

IMPLEMENTING GOD'S WORD...

YEAR TWO | WINTER QUARTER
BIBLICAL RELATIONSHIPS 2

SSY02W

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH





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LESSON SEQUENCE

WINTER QUARTER

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the **Implementing God's Word...** curriculum is to equip youth to put the truths of Scripture together in their minds and to work in their hearts, by the help of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON ONE	Parents I
LESSON TWO	Parents II
LESSON THREE	Siblings
LESSON FOUR	Siblings in Christ I
LESSON FIVE	Siblings in Christ II
LESSON SIX	Work Relationships I
LESSON SEVEN	Work Relationships II
LESSON EIGHT	The Civil Government
LESSON NINE	Friendships I
LESSON TEN	Friendships II
LESSON ELEVEN	Marriage
LESSON TWELVE	Strangers
LESSON THIRTEEN	Non-Christians



DEDICATED TO THE YOUTH MINISTRY OF
PEAR ORCHARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

LESSON ONE --- PARENTS I

OVERVIEW

The starting point for a right relationship with our parents is a right relationship with our Heavenly Father. Sometimes we forget the fact that He is our Parent as well as our Lord. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus constantly directed people to the truth that they are to be glorifying their Father in heaven. He is the one to serve, to pray to, and to seek to please.

As our Heavenly Father, God instructs us to honor our earthly parents. That commandment was connected to long life for the Israelites, and it applies to us as well. Throughout the Mosaic civil law, we see the importance of honoring parents. Striking or cursing at a parent meant death for a Jewish child. Rebellion and stubbornness also had the consequence of death, since it only dishonored parents. While those consequence don't persist for believers today, the command to honor parents stands.

The Book of Proverbs is replete with wise sayings about our parents. Parents are a prime source of wisdom and instruction for their children. It is absolutely foolish to ignore their teaching. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son brings grief to his parents. It truly grieves our parents and the LORD when we act in foolishness. Listening to parents is vital to the future growth of all of our children!

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

It's not the most exciting topic for our children, that's for sure. They spend much of their lives hearing how they are to honor and obey their parents. Yet do they connect it to their relationship with their Heavenly Father? That's the goal for this lesson. Show them how their first and foremost task is to honor and glorify their Father in heaven. Help them see how His Fatherliness relates to the responsibilities of earthly parents. Can you submit your life to a Father in heaven yet spend your life in rebellion to parents? Impossible! Connect these vital dots for your students. Train them to see the beauty of bringing joy to their parents rather than sorrow. This is a lesson we all need to learn and remember!

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Proverbs 4:1-2
2-3 mins.

DRILL TIME

A true friend
3-5 mins.

MIND-IN-TRAINING

The cautious mind
6-8 mins.

BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

Parents
30 mins.

MIND-IN-ACTION

Glory and Joy
3-5 mins.



WELCOME

THE WELCOME SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET YOUR STUDENTS AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED.

EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH A PASSAGE FROM PROVERBS THAT WILL "CALL" THEM TO STUDY AND GROW IN WISDOM!

DRILL TIME GIVES YOUR YOUTH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST. THESE WILL BE QUESTIONS FROM A PREVIOUS LESSON OR FROM THE SCRIPTURES.

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. Open with prayer.

*As we begin our studies today, listen to God's Word. **Read Proverbs 4:1-2.***

¹ Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, ² for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching.

Think of this as God the Father speaking to you. His Word is good and perfect. Don't ever forsake it!



DRILL TIME

Now, we will move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned from God's Word. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *What is the best example of friendship in the Old Testament? What does the Book of Proverbs say about a true friend? What Old Testament man was called a "friend of God?" Why can't we be friends with God AND friends with the world?*

Call on students to answer.

Answers:

1. David and Jonathan.
2. A true friend loves at all times. A true friend is there during adversity. A true friend is closer than a brother. Counsel from a true friend is sweet.
3. Abraham.
4. Because the world hates God. The world is in rebellion against God.

We ended last quarter with a study of true friendship. The best example is the friend Christians have in Jesus!



