach us to think as He does. When we were born again, we received the mind of God by having our sins washed away and receiving the Holy Ghost. But there is still much for us to learn about the way God thinks. We don't automatically think as He does. We must learn!

Read Isaiah 55:8-9 and Romans 8:5-8

The way God thinks is completely different from the way we think. We must recognize this and make an effort to learn to think as God does. If we continue to think in the old ways (according to the flesh), we will not be able to please God. And if God is not pleased with us, everything else we accomplish in life will be meaningless.

Read Romans 12:1-2

In order to have our lives transformed by Jesus Christ, we must have our minds renewed. This means that we must learn a new way of thinking, allowing Jesus to rule over our thought life. This is the only way we will be able to discern the will of God for our lives.

Read Colossians 3:1-2

We must stop thinking so much about worldly things and begin thinking about heavenly things. We must set our minds where God wants them. This does not mean we give no consideration to what's going on around us. It simply means that we keep our focus on Jesus, allowing Him to continually sort out our thoughts and teach us what is important and what is not.

Read Matthew 16:21-23 and Philippians 2:5-8

We must let the mind that was in Jesus dwell in us. What is the mind of Christ like? First of all, Jesus did not think it was necessarily a bad thing to have to endure suffering. This is exactly the opposite of the way most people think. For example, Peter just couldn't understand this attitude (or mind-set) until after he received the Holy Ghost. He then wrote in 1 Peter 4:1-2, "Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God."

We can have the same mind as Christ by allowing Him to rule our thought life. This means we must not think about the things He doesn't want us to think about, and we must think about the things He does want us to think about. Constantly thinking about worldly things causes us to become self-centered, proud, and hardened (Colossians 2:18, Ephesians 4:17-23).

Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

God has given us the ability to control our thoughts (regardless of how much some of us may insist to the contrary). Titus 2:6 says that we are to be sober-minded; that is, we are expected to control our thinking.

Philippians 3:16-19 and 4:8

Paul grieved over the fact that many in the Church were minding earthly things. He said that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ and their end is destruction. We are advised to follow those who are spiritually minded. Philippians 4:8 is God's list of what we ought to think about. It is up to each one of us to decide what we will think about and what we will not. The things we allow to occupy our thoughts will determine who is the Lord of our minds.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What are some things that you can do when you feel as though your thoughts are completely out of control?
2. How does the idea of overcoming evil with good relate to controlling your thoughts?
We can force evil thoughts out of our heads by intentionally thinking about something good.
3. What is biblical meditation, and how can it help you control your thoughts?
Focusing your minds on a Bible passage and thinking about it.
4. How has your thought life been over the past week?

Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 3. Jesus, Lord of Our Bodies

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

To the Teacher: This lesson focuses on the idea that Jesus owns our physical bodies and has the right to tell us what we can and cannot do with our bodies.

Read Romans 12:1-2

In the Old Testament, God required the bodies of animals as atoning sacrifices on the altar. In the New Testament, He is looking for the living sacrifices of human bodies. We are to present our bodies to God the way a servant presents himself to his master. Many of us have been mastered BY our bodies. But God wants us to be the master OF our bodies. God gave us a body to serve us and Him, not for us to serve.

Read Genesis 2:7

What is a body? Our bodies are composed of the same created substances that compose the earth. It is the physical aspect of our personhood. It is our outward man. The outside of a house always gives you an idea of what the people are like who live in the house.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

After we are born again, Jesus owns our bodies just as much as he owns our spirits. Our body is a part of His body. Ephesians 5:30 says that we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. Our body shouldn't be involved in anything that Jesus wouldn't be involved in. Sexual relations outside of marriage is a sin not only against God, but against our own body (venereal diseases, AIDS, etc.). The Bible warns that anyone who uses their body to engage in sexual immorality will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9, Galatians 5:19-21).

Read Deuteronomy 22:5 and 1 Timothy 2:9-10

Jesus also tells us what we should and should not put on our bodies. Men should dress like men and women like women. We are to dress modestly and avoid overly expensive clothing. The way we dress and adorn our body reveals whether we are in control of our body or our body is in control of us. If we dress to show off our body and to attract attention to various parts of our body, then we are allowing our body to control us. If we dress to cover our body and to show off Jesus Christ and attract people to Him, then we are in control of our body.

