

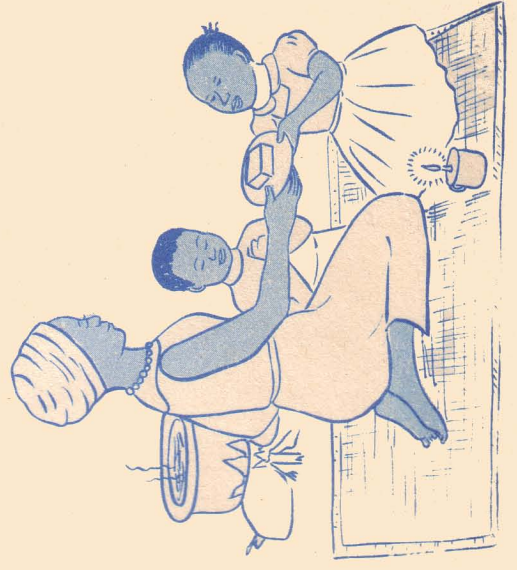
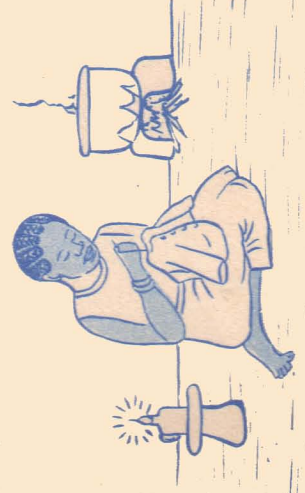
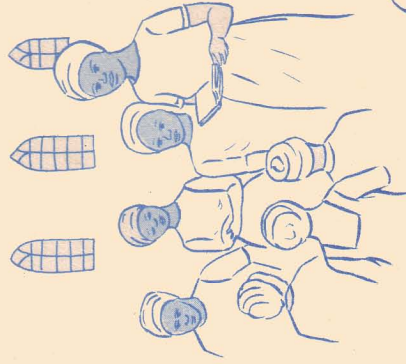
The Pastor's Wife Joyfully Growing in Faith

Compiled and

Edited

By

Mrs. Betty Ann Whitson



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2. The Bible study was on growing in the knowledge of God. What are two things you can do daily to help you grow in the knowledge of God?

_____ and _____.

3. Growing bears fruit. List the fruit you will bear as you grow in the knowledge of God. These are found in Galatians 5:22-23.

_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____.

4. Now turn to the poster at the end of this book. Carefully remove it and place it in your home on a wall or where it can be easily seen. This picture of "A Good Wife" can be a reminder to you of your journey to become a better pastor's wife joyfully growing in faith and ministry.

MY COMMITMENT

Turn to the pink and green pages in the back of the book. There you will find "Helps for My Daily Prayer Time" and "Guidelines for My Daily Bible Study". Read through these two pages carefully and commit yourself to a regular time each day. This will help you to grow in the knowledge of God through prayer and Bible study. Keep both the pink and green pages in your Bible and follow the suggestions to help you grow.

MY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I have finished my journey through this book and now I am ready to continue my journey in being the pastor's wife you have called me to be. I commit my life and ministry to you and claim Colossians 1:10 for my life. I pray that I might live a life worthy of you and may please you in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. I pray this in the name of Jesus my Lord. Amen.

The joys of being a pastor's wife. There are many joys and pleasures of being a wife and mother. And there are added joys in being a Christian and a pastor's wife. What are the joys you would list? This is what two women have written.

Mrs. C. Ola. Akande of Nigeria writes this about the joys of serving God as a pastor's wife: "The life of a pastor does not call for monotony; it may be strenuous and dull. But often it poses challenges. Through many days of experience there will be occasions to be shocked by the show of ingratitude and coldness. But in one way or the other, there will come unexpected returns of one's good deeds which will buttress one's faith."

The joys of being a pastor's wife are numerous. For me it is being able to witness to others. My faith is strengthened in Christ and I am able to move closer to God. The opportunity to meet many people and share my faith with them is also a joy I have as a pastor's wife. I get the joy of helping to meet some of the needs of other people... of comforting those who are depressed...And often in doing just these simple things, I receive unexpected blessings. It is a great opportunity for one to marry a pastor and be privileged to contribute to the success of his call to the ministry. I cannot fully express the inward joys and outward happiness I have in being the wife of a pastor."

Rose Ochwo concludes in her letter, "It is a joy to see people responding to the gospel and getting saved. For me it is also a joy to show hospitality and to serve the Christian brothers who come to our home. Remember Christ says, 'Whatever you do to the least of my brothers that you do unto me.' It is a joy to give to others and many times God gives to you, too. 'More blessed to give than to receive!' The most exciting thing in my life as a pastor's wife is learning and knowing God's Word."

