

Godly Homekeeping

What do you think of when you think of home? Do you smell bread baking? Do you picture a private nook where you can snuggle down with a book? Do you hear a happy “Welcome home” as you walk in from school? Do you taste your favorite meal?

As you help your mother make food, clean, and sew for your home, you are becoming aware that an inviting, comfortable home doesn’t happen without planning,

discipline, and work. You are probably becoming aware of your tastes in color, kinds of furniture, and styles of homes.

In this LightUnit, you will explore God’s purposes for the home by looking at several Bible homes. You will then study how color, design, and furniture fit those godly purposes for the home. You will also study ways to keep a home inviting and comfortable for family members and guests.



SECTION 1



The Purposes of the Godly Home

Have you ever wondered, *If Jesus had a home, what would it look like? What kind of furniture would He buy? How would it be decorated?* Of course we can’t know specific answers to these questions because Jesus did not, while on earth, own a house or establish a family. However, we can explore the Bible to learn what God teaches us about family life, godly homes, and godly

people.

Learning God’s purposes for homes will provide a foundation for decorating, furnishing, and arranging them. Discovering what He wants our homes to be will guide us in choices of color, furniture, and accessories.

In this section you will study a number of Scriptures to discover what God’s purposes are for the godly home.

Section 1 Objectives

Read these objectives. After completing this section, you should be able to –

- tell how the home is a place of family accommodation.
- explain ways the home is a place of hospitality.
- give examples of how the home is a place of service.
- tell how the home is a place of witness.

Lesson 1

A Place of Accommodation and Hospitality

A PLACE OF ACCOMMODATION

The Blessings of Children

Children are a delightful blessing in a godly home. They are a normal part of home life. Psalms 127 and 128 indicate that home is to be a place of productivity (fruitfulness)

and blessing. It should be a place where all family members can grow in their usefulness and develop their abilities.



Read the following Scriptures and answer the questions.

- 1. Psalm 127:3-5: What is God's attitude toward children? _____

- 2. Psalm 128: How does God bless the man who fears Him? _____

The Family in the Home

A godly home is a place where children are taught about God and guided into His ways. Children learn to love God by observing their godly parents.

Home is where the husband and father is respected and made to feel like a king! His ideas about the comfort and livability of the home and its furnishings should be appreciated and used in the home. Home should be a haven for the family breadwinner: a place where he can relax and refresh himself from the responsibilities of providing for the family.

A wise homemaker will also take good care of the things the husband and father provides for the family. She will keep the

home in attractive order so that he doesn't need to be ashamed to bring friends or business associates there.

Home is a place of love. Children who are loved are given room to develop their talents and abilities. They will be encouraged to follow their interests in science, crafts, and hobbies. Room for work spaces and display areas may need to be taken into account in home planning and furnishings.

The same could be said also for the personal interests of the mother and father. A homemaker needs to be creative in finding ways to accommodate all the family members in arranging and organizing the home.



Read these Scriptures and answer the questions.

- 3. 1 Timothy 5:14: What does the phrase *guide the house* mean? _____

- 4. 2 Timothy 1:5: What kind of nurture took place in Timothy's home? _____

- 5. Proverbs 12:4; Proverbs 31:10-12, 23: What do these verses teach about a virtuous wife? _____

A Comfortable Haven

Home should be a place that is pleasing and restful. Furnishings are selected for the comfort and convenience of the family members. They are organized and arranged for efficient work and to accommodate the interests and needs of each member. It is such an inviting place that when the husband is finished with his day of work and the children are finished with school and social activities, their hearts automatically turn toward home. It is a place they love to be.

In accordance with Biblical teaching about children, a godly home will show some marked differences from worldly homes. Most home-decorating books and magazines

encourage a type of decorating that does not comfortably include children with their exuberance, spills, and messy projects. To the worldly interior decorator, children should have a special room all planned and organized just for them rather than including them as a normal part of all family living areas. Open furniture doors and drawers on which quilts and old doilies are displayed, collections of fancy, breakable dishes on low tables, expensive carpeting in eating areas, and crowded rooms with antique furniture that leave no space for active children, are some examples of home decorating that do not take children into account.



Read the Scriptures and answer the questions.

