



Story: Family Relationships

SUPPLIES NEEDED

You will need the following:

- 14 Sheets of [Cardstock](#) (8.5" x 11")
- 14 3 mil Laminating [Film](#)

DIRECTIONS

- Print pages 2-15 two-sided. Laminate the story pages.
- Print pages 16-29 two-sided. Cut the "letters" along the gray line. Laminate all the letters and cut them apart.
- As students arrive, give them a few letters and ask them to look up the verses and fill in the blanks using a transparency (wet erase) marker.
- During class, read the story while holding up the pictures. When you come to the verses in the lesson, have the students take turns reading their "letters." At the end of class, they should put their "letters" in the correct "mailbox" (see Epistles Mailbox Bulletin Board).

Clip Art: Laura Strickland

<http://www.whimsyclips.com/>

Illustrations: Free Bible Images

www.freebibleimages.org



Hold up picture:

Think back to the Creation in Genesis. After God created the first man, Adam, He said it was not good for man to be alone. So what did God do? ***(He created a woman, Eve)*** God's plan was for the man and woman to leave their father and mother and become one flesh, or to be married, and to multiply and replenish the earth, or to have children. This is God's design for the family: one man, one woman, and their children. So today we are going to talk about Family Relationships.

HUSBANDS



Hold up the picture:

Paul first writes about the marriage relationship between a husband and wife in Ephesians 5, starting in verse 22. Let's look at the Husband first.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NKJV):

Eph. 5:23-24 – For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church...Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Eph. 5:25 – Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Eph. 5:28 – So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

1 Pet. 3:7 - Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Ask / Discuss:

God made the husband the head because someone has to be in charge and make the decisions. Does this mean that the man is more important? **(No)** That's why God tells the man to love his wife like what? **(As Christ loved the church; As themselves)** Husbands are to live with their wives with understanding, giving what to the wife? **(Honor as the weaker vessel)** Women are just different from men, women are more emotional and nurturing, so the husband needs to be understanding, and honor that femininity.

WIVES



Hold up the picture:

Now let's look at the Wives.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NASB):

Eph. 5:22 – Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

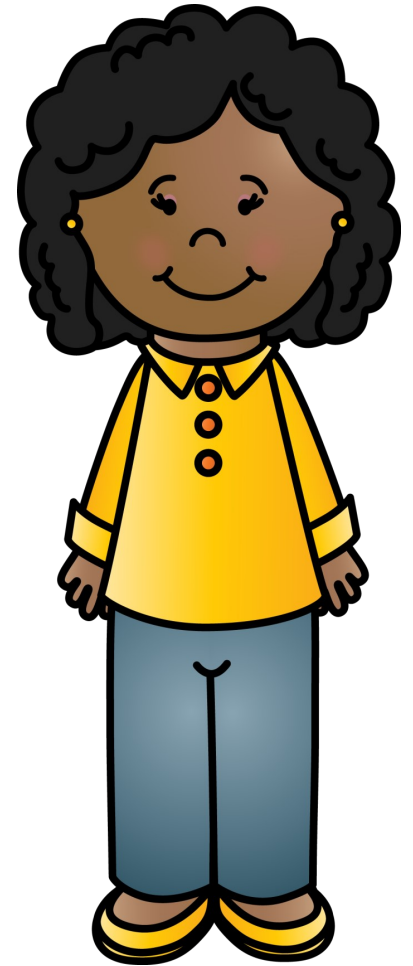
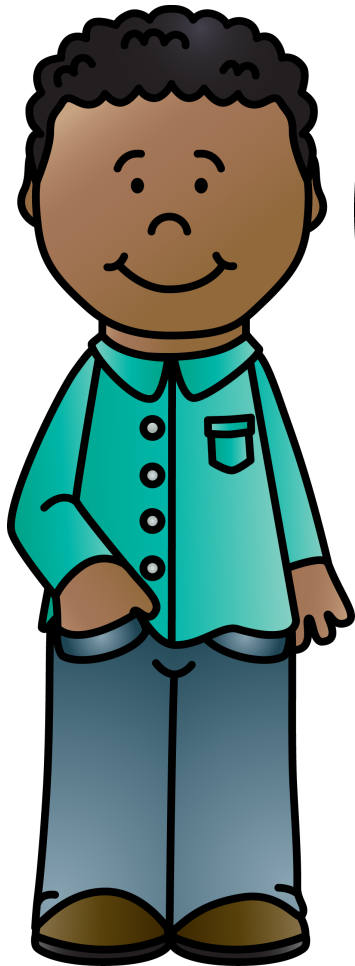
Eph. 5:33 - Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