Has reading the joys of other pastors' wives caused you to think about the joys you have as a pastor's wife? As you think about your role as a pastor's wife, you must see it as joyfully growing, joyfully reaching out, joyfully serving. Wives who are content and happy with their responsibility are those who are growing in their faith, growing closer to God by knowing and serving him.

ACTIVITIES TO HELP ME GROW

1. Cut out your last card with your scripture verse for this lesson. Memorize this verse. Review all of your verses that you have learned. You can do this by saying them to your husband and your children. You can also try writing them down on a piece of paper.

THE PASTOR'S WIFE

JOYFULLY GROWING IN FAITH

by

BETTY ANN WHITSON

with the help of

Mrs. C. Ola. Akande, Ibadan, Nigeria
Mrs. Tukupasya Mwasandube, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Mrs. Rose Ochwo, Jinja, Uganda
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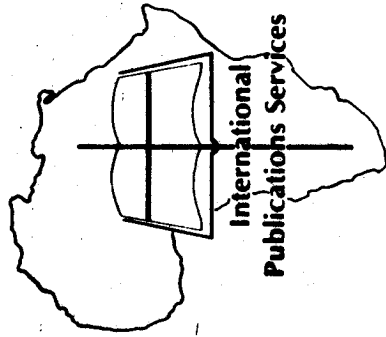
is away a lot. Often the home of a pastor has numerous people coming. Too many visitors can bring interruptions for the day's plans and may interfere with the family finances. Maybe the pastor may fail to do his work at home because he has to prepare for his church work. This means he may neglect the duties he should do at home. Many pastors are poorly paid and this causes worries because of school fees, feeding, dressing the family."

Other wives mention the problem of criticism of the pastor's wife - the way she does or doesn't care for the children, the work she does or doesn't do at church, the way she dresses. Problems cannot be avoided. Through it all you can keep your mind on the promises of God. When problems come, and they will, perhaps these suggestions will help you as you follow these steps:

1. Pray about the specific problem. Name it and ask God to show you what he would have you to do about it. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.
2. Talk with your husband or a close Christian friend whom you can trust about the problem. Ask them to pray with you right then and to pray for you daily. "I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." Matthew 18:19-20.
3. If the problem relates to another person, go to them and try to work it out. Be willing to listen. Do not become angry. Stay in Christ's love. "He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way". Psalms 32:8.
4. If the problem is more than you can handle, go to a counselor or pastor for help. "Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice." Proverbs 13:10.
5. Be patient and wait for the Lord. "I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth." Is.42:16.
6. Remember that every person has had, has and will have problems. They will work out. "Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning." Psalms 30:5.

It is how Christians respond to their problems that determines their spiritual growth. As problems are met, faced and dealt with, the Christian has more opportunities for a ministry in helping others with their problems.

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3. MY MARRIAGE 23

BIBLE STUDY: GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE
Marriage was established by God
A Christian marriage
Love is the key

I AM A WIFE

A wife is one with her husband
A wife loves her husband

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MY PRAYER

4. MY FAMILY 35

BIBLE STUDY: GOD'S PLAN FOR THE HOME
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Duties of the children

ME AND MY FAMILY

Children need a good place to grow
Children need space to grow
Children need proper food for growth

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MY PRAYER

5. MY CHURCH 49

BIBLE STUDY: THE CHURCH, THE FAMILY OF GOD
The church is built on Jesus Christ
The church is the family of believers
The church is to bring people to Jesus
The church is to teach believers
The church is one body with many parts

I AM SERVING CHRIST THROUGH MY CHURCH

You need nourishment
You need rest
You need to be used

What is the title of this last chapter? I AM JOYFULLY GROWING IN MY FAITH. This is the secret of being joyful, of growing - daily coming to the Father to talk with him in prayer, knowing God through his Word. It is this that gives you strength for each day, with its joys and its heartaches. It is this that makes you bold in telling others about Christ. It is this that equips you with the heart and mind of Christ to reach out to others. It is this that prepares you for being the Christian woman and the pastor's wife that God has called you to be.

I AM JOYFULLY GROWING AS A PASTOR'S WIFE

You are nearing the end of your study on how to become the kind of Christian pastor's wife God wants you to be. Your journey through the pages of this book is coming to a close. If you have read with your heart's eyes the Bible Studies for your journey, you are now more aware of how God's Word speaks to you. You are better equipped to serve God and man. You are better prepared to be a pastor's wife, a Christian example for others