Read James 1:14-15

Our bodies have many natural urges. A natural urge that is out of control is called lust. Uncontrolled lust always results in sin, and the final product of sin is death. God put the urges within our bodies for our good, but He expects us to keep them under control.

Read Romans 8:13

Through the power of God's Spirit we can stop giving in to the urges and desires of our bodies that lead to sin. Some people don't think there is anything wrong with lust, but Jesus said that as far as He is concerned, lust is the same as committing the sinful act (Matthew 5:27-28).

Read Galatians 5:24 and Romans 6:19

Those who truly belong to Jesus take this matter of what we do with our bodies very seriously. They put their passions and lusts to death by presenting the members of their body to God every day in prayer. If we have truly presented our bodies to Jesus as a living sacrifice, then this attitude of submission will be reflected in the way we dress and adorn our bodies and the things we allow our bodies to engage in. This is how we allow Jesus to be the Lord of our bodies.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Do you think God really cares how we dress? Why? What about tattoos and body piercing. What do you think God thinks about doing such things to the body?
2. How can you tell whether or not God approves of the way you are dressed?
3. If our bodies are nothing more than the dust of the earth, why are they important to God?
4. Why do you suppose God gave us physical bodies in the first place?
 - God wanted a visible creation. Our bodies enable us to relate to our created surroundings.
 - Our bodies give visible expression to our invisible inward man.
 - Our bodies give us an inherent weakness which helps us to appreciate our need for the goodness and assistance of God.
5. How have you misused your body recently?

Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 4. Jesus, Lord of Our Mouths

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

To the Teacher: This lesson focuses on the idea that Jesus has the right to control what comes out of our mouths. The best way for us to allow Him to exercise control over our mouths is to control what we allow to enter into our hearts. Out of the heart the mouth speaks.

Read Matthew 15:11-20

It is not what we eat that makes us spiritually unclean, it is what we say. As Christians, we have a great responsibility to exercise control over what comes out of our mouths.

Read Matthew 12:35-37

We will have to give an account for every idle (unfruitful, ineffective, worthless) word we speak. What are idle words? Ephesians 4 and 5 lists the following:

Lies (Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, putting away lying, *"Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.*)

Corrupt (rotten) communication (Ephesians 4:29 - *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*)

Evil speaking (Ephesians 4:31- *Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.*)

Foolish talking and jesting (heedless, stupid talking; off-color jokes (Ephesians 5:4 - *neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*)

Read James 1:19

It is to our advantage to do more listening and less talking. All of us need to be more careful in what we say. Silence can make even a fool seem to be wise (Proverbs 17:28). Jesus wants us to completely eliminate all idle words from our mouths.

Read James 3:1-12

The man whose mouth is submitted to the Lord is a perfect (fully mature) man. The words that come out of our mouth reflect what we have in our heart (Luke 6:45). We must therefore guard our hearts diligently (Proverbs 4:23-24). God expects us to exercise control over what comes out of our mouth (James 1:26). He has given us the ability to do this. The best way to do this is to control what we put into our heart. If we really have God in our heart, then only godly words should come out of our mouth.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:26 and Colossians 4:6

Everything we say should be for the edification (the betterment of others). We should speak graciously, backing our words up with good works (salt). This is how Jesus spoke (Luke 4:22). If we allow the Lord to have control over what we say, we will find that our spiritual ministry will be far more effective.

Read Job 6:25; Proverbs 25:11; and Isaiah 50:4

Right words are powerful and produce change. Appropriate words are beautiful. Well-chosen words can give comfort to the weary.

Read Isaiah 59:21 and Isaiah 51:15-16

God wants to put HIS words in OUR mouths so that He can speak to our lost and dying generation. It is up to us to prepare our hearts and mouths to receive His words. If we do not, we may find that eventually our words will destroy us.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. We all say things at times that we really didn't mean to say. What can we learn about ourselves from these slips of the tongue?
We can discover the hidden contents of our heart.
2. What kinds of things should we put into our hearts to improve what is coming out of our mouths?
The Word of God.
Godly music.
Other Christian influences.
3. Tell about a time when you said the wrong thing and it damaged someone.
4. Tell about a time when you said the right thing and it produced a positive change in the person you were talking to.

Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 5. Jesus, Lord of Our Eyes and Ears

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

To the Teacher: This lesson deals with the things we look at and the things we listen to. God expects us to exercise control over these things.

Read Isaiah 33:15-16

The two primary entrance ways through which thoughts and ideas enter into our hearts are our eyes and our ears. What we allow ourselves to look at and what we allow ourselves to listen to will determine what we have in our heart. The devil tries hard to tempt us into looking at things and listening to things that will destroy our faith in God.

Read 1 John 2:16

Our eyes have a natural inclination to want to look at pleasurable and alluring things. Eve was tempted to disobey God when she saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes (Genesis 3:6). If she hadn't been looking at the tree in the first place, she may never have fallen into sin.

Read Psalm 101:3

God has given us eyesight so that we can see where we are going, see other people, and read the Word of God. We must be careful to exercise control over what we look at. If we are struggling with uncontrolled lusts of the eyes, we need to confess it and pray for God to enable us to have dominion over our eyes.

Read Matthew 18:9

This is such a serious matter that Jesus said it would be better to pluck out your eyes than allow them to take you to hell.

Read Romans 10:17

God gave us ears so that we could hear the message of salvation and be saved.

Read Acts 3:23 and Proverbs 28:9

If we turn our ears away from the preaching of the Word of God, then God will not even respond to our prayers.

Read Proverbs 15:31-32

If we receive the Word of God with a ready and open heart, we will gain wisdom and understanding, plus eternal life. We are responsible for what we listen to. We must understand how much the things we listen to can affect our spiritual lives. We will be convinced that we should live for God or should not live for God based upon what we hear. We must do all that we can to fill our ears with godly sounds. Aside from the anointed preaching of the Word of God, the most powerful sound that can enter our ears is music.

Read 1 Samuel 16:23

Music is so powerful that it can compel an evil spirit to depart. Music can also invite the presence of evil spirits. Satan was involved in music before his fall and undoubtedly still uses music to entice people away from God. (The following verses describes Satan before his fall: Isaiah 14:11 - *Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, and the sound of your stringed instruments*; Ezekiel 28:13 - *The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.*) Jesus wants us to listen to godly music. He does not want us living under the influence of evil spirits.

Although many things may be lawful for us, many things are not beneficial to our spiritual growth. We need to be wise enough and mature enough to refuse to look at and listen to those things that keep us from getting closer to God.

ADDITIONAL NOTE TO TEACHER:

Use the discussion period to get as specific as you think wise. Allow your group members to answer the following questions in their own words. Some suggested answers are provided for you to use to fuel the discussion as needed. Remember, however, that it is always better for you to lead your members into their own realization of truth rather than simply dictating it to them.

Do not soft-sell the seriousness of this lesson, even if you do not get into the specifics. Your members must realize the power of sight and sound. The devil realizes it and is using it to destroy thousands of souls every day. Let's give this subject serious attention. For many, it could have a significant effect on their salvation.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What are some things that we ought not place before our eyes?
Fantasy books, romance books, worldly magazines, pornographic books and pictures, T.V., movies, people dressed immodestly.)
2. What are some things that we ought not listen to?
Worldly music, gossip, teachers of false doctrine on the radio, accusations against brethren.

Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 6. Jesus, Lord of Our Marriages (Part 1)

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

To the Teacher: The key to having a happy, healthy marriage is allowing Jesus to be the Lord. This lesson focuses on the responsibilities of the husband toward the wife as taught by the Word of God. Since these are eternal principles, it is never too early to begin learning them. Youth leaders should be establishing these godly principles even now in their members' hearts and minds so that they will be well prepared when their time comes to get married.

Read Genesis 2:21-24

In the beginning, God put a man and a woman together to form the basic unit of every family. It is His plan that the man and woman live together in harmony, each recognizing the roles and responsibilities of the other.

Responsibilities of the Husband:

In Genesis 2:18, God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him. A wife is not just a help mate. She is the one who is a companion and complement to her husband; the one who completes him."

Genesis 2:22 says that God took a rib from Adam, made it into a woman, and brought her to the man. Then Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man. Notice that the wife is made of the same substance as the husband and was taken from the part of man that protects his heart. She is therefore to be an object of love, not an object of subjugation. She is a wife, not a slave."