6. Titus 2:4-5: What are the responsibilities of young women? _____

7. Genesis 24:67: What did Rebekah's womanly presence in Isaac's tent-home do for Isaac?

A PLACE OF HOSPITALITY

Everyone Welcome

A godly home is a place of welcome to needy people who have been bruised by life. It is a blessing to be shared with those who

need help physically, emotionally, and spiritually. There is a rich blessing in giving to those who cannot return our hospitality.



Read Luke 14:12-14. Answer this question.

8. According to Jesus, what kind of people should be invited to share meals in a godly home?

Entertaining Strangers

Hebrews 13:2 refers to Abraham's hospitality to the heavenly visitors who came to him one hot afternoon. Abraham refreshed them by giving them water and letting them rest while he stirred up the fire to make spe-

cial bread and butchered a young calf for them to eat (Genesis 18). Because of his faithfulness he was promised a son within a year and was told of the impending doom of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Lesson 1

Entertaining strangers often means having spur-of-the-moment company—for example, when unexpected visitors show up

at church; inviting a new neighbor in for a cup of coffee; when someone in the community needs special help.



Write Hebrews 13:2.

9. _____

Fellowshipping With God's People

A godly home is a place where fellow believers are welcomed often for food and fellowship. This open-door policy among Christians builds bonds of brotherhood and understanding. It is one of the best ways to show our love for each other and to strengthen one another in our spiritual pilgrimage.

Those who leave home to serve the Lord

in preaching and witnessing are especially deserving of our hospitality. Visiting ministers and missionaries will find refuge and rest in a godly home.

Did you know that Jesus has promised a special blessing to those who open their homes to prophets; that is, those who tell forth the Word of God?



Read 1 Peter 4:8, 9. Explain the meaning of the phrase, *hospitality without grudging*.

10. _____



Read these Scriptures and answer the questions.

11. Acts 16:15, 40: To whom did Lydia extend hospitality? _____

12. Matthew 10:40-42: What kinds of rewards might you expect from extending hospitality to God's messengers?

Enjoying Guests

Hospitality literally means to be “fond of guests.” Friends, neighbors, and strangers receive a warm welcome in the Christian home. Godly people gladly share their food, beds, and other accommodations to make guests feel comfortable.

A Christian home is a special place of joy

and love. God wants us to share these gifts to bless the lives of others, especially those who have not known the blessing of a godly home.

A godly home does not have to be large or finely furnished for people to be drawn to it. Neither must there be elaborate meals for

guests to enjoy themselves. A simple, clean home with a tasty soup and an attitude that says, "Thank you for coming; we consider it a privilege to have you in our home," is a tremendous way to share our faith and enjoy enriching fellowship.

If the home is to be a place of hospitality, this means that provision should be made to accommodate more than just the family. Eating space should allow for guests to share meals. Living areas will have seating areas arranged for visiting.

Some thought should be given to accommodating overnight guests in sleeping and bathroom facilities. A guest room should be comfortable but not elaborate. The bed should not be one that was put there because the mattress became too lumpy and uncomfortable for regular use. The room should have a chair, an alarm clock, a box of



A good question to homemakers:

Would you like to sleep in your own guest room?

tissues, a trash can, and a usable desk or table. Visiting ministers will appreciate good lighting at the desk for study. Bathrooms should have easy-to-find towels, washcloths, and soap.

We should furnish our homes so that people from all walks of life feel comfortable there.



Answer these questions.

- 13. Think about your home. What guests have been welcomed by your family in the last weeks and months? _____

- 14. How did you help provide hospitality to these guests? _____

Lesson 2

A Place of Service and Witness

A PLACE OF SERVICE

A Service Base

God intends for the home to be for more than the pleasure of the family members. It should reach out in blessing to the church, the community, and the world. The godly homemaker "stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to

the needy" (Proverbs 31:20).

How is this done in real families? Here are a few examples: The Branson family has a storage room where friends are invited to bring their cast-off clothing. The family cleans, organizes, and packs it for poor

Lesson 2

Christians in Eastern Europe. Mrs. Canton and her daughters sew dresses and shirts for children of missionaries in Central America. Mr. Sims and his sons do home-maintenance projects for widows in their

community. The Tremble family makes scrapbooks for shut-ins. Mrs. Neils cans extra produce during harvest season to be given in Christmas baskets to elderly people in her community.



Read the following Scriptures and answer the questions.