MIND-IN-TRAINING

Say: *Each week in this class, we will continue to take time to TRAIN our minds how to THINK. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with our minds!*

*Raise your hand if you think of yourself as a CAUTIOUS person. How would you describe someone who is CAUTIOUS? **Allow answers.** Is being CAUTIOUS a good thing or a bad thing? **Allow answers.***

*Some people are overly cautious, which can be a bad thing. Being too cautious can keep us from taking important risks for the LORD. What are some examples of things that Christians need to be less cautious about? **Allow discussion.***

*There is an important place for us to show CAUTION—and that is in our thinking. We should have cautious minds. We should be careful to come to conclusions about things. We should be cautious about new thoughts that come into our minds. Why do you think it is good to be a CAUTIOUS THINKER? **Allow answers.***

*Caution in our thinking shows wisdom. For example, if someone tells you something about God you have never heard before, is it better to be cautious here? Yes! Let's say your friend says that, in the beginning, God was lonely—and that's why He chose to make people. Would you believe this right away? What if it was your pastor who said it in a sermon? **Allow discussion.** A good thinker would be cautious and examine what the Bible says about it. A good thinker takes time to reflect and ask more questions!*

But remember that we shouldn't be overly cautious, even in our thinking. At some point, you have to make a decision about what you believe on any subject. You have to choose a course of action. So, learn to be a CAUTIOUS thinker—think well—and then come to good conclusion!

THE MIND-IN-TRAINING SECTION IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS TO LEARN TO THINK.

THIS ELEMENT TEACHES A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE MIND AS WELL AS USEFUL TOOLS TO ENGAGE YOUNG MINDS.



BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

THE BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT TAKES THE STUDENT ALL THROUGH GOD'S WORD, SYSTEMATICALLY TYING IT TOGETHER TO BUILD A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS, SEPARATED BY TIMES OF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS.

THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Introduction: *This quarter, we are going to get more specific in our study of Biblical relationships. We will look at our relationships with parents, siblings, friends, and even relationships that move into marriage. Today, we begin with PARENTS—the primary relationship in a child's life. We begin in the New Testament, in the Book of Matthew.*

Go to Matthew 5. **Read Matthew 5:13-16.**

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Discussion: *Now why would we start here in our discussion of PARENTS? Allow answers. Jesus is telling us to be salt and light to this fallen world. If we do that, who will get the glory? [God.] More specifically, our Heavenly Father will get the glory.*

Application: *What I want you to consider is how a right view of your parents begins with a right view of God as your FATHER. He is the Heavenly Father of all Christians. And our job is to always glorify God the Father.*

Now go to Matthew 6. **Read Matthew 6:1-4.**

¹ "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ² "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Discussion: *Again we are thinking about our Father in heaven. Why should we do our good things in secret? [So our reward will come from our Father.] Our Heavenly Father should be the only one we work to please!*



Let's read the next verses together. **Read verses 5-9.**

⁵ "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Discussion: *I hope you're getting the idea. Over and over again, Jesus says that our focus should be on our Father in heaven. He is the one we pray to. He is the one we serve. He is the one who meets all of our needs.*

Application: *So again I say to you that you will only have a Biblical relationship with your earthly parents if your focus is on serving your Heavenly Father. He is the perfect PARENT who is in total control of your entire life.*

Now turn to Exodus 20. **Read Exodus 20:12.**

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Discussion: *You should recognize this verse as one of the Ten Commandments. First, focus on the promise attached to it. What is it? [Long life.] Just think about that promise. Everyone wants a long life! Everyone wants to live in bounty and abundance. So for God's children, how do we live long and prosper? [Honor our mother and father.]*

Application: *So what does it mean to HONOR your parents? **Allow answers.** Honoring starts with your attitude. To honor is to lift up and show respect in your heart. That may be a challenge for you from time to time. But maybe remembering this promise from your HEAVENLY FATHER will help.*

Now go to Exodus 21. **Read Exodus 21:15-17.**

¹⁵ "Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death. ¹⁶ "Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death. ¹⁷ "Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.

THIS SIDEBAR FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL INFORMATION WILL ALSO APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR FROM TIME TO TIME.



