

THE RIGHT FOUNDATION
The Family

Ed Nichols

Family Resources Bible Study
Teacher's Guide
Adult Pupil's Guide
Teacher's Resource Packet

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Teacher's Guide for Lesson One

For each lesson it is important that all members of the group be given opportunity to share their personal point of view or feelings concerning a portion of the lesson. This lesson is designed using interactive material to create maximum participation between members. This material was written to encourage the teacher to be the facilitator for the interaction, not the center of focus, as in a lecture style of teaching. The facilitator who permits the leadership of the Holy Spirit will find these lessons easy to lead and well received by the participants.

LESSON ONE

The Right Foundation for Family Living.
Colossians 3.12-15

Biblical Understanding

God established the right foundation for family living in the beginning.

Aim of the Lesson

To show adults some scriptural recommendations for establishing the right foundation for family living.

Teaching Outline

The Right Attitude (Col 3.12)
The Right Action (Col 3.13)
The Right Adoration (Col 3.14)
The Right Accord (Col 3.15)

Review Time

Briefly discuss the text and teaching outline. Describe the aim of the lesson using the lesson's biblical understanding.

Class Participation Time

1. Invite members to respond to the statement "My family life would be great if . . ."
2. Have members look at newspapers and magazines which have been provided. Have them search for and find pictures relating to the ideal family lifestyle.

3. Ask member to explain difficulties that could arise in the family. Have the members share how they have seen God working in these difficulties.

4. Have members share what family life would be like without Christ's help.

5. Ask members to identify ways their family uses to make their home God centered.

Prayer Time

Allow time for discussions concerning any Holy Spirit revealed directions for members or their families. Pray for understanding of the biblical principles discussed in this lesson on family. Encourage commitment on the part of members toward improving relationships in their families.

Teacher's Guide for Lesson Two

LESSON TWO

Building on the Right Foundation. Colossians 3.16-21

Biblical Understanding

The right foundation for family living can be strengthened by following God's directives.

Aim of the Lesson

To build upon the foundation established by the background study of Colossians 3.12-15. To provide additional ways to biblically establish the right foundation for family living.

Teaching Outline

The Right Acceptance (Col 3.16)

The Right Appeal (Col 3.17)

The Right Agreement (Col 3.18-21)

Review Time

Have someone who has studied this lesson to briefly share something from it which they found beneficial.

Class Participation Time

1. Ask members to share how allowing the Word of Christ to dwell in them has changed their family.

2. Have members give examples of families which may not be building on a firm foundation.

3. Ask members if one has a choice as to how to treat family members?

4. Allow members to name some activities that can cause harm in the family.

5. Describe activities adults pursue that result in changes to the family.

Prayer Time

Families today are in trouble, pray for them. Ask if anyone wishes to share specifically a prayer need of their family. Pray for the need which is shared.

Teacher's Guide for Lesson Three

LESSON THREE

Adding Love to the Right Foundation.

Colossians 3.16-21

Biblical Understanding

The right foundation for family living when examined carefully reveals that love is a very necessary part.

Aim of the Lesson

To know the love of God in Christ Jesus which is able to gird up the foundation of the family by strengthening the family members against this world.

Teaching Outline

Examine Love for the Family (Col 3.12-17)

Exercise Love for Your Family (Col 3.18-19)

Experience Love for Your Family (Col 3.20-21)

Review Time

Start this review time with a pre-arranged role playing in which a mother and father are arguing in front of the children.

Class Participation Time

1. Ask if the role playing could be an accurate interpretation of many families today.

2. Request that members form small groups. Have each group deal with how to improve family relationships. Have each group share. Watch time carefully.

3. Ask someone to describe a family dynamic, such as, staying out late, going somewhere inappropriate, or with someone who would not be the right influence. Deal with how do you resolve the conflict which is created in these situations.

Prayer Time

Pray specifically for broken home families, single parent families, abused families, and most of all, your family.

Pupil's Guide and Lesson One with Activities

LESSON ONE

The Right Foundation for Family Living.
Colossians 3.12-15

Biblical Understanding

God established the right foundation for family living in the beginning.

Aim of the Lesson

To show adults some scriptural recommendations for establishing the right foundation for family living.

Teaching Outline

The Right Attitude (Col 3.12)
The Right Action (Col 3.13)
The Right Adoration (Col 3.14)
The Right Accord (Col 3.15)

A Good Foundation

Laying a good foundation for family living is important. In fact the Bible provides Spiritual guidelines as to how adults can establish the right foundation for their family. The following of God's guidelines for the family will result in the family returning to what God expects from His people.