Genesis 2:24 says, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. For a marriage to work as God has planned, a man must LEAVE his own family and CLEAVE unto his wife. He must not place the needs of his family of origin ahead of those of his wife. He is the head of a new family, which must always have the priority."

Proverbs 18:22 says, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD. The word 'good' means something special and delightful. It is not good for man to be alone; when he finds his wife he has found the good that was missing."

Read Malachi 2:14-15

The word translated "treacherously" means to go behind someone's back, to be deceitful or unfaithful. As Christians, we must take our marriage vows seriously.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:3

God has established a divine order for the family. As the head of his household, a husband has both the right and the responsibility to make the final decisions concerning household matters. He is also accountable to God for the decisions he makes.

It is important to understand that headship does not mean dictatorship or superiority. Jesus is our Lord, but He does not boss us around. Headship includes the responsibility of seeking God, providing leadership, and gently drawing the wife and children into greater depths of spiritual life.

Read Matthew 19:4-6

A husband is expected to be "one" with his wife, that is, to live in unity. But for this to happen, he must respect her separateness and individuality. He cannot think of her as simply an extension of himself, someone there to serve him, do whatever he wants, and agree with him on every issue. This attitude does not produce real oneness, it only produces a love-starved, unhappy wife. Husbands and wives are different and fulfill different roles, but are nevertheless equal as human beings.

Read James 5:16

Husbands ought to be able to confess their faults openly and honestly to their wives without fear of judgment or rejection. In the beginning Adam and Eve were naked yet not ashamed. It is important that husbands and wives be able to expose themselves fully to their spouse, bringing every wrong attitude and action out into the light where healing can be found.

Read Ephesians 5:25-32

Husbands are to love their wives in the same way that Jesus loved the Church and gave Himself for it. This command is meant to be practical, not theoretical. It means that husbands are to sacrifice for their wives and forgo their own desires in order to do what is best for them. They must know the Bible well enough to be able to "wash her with the Word, leading her to spiritual wholeness ('cleanse and sanctify...)'." To nourish means to promote her health and strength. To cherish means to impart warmth and care.

Husbands and wives must strive to conform every aspect of their marital relationship to the principles revealed by Christ's relationship to the Church.

Read 1 Peter 3:7-8

Women often seem complex and difficult to understand by men. But husbands must seek to understand their wives. They should honor their wives, recognizing that she is the weaker vessel (physically weaker). They should not expect their wives to think or act exactly like them.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why is it often difficult for men to openly confess their weaknesses and failures to their wives? What can wives do to make it easier?
2. Discuss specific ways that a husband can nourish his wife. Can cherish his wife.
3. What are some ways a husband can honor his wife?

Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 7. Jesus, Lord of Our Marriages (Part 2)

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

To the Teacher: The key to having a happy, healthy marriage is allowing Jesus to be the Lord. This lesson focuses on the responsibilities of the wife toward her husband as taught by the Word of God.

The Responsibilities of the Wife:

Read Ephesians 5:22-24

Wives are instructed to submit themselves to their husband in the same way the Church is submitted to Jesus. This does not mean you cannot express your opinion. It simply means that when the discussion is over, you will abide by his final decision, even if you disagree.

Ephesians 5:33 suggests that the most important thing a wife can do is respect her husband. The word translated "respect" means reverential fear such as the fear we have of God. It means treating him respectfully, even when he doesn't seem to deserve respect.

Read 1 Peter 3:1-6

It has been said that beauty is only skin deep. More important than outward beauty is the inward beauty of a gentle and quiet (tranquil) spirit. Today, many women are loud, bossy, and domineering. This is a big turn-off to a man. Christian women must not allow themselves to be swallowed up by this worldly spirit but must instead model their lives after the godly women in the Bible.

When the Bible says that Sarah called Abraham "lord," it simply means she said "Yes sir" and "No sir" to him. This is a powerful way of treating a man respectfully and it fosters an attitude of respect among the children.

Read 1 Peter 3:7

Wives should accept the biblical fact that they are the weaker vessels and should not attempt to carry their husband's load. Let him carry his own load.

Read Titus 2:1-5

Wives should understand that when they fail to relate to their husbands in godly ways, they bring disrespect upon the Word of God.