Discussion: *Now this is scary part of God's law. No, this is no longer in force today—it was God's law to the Israelites. So why would our Heavenly Father institute such a strict law on children? [To demonstrate how important it is to honor our parents.] Cursing at your parents or hitting them is certainly breaking God's law. It is not honoring in any way! So while the consequence is no longer with us, the command to respect our parents IS!*

Turn to Deuteronomy 21. **Read Deuteronomy 21:18-21.**

¹⁸ "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them, ¹⁹ then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives, ²⁰ and they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' ²¹ Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

Discussion: *Raise your hand if you would rather live back in the days of the Israelites! What would happen to you if you were stubborn and rebellious against your parents? [You would be stoned by the men of the city.] Why would you be stoned? [To purge the evil from the midst of Israel.] Again, this may sound way too strict to you—but don't forget that God's law is perfect. Honoring parents has always been a BIG deal to God. Rebellion against God's authority in your life is the same as rebellion against HIM! Why? **Allow discussion.** These laws in Israel certainly made it clear that children were to submit to the authority of their parents, just as we all are to submit to our HEAVENLY FATHER.*

We will finish today by reading through several important wise sayings found in the Book of Proverbs. They teach us how we are to HONOR our parents.

Turn to Proverbs 1. **Read Proverbs 1:8.**

⁸ Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,

Discussion: *This is a verse we've read many times. Why should you not forsake your parents' teaching? **Allow answers.** In God's order of things, He has given you parents to teach you all sorts of things. If they are Christians, they are to teach you more and more about Christ too.*



Application: *So, are you listening? Are you drinking in this vital instruction while you have the chance?*

Look at Proverbs 6. **Read Proverbs 6:20.**

²⁰ My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

Discussion: *By the way, this goes for all you daughters too! And it demonstrates that you need to learn from BOTH of your parents. They have great wisdom to share with you.*

Go to Proverbs 10. **Read Proverbs 10:1.**

¹ The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.

Discussion: *If you become a parent one day, you will now how true this proverb is. Just like your Heavenly Father is glorified when you are wise, your parents are made glad too!*

Look at Proverbs 13. **Read Proverbs 13:1.**

¹ A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Discussion: *We're going to keep seeing this repetition in the Proverbs. God wants us to hear it! Listening to your parents is a gauge of your wisdom. If you do not listen to their rebuke, what does it say about you? [You are a scoffer!]*

And to Proverbs 15. **Read Proverbs 15:20.**

²⁰ A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother.

How about Proverbs 17:25? **Read Proverbs 17:25.**

²⁵ A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him.

Discussion: *There is almost nothing more sad for parents than to have a child who is a fool. And, God grieves too when He sees His children living foolish lives.*

We'll finish in Proverbs 23. **Read Proverbs 23:22, 25.**

²² Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your



mother when she is old. ²⁵ Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.

Conclusion: *We have lots more to learn about our relationship to our parents in the New Testament. For now, think about these wise words from Proverbs. Who wouldn't want their parents to be glad? Watch your parents rejoice as you listen to them and honor them all of your life!*



MIND-IN-ACTION

Each week, we will end our time together with a MIND-IN-ACTION section. Often times, our minds are "Missing in Action!" It is vital that you and I put what we learn from God's Word into action so we are DOERS of the Word, and not hearers only.

So, here is my challenge to you as we close today:

Grow in your love for your Heavenly Father.

You will not have a solid relationship with your parents if you aren't focused on glorifying your Heavenly Father first. It is out of love for Him that you are to love your parents. It is out of honor for Him that you honor your parents!

And the second part of my challenge is this:

Seek to bring JOY to your parents.

Some of you may rather have your parents bring joy to your life. But, as their child, it is your task to bring them joy. And, believe it or not, this will bring joy to you too. You will need God's grace to do this though, so ask for it!

Close in prayer.

THE MIND-IN-ACTION SECTION IS DESIGNED TO MOVE YOUR STUDENTS TO ACTION. AS THEIR MINDS GROW IN KNOWLEDGE, THEY ARE CHALLENGED TO GROW IN WISDOM. THEY WILL NEVER TRULY LEARN IF THEY DON'T PUT WHAT THEY HAVE STUDIED INTO PASSIONATE ACTION!