1 Pet. 3:3-4 - Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

Ask / Discuss:

What is the wife's duty to her husband in 5:22? *(Submit to him)* What is the wife's duty to her husband in 5:33? *(To respect him)* Is a wife supposed to be concerned about how she looks? *(No)* What is more precious to God than the wife's outward appearance? *(The heart, a gentle and quiet spirit)*

DIVORCE



Hold up the picture:

What does the Bible say about ending a marriage? Jesus gave only one reason for divorce in Matthew 19:9. He said, “Whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.” Let’s see what Paul wrote to the Corinthians concerning this.

Let the students take turns reading the “letters” (NASB):

1 Cor. 7:10-11 - But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

Ask / Discuss:

The marriage laws in the Bible are very clear that marriage is a lifetime commitment. If a husband or wife end the marriage for any reason other than fornication, it results in sin. Therefore, we need to be very careful who we choose to marry.

CHILDREN



Hold up picture:

What about children...do children have any responsibilities in the family? Does anyone remember what the 4th Commandment was in Exodus 20? (*Honor your father and mother*) Do you think Paul will repeat that commandment in the New Testament? Let's look at Ephesians 6.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NKJV):

Eph. 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Col. 3:20 - Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Ask / Discuss:

What reason does Paul give in Ephesians for children to obey their parents? (*It is the right thing to do*) Then Paul quotes Ex 20:12 stating this is the first commandment with promise. What is the promise for obeying one's parents? (*That it will be well and you will live long*) What are some ways your parents help keep you alive? (*Feed you healthy foods, Teach you to avoid dangers like crossing the street; Keep you from bad people/influences; Teach you to avoid drugs & alcohol, etc*) What reason does Paul give in Colossians for children to obey their parents? (*It pleases God*)

PARENTS



Hold up picture:

Let's close by looking at the instructions that Paul gives to parents. Before we read what Paul says in the New Testament, let's read a verse from Proverbs.

Prov. 13:24 - He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

Remember our lesson about Church Discipline? What does discipline mean? (*Training*) Why does a father discipline his child? (*Because he loves him*)

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NKJV):

Eph. 6:4 – Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (*NASB*)

Col. 3:21 - Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Titus 2:4-5 - that [the older women] admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

Ask / Discuss:

What does Paul tell fathers to not do? (*Provoke their children to anger or discourage them*)

Parents need to correct their children when they are wrong, but we need to be careful to do it in a loving way without discouraging them. What does Paul instruct young mothers to do? (*Love their children, be homemakers*)

The Christian Family



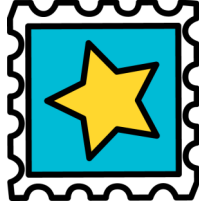
Hold up picture:

Do parents make rules just because they can? **(No)** They make rules for you so that you will grow up to be the best man/woman and hopefully Christian that you can be! Jesus said in John 14:15, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” The same goes for our parents. Do you tell your parents you love them? **(Yes)** Then what should you do? **(Obey them)**

Let’s make Thank You notes to give to your parents today. Thank them for taking care of you. Thank them for teaching you about God and Jesus. And if you haven’t obeyed lately, apologize and tell them you will do better.

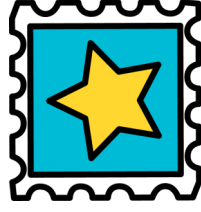
(After the lesson, have the students put “The Epistles” in the correct mailboxes.)

