FAMILY

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit will help your students understand God's perfect plan for marriage and the family. It is his goal that our marriages and families should function in a way that brings him glory and honor. This means that every step, from choosing a mate to fulfilling specific roles in the marriage and family, is done in God's way, by his design. It also means that the elements of respect, gratitude and conflict resolution must be present, and are vital in producing a family that is a light to the world.

The goal of this unit is to help your students come to a greater appreciation of the families that God has given them, and an understanding of the expectations that God has for that family and each member of it. It will also provide a practical look at the subjects of respect and conflict resolution, without which, no family can function well or glorify God.

UNIT GOALS

- The students will understand God's plan for the family and the role that each member plays within that family.
- The students will gain the conviction that respect is not an option and that all authority has been set in place by God.
- The students will learn to identify conflicts and resolve them in a godly way.

UNIT CONTENTS

LESSON 1 THE PLAN

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE — EPHESIANS 6:1-3

God's plan for building a great family is clear and easy to understand. In this lesson the students will learn about each role within the family and the responsibilities that accompany that role. They will also see that, no matter what the physical make-up of the family is, if everyone is obedient to God, they will bring glory to God.

LESSON 2 MARRIAGE

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE — EPHESIANS 5:3

This lesson presents marriage as God intended—from finding a spouse to starting life as a family. Marriage is not just a wedding between two people, but the creation of a team that will bring glory and honor to God. An awesome Christian marriage has God at its center before, during and after the ceremony.

LESSON 3 RESPECT

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE — MATTHEW 7:12

There is much disrespect in our world. Preteens must develop solid convictions regarding respect for parents and respect for authority in general. God has set up authority in each of their lives, and disrespect for authority is really disrespect for God. God expects respect from each of us, and he will tolerate nothing less.

LESSON 4 RESOLVING CONFLICT

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE — EPHESIANS 4:26-27

Conflicts can cause separation and hurt. It is important for the students to see that practicing godly conflict resolution is key for both families and individuals. They will learn about open conflicts and those that are hidden in the heart. They will also learn practical keys to resolving conflict in a quick and godly manner.

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GENERATION Next

Preteens

Dear Parent,

On the reverse side of this page you will find an outline and description of the lessons which comprise this unit. The weekly Scripture Memory Verse is listed with each lesson synopsis.

As part of the class experience, students are given a weekly challenge. Below is a list of the challenges given with the lessons:

LESSON 1 THE PLAN

Weekly Challenge: At various times throughout this week, present the honor coupons you have created to your parents. Use this week to honor and appreciate them in the specific ways you have written, sharing about the things you have learned in this class. You should also share these ideas with friends and classmates, telling them that God has great plans for their families.

LESSON 2 MARRIAGE

Weekly Challenge: Interview the couple whose name you have been given, asking them (1) why God is important in their marriage and (2) why they are glad they have a Christian marriage. Write down their answers to share with the class next week.

LESSON 3 RESPECT

Weekly Challenge: Plan and give a short family devotional this week. The goal of your devotional should be letting each of your family members know just how much you love and appreciate them. Ask your parents for help planning which night would be best, but tell them that you would like the subject to be a surprise. You may want to plan a special dessert or family time for after the devotional or make cards or special awards for family members. Be creative, and make this a very special time for you and your family.

LESSON 4 RESOLVING CONFLICT

Weekly Challenge: Think of a person with whom you need to resolve an open conflict or something in your heart that keeps you from feeling close to the person. Using the KEYS you learned in class, work to resolve the conflict, and share with that person what you have learned. Pray for your partner as he or she does the same. Remember: Do not tell your partner the name of the person.

Your active involvement outside the classroom is essential and will truly make the Kingdom Kids Curriculum a great success for your child. Here are some suggested ways for you to reinforce these lessons at home:

- Share with your child how your view of marriage has changed since becoming a disciple.
- Share with your child about your dating and engagement period (certainly, if you were not a disciple and were in sexual sin, you will need to be careful about what you share while your child is this young).
- Share with your child what you have learned about conflict resolution.
- Review the memory verse before bedtime, at dinner or while riding in the car.
- While eating dinner, talk about something that your child really enjoyed about Bible class this week.
- Ask your child to share with you how he or she is doing with the weekly challenge. Give encouragement or direction as needed.
- Have a family devotional using the memory verse (or parallel verses) this week.
- Don't forget to encourage your child as he or she uses the Preteen Quiet Time Book that gives daily support for the lesson of the week.
- Allow your child to share with younger siblings what he or she is learning in class.

We look forward to being partners with you as we help *Generation Next* to be zealous and effective as they move forward the kingdom of our God.

Thank you,

Your child's teachers

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