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CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS

Bible

# Enquirers

Youth • Age 13-18 • Teacher Guide

May • June • July • August • 2023



## Youth • Age 13-18 • Teacher Guide

The *Youth Teacher Guide* provides in-depth Bible study with suggestions for teacher preparation and a step-by-step teaching plan for the youth Bible studies. Each teacher needs a copy of the Youth Learner Guide in addition to this Youth Teacher Guide.

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# Family Focus



May 7  
**God's Plan  
for Marriage**

May 14  
**A Godly Woman**

May 21  
**A Godly Man**

May 28  
**Love One Another**

**Unit Overview:** The May Unit, Family Focus, will illustrate godliness within the family. Family members are to treat one another with the love Christ has for us. The Unit will explore the ways godliness within the family is a statement and witness of God's love for the world.

**Unit Central Truth:** Within the family unit, and in the kingdom of God, every member matters.

**Unit Teaching Aim:** Youth will examine their attitudes toward each member of the family and determine if those attitudes reflect the love Christ has shown to them.

**Unit Youth Needs:**

- To understand that their attitudes toward family members are a testimony to either the love of Christ or their own rebellion toward God
- To acknowledge that the family unit is meant to be a testimony of God's love
- To determine ways in which they need to change or improve
- To celebrate the areas of their life in which they honour God in their family

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**Photo Credit:** Alexis Robinson

## FAMILY FOCUS

# God's Plan for Marriage

<b>Bible Focus:</b>	Genesis 2:18-24; Mark 10:1-12
<b>Memory Verse:</b>	Mark 10:6-8 (NIV)
<b>Central Truth:</b>	God expects marriage to be between a man and woman, committed first to Him and then to each other.
<b>Teaching Aim:</b>	Youth will demonstrate appreciation for God's plan for marriage by committing to keep himself or herself away from the temptations of any kind of union that is against God's plan for marriage.



## TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

### God's Purpose (Genesis 2:18–24)

According to Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology, Marriage is *an intimate and complementing union between a man and a woman in which the two become one physically in all things. The institution of marriage which was designed by God, has a divine purpose—to reflect the relationship of the Godhead, to reflect God's image and to serve God.*

God exists as the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All three exist in unity; however, they also exist as individuals. Genesis 1:26 (NIV) tells us that God said *Let us make humankind in our image....* In order to reflect this plurality and unity, God, after creating Adam, created woman using a rib from Adam (Genesis 2:21) and joined them as man and wife (v. 24) thus initiating the first marriage.

### God's Plan (Genesis 2:18–24)

A part of God's plan for marriage is relational. God knew that Adam needed a suitable companion (v. 18). Adam's response to God's gift of a

companion is a clear indication that part of God's purpose for marriage is for the man and woman to complete each other. In verse 23 when Adam said: *This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh*, he was acknowledging that he had found a suitable companion and helper. The man and woman completed each other and became a team. They were the first family. Together they were able to achieve what each could not do independently.

Verse 24 gives other insights into God's plan for marriage—His design is for marriage to be a monogamous, heterosexual union. As marriage was instituted by God, it is a commitment that should honour God, as it is a covenant made to God first, then to each other as man and woman become 'one flesh'.

### Permanency of Marriage (Mark 10:1-5; Mark 10:7-12)

This New Testament passage focuses on unity and permanency of God's plan for marriage as also the heterosexual ideal. In response to the question about the lawfulness of divorce (v. 2), Jesus used the opportunity to explain that Moses' instruction on divorce was as a result of the people of Israel's departure

from the teaching of the Scriptures (vv. 4-5), implying that divorce was not a part of God's plan.

Jesus made it clear that from the beginning of creation, God:

- required that a man leave his parents and unite with his wife (v. 7);
- ordained that they become 'one flesh' (v. 8);
- forbade separation (v. 9);
- regarded the separation of a man from his wife or a woman from her husband as adultery and therefore a sin (vv. 11-12).

These verses, as well as the Genesis 2:18-24 account of the first marriage, reinforce God's plan for marriage; the ideals which include unity, permanency, commitment, exclusivity, companionship, intimacy and procreation (Genesis 1:28).