Families are in trouble today. The basic unit known as the family is being changed almost daily. If the present trend is allowed to continue the family as we know it today will no longer be recognizable. The reason for trouble in families today may begin with the same problem which faced Adam and Eve. The problem with families is their failure to listen to and follow God's direction.

The Right Attitude (Col 3.12)

3.12 *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

The apostle Paul had a distinctive style of writing. He wrote in this style to provide pictures in the mind. The picture that Paul uses in this text is that of a putting on. This putting on for Paul was like dressing up or clothing one's body. Paul used this material picture of dressing to express how Christians should exhibit Christ in them. By using the image of dressing, Paul has one envision that they are not putting on clothes, but that they are putting on spiritual attributes.

When Paul instructs God's people to be, to do, or live a certain way, he uses terms that refer to dressing. For the family this instruction is the basis for a right or good foundation for family living. In the family, each family member is to put on, or take on, certain attributes, and by doing so, become a particular person within the family.

Paul is not admonishing the family to put on clothes, rather he is speaking in the sense that he desires to see them spiritually dress up. However, he would have them wear these spiritual clothes forever, not just on Sunday.

We are God's people which are elect, holy, and beloved. As Christians, who are part of a family, we are to act differently. Paul is providing the reader with the means to become more than they once were. They are not what they used to be. They are not what they can be. They are not what they are going to be. But with God's help and the love of one's family, they can put on God's love.

The attitude which Paul describes is that one should put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. This attitude in each family member would surely improve most family relationships. These attributes or attitude are contrary to the flesh, but they are necessary for a good relationship to others. It is a beginning for a right foundation for the family.

Pupil Activities

List below the attributes which Paul suggest be put on as the elect of God. Name all five.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Relate each attribute to your own personality. How many of these attributes have you put on?

The foundations of the family are crumbling. What is the best way to stop it?

The Right Action (Col 3.13)

3.13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another, Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

In addition to having the right attitude Paul is stating clearly that one must also have the right action. For Paul one is to be forbearing. To forbear means to put up with or tolerate or endure. This action seems to be fighting a losing battle in many families today. Family members are to forbear one another. This action is fast disappearing. In our day people don't appear to have the patience, tolerance or endurance they need.

Paul wants families to be forgiving. They are to forgive one another. Forgive means to pardon or not hold something against someone. Family members do have disagreements and quarrels with each other. They are to forgive one another. The fact remains that forbearing and forgiving are based on the truth found in this verse. This truth is that since Christ forgave us, and that we are to forgive others. We must forgive as the Lord forgave us.

Pupil Activities

Putting on the right attributes should produce the right actions for family members. If your family practiced these actions what would be an expected result?

Use a Bible translation other than the Authorized King James Version to read verse 13. Write that verse here and what translation you used.

The apostle Paul states what might be termed an imperative for forgiving others. What is that imperative?

What has Christ forgiving us have to do with our forgiving others? How does the word forbearing apply here?

The Right Adoration (Col 3.14)

3.14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

As family we are faced with a challenge. The challenge of love. This text speaks of it in that one is to put on charity. This means to give love without expecting love in return. To have the proper love or adoration Paul says, put on charity above all things. Putting on charity is a challenge, isn't it? Sometime even family members are hard to love.

Charity or love is vital in human relationships, especially family relationships. Paul used the word charity in 1 Cor 13. (Put Bible background here) It is describe there as the greatest gift. A gift without which, families are nothing. Charity will enable each person in the family to do all of the things that are asked of them.

Paul calls charity a bond of perfectness. A bond is something that gives a common ground or a sense of togetherness. Perfectness deals with maturity or developing completely. Charity can make up for a lot of things that are missing. Charity or love for God and family may be the key to the right foundation for the family.

Pupil Activity

Write a definition for the word charity.

Charity is

Write a definition for the word love.

Love is

How do each of these definitions relate to family?

In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul uses the word charity. What does he say about it?

"And now abideth _____, _____, charity, these three; but the _____ of these is charity." (1 Cor 13.13)

The Right Accord (Col 3.15)

3.15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Christians are to let or allow the peace of God to rule in their hearts. This is a calmness that many families need. This peace produces an accord. This is something that they must do. Family members need to allow God's peace to rule or reign in each of their heart. If one fails to put on the attributes described in verse 12-14, they cannot enjoy this peace.

