

Lesson 9

Feb. 1, 2026

Communicate God's Truth in the Home:
Parents should live by and communicate the truths of Scripture.

THE LESSON OVERVIEW

God's design for the family provided a steadfast foundation, even as modern definitions of marriage and family shift. The lesson draws insight from the Law of Moses given to the Israelites before entering the Promised Land, Asaph's reflections in Psalm 78, and Timothy's life as highlighted by Paul. This study emphasizes the need to prioritize God in family life. Fidelity to God's Word builds faith, strengthens churches, and benefits communities. These Biblical examples reaffirm that faithful families uphold spiritual values and promote societal stability and well-being.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In the first commandment recorded in the Bible, God told Adam and Eve, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Genesis 1:28). This highlights the founding of the family, which would be the cornerstone of civilization. Individuals develop their values, priorities, and goals within the family. Therefore, the home should be a place where the Word of God is central, shaping daily relations and guiding our behavior. God's truth is to be taught and practiced within the family. Beside a personal relationship with God, familial bonds hold the greatest significance, forming the foundation for meaningful relationships and a stable society.

THE LESSON OUTLINE

1. LIVE BY AND TEACH GOD'S TRUTH: Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

- A. Family Faith (1-5)
- B. Family Life (6-9)

2. TESTIFY OF GOD'S GREAT WORKS: Psalm 78:1-7.

- A. The Faith Received (1-4)
- B. The Faith Transmitted (5-7)

3. LEAVE A LEGACY OF FAITH: 2 Timothy 1:3-5; 3:13-17.

- A. Parental Influence (1:3-5)
- B. Parental Instruction (3:13-17)

DISCUSSING THE LESSON

1. LIVE BY AND TEACH GOD'S TRUTH: Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

A. Family Faith, Deut. 6:1-5

In the opening verses of Deuteronomy 6, Moses reminds the Israelites of the importance of all that God has communicated to them. He also reminded them of how God sustained them in the wilderness for forty years. God constantly commanded them to observe His “statutes” and “judgments” (v.1). *Statutes* are commandments to be put into practice, and *judgments* are the verdicts or sentences that are to be carried out, whether favorable or unfavorable. This represents the Word of God, which is to be taught, observed, and obeyed. The purpose of God’s laws is that people would “fear the Lord” (v. 2). The *fear* (respect, awe, wonder) of the Lord is something that must be learned. It does not come naturally to fallen human beings but must be taught. The fear of the Lord means to be keenly aware of His holiness and power so we will not disobey Him. Additionally, the fear of God entails experiencing reverential awe, which produces trust, obedience, and worship. Keeping the statutes and commands of the Lord leads to the promise of a “prolonged” life (v. 2). Children who grow up heeding the godly instruction of their parents will not only experience length of days but a quality of life that will not lead to regret. Those who waste their lives in sin early in life and come to the Lord later, in a sense, cut their lives short of all they could have been.

Verse 4 is known as the Jewish Shema, which is the Hebrew word for “hear.” It means to listen and pay attention, for this is the Jewish confession of faith. The point is that Israel’s God (Yahweh) is One, and He alone is God (Elohim). This contrasted with the heathen gods, which were many and were represented by various worthless idols. Israel’s God was infinite and invisible, so they were not to create idols or depict Him through any such images. The emphasis was on a covenant relationship, not a physical representation of Yahweh. This is why they were called to love God “with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (v. 5), which Jesus identified as the “first and greatest commandment” (Matthew 22:38 NLT).

B. Family Life, Deut. 6:6-9.

In verse 7, Moses emphasizes the role of parents in establishing God’s truth within the home through both structured teaching and casual conversations. This approach fosters a lifestyle where godly principles are demonstrated and discussed, forming the foundation of a family’s value system. Parents are the primary educators entrusted with the responsibility of helping their children understand God’s ways. The term “teach” in this context conveys the idea of refining and honing, akin to craftsmen maintaining the precision of their tools. By actively engaging in this process, parents ensure their children remain spiritually sharp and prepared to live according to divine truth. This highlights the significance of a home environment where faith is not only taught, but lived authentically, shaping future generations to uphold godly values.

The word “when” in verse 7 denotes that God’s truth is to be a natural part of the family life. The family sitting down together may speak of mealtimes. When the family walks “by the way” refers to activities outside the home. The family lying down refers to retiring for the evening, it should set the tone for the rest of the day. The standards of God’s truth should pervade the family’s daily life.

Verses 8-9 depict the family legacy of faith. Some Jews placed small containers (phylacteries) of prayers and Scripture on their foreheads or wrists, and wrote Scripture on the doorposts of their homes to symbolize God’s truth within their homes. To “bind them ... upon thine hand” (v.8) points to one’s activities, indicating God’s children should never do anything to contradict His commands.

