

## **Family: Investing in Something that Lasts | Part 2**

Lesson 4

Genesis 2:18-25; John 1:14, 17, 13:34-35

April 28, 2024

### **An Important Thing in Parenting**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Answers from recently published research stating the “Best thing for your children is to....” include eating dinner as a family, enforcing no-screen time, making them work, delaying gratification, reading to them, encouraging travel, and letting them fail. Do you agree with this? What would you add? Some say, “The best thing a man (woman) can do for his (her) children is to love their mother (father).”

This week we are considering an important thing in parenting that is to demonstrate a healthy marriage. This may feel out of reach for many parents, but we should point our children toward the ideal.

The Bible uses pictures of marriage and family to describe our relationship to God and between Christ and the Father. The Bible also has many illustrations of families; the good, bad, and ugly are all there.

Let’s see what the Bible has to say about the relationships between husband and wife, with children, and with God. Spoiler alert: love is key.

***Memory verse: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”—John 1:14***

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

**OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?**

1. In Genesis 2:18-25, for what reason did God make woman? (Genesis 2:18, 20b, 24)
2. How is Adam and the woman's relationship (marriage) described? (Genesis 2:23-25)
3. What is Jesus' command according to John 13:34-35?
4. In John 1:14, what does it tell us that the Word (Jesus) did?
5. What came through Jesus Christ according to John 1:16-17?

### **INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?**

1. Read what Jesus says about marriage in Matthew 19:4-6. How does His definition of marriage vary from Genesis 2:24, and why do you think it does?
2. Look back to your answer from Observation Question 5. How does what came through Jesus help in parenting?
3. As noted in the Introduction, the Bible tells of many families. None was perfect. What can be learned from Elkanah and Hannah and from Mary and Joseph (among other couples)? (1 Samuel 1:1-24; Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 2:41-51)

4. How does scripture referring to God as our father inform families about how they should function? (Deuteronomy 5; Matthew 7; 2 Corinthians 6:16-18)

**APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?**

1. What other families in the Bible can we use as guides for our own families? (Positive and negative options are welcome)

2. How does today's lesson inspire you to follow Jesus?  
What are some steps you can take this week to improve relationships and exhibit a healthy marriage and family?

3. Write a prayer for our Father's guidance on the steps you came up with for Application Question 2.