Read Proverbs 31:10-31

The virtuous wife is a commendable wife and mother. She lives for her family and home, is industrious, self-disciplined, orderly, good in business, has refined tastes, manifests grace and hospitality, and is charitable.

A note to men: The husband of the virtuous wife tells her, "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all." In other words, he tells her that she is the best wife any man ever had.

Read Proverbs 12:4 and Proverbs 14:1

The word "crown" means to encircle, either for protection or attack. Today many women attack their husbands and make them feel inadequate as men. But the Bible says that a wise woman builds up her home. The words translated "excellent wife" are the same Hebrew words translated "virtuous wife." Christian wives must be there for their husband's protection. There are many temptations in the world. They must also work at building them up by treating them with respect and yielding to their leadership.

CONCLUSION: Men and women were made to go together. Even though they are very different with different ideas and different desires, they can live together harmoniously as one if they will follow the teachings of the Bible. This requires knowledge of what the Bible teaches and diligent effort to follow those teachings.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What are some specific ways a wife can protect her husband?
2. What are some ways a wife can show her husband respect?
3. What should a wife do when her husband is treating her as though she is not a separate person? Have you ever felt that way? Tell about it.
4. Discuss the various ways in which Jesus Christ has revealed the ideal marriage relationship in His relationship with the Church (His bride).

Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 8. Jesus, Lord of Our Homes (Part 1)

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

To the Teacher: There are two parts to this lesson. The first is for parents and the second for children. Teach whichever part you feel would most benefit your group.

Read Psalm 127:1-5

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES: The Word of God describes the responsibilities parents have toward their children. As we conform our approach to parenting to these principles, we allow Jesus to be the Lord of our homes.

Read Psalm 139:13-16

Children are fearfully and wonderfully made by the Lord, who then places them in our hands to raise and care for.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Parents are to teach their children the Word of God every day.

Read Proverbs 22:6

Parents are to observe their children and determine the particular path set before them by the Lord. The way the Lord wants the child to go may be different from the way the parent wants him to go. The Lord's way must take priority.

Teaching deals with the mind; it is the imparting of knowledge. Training deals with the will; it influences the child to do what is right and sees to it that he does it. Training includes punishing wrong behavior. But there is more to discipline than simply punishing wrong. It also involves teaching children what is right.

Read Titus 2:4

Parents are to love their children. Proverbs 13:24 says that a parent who won't discipline his child hates him. The parent who will not firmly discipline his children is proving that he doesn't really love them, because love necessitates discipline.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:14

Parents are to provide for their children's daily needs. Much damage results who parents attempt to get *their* needs met from their children.

Read Ephesians 6:4

Parents should not needlessly anger their children but should teach them to fear God and respect His Word.

Read Matthew 21:15-16

Parents should encourage their children to worship the Lord.

Read 1 Timothy 3:4-5

Parents should keep their children under control. This requires discipline.

Read Proverbs 22:15; Proverbs 23:13-14; Proverbs 29:15-17

All children are born with a foolish, rebellious nature which must be driven out of them. Proper spanking a child will save his soul from hell by imparting wisdom. Children who have been properly disciplined will bring delight to their parents.

God chastens us because He loves us, not because He is mad at us. Parents must combine kindness and love with firm discipline. If we spank our children because we are angry at them, we drive anger and rebellion into them. If we spank them because we love them, we drive these things out. Children can discern the difference.

Spanking is not beating, but neither is it patting. It must be firm enough to hurt yet not so severe as to injure. It is only when the spanking is hurting that anything positive is being accomplished. Children should always know what they are being punished for.

Parents will influence their children the most, not by what they tell them, but by what they are. The best way to teach them to be good Christians is to be a good Christian.

CONCLUSION FOR PART 1: Parents are preparing their children for adulthood. Ultimately it will be up to each individual to decide whether or not to be saved. But parents must do all that they can to influence the children the Lord has given to continue on to live for Him. They can only do this by following the teachings of the Bible and allowing Jesus to be the Lord of their home.

Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 9. Jesus, Lord of Our Homes (Part 2)

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION:

For those teaching parents.....

Lead a discussion on the importance of parents being real Christians and how phoniness and hypocrisy causes young people to be turned off to Christianity.

Discuss positive things a parent can do to help his children fall in love with Jesus and be saved.

