

Lesson 9 Respect for Marriage and Family

Reflection

What is our fondest childhood memory of spending time with our parents? How do we describe our family members' relationships with one another?

Inspiration from the Holy Bible

He said in reply, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.'" (Matthew 19:4-6)

Inspiration from the Holy Qur'an

"And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought." (Surah Ar-Rum 30:21)

Hadith

It was narrated from Ibn Abbas (RA) that: the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: "There is nothing like marriage, for two who love one another." (Sunan Ibn Majah, Vol. 3, Book of Mamlage, Hadith 1847)

How do we promote respect for our marriage and family?

a. Marriage and family must be anchored on love and unity. This provides a strong foundation for enjoying happy times and getting through any difficult circumstances in our life.

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. (Ephesians 4:2-3)

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

b. As spouses, we must give our relationship 100%, and honor and respect one another.

So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:33)

In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your

equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered. (1 Peter 3:7)

As parents, we should nurture, guide and motivate our children. This includes disciplining, encouraging and motivating them. We should also be conscious of setting a good example for them.

To discipline a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child. (Proverbs 29:15)

In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely. And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. (Titus 2:6-7)

Challenge

What is our most significant learning today? How will we apply it to our own life?

Prayer

Praise God for His goodness and grace in our life. Ask forgiveness for our sins. Thank Him for the blessings we have received.

If we have any prayer requests, let us pray for one another.

We end the meeting with this declaration of faith: We put our faith in Your power, Lord, confident that You can do the impossible. In You we will find the healing, abundance, prosperity and security that we seek. As we continue to walk with You, may You grant us the gifts of love, Joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.