### **Marriage to be a Monogamous Heterosexual Union - Mark 10:6**

God's plan allows for heterosexual, monogamous marriages which honour Him. Relationships which involve homosexuality, polygamy, adultery, premarital sex, incest, concubinage or other sexual relations outside of marriage, do not honour God and are therefore sinful. A godly marriage builds a godly legacy from generation to generation, through the family unit, by raising children to revere God and live according to God's standards.

Marriage is a gift from God, however singleness should not be abused. In 1 Corinthians 7:32 (NIV), Paul states: *An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord.* Singleness leaves one freer to serve God; therefore, it can be a great blessing.



## PLANNING

### **Plan to Meet These Youth Needs:**

1. To accept that marriage is meant to be between a man and a woman
2. To accept that to have a godly marriage, both partners first must love God with all their heart
3. To understand that a commitment to marriage is an oath before God and to each other and should not be broken

### **Prepare to Teach**

- Prepare a **Unit Poster** with the **Unit Title** and the **Lesson Titles**. Prepare to display the poster during each of the four sessions during the month.
- Prepare a collage of news and magazine headlines, short articles and pictures about marriages (heterosexual and same sex) for use during **Get Class' Attention**.
- Enlist a male and female youth to share, in their own words, God's plan for marriage, during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- Prepare a summary of the information in **Teacher Bible Study** for use during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- On two sheets of paper, write all five **Bible Search** statements. Use during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- Prepare commitment cards for use during **Commit to Action**.
- Complete the **Weekly Preparation Checklist** on page 32.



# GUIDE THE SESSION

## STEP 1 Get Class' Attention

Welcome youth to class and open in prayer. Display the **Unit Poster**. Draw attention to the **Unit Title** and the **Lesson Titles**. Say: *This Unit will focus on godliness within the family and showing godly love to our family members. Today's Lesson Title is God's Plan for Marriage.* Display your collage of news headlines, short articles and pictures about marriages. Ask: *What do you think these pictures, news headlines and articles are indicating about how the world views marriage today?*

## STEP 2 Examine Bible Lesson

Have the youth assigned read aloud the **Bible Focus**, **Genesis 2: 18-24; Mark 10:1-12**, while the class listens. Have the two youth you assigned share their summary of God's plan for marriage. Supplement their responses with information from **Teacher Bible Study**.

Divide the class into two groups for **Bible Search**. Distribute a sheet of paper with the five statements to each group. Have both groups read the statements aloud, then allow the groups a few seconds to discuss the statements. Then, have the groups say simultaneously whether each statement is true or false. Correct responses: 1) F; 2) T; 3) T; 4) T; 5) T; 6) F.

## STEP 3 Apply Bible Truth

Ask youth to complete **Personal Learning Activity A** and **B** and then share their responses.

Have a volunteer read Terry's story in **A Leaf from Life**. Ask three

youth to share their responses to the questions which follow the story.

Display the poster with the **Memory Verse**, **Mark 10:6-8 (NIV)**. Have youth read the **Memory Verse** aloud twice.

### Memory Verse Memorisation

Divide class into five groups. Have each group say, in sequence, a portion of the **Memory Verse** as divided below. *But at the beginning of creation / God made them male and female. / For this reason a man will leave his father and mother / and be united to his wife / and the two will become one flesh. / So they are no longer two but one flesh.*

Repeat this as time allows, and then have the class repeat the whole verse from memory. Invite individuals to say the verse from memory.

Discuss the answers to the **Central Truth Application** questions. Help youth to understand that marriages outside of God's plan can lead persons away from God's purpose for their life and bring dishonour to God.

## STEP 4 Commit to Action

Distribute the commitment forms. Ask youth to sign the forms as their pledge to stay away from marriages which dishonour God. Encourage them to keep the commitment card in a place where they can read it often to remind themselves of their pledge.

Close by reading together **The Lesson and Me**.

