

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT

*Marriage
and
Song of
Solomon*

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®
MARRIAGE
AND
SONG OF SOLOMON
LEARNING HOW TO BECOME ONE

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

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How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Word Study Tools**RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES****The New American Commentary**

Nashville, Tennessee: B & H Publishing Group

Expositor's Bible Commentary

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995-1996

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

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LESSON ONE

God's Design for Marriage and the Husband's Role

THIS LESSON
INCORPORATES

The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of:
 Genesis 1:26-31
 Genesis 2:7-25
 Ephesians 5:22-33
Word studies
Cross-references

Never have there been so many Christian books on the subject of marriage. Whatever your question, your problem, someone somewhere has written what they believe or have experienced is the answer.

So why spend these next six weeks digging out for yourself what the Bible tells us about marriage? Why not save time—find a book that addresses your situation and tells you what you need to do?

That's one way to do it, but what if they are wrong? What then? Would you even know it if you didn't know for yourself what God says on the subject!?!

O Beloved of God, the Bible is God's book. Men were moved by the Spirit of God to write down EVERYTHING God wants us to know in order to live life HIS way. *The Bible is absolute truth, without error containing everything that pertains to life and godliness. God tells us in Isaiah 8:20 that if someone does not speak according His Word, it's "because they have no dawn."* In other words, they are in the dark. Psalm 119:105 in turn tells us that His Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. God has not left us in the dark on marriage so let's begin and learn His precepts that bring understanding (Psalm 119:104).

Single, married, widowed, or divorced—this study will help you see what God teaches so that you might live in a way pleasing to Him (2 Corinthians 5:9).

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DAY
ONE

God begins His book, the Bible, with the book of Genesis and brings it to a close with the book of Revelation. It's interesting that both books reference marriage. So let's begin where God begins

1. Form the habit of beginning your study in prayer. Biblical truth comes by revelation, not by mere intellect, for “. . . the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God” (1 Corinthians 2:11). Therefore, seek His wisdom and understanding.
2. Genesis, the first book of the Bible, tells us that in six days God created the world and everything in it. Therefore, we will begin our study by observing Genesis 1:26-31, which tells us about man's creation on the sixth day.

Your Observation Worksheet for this passage is in the Appendix. An Observation Worksheet is Bible text with wide margins and extra space between the lines, so there's plenty of room to mark and record observations.

Read the text carefully and mark the following:

- a. *God**
- b. *man*, including pronouns and synonyms

By marking, we mean use a color or combination of colors and/or a symbol for each word. If you're new at marking, check the Key Word Bookmark on the back of your workbook to see what we mean.

There are suggestions on the bookmark for some words used frequently in the Bible. We'll use an asterisk [*] to show these in this workbook.

3. Genesis 1 gives a broad outline of the creation account. Because of the importance of man and woman's creation, Genesis 2 gives specific details. Genesis follows a pattern of introducing a subject or person, and then expanding on it, giving the account of what happened. So man is created in chapter 1, then Genesis 2:4 onward tells what happened to man, giving more detail in every chapter. The first man, Adam, is created; then what happened to him follows. Marriage, husbands, and wives are introduced, and then we find out what happened to them.

Read Genesis 2:7-25 using the Observation Worksheet in the Appendix. Mark the following:

- a. references to God*

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- b. *man* and pronouns
 - c. *woman* and pronouns
4. Now look at what you marked, and on the chart at the end of this lesson, "God's Design for Man and Woman," note what you learn from Genesis 1:26-31 and Genesis 2:7-25.
 5. Read Genesis 2:21-25 again.
 - a. According to verse 24, when a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, what do the two become?
 - b. Look up the Hebrew word translated "be joined" and write the transliteration¹ and definition. If you have never done this before, consult the section "It's All Greek to Me!" in *How to Study Your Bible*.
 6. Finally, based on what you've studied today, what is God's intention for marriage?

Good job. You have completed your first day of study. We pray that as you continue, you will know God's truth concerning marriage so that you can confidently share these truths from His Word and walk in obedience to them.

¹ The transliteration of a Greek word is that word written out in English letters. In the concordance it is the second word given after the number.

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DAY
TWO

Now we begin our examination of the roles of husband and wife in marriage. A “role” is a function that one performs. It is a prescribed pattern of behavior for performing a specific duty or service.

As we study the roles of husband and wife, our purpose will be to discover what God sets as a pattern of behavior for each one.

