

Women of Grace

Lesson 21 | The Family

As society continues its mad quest to eliminate the family, and as our whole culture therefore unravels more and more, it becomes more important than ever for Christians to understand what the Bible teaches about the family, and to put it into practice in their homes. It may well be that the example we set before the world through strong homes and healthy families will in the long run be one of the most powerful, attractive, and living proofs that when the Bible speaks, it speaks with the authority of the God who created us and whose design for the family is perfect.

— John MacArthur, *The Fulfilled Family: God's Design for Your Family*, p. 8–9

Memorization Verse
James 1:24

for once he has looked at himself
and gone away,
he has immediately forgotten
what kind of person he was.

Outline

- I. God's Plan for the Family
- II. God's Plan for Marriage
- III. God's Plan for Parents
 - a. The Father
 - b. The Mother
 - c. The Children
- IV. God's Ultimate Plan)

DAY 1 | Marriage

Read Proverbs 5:15–20

1. From last week's lesson, what principle on the wise use of money has changed your thinking or encouraged you to take steps to grow in this area?

2. From the following passages, what blessings and consequences are given?

Passage	Blessings of a Faithful Marriage	Passage	Results of Infidelity
a. Proverbs 5:18, Song of Solomon 2:3–5		a. Proverbs 5:9	
b. Genesis 1:22, Psalm 128:3		b. Proverbs 5:10	
c. Proverbs 4:22		c. Proverbs 5:11	
d. Proverbs 31:23		d. Proverbs 5:14	

3. Which description of marriage would you like to have, whether you are presently married or single? And whether single or married, how can you personally and practically strengthen and protect the marriages around you? How can you work to accomplish that?

4. Why is it important that every believer, whether married or single, knows what God’s Word teaches about marriage and the family?

DAY 2 | The Father

Read selected Scriptures

1. In Proverbs 20:7, why are the children referred to in this verse as “blessed”?

a. What character qualities do you think describe or define a righteous person? Try to use Scripture to support your answer.

- b. How does righteousness relate to the fear of the Lord, (returning to this year's theme in Proverbs 1:7?)

- 2. According to Proverbs 10:9, 10:29, and 19:1, what does it mean to walk in integrity (from Proverbs 20:7)?
 - a. What impact does a father who walks in integrity have on his family?

 - b. Is integrity a trait for men only? Why or why not? What does it mean for you to live in integrity?

- 3. From Proverbs 4:1 and 14:26, in what specific ways are children blessed?
 - a. How do you encourage and promote these truths in your own family or families around you?

DAY 3 | The Parents

Read Proverbs 4:1–4 and 31:2–9

- 1. In Proverbs 4:1–4, what pattern do you see regarding the instruction of children?

- a. How is the son commanded to respond? How is this response similar to Proverbs 1:8?

2. From Titus 1:9 and 2:10, what is “sound teaching,” and why would Solomon emphasize that characteristic to his son?

3. Moving to the mother’s role in instruction in Proverbs 31:3, what is the first caution the mother gives her son?
 - a. How does Deuteronomy 17:17 help you better understand this caution?

4. What caution is given in Proverbs 31:4–5 and 20:1? How might this warning be valuable for every child?

5. From Proverbs 31:8–9, summarize the mother’s teaching in your own words.
 - a. How do you teach this to the children in your life?

3. From the qualities of an excellent woman featured in Proverbs 31, in what particular area do you desire to grow? What steps will you take today to work towards that goal?