The natural course of things is to allow God's peace to rule. The problem with not putting on the attributes described in verse 12, is reflected by the lack of actions described in verses 13 and 14. When God's peace is allowed to rule, Godly actions will follow. Family life will be strengthened.

One of the results of God's peace in the family is evident in that each member of the family acts in one accord to aid in perfect harmony. Each family is called as one body to these things. They are to be thankful for the unity. If this unity is missing from the family unit there is a lack of peace which affects one's relationship with the church and their family. The right foundation for the family is based on God's love.

Pupil Activities

What evidence can you give for the lack of God's peace in many families today? Circle all that apply.

- Domestic violence
- Runaways
- Regular church attendance
- Following fads or trends
- Alcohol - drugs
- Family altar
- Prayer

Name some evidences for the lack of God's peace in families today not mentioned above.

Name some evidences for God's peace in families today not mentioned above.

Pupil's Guide and Lesson Two with Activities

LESSON TWO

Building on the Right Foundation.
Colossians 3.16-21

Biblical Understanding

The right foundation for family living can be strengthened by following God's directives.

Aim of the Lesson

To provide additional ways to biblically establish the right foundation for family living. To build upon the foundation established in Col 3.12-15.

Teaching Outline

The Right Acceptance (Col 3.16)
The Right Appeal (Col 3.17)
The Right Agreement (Col 3.18-21)

Building On A Good Foundation.

Building on the right foundation is not difficult when the family follows God's directives. Taking the time to learn these directive will assist in the strengthening of the family. Knowing that these guidelines are from God and utilizing the Holy Spirit to assist in the implementation of them for the family will produce stronger families. Christ is our firm foundation. Building on Him puts the family on a solid foundation.

The Acceptance (Col 3.16)

3.16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

The Word was not written as a reading book, it was written as a revealing book. It is wise to accept its revelation. The word was written that Christ might dwell in each person richly. Within the context of the family, each member should allow the Word of Christ to dwell in them. To dwell means to abide or remain. God's word should influence every family member in the manner and the way that they live. Allowing or accepting the word of Christ to dwell in one's heart starts with their will.

The Word of Christ expresses His will for the lives of the family members. The will is to dwell in them richly and abundantly. It provides families with wisdom for the using of knowledge rightly. Jesus said a wise man listens and does His Word. (Matt. 7.24-26) (Put Bible background material here)

As the Word of Christ dwells in each parent, they are to teach and admonish one another. They are to admonish one another, which will be reflected in their praises to God. This praise will be in the singing of psalms, hymns, spiritual songs. The Word of Christ must be accepted and applied with gratitude from the hearts of God's people.

Pupil Activities

Stop right now, quietly reflect on what it means to have the word of God dwell in you. Sing a praise song to Him for dwelling in you. Perhaps it will start with Jesus I love you because.

How do other people know that Christ dwells in us?

List some ways that we might show others the gratitude we have in our hearts for God.

1.

2.

3.

Match the following phrases.

Teach and admonish dwell in you

Let the word gratitude in your heart

Sing with one another

People are told to read their Bible, it is good for them. In light of today's lesson, how is it good for them?

Jesus said a wise man listens and does His Word. (Matt. 7.24-26) What application does that have for families, living in today's world? Paraphrase these verses in Matthew to apply to building a good family foundation.

Put your paraphrase here.

The Appeal (Col 3.17)

3.17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The appeal that Paul gives in this verse is that one should give glory to God. Whatever one does or says, they are to do it, in the name of the Lord. What is done or said should be by the authority of Christ. His Word teaches us what to say and do. Anything and everything we do should be in His name.

The giving of thanks to God and the Father by Jesus Christ is an important concept for family life. The family life should be a life of giving. Jesus gave His life. Families are to give thanks or gratitude to God all He has given them. Each day holds many blessings. All families should give thanks to God for their very existence.

The need to thank God our Father is more than just an exercise in giving thanks. Why should families give thanks? God blesses each and every person within the family unit and gives them many wonderful benefits. God should be thanked first for Jesus Christ, without whom there would be no family.

Pupil Activities

How can word or deed reflect thankfulness?

Place in the following scripture the most appropriate words found in the list below.

"And _____ ye do in _____ or _____, do _____ in the name of the _____, giving thanks to _____ and the _____ by Him."

Father
word
whatsoever
God
deed
Jesus
all
Lord

The Agreement (Col 3.18-21)

3.18-21 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Loyalty may be what Paul had in mind when he repeated the Words of the Holy Spirit that the wife is to submit themselves to their own husbands. Agreement may also enter into this gospel mandate. A wifely agreement to submit to a husband who also follows the biblical mandate. The husband is to love his wife and not be bitter or harsh with them. The children are to obey in all things. The father is not to provoke the children. The family unit is to be bonded and loyal to one another.