1. Acts 9:36, 39: How did Dorcas serve the Lord and others? _____

2. 3 John 5-8: For what did John commend Gaius? _____

3. Philemon 7, 22: What did Paul remember about Philemon? _____

4. John 12:2, 3: What is recorded about Martha and Mary? _____



Think about your home. What kind of service projects does your family do for those beyond your home?

- 5. _____

A PLACE OF WITNESS

A Lighthouse for Jesus

A godly home is a place that will draw seeking people because of the joy and peace of God. The very atmosphere should say *something is different here* to the stranger who enters. Godly people want their homes to cause those who live and visit there to realize that God is the center of their homes. This will be evidenced by the choice of furnishings; in the mottoes, pictures, and other decorative accessories; and in the absence of furnishings which focus on things like worldly entertainment and sports.

A home expresses the family's identity and personality. It shows interests of family members and shows what is important to them. It is a place that can and should express their faith. The way the home is furnished and kept will say something about the family who lives there and the woman who cares for it.

You are probably not responsible for an entire home, but perhaps you have some control over your own room or at least part of it.

 **Read the Scriptures and answer the questions.**

6. Acts 18:24-26: How did Aquila and Priscilla use their home as a place of witness?

7. Acts 12:12: What took place in Mary's home that could have been a witness?

The Home Makes a Statement

Train yourself to be observant as you visit in other homes. Do not do this to be judgmental or critical. Rather, observe to learn how Christian homemakers express their personalities and their faith in cre-

ative, godly ways. Keep a list of positive things you see. You will find this to be an excellent reference of ideas if you have the privilege of furnishing your own home some day.

 **Make a list of things you observe during the next several weeks.**

- 8. Your study of this LightUnit will make you aware of things you may not have noticed before. Include your own home in this list of observations. You will be done with this LightUnit by the time your list is complete, so LightUnit 9 will include a reminder to share the list with your teacher.

 **Do this activity.**

- 9. Stand in the doorway of your bedroom. Look at it as though it were the bedroom of a stranger. Write a paragraph about what you see. What does the room say about you? Is there any evidence that you are a Christian? Remember, the absence of things like a TV, VCR, worldly tapes, movie and sports posters can say a lot about you. Show your paragraph to your teacher and evaluate it together.

People Before Things

Thinking carefully through the purposes of the godly home will lead us to the conclusion that a home must be planned around people. It is for the development and nurture of children; they should be an integral part of it. It will be organized as much as possible to accommodate the work, hobbies, and personal interests of all family mem-

bers. Family relaxation and comfort will be part of home planning; this is especially true for the head of the home. It will also be organized so that it can reach beyond the immediate family to bless friends, extended family, fellow believers, and the needy with hospitality, service, and witness.

Lesson 2



Write X if you think the statement is not appropriate. Write O if you think it is okay. Then tell why you answered as you did.

10. _____ Mrs. Delaney has a number of expensive, breakable trinkets on low tables in her living room.

11. _____ Mrs. Jemison ignores her daughters' pleas to get rid of Dad's old recliner because it clashes with the rest of the furniture.

12. _____ Mrs. Dwyer chose a durable, washable floor covering for her kitchen/dining area.

13. _____ Mrs. Camillo does not invite company for meals. She and her husband take friends to restaurants so her house won't get mussed.

14. _____ Susan doesn't invite friends to her home because she is ashamed of the simple furnishings her parents provide for her bedroom.

15. _____ Mrs. Sanders and her daughters like to be invited to home and garden parties so they can keep abreast of the latest home-decorating fashions.

16. _____ Although they are quite wealthy, the Berudis furnish their home very modestly so that people of any status will feel comfortable there.

17. _____ Mr. Walnut has a shop area in his basement so that he can enjoy his woodworking hobby on evenings and weekends.

18. _____ Mrs. Reamon's walls display Bible verses that she has done in beautiful cross-stitchery.

19. _____ Mrs. Galinda's children may not experiment with paints and clay; neither can they have toys like Tinker Toys or Legos with small pieces. "Too messy," she says.

LOOKING BACK . . .



Follow these directions.

20. Name three ways to make the head of the home feel like a king.

21. What are some examples of home decorations not planned for children?

22. Who turns a home into a comfortable haven and how?

23. List various types of people that should be welcomed into the godly home.