For those teaching kids.....

Discuss the importance of not allowing their parents' phoniness or hypocrisy to keep them from living for God. There is NOTHING more important than spending eternity with Jesus.

Discuss what it means to honor your parents.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHILDREN:

Read Proverbs 20:11

Even young children are responsible for what they do. Jesus Christ is the Lord of all and that includes both children and teenagers. The Bible says that one of the signs of the last days will be children being disobedient to their parents (2 Timothy 3:1-2). But according to the Bible, God expects children to obey their parents.

Read Ephesians 6:1 and Colossians 3:20

Parents must expect obedience from their children.

Read Ephesians 6:2-3

Children who honor (respect and obey) their parents will be blessed and will live longer than those who are disrespectful.

Read Proverbs 1:10-15

Children should resist the pressure of their peers to do things that are wrong.

Read Proverbs 3:11-12

Children should accept their parents' discipline with a good attitude, knowing that even though it may not be pleasant, in the long run it will be a benefit.

Read Matthew 21:15-16

Children should praise and worship the Lord.

Read 2 Timothy 2:15 and 3:14-15

Children should study the Word of God for themselves. Timothy knew the Scriptures from his youth.

CONCLUSION FOR PART II: Children are ultimately responsible to God for obeying His Word. The failings and shortcomings of parents DO NOT provide an excuse for disobeying the Bible. Solomon wrote: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. (Ecclesiastes 12:13). This statement of truth applies to children and teenagers just as much as it does adults.

Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 10. Jesus, Lord of Our Money

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

To the Teacher: There is probably no subject that gets closer to home than the subject of finances. Teach this lesson with confidence; it is the Word of God. If we do not allow Jesus Christ to tell us what to do with our money, He is NOT our Lord.

Read Matthew 6:19-24

Our heart will be where our treasure is. In other words, our lives will be directed by what we place high value upon. We can place value on heavenly things or earthly things, such as bank accounts, but we cannot have it both ways. Jesus has forbidden His followers to lay up treasures on the earth. He wants our hearts to be in heaven.

Jesus is concerned about how we get our money and what we do with our money. We should be willing to work for our money, and we should only accept money that comes to us honestly. God provides us with money so that we can obtain food, clothing, and shelter, and so we can support the preaching of the gospel.

The Bible does not teach against being wealthy. It is possible to inherit a lot of money and become rich overnight. The Bible does teach against hoarding money and living lavishly. 1 Timothy 6:8 says that if we have food and clothing, we should be content. Some people don't have even the basic necessities of life.

Read Mark 16:15

Since our primary purpose in life is to spread the gospel, shouldn't everything above the necessities of life be put into the work of the Lord? This means avoiding excessive spending and living as economically as possible. A penny saved is another penny for the work of God.

Every one of us owns more of this world's goods than our Savior did. In fact, the foxes and birds have more than He had (see Matthew 8:20). Is it unreasonable for us to live below the level that we could be living at and give the extra to the work of the Lord?

We must handle our money carefully, according to the teachings of the Word of God. It is easy to become trapped in the snare of trusting in our money rather than God.

Read Proverbs 29:22

Secretly desiring riches is hardly different from actually being rich. Both result in spiritual poverty.

Read Ecclesiastes 5:12

Excessive money causes us to worry. If we don't have anything to lose, we won't worry about losing it.

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-11, 17

Excessive money can cause us to fall into temptations and err from the faith. It can also cause us to become arrogant. We need to consider these verses carefully.

Read Revelation 3:17-19

Excessive money can cause us to become lukewarm Christians. The best way to avoid the pitfalls that come from having excessive amounts of money is to give it away to a worthy cause. The principle of the gospel is, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). If God gives us more than we need to live on, it is not so we can live lavishly; it is so we can give more to the work of the Lord.

How does God want us to use our money?

Read Malachi 3:8-9

We are to pay our tithes to our local church. The tithe is the **FIRST** 10% of all our increase. The first 10% belongs to God. Paying tithes is not optional. We should also give regular weekly or monthly offerings to support the work of foreign missionaries. We should also give regular offerings to support the work of the local church.

What are some other ways we are to use our money?