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

EPH. 5:23-24

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4b / #1

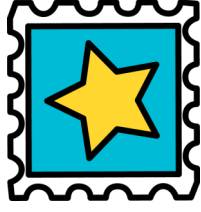
For the _____ is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church... Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

EPH. 5:25

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4b / #2

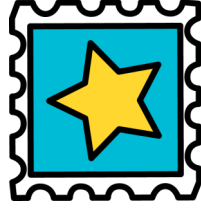
_____, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for her,

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

From: Peter



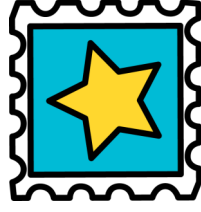
To: The Christians
in Asia Minor

So _____ ought to love their own
wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife
loves himself.

1 Pet. 3:7

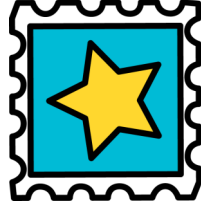
_____, likewise, dwell with them with
understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the
weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the
grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

EPH. 5:22

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4b / #5

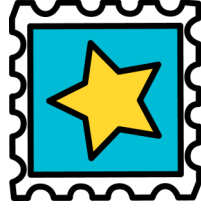
_____, submit to your own husbands,
as to the Lord.

EPH. 5:33

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4b / #6

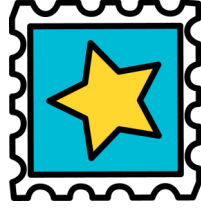
Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to
love his own _____ even as himself, and
the _____ must see to it that she
respects her husband.

From: Peter



To: The Christians
in Asia Minor

From: Paul



To: The Corinthians

1 Pet. 3:3-4

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4b / #7

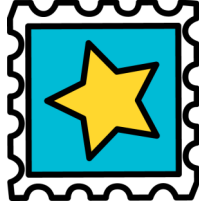
Your adornment must not be merely external—
braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or
putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person
of the _____, with the imperishable
quality of a gentle and quiet _____, which
is precious in the sight of God.

1 Cor. 7:10-11

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4b / #8

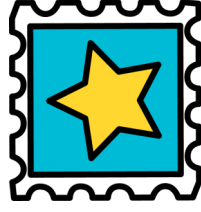
But to the married I give instructions, not I, but
the Lord, that the wife should not leave her
husband (but if she does leave, she must remain
unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband),
and that the husband should not _____
his wife.

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

From: Paul



To: The Colossians

EPH. 6:1-3

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4b / #9

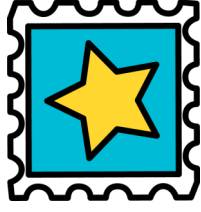
_____, obey your parents in the Lord,
for this is right. " _____ your father and
mother," which is the first commandment with
promise: "that it may be well with you and you may
live long on the earth."

COL. 3:20

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4b / #10

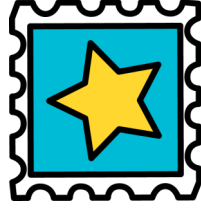
_____, obey your parents in all things,
for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

From: Paul



To: The Colossians

Eph. 6:4

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4b / #11

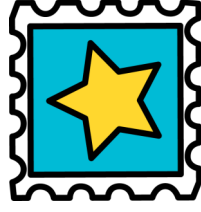
_____, do not provoke your children to
anger, but bring them up in the discipline and
instruction of the Lord.

Col. 3:21

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4b / #12

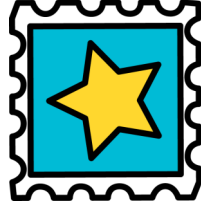
_____, do not provoke your children,
lest they become discouraged.

From: Paul



To: Titus

From:



To:

...that [the older women] admonish the young
_____ to love their husbands, to love
their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers,
good, obedient to their own husbands, that the
word of God may not be blasphemed.