## FAMILY FOCUS

# A Godly Woman

**Bible Focus:** Proverbs 31:10-31  
**Memory Verse:** Proverbs 31:30 (NIV)  
**Central Truth:** Young women should seek to honour God with their thoughts, speech and bodies.  
**Teaching Aim:** Youth will demonstrate knowledge of the characteristics of a godly woman by listing several found in the **Bible Focus** passage, and then, female youth will choose the characteristic God leads them to begin to develop at this time.



## TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

### God's Ideal

Proverbs 31:10-31 provides a blueprint for a godly woman of some means. Chapter 31 records advice given to young King Lemuel by his mother, when she encouraged him to find a godly wife whose influence would help him to be a successful ruler.

A godly woman, in whatever role or station of society, recognises God as her source, fears God, and is devoted to serving Him. She is praised for her reverence for God and obedience to Him.

### Actions of A Godly Woman (Proverbs 31:10-16; 18-24)

God initiated marriage as the foundation for a godly family, so a godly woman who is a wife, lives a life which honours God, seeks to serve Him and please Him by caring for her family in every way. This does not mean that she is servile or entirely domesticated. She is a woman of strong character, wisdom and multiskilled. She completes her

husband though she is an individual in her own right (vv. 10-13). Her actions as a homemaker include clothing her family and herself (vv. 13, 19, 21, 22); providing food for her family and her helpers (vv. 14-15); being a wise investor (v. 16); providing an income (vv. 16, 24); being a good manager (v. 18); honing her skills and developing her talents (v. 19).

### The Character of A Godly Woman (Proverbs 31:11-28)

The character of a godly woman determines her actions and both are shaped by her reverence for God and her relationship with Him. The character traits in the passage describe a woman of noble character who is trustworthy, dependable and reliable (vv. 11, 12). She is supportive of her husband (v. 23) by taking care of the home which frees him to do his work. She has a positive influence on her husband so that he is respected in the community (v. 23). She is kind and caring towards her servants (v. 15) and compassionately cares for the needy (v. 20). A godly woman is strong and dignified (v. 25), knowledgeable, wise and truthful (v. 26)

and is a visionary. She plans ahead and goes the extra mile. She is an industrious, organised, energetic homemaker who is loved and honoured by her children and husband (vv. 27, 28).

### Relevance of (Proverbs 31:10-31)

Today's woman in the Western world often operates in an environment vastly different from the times and culture of the Old Testament Proverbs 31 woman. Many women in the Caribbean for instance, have demanding careers, others work on shifts, often doubling up to 'make ends meet' and some may be single parents. Some might have husbands who are out of work and who have become stay-at-home dads (even temporarily) and so take on significant responsibility for the children's care and well-being and for household management.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, there is still the expectation that, woman or mother will be the primary caregiver doing the household work or managing housekeeping, domestic finances, seeing to religious upbringing of the children and being a loving wife. The word 'superwoman' or 'supermom' is often employed when she manages all the diverse roles efficiently and successfully.

Young women, whether they become wives or not, should strive to embrace these qualities. A woman who loves God, whose actions and character are noble, can influence others to become godly women. Young men, in choosing life partners, are encouraged to pursue a relationship with a young woman of noble character as *she is worth far more than rubies*. (v. 10 NIV).



## PLANNING

### Plan to Meet These Youth Needs:

1. To know what God expects of a woman who desires to honour Him in caring for her family
2. To understand that the beauty of character is more important than the beauty of physical attributes
3. To understand what it means to "fear the LORD"
4. To define the Proverbs 31 woman in the Caribbean context

### Prepare to Teach

- Prepare to display the **Unit Poster** during **Get Class' Attention**.
- Enlist two youth (a male and a female) to prepare to read dramatically **Proverbs 31:10-22** and **Proverbs 31:23-31** during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- Prepare a summary of the information in **Teacher Bible Study** for use during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- On cards, write the questions from **Bible Search B**.
- Ask a male youth to prepare to explain the **Memory Verse, Proverbs 31:30 (NIV)** during **Commit to Action**.
- Print copies of song, "Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen in Me" for use during **Commit to Action**.
- On 3x5-inch cards, print the **Memory Verse, Proverbs 31:30 (NIV)** for use during **Commit to Action**.
- Complete the **Weekly Preparation Checklist** on page 32.