1. To provide the necessities of life for our families: wholesome food, decent housing, adequate clothing (read 1 Timothy 5:8).
2. Help out those in need (Read Ephesians 4:28 and 1 John 3:17).
3. To pay our proper taxes to the government (Read Matthew 22:21).
4. The Bible permits Christians to own their own home. But home ownership is far less of a priority than spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ (Read Acts 4:34).

CONCLUSION: The purpose of living is not to accumulate things and seek after comfort and convenience; the purpose of living is to win the lost and glorify God through the gospel of Jesus Christ. The world will ridicule those who allow God to be the Lord of their money. They will say, "Why are you giving all your money to that church? You could have a nicer car, or a nicer house, or nicer clothes." But we are not trying to please the world, we are trying to please our Lord, and allow Him to be the Lord of all.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How is the way we use our money related to faith?
2. Would it be unreasonable to work a second job just to have some money to give to foreign missions?
3. Can you think of any ways that you have been excessive with your spending in the past three months?
4. Which do you think is more important to Jesus: that our children get plenty of Christmas presents or that a missionary starting a church in Africa have adequate transportation?

Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 11. Jesus, Lord of Our Jobs

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

To the Teacher: This lesson is designed to help group members understand what Jesus requires of them in their jobs. Youth leaders can apply this lesson to school. The principles are essentially the same.

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:10

There is nothing wrong with working to earn money. God recognizes that it requires money to live in this world. In fact, He says that those who will not work should not eat. But it is important that we see our employment in a Biblical perspective. Just because we are instructed to work does not mean we should do everything possible to make as much money as we can, any way that we can.

Read Matthew 6:33

Our jobs must not take priority over our spiritual obligations. If we put seeking after a career ahead of seeking God, we may get the career but we will lose out on God.

Read Proverbs 10:16

Christians should only be employed in reputable business enterprises. We must consider what kind of witness our job gives. Ideally, Christians should work at a job that is constructive and in some way for the good of society.

Read Proverbs 20:17

We must earn our money through honest labor. Lying, cheating, stealing, fraud, deceit, and illegal practices must be far from us. (Also read Proverbs 17:23; Proverbs 12:22; Proverbs 11:1)

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19

Our jobs should not needlessly imperil our health or our holiness.

Read Psalm 62:10

Our jobs or businesses must not become a temptation to us to seek after wealth and position.

Read Ephesians 6:5-8

The Bible gives clear instructions as to how employees should act toward their employers. They should do as they are told. They should do their job with enthusiasm, not grumbling and complaining over every little thing the boss wants them to do. They should work as though they were working for the Lord. Those who constantly complain about their job usually end up missing out on the blessings of God.

Read Ephesians 6:9

The Bible also tells how employers should treat their employees. They should not threaten. They should treat their employees the way Jesus treats them. They should pay them fair and adequate wages. (Also read Proverbs 22:16; James 5:4)

CONCLUSION: Jesus is looking for honesty, fairness, good attitude, and diligent work in our employment situations, whether we are the employer or employee. Our jobs should not be viewed as somehow separated from our spiritual life. Jesus sees our places of employment as missionary fields. We are there to be a good example of true Christianity for all who work with us.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Tell about a time your job performance proved to be an effective witness to someone at work? Or a poor witness to someone?
2. What is more important, having a well-run, profitable company or patiently working with the people that Jesus is wanting to save? (This is not to suggest that an employee must ignore a poor performance.)
3. What can you do to be a better witness for the Lord at your job?

Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 12. Jesus, Lord of Our Time

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

To the Teacher: Jesus has given each of us twenty-four hours in every day. It is up to us what we will do with that time. Jesus Christ expects us to make the most of the available time by doing what He wants us to do. He is the Lord of our time.

Read Ephesians 5:15-16

To redeem means to buy up the opportunity. Time is not to be wasted. It is to be used serving the Lord.

Read Psalms 31:15

Time is a gift from God. It is up to Him how much time each of us has. It cannot be bought or borrowed from someone else.

Read Psalms 90:9-10

Time is limited to all. None of us know for sure how much time we have.

Read Psalms 90:12

Time is valuable. We must apply ourselves to learning how to use our time wisely. Each of us will have to give an account to God for how we used our time.

Read Matthew 25:14-30

This parable tells of a wicked and slothful servant who wasted what God had entrusted him with. Time can be either used or abused; wasted or invested.