What makes all this happen as recommended by God? Boldly stated, it is love. Love helps the wife to submit to her husband. Love helps the husband to love and cherish his wife. Love helps the children to obey the parents. This is well pleasing to the Lord.

God planned family living. A man is to take a wife. They are to marry and commit themselves to one another. They are to have children because of their love and expression of it. The family is to live together until the children choose a mate and marry and move out. The Bible does not discuss this union between any persons other than a man and a women. The purpose of the union is to have children which can be raised in the nurture and admonition of God's love. God does not describe family in any other manner than that which is found in His Word. To the contrary any other combination, other than man and woman, is called an abomination by God.

Pupil Activities

According to verse 18, wives are to be submissive to their husbands. Why submissive?

How can husbands demonstrate their love for their wives?

If children who obey their parents please the Lord, how do you think God feels about children who disobey their parents?

Pupil's Guide and Lesson Three with Activities

LESSON THREE

Adding Love to the Right Foundation.
Colossians 3.12-21

Biblical Understanding

The right foundation for family living when examined carefully reveals that love is a very necessary part.

Aim of the Lesson

To know the love of God in Christ Jesus which is able to gird up the foundation of the family by strengthening the family members against this world.

Teaching Outline

Examine Love for the Family (Col 3.12-17)
Exercise Love for Your Family (Col 3.18-19)
Experience Love for Your Family (Col 3.20-21)

Loving Your Family

One of God's wonderful gifts is our family. God has given the family His love. With that love they are to love the family that He has given them. Families are a blessing. God's plan for the family and home life is perfect and flawless. Families may fail to apply the plan, but the plan is perfect. God intended for the family home life to be an atmosphere of love and warmth and learning.

Examine Love for the Family (Col 3.12-17)

3.12-17 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another, Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Families are held together by love. This lesson looks at three actions of love.

The first action is that love is caring. In these verses and in Eph 5,6 (put Bible background here) the Lord teaches basically and generally how to treat family members and by that treatment express love. Wives are to submit to husbands. Husbands are to love wives. Children are to honor and obey parents. The love one has or lack of love will show in these basic tests of caring. These tests of caring simply stated are wives submitting to husbands, husbands loving their wives, and children obeying their parents.

The second action is that love is a commitment. A commitment simply means one has a responsibility and will strive to fulfill it with diligence. As individual family members one must determine that they will do what God wants them to do in their circumstances and seek His help and grace. Love is a commitment to family. It is thinking and caring as God expects families to care and think.

The third action may be the hardest action of all. Love is a continuing process for family. Many husbands and wives are walking out. They are calling it quits. Many young people who are loved and provided for are running away from home. If someone really loves another, then love continues to strive for family unity and makes a way for working things out.

Pupil Activities

Three actions were given for demonstrating love in the family. List the three actions below.

1.

2.

3.

Other actions which demonstrate love in a family can be listed too. Name three actions which you believe are evident in family love.

1.

2.

3.

4.

This lesson uses caring, commitment, and continuing to describe love which holds a family together. What words could be used to describe God's love which holds a family together. List below.

Exercise Love for Your Family (Col 3.18-19)

3.18-19 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

It is said that exercise for the body is healthy. Exercise for the love of one's family is also healthy. There are times when family members need a hug. They need a comforting hand on a shoulder. Similarly, an arm around the waist might help. These are just a few of the ways to let the family know they are loved and wanted. Families are permitting the actions of perverts to stop parents from showing their love because they are afraid of what others will say. Families need to show affection and care for each other.

Hugs are not enough exercise for families. They should also be taught the exercise of honor. The Lord teaches young people to honor and obey their parents. (Eph 6.1,2) (Bible background material here). This means respect them. Consider them. Love will should always move one to consider the feelings of others. Part of this consideration may be treating each other with proper consideration. The golden rule applies even at home. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Along with hugs and honor comes the need to help each other. Every family member needs the help of other members. Times of doubt, discouragement, distress, and hurt are experienced by most everyone. Children can help parents. Parents can help one another. Families are to help one another even when help isn't wanted.

Pupil Activities

Practical exercises of love are hugs or showing affection, honor or showing respect, and helping or sharing the load of another. Name five other practical exercises which family members may perform to demonstrate their love.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Ask the person next to you how they feel about the requirement for women to submit to their husbands, but husbands need only to love their wives. Share any insights gained from this discussion with the group.