# GUIDE THE SESSION

## STEP 1 Get Class' Attention

Welcome youth to class. Begin with prayer. Display the **Unit Poster**. Draw attention to the title for the second lesson, **A Godly Woman**. Ask youth to define beauty and give their opinion of what they consider a beautiful or a godly person to be. Do not discuss their responses. Call attention to the picture of the beautiful young woman in **A Leaf from Life**. Discuss the answers to the questions about the picture.

## STEP 2 Examine Bible Lesson

Divide the class into two groups. Distribute the **Bible Search** activity. Ask the two assigned youth to present their dramatic reading of **Bible Focus, Proverbs 31:10-31**. Encourage the rest of the class to listen well. Have **Group 1** supply the answer for the first question, while **Group 2** will supply the answer for the second and third questions. Supplement their responses with information from **Teacher Bible Study**. Correct responses: 1) the woman selects wool and flax and works eagerly with her hands, provides food for her family, she considers a field and buys it, she plants a vineyard, she makes coverings for her bed and makes garments and sells them to merchants. 2) Godly, caring, helpful, virtuous, wise. 3) Noble means 'great

character'; deceptive means 'easily mistaken for something else' and fleeting means 'pass rapidly'.

## STEP 3 Apply Bible Truth

Have youth complete the exercises in **Personal Learning Activity A and B**. Ask those who completed the exercise at home to help the others. Ask as many youth as time allows to share their answers. Discuss the implications of being godly.

Discuss the answers to the **Central Truth Application** questions.

## STEP 4 Commit to Action

Hand out the **Memory Verse** cards. Have youth read their cards twice. Ask the male youth whom you enlisted to explain the meaning of the **Memory Verse, Proverbs 31:30 (NIV)** and to briefly state how what was revealed in today's lesson has impacted his views on physical beauty.

Read together **The Lesson and Me**. Close by singing "Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen in Me". Pray that youth will seek to love and honour God and follow Him. Pray that they will seek to beautify their lives so that they can share with others the beauty of Jesus.



# TRIBUTE

to the late

## Reverend Samuel Vernon and Mrs. Maeve Vernon

**W**e recall with great gratitude the contribution of Reverend Samuel Vernon and his precious wife Maeve for over 50 years. Mrs. Vernon passed in October 2021 and Rev Vernon a year later, both after a lifetime of stellar service to Christian ministry spanning Jamaica, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, British Columbia and finally the USA.

In 1970, Caribbean churches formed the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, which then became a regional grouping of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). Reverend Vernon was elected chair of the Literature and Publications Committee of the CBF. The committee was tasked with producing, publishing and circulating the Caribbean Baptist News and Information Journal. This he did ably and effectively assisted by his wife Maeve.

The CBF came to recognise the need for culturally relevant Bible study materials for the region's Sunday Schools. The Literature Committee formed a sub-committee to spearhead this project. This sub-committee was also chaired by Reverend Vernon and was charged with publishing biblically grounded, educationally sound, and culturally relevant, age-graded Bible study material. These came to be known as Caribbean Bible Lessons (CBL), which were first published in 1976. By 1980 the work of the committee led to the foundation of a newly formed CBF agency called Caribbean Christian Publications (CCP). In 1989 CCP relocated from El Paso in Texas to Hollywood, Florida.

In lieu of the occupancy permit, Reverend Vernon, Pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Florida graciously made available a section of the church's educational building to serve as a temporary literature production office. In addition, Mrs. Vernon joined the editorial staff and used her computer, literary and creative skills to the benefit of the literature ministry.

This ministry, which has produced Christian discipleship literature in the region for some 45 years, is a part of the legacy left by Reverend Samuel Vernon and Mrs. Maeve Vernon. Caribbean churches and people will forever be in their debt. To God be the Glory.

*Adapted from a tribute by Reverend Arthur Edgar presented at a memorial service held at Parkway Baptist Church in October 2022.*

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