Read Luke 12:41-48

This parable also tells of a man who wasted what God had given him by living selfishly. He received severe judgment for his irresponsibility.

There are 168 hours in each week; 52 weeks in each year, making a total of 8,736 hours in every year. We will be held accountable for each hour. Take an inventory of how you spend your time each day...

How many hours do you spend.....

Sleeping?

Working?

Eating?

Praying?

Studying the Bible?

Ministry to others?

Church meetings or services?

Wasted?

There are several time wasters all Christians should put out of their lives:

Having no clear priorities or values

Failing to plan ahead

Living in a disorganized way

Laziness

Putting things off -- procrastination!

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-10

Even though God is eternal and exists above and beyond time as we know it, He nevertheless sets specific times to do specific things.

Read Psalms 102:13; Galatians 4:4; Revelation 11:18

God has a set time to show mercy just as He had a set time to send the Messiah. He also has a set time for judging the dead. God makes appointments with man and keeps them. He is always right on time.

How can we make the most out of every hour of every day?

Set priorities; decide what is truly important and what is not.

Plan ahead each day. Decide in advance what you are going to do (but be flexible in case Jesus decides to change your schedule -- He is the Lord of our time).

Get yourself and the things around you organized: your desk, your bedroom, your kitchen, etc.

Accept your responsibilities as a child of God and refuse to allow laziness to rule your time.

Discipline yourself to do the things that need to be done. Make up your mind that whatever Jesus says do, you will do it, pronto!

CONCLUSION: Making the most of our limited time does not mean we will never have a break and never have any recreation or rest. The Lord knows that we need these things. If we will eagerly strive to do our best at all time, He will see to it that we get rest when we need it.

SUGGESTED TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION: Ask each member to talk about what he or she would do with the additional time if (like Hezekiah) they found that God had given an extension of life by adding fifteen years to their life span?

Theme: The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lesson 13. Jesus, Lord of the Harvest

To the teacher: After studying this outline and reading each of the Scriptures, summarize in one or two sentences what you have determined to be the main point that you hope to communicate to the group:

To the Teacher: This is the final lesson in this series. The ultimate reason why Jesus wants us to submit to His Lordship is so He can use us as laborers in His harvest. His goal is to make each of us a soul-winner. This lesson is designed to stress the idea that Jesus can use every one of us. All He asks is that each of us do what we are able.

Read Matthew 20:1-7

The 5 o'clock laborer was idle because he did not think he was worth being hired. He had been there, willing to work since early morning. There is nothing worse than feeling *unneded*. Jesus promise to us is, "Come and work in My harvest, and I ll'pay you what is right. "

Read Matthew 9:36-38

The size of the harvest is in proportion to the number of laborers. The only ingredient missing in today s harvest of souls is laborers. Some of us have been willing, but up to now we have felt unneeded. Jesus is now saying, "I'heed you! "

Read Matthew 25:14-30

All Jesus asked of His servants was that they labor according to their own ability (vs. 15). The wicked man was not judged because he failed to match the performance of the other servants. He was judged because he did not do what he was able to do. *What are you able to do?*

Read James 2:14-26

Faith that does not result in action is dead. God does not expect us to put someone else s faith to work; He expects us to put *our* faith to work (vs. 17). God cannot bless nothing ! Our works are what make our faith fruitful (vs. 22). No two of us are exactly equal. We are each responsible only for what God has given us. Hands that are idle become weak (2 Chronicles 15:7 says, "But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!") We must be active Christians. If we do what we can, God will give us fruit.

Read Matthew 20:1-7 (again)

The field was ready to be harvested. All Jesus needed to get it in was the 5 o'clock laborers.

CONCLUSION: Regardless of how little we may have been involved up to now, no matter how little we may think our abilities are, God will use us now if we will yield ourselves to Him. In the last hour of harvest, everyone gets involved. The Lord of the Harvest is calling *you!*

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION:

Discuss with your group specific things that each can do to contribute to bringing in the harvest.

Some ideas you may suggest are:

1. Pray for open doors (Colossians 4:2-4).
2. Commit to be a witness to others of your own personal experience (Acts 1:8).
3. Lift up Jesus in your words and actions (John 12:32).
4. Look for people with needs and love them (1 John 3:16-18).