THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY

**CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON**

**DATE:** June 23, 2019

**SUBJECT:** **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: The Seventh Commandment—Marriage Should be Held in Honor**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18, 21-24; 24:1-67; Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 5:27-28; 19:6,18m; Romans 7:2,3; 13:9a; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 18-20; Leviticus 20:10; Mark 10:11-12

**AIM:** Marriage is instituted by God and is between one man and one woman; it is holy and sacred. We must hold it in honor. God is faithful, and He wants His people to be faithful and loyal to one another in marriage.

**SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSE(S):** Hebrews 13:4a (*Let* marriage *be held* in honor among all, …); Genesis 2:24 (Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.); Genesis 1:27 (And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.); Mark 10:6 (But from the beginning of creation, He made them male and female.)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 74 (Boys and Girls for Jesus); 9608 *BSS The Heavens Declare Song #8* (All Things Came into Being Through Him); 9555 (God Created Adam); 2833 Adam and Eve - Marriage Song; 9553 (Long Ago in the Beginning); 9554 (And God Blessed Them); 9579 (Isaac is Alone); 8317 (In the Ten Commandments); 9409 *BSS The Bible Song #9* (But the Word will Stand Forever)

**CRAFT IDEAS:** (1) Make heart shaped bubble wands out of pipe cleaners (and optional beads). If time and space permits, kids can use this to blow bubbles when dipped in soapy solution. Craft idea instructions: <https://iheartcraftythings.com/patriotic-diy-bubble-wands.html> (2) Marriage-related word search and puzzles.

**NOTE TO TEACHERS:** The Seventh Commandment is, **“You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14).** Depending on the ages of the children, however, it may not be necessary to elaborate on the word “adultery.” Rather, serving ones should just present this truth—God’s original design for marriage according to the Bible is between one man and one woman for their entire lives. There is no need to spend time on adultery or divorce in this lesson unless the children bring it up. In addition, serving ones need to pray for wisdom and appropriate utterance to present this lesson. Because our church kids are from families of different backgrounds, experiencing varied and different situations, we must be sensitive when presenting this lesson. We have children of divorced parents, and we must be careful not to diminish the self-esteem of any child. Do not condemn the parents. In wisdom try to simply teach God’s truth and answer any questions in a simple way.

There are two story suggestions below showing a proper marriage: (1) Adam and Eve and (2) Isaac and Rebekah. Depending on the ages of the children and your fellowship, serving ones may present just one rather than both stories.

**CONTENT:** The Seventh Commandment is, **“You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14).** Adultery means being unfaithful in marriage. To understand this commandment we have to take a look at God’s arrangement of a proper marriage.

**Adam and Eve.** Genesis 1 and 2 reveal to us how God planned and arranged everything for man, for sin had not yet come into the world and spoiled everything. Everything that God created was “good” in His eyes; and **man** in God’s eyes was “**very good**” (Genesis 1:31). In Genesis 2:18 God said that it was not good for the man to be alone; He said He would make him a helper as his counterpart. God brought every animal of the field and every bird of heaven to Adam to see what he would call them; and whatever he called any living animal, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of heaven and to every animal of the field. But after giving names to the various creatures, Adam did not find any that matched him, that could be his helper and counterpart. Jehovah God then caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep, and as he slept, God took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. And Jehovah God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman and brought her to the man. When Adam saw Eve, he said, “This time this is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called Woman because out of Man this one was taken.” Genesis 2:24 says, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Now, Adam had someone that matched him!

In Adam’s marriage God did a wonderful job. God created one man and God prepared one woman especially for him. Not only did God prepare Eve for Adam, He brought her to Adam and “yoked” them together (Genesis 2:18, 22; Matthew 19:6). Adam did not have to be anxious to look for a wife, or try to convince her or win her to be his bride. God Himself took care of Adam’s need.

**Isaac and Rebekah.** Similarly in Isaac’s case (Genesis 24) God prepared Rebekah for him from among his own people. Isaac’s father, Abraham, wanted to be sure that Isaac married someone from among God’s people, someone that could follow God together with Isaac. So he sent a faithful servant to travel back to Abraham’s people and find a wife for Isaac there. Isaac did not have to go looking among all the idol worshippers who were living near them. The servant prayed and asked of the Lord, and found Rebekah, who was willing to go and become Isaac’s wife. She was beautiful, kind, diligent, and was one of God’s people. When Isaac met Rebekah, he loved her. At the right time God had sent Rebekah to Isaac. Isaac did not have to do anything but trust the Lord.

Since God Himself established marriage beginning with Adam and Eve, we must honor marriage. When a man or woman breaks God’s arrangement in marriage or annuls their promise to be faithful to one another by leaving their spouse and marrying or living with someone else, they commit adultery. The Seventh Commandment says, **“You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14).** Only death can separate a husband and wife (Romans 7:1).

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just* ***one or two applications*** *which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

* **God ordained marriage.** God Himself established marriage. Marriage was according to God’s plan so that man could both fulfill God’s purpose and also live a happy and satisfied life. God desires that in the marriage relationship, the husband and wife will live their entire lives together, whether in good times or in trial and suffering. The husband and wife are committed to one another in an unbreakable bond, like a yoke that joins cattle together. This bond was established by God and should never be broken by man. Marriage is a commitment of two people to one another in an exclusive way. It is the promise of a man to share his most intimate life and love with only one woman. In Matthew 19:5-6 the Lord Jesus quotes Genesis and reaffirms that the marriage bond should not be broken. “For this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife; and the two shall be one flesh. So then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has yoked together, let man not separate.”
* **Marriage is a union between one man and one woman.** Impress the children that a proper marriage is only between one man and one woman, as God designed marriage that way. Any other arrangement is improper, sinful and against God’s ordination. (*Note:* We do not need to address alternate lifestyles, but if the children bring it up, we should be prepared to respond concerning what God intended from the beginning.)
* **Marriage is from the Lord.** Children should trust that God will bring them the right person at the right time for their marriage. This is the same way that we trust Him for all our needs. They should never become anxious like many unbelievers who go out and search for their mates. For the older kids, and if it comes up, we can mention that dating is not God’s way. Before we get married, we have to pray to God about our proper mate. Once we are married, we have to know that our spouse is with us for our entire lifetime. We must have faith in God and believe that He will bring the best to us, and we must be faithful and loyal to that person whom God gives to us.
* **We are made as vessels to contain God.** We must be careful what we take in. What we see or hear affects us. Today’s TV, movies, books, magazines, comics and music, etc., are full of lust and immorality. Many people today do not live by God’s standard as presented in the Bible. We need to be clear about God’s standard and flee from those things that are not according to His high standard. Do not be curious about the loose and immoral things in the world. Keep yourself for God. Keep yourself for your future spouse and you will enjoy God’s blessing.

Adapted from the Church in New York City Children’s Meeting lessons: 6/22/14