Experience Love for Your Family (Col 3.20-21)

3.20-21 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Examining and exercising one's love for family is not enough. One must also experience love for their family. Family members should love with their will. They should choose and purpose to show love for each other. Each family will their own experiences. They will have their burdens to bear and problems to face. Problems cause strain, stress, anger, bitter words, resentment, and even questioning of ones love. Each member of the family should exercise, decide, choose, or determine to show love in their family. The relationship with them affects every part of the family's life.

Not only should family love with their will they should also love with their words. Tell each other that they are loved. Pray for them. Words can be weapons to destroy or ways of expressing affection. Today, families have allowed the television, radio, and other activities to break down communications for much too long. How pitiful and vain for family members to cry words of love and appreciation after it is too late.

Another way to experience love is to love with your ways. A resentful stare, or glance, a stiff neck, an angry march to the bedroom, a mumbled speech, are ways of expressing disrespectful attitudes. Willingness to help, joy while working, obedience, and respect are desirable traits for family members. Ones ways should reflect the love in their hearts for family members.

Pupil Activities

What experience or means might be used to restore a family broken by disagreement?

What means could be used to make families more aware of each others needs?

List some of the spirit revealed ways you can guide your family to be loving and to exhibit Christ love one to another. Share one of them with the class.

1.

2.

3.

TEACHER'S RESOURCE PACKET

THE
RIGHT
FOUNDATION

Jesus

~~WISDOM~~
~~IS~~ ?

GOD **SAND**

GOD

God
God
God
God
God

GOD

Gal

Good

FAMILY

God God
God

God

God
God

God

God

God

MY FAMILY LIFE WOULD BE GREAT IF . . .

MY FAMILY LIFE WOULD BE GREAT IF . . .

MY FAMILY LIFE WOULD BE GREAT IF . . .

MY FAMILY LIFE WOULD BE GREAT IF . . .

MY FAMILY LIFE WOULD BE GREAT IF . . .

MY FAMILY LIFE WOULD BE GREAT IF . . .

MY FAMILY LIFE WOULD BE GREAT IF . . .

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Help

Harm

(List activities which help or harm families below each heading.)
MY FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS CAN BE IMPROVED BY MY DOING . . .

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

MY FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS CAN BE IMPROVED BY MY DOING . . .

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

MY FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS CAN BE IMPROVED BY MY DOING . . .

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

(Duplicate as needed and separate)

MY FAMILY PRIORITIES ARE

(List below. Number 1 being highest priority)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

GOD FAMILY CHURCH CLUB
COMMUNITY SCHOOL GOLF
WORK FISHING SPORTS

OTHER

BUILDING ON THE RIGHT FOUNDATION

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3.16.

- - - - (Fold under here during class) - - - -

Recommended Usage

1. Discuss the Word as the right foundation to build on. Use a black high lighter and draw a Bible around the scripture verse.
2. Discuss home and family. Draw a house on top of the Bible with a colored high lighter.

LOVE FOR YOUR FAMILY

L

O

FAMILY

WORLD

V

E

Suggested Usage

Using a red high lighter draw a box or a wall around the word LOVE, to separate the word family from the word world. You may wish to highlight the word LOVE.

Ed Nichols a retired university administrator, is an author, teacher and pastor. Nichols holds two earned doctorates. His degrees include a Doctor of Ministry from Luther Rice Seminary, Doctor of Philosophy from Saint Louis University, Master of Education and Bachelor of Arts from University of Missouri at St. Louis

Other writings;

Discipleship: An Evangelistic Approach.

The Decree of God.

The Deity of Christ.

Personality of the Holy Spirit.

The Ministry of Angels.

The Creation and Fall of Man.

The Dilemma of Sin.

Salvation and Security.

The Church.

End Times or Last Things.

Systematic Theology Synopses.

The Birth of Christ.

Church History AD 31 to AD 1517.

Church History AD 1517 to 20th Century.

Evangelism Then and Now.

Selected Methods of Expository Preaching.

Personal Evangelism.

How to Claim a Victorious Christian Life.

Church Staff Administration.

Brief Studies in the Old Testament.

The Old Man and Flesh.

The Return of Christ.

The Right Foundation.

Dispensational Perspective.

Biblical Inerrancy.

Evangelism Program: From Policy to Procedure.

Pastoral Placement Process.

A Study of Philippians.

A Pastor's Calendar.

The Sinless Christ.