



*Managing  
GOD's Money*

**Theme for May: The Family**

*Despite persistent, vicious attacks on the traditional family by Governments and others in society, God's ordained roles for the family and family members apply today. Stand firm; don't let Governments' ill-conceived anti-traditional family policies deceive you. Always remember popular policies don't equate with morally acceptable policies. God's Word is the only authority for moral absolutes. This month, we will review God's Word to learn about the traditional family under these headings:*



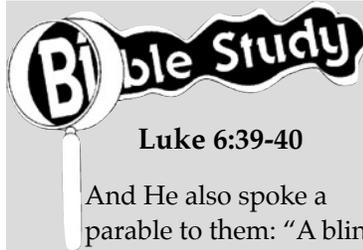
*May 1-7 - The Husband: Servant Leader*

*May 8-14 - The Wife: Partner and helper*

*May 15-21 - The Parent and Child: Relationship building*

*May 22-31 - The Family Council: Essential teaching and*

**Topic for the May 22-31: The Family Council: Teaching and Training Medium**



**Luke 6:39-40**

And He also spoke a parable to them: "A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit? "A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

**G**od's Word is under attack. Folks adopt cafeteria-style Christianity, accepting the Bible only partially. Minority groups twist the Word to suit their agendas. Several churches lead the onslaught with "tolerant," "inclusive," "seeker friendly" messages that appeal to the

masses. Often I wonder who is seeking whom.

Is the church seeking to become like the world? No wonder these days resemble the days of the Judges when each person did what was right in her own eyes. Research shows many church folks don't know God's Word, so they accept false teachings. **Hosea 4:6** describes this well:

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Then again, some preachers tell folks what they want to

hear—reflect on Apostle Paul's message to Timothy:

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear (**2 Timothy 4:3**).

These words are as valid today as then. How do we combat rising ignorance of God's Word? I suggest only through the Holy Spirit's guidance as we study, model, and teach God's Word to our families.

How did you learn biblical truth? Do you have family traditions that influence your views about morality? With so much competition for our

minds, unless we plan regular family discussions, the media will teach our children and us. The Family Council (“Council”), is an approach to learn and teach our families biblical truths. Comparable to a business’ board of directors, it’s the family’s training forum.

### **Biblical Foundation**

Jesus is its foundation. It’s a forum for family members to learn, teach, and model Jesus to one another other. The *Council’s* workings might present several challenges, but not one detracts from its usefulness. What if only one parent follows Jesus, and the children do not? If this is reality, we work with what we have.

If mom is the follower and dad isn’t, or if he withdraws, mom should seek God’s guidance. The same applies in the reverse. God ordained dad as the family shepherd — the family’s servant leader (**Ephesians 5:23, 1 Corinthians 11:3**).

Dad should arrange weekly family get-togethers for Bible study so he and each family member get to know better, and gradually become more like Messiah Jesus. Each gathering should stress spiritual, attitude, and behavior matters. We see the the Council’s crucial goals in Deuteronomy 6:4-9:



### **Memory Verse**

#### **2 Timothy 4:2-3**

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Titus 2:18 amplifies and reinforces the need for such teachings. From these passages, we develop the following five goals for weekly *Council* gatherings:

**Goal #1:** Pray for the salvation of unsaved family members (**John 3:1-21**). Our goal is to pray and let God do the rest—It’s the Holy Spirit’s promptings that draw us to Jesus. We must not harass, or Bible thump at our unsaved relatives; they won’t hear—this is what I did after being saved.

God used my 12-year old daughter to challenge my agnostic beliefs. After trying to disprove Christianity’s truths over a two-year period, at age 38, I responded and surrendered my life to Messiah Jesus. I learned later, my daughter, some of her classmates, and teachers prayed regularly for my salvation. I urge you, never stop praying for your parents’ salvation; neither should parents stop praying for their unsaved children, nor one spouse for an unsaved spouse.

After surrendering my life to Jesus, I prayed for over ten-years, “begging” my Lord to save my dad. He did in His time—about six months before he died at age ninety nine!

**Goal #2:** Regular Bible study (**2 Timothy 3:16; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 1 Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:12-14**)

We study the Bible to get to know Jesus and draw closer to Him; not to know about Him. In **1 Timothy 6:20-21** Apostle Paul cautions Timothy about “knowledge”:

O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”— which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith.

Paul repeats the same message in **2 Timothy 1:14; Proverbs 22:17-18** is instructive, too.