Likewise, having them “as frontlets between their eyes” shows one’s thoughts and views should align with God’s commandments. Writing “them upon the posts of thy house” (v.9) may represent the coming and going of family members. As the children grew older and spent more time away from home, they were to be prepared by God’s truth to overcome worldly influences. Finally, writing words of the Lord “on thy gates” may refer to when the children left to establish their own homes. If the parents had done their job, the children could leave as God’s representatives.

The traditional family faces numerous challenges in today’s world, yet the Christ home can find strength and guidance through the principles outlined in God’s Word. A thriving and harmonious home requires intentional effort to practice godly precepts rather than relying solely on church membership or self-identification as Christians. Neglecting Biblical precepts often leads to dysfunction. To cultivate a healthy and spiritually grounded household, it is essential to prioritize Scripture, internalize its truths, and consistently apply them in daily life. By embracing God’s Word as the foundation for family life, Christian households can experience the blessings of unity, love, and purpose, even amid societal pressures that are hostile to Christian values.

2. TESTIFY OF GOD’S GREAT WORKS, Psalm 78:1-7.

A. The Faith Received, Ps. 78:1-4.

In this psalm, the writer presents a view of Israel’s history from the time of their bondage and deliverance from Egypt to the reign of King David. Throughout the psalm, God’s faithfulness to the nation is carefully noted despite the people’s repeated disobedience to His laws. Through oral tradition, God’s truth was passed down from one generation to the next within families. The Israelites had “heard and known” God’s truths from their forefather (v.3). These were “dark and puzzling sayings of old [that contain important truth]” (v.2 Amp.).

The term “told” in verse 3 means to keep score, tally, record, enumerate, and recount. Who was doing his recounting, and what was being recounted? The forefathers of Israel consistently repeated and taught their descendants the laws of God and celebrated His mighty works. The picture here is that the godly family not only hears the Word of God but observes it. According to verse 4, “the praises of the Lord, and His strength, and His wonderful works” were witnessed by the family. Such shared experiences reinforced the words of the covenant. The great truths of God’s Word were not only received and recorded information but were meant to be learned through lived experience.

B. The Faith Transmitted, Ps. 78:5-7.

The responsibility of transmitting God’s laws and faith to future generations was a foundational command given to the fathers of Israel. This process ensured the continuity of spiritual devotion and adherence to divine commandments. As highlighted in verse 6, the teaching of God’s truths was intended to span multiple generations, encompassing children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. This process was not presented as optional but as an essential duty to preserve the faith and uphold the law of the Lord within their households. Parents bore the primary responsibility for this instruction, ensuring that their children were grounded in spiritual principles. Formal education, while beneficial, was supplementary to the foundational teachings imparted by parents. Failure to fulfill this obligation risked the gradual erosion of faith and divine law from their homes and society. This highlights the crucial role of the family in promoting spiritual growth and preserving a legacy of faithfulness across generations.

In verse 7, Asaph explains why parents were to pass on the faith to their children. Three fundamental reasons are given: First, the next generation would place their hope, trust, and

confidence in God. This trust in God was established through hearing and observing God's commands in the home. Second, it was vital that the children did not forget the mighty deed of God. Third, this would encourage them to keep the commandments of God willingly. Keeping the commandments of God would be a natural outcome of their home life rather than something forced upon them. God desired that they would praise and glorify Him from one generation to another.

Even though society has attempted to redefine and reshape the family, the truth about the family remains the same in God's Word. The precepts of Scripture are as valid today as they were when given. Therefore, the Bible is the supreme authority for living right in the world. Its principles, instructions, and patterns should touch every area of our lives. We should take the time to examine our lives and assess how closely we align with Biblical precepts as a spouse, parent, or child. The greatest legacy the family can pass on to the next generation is faith in Christ.

3. LEAVE A LEGACY OF FAITH: 2 Timothy 1:3-5; 3:13-17.

A. Parental Influence, 2 Timothy 1:3-5.

Paul viewed Timothy as his spiritual son. Acts 16:1 implies Timothy's father was a Gentile and apparently an unbeliever. Consequently, the legacy of faith transmitted to Timothy came through his grandmother and mother. Their example outweighed the influence of a pagan father. This is a powerful testimony to the faith of those women in a highly patriarchal society. Paul said they had an "unfeigned faith" (2 Tim. 1:5), meaning it was genuine, not hypocritical or phony. Their true faith powerfully impacted Timothy's heart early in life.