To understand and appreciate a husband’s role, let’s review the Master’s plan for the man He created in His image. So let’s look at Genesis again.

1. Review the Observation Worksheet of Genesis 1:26-31 in the Appendix and answer the following questions:
 - a. What was man’s God-given position over the fish, the birds, and the living creatures on the earth?
 - b. Was this responsibility given to man alone, or was it given to man and to woman? Support your answer from Scripture.

2. Right now we’re laying a foundation. So hangest thou in there. Read 1 Corinthians 11:3, 7-9, 11-12 in your Bible and note what you learn on the chart below.

Man	Woman

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DAY
THREE

1. Today let's take a look at Abraham and Sarah and see what we can learn from this marriage that will help us understand a husband's role a little better.

In Genesis 12, when God first promised Abraham that He would make him a great nation, he was 75 and Sarah was 65. They were childless. In Genesis 15 God reaffirmed that promise to Abraham. Then in Genesis 16, ten years later . . .

Answer the following questions from Genesis 16:1-5:

- a. What did Sarah (Sarai) suggest to Abraham (Abram)? Why?
 - b. What did Abraham do?
 - c. If the Lord were to judge between Sarah and Abraham, who do you think would be to blame? Why?
 - d. How does this parallel with Adam in Genesis 3?
2. Finally, at the end of this lesson is a page "The Husband's Role." Take all you have learned so far, sort out what is pertinent, and record it on this page. You're going to add to this chart, so be sure to note the book, chapter, and verse.

DAY
FOUR

1. After prayer, read the Observation Worksheet of Ephesians 5:22-33 in the Appendix and mark references to the husband. Also mark *love*.
2. How does verse 23 compare with what you've learned so far about the husband's role?

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- c. cherishes—Ephesians 5:29 (present tense)
7. How would you explain to another person what it means for a husband to love, nourish, and cherish his wife? (Remember what you learned from your word studies.)
8. If you are a husband, list at least five ways you can love, nourish, and cherish your wife. If you are a wife, how can you make it easier for your husband to do this?
9. Now add your insights to “The Husband’s Role.”
10. Since the husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church, let’s look at a few references to see how love is demonstrated.
- a. John 3:16

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b. Romans 5:8

c. 1 Peter 4:8

d. 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Well, that's it for now! Think you can find a way to apply all of this?

DAY
FIVE

1. After prayer, carefully look at Colossians 3:19. Then look up the word translated “embittered” in your study tools and see if you can gain any deeper insight into this command.
2. Now let's go to 1 Peter 3:7 to see what God says to husbands there. What is His twofold command to husbands in this verse?

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3. If a husband is going to live with his wife in an understanding way and not be bitter or harsh toward her, what are some specific things he would, or should, take into consideration? And how does God's command to the husband to love his wife come into consideration in this question? Do not rush through this question! It is absolutely vital, worthy of prayer and meditation. Record your thoughts below.

4. Add any new insights on "The Husband's Role."
5. There is one more thing we want to look at regarding the husband's role. Read the following passages and note what you learn.

 - a. Genesis 2:15 (This was Adam's role even before Eve.)

 - b. Genesis 3:17-19

 - c. Exodus 20:9

 - d. 1 Timothy 5:8

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e. 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

6. Add pertinent insights on “The Husband’s Role.”

Finally, prayerfully read what you’ve written on the page and ask the Lord what is specific for you at this time in your life.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Beloved, thank God for His work in your life!

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GOD'S DESIGN FOR MAN AND WOMAN

Insights	Man	Woman
Created by		
Created for		
Created from		
Relationship to God		
Distinctive Characteristics		

THE HUSBAND'S ROLE

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Lesson 1, The Husband's Role

GENESIS 1:26-31

- 26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
- 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
- 29 Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;
- 30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food”; and it was so.
- 31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

GENESIS 2:7-25

- 7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
- 8 The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.
- 9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- 10** Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.
- 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.
- 12 The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.
- 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush.
- 14 The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.
- 15** Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.
- 16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;
- 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

- 18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”
- 19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.
- 20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.
- 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.
- 22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.
- 23 The man said,
 “This is now bone of my bones,
 And flesh of my flesh;
 She shall be called Woman,
 Because she was taken out of Man.”
- 24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.
- 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

EPHESIANS 5:22-33

- 22 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
- 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.
- 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.
- 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
- 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
- 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.
- 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;
- 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,
- 30 because we are members of His body.
- 31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.
- 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.
- 33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.