**Goal #3:** Learn, teach God-ordained roles to the family (**Ephesians 5:21-27; 6:1-4; Psalm 143:8, 10**)

Despite consequences, parents must model and teach their children biblical husband-dad, wife-mom, roles to apply inside and outside the home. TV or public schools won't show these roles. Even churches have bought lies about male and female roles.

**Goal # 4:** To encourage each Other (**Proverbs 27:17; Galatians 6:1-5**)

As family members encourage one another, each will develop and mould the other's character. This is essential because outside the

home — in schools and in the workplace — there is a low chance we will see biblical values.

The *Council* should become the platform for each family member to share her individual and family experiences in the “world” as she stands up for Jesus.

**Goal #5: Develop healthy family traditions (2 Timothy 3:12-15)**

The *Council*, by God's grace, might become a family tradition for our children to pass along to their children. Knowledge gained during these meetings might affect positively each family member's attitude, which might survive many generations. For example, the children will learn persecution is normal for every believer; but with Holy Spirit's help, they will accept it and be salt and light.

### Application



**Psalm 25:4-5**

Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Parents, how are you coping with the continuing attacks against the traditional family? Many parents who follow Jesus wonder if they can compete successfully against the negative influences surrounding their families. To be sure, with the help of the Holy Spirit, you can. Parents, present each family member to Jesus daily: pray for each daily; regularly invest time with each family member.

I suggest each parent ask the Lord if the *Council* proposed here is for her family. By God's grace, dad can start arranging weekly one to two hour meetings with the entire family. Don't exclude young children. Include them early and allow them to contribute.

As we said earlier, dad the servant leader should be the guide. If he is unsaved, unwilling, unavailable, mom should lead. If neither is a believer, as God did with my wife and I, He can raise up believing children to lead and encourage their parents.

In a single parent home, the single parent or other believer should be the guide. Here is a suggested *Family Council* procedure:

1. Arrange to meet weekly: same day, time, place for one hour.
2. Go on a family date after each meeting. Try to follow *Council* meetings with fun activities—go for a walk, a meal, play board games or other family activity. This does not have to be a cost—however, any cost should be in the family budget.
3. Start and end with prayer; encourage children to pray, particularly the younger children.
4. Encourage each person to keep a journal for prayer requests, praises, “God wow’s,” and answered prayers.
5. Invite younger children to suggest Bible study topics: they might choose one of the famous stories such as David, Jonah, or Joseph. There are many exciting and life-changing lessons in each of these and similar stories.
6. Ask teenage children to suggest topics for study that interest them—I want to stress “them.” Some children might choose contemporary topics that could make parents feel uneasy — still, the best place to discuss these topics is at home. Even if you are

uncomfortable, ask the Lord for wisdom and insight. Our children will accept false teachings from the world if we don’t give them the truth at home.

7. Other than topics geared specially for children, have a basic family study time. Start with a biblically based discipleship program, which shows what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and continues with the many salvation assurances.
8. Encourage participation by the entire family. Encourage each child to use her skills to lead a section, no matter how small.
9. Add specific study topics on handling God’s money, wealth, possessions, time, and other matters as directed by the Lord.
10. End at the appointed time; you can always pick up where you left off. This is crucial, work for *time* not for *task*. Your children should know meetings will start and end on time. This has two goals: First, it teaches them to be punctual. Second, they can plan events with others at specific times after *Council* meeting and family times.

11. Ask the Lord to direct the *Council*’s proceedings and to let His light shine through dad, the family shepherd.

Considering this month’s theme, *The Family*, this period’s topic, *The Family Council*, daily, reflect on the specific verses in the *Daily Reflection* section below. These questions might help:

1. Who is talking to whom, about what, and in what context?
2. How do these verses apply to me today?
3. What lessons from these verses can I start to do today?

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# Daily Reflections

**May 22:**  
2 Timothy 4:2-4;  
Hosea 4:6; Judges  
21:25

**May 23:**  
Psalm 25:4-5; Psalm  
27: 11-14

**May 24:**  
Titus 2:1-8; Proverbs  
22:17-18

**May 25:**  
Deuteronomy 6:1-9;  
Proverbs 17:6

**May 26:**  
Luke 6:40-49;  
Galatians 5:15-26

**May 27:**  
2 Timothy 3:12-15;  
Hebrews 5:12-14; 1  
Corinthians 3:2

**May 28:**  
Proverbs 27:17;  
Psalm 143: 8,10

**May 29:**  
John 3:16-17; John  
14:26

**May 30:**  
Ephesians 5:21-27;  
6:1-4; Galatians  
6:1-5

**May 31:**  
1 Timothy 6:20-21; 2  
Timothy 1:14