Timothy followed his mother in loving God and had a good reputation in the church. Paul saw his potential and decided to take him along on his missionary journeys to confirm his calling and to aid his spiritual development. In his two letters addressed to Timothy, Paul referenced the young man's legacy of faith. It was three generations deep, beginning with his grandmother, then his mother, and then himself. In Timothy, we see the New Testament continuation of the Old Testament expectation that believers establish a legacy of faith in their families.

B. Parental Instruction, 2 Timothy 3:13-17.

Timothy's spiritual journey was shaped by three key influences that strengthened his faith and deepened his understanding of the Scriptures. First, his grandmother and mother instilled Biblical teachings from an early age, laying a solid moral and theological foundation. Second, the Scriptures themselves served as the divine source of wisdom and truth, fostering deep reverence for God. Finally, Paul's mentorship as a spiritual father guided Timothy's faith and path. These influences collectively empowered Timothy to uphold his beliefs with conviction and live in accordance with the teachings he had adopted.

Verse 16 reveals the profound significance of Scripture, describing it as inspired ("God-breathed"), which speaks to its divine origin and unmatched authority. This verse highlights the role of Scripture in shaping the Christian's life, serving as a foundation for sound doctrine, a tool for correction, a guide for righteous living, and a source of empowerment for good works. This declaration affirms the sufficiency and reliability of God's Word, emphasizing the role as the ultimate standard of truth. We are encouraged to approach Scripture with reverence, recognizing its life-changing power in fostering spiritual growth, nurturing discipleship, and enabling faithful

living. Scripture is not merely a historical or literary text but a divinely inspired and living resource essential for navigating life with wisdom and purpose.

In verse 17, the term “perfect” refers to the Christian being complete and capable through the Word of God. Paul went on to describe leaders as “thoroughly equipped for every good work” (NKJV). The Bible is more than a book of stories, poems, and history; it carries the power of God’s voice to transform lives. Reading, studying, and obeying the Scriptures will mature us as believers.

Timothy’s faith journey, shaped by his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, stresses the lasting influence of family on spiritual formation. Their steadfast devotion and sharing of Scripture provided a solid foundation for Timothy. This story shows the importance of nurturing values within a loving home in today’s fast-paced world. It reflects how teaching and living out God’s Word can inspire generational faith and remind us of our role in others’ spiritual journeys.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Christian parents are responsible for passing on the Gospel to the next generation. The most enduring family legacy a disciple can leave to their children is the heritage of faith.

MINISTRY IN ACTION

Pray for the families that are represented in your class. Pray for the parents that God would give them wisdom and direction in making God’s truth a reality in their home.

WORKSHEET

The First Human Family on Earth

The First Human Family Was Adam and Eve and Their Children. God's command to Adam and Eve to produce children (Genesis 1:27-28) was given before they sinned and were expelled from the garden of Eden, but they had children only after their expulsion from the garden (4:1-2).

Before Their Expulsion From the Garden, Adam called his wife "woman" (2:23), the name by which she is identified in Scripture until Adam named her "eve" (3:20), a name which signifies a singular very high honor that belonged only to her: "the mother of all living."

The Apostle Paul Wisely Observed, "man is not from woman, but woman from man... For as woman came from man [Genesis 2:21-23], even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God" (1 Corinthians 11:8, 12 NKJV). The simple fact is, except for Adam and Eve, who were created by God, every other human (man or woman) has been born of a woman.

The Bible Says of Adam, that he lived a total of 930 years, "and he had sons and daughters" (see Genesis 5:3-5 NKJV), but the Bible tells only the names of three sons born to Adam and Eve: Cain, Abel, and Seth (4:1-2; 5:3).

God Taught Adam and Eve To Worship and Obey Him, and after their fall into sin, instituted animal sacrifices as a part of their worship (Genesis 3:21).

Adam and Eve Taught Their Sons To Worship and Obey God, as is made evident by the fact that both Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to the Lord in worship (Genesis 4:3-5).

Tragically, Cain Refused To Put Away Sin from his life and murdered his righteous brother Abel (Genesis 4:6-8; 1 John 3:11-12). But later, Seth, who was born to Adam and Eve when they were 130 years of age (Genesis 5:3) was a righteous man (4:25-26).

Godly Examples for Children

- 1. What is the significance of there being only “one” God, (v.4)?**
- 2. What must begin in the “heart” of parents, and why (vv. 5-6)?**
- 3. Why and how do parents have the most significant influence over their children’s spiritual lives (v. 7)?**

“You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes” (v. 8 NKJV).

- 4. How did Paul’s ministry to Timothy (1:2-3, 6) complement the ministry of Timothy’s mother and grandmother?**

What should churches today learn from this?

- 5. Comparing 2 Timothy 3:17 with Romans 10:17, why is it vital that we teach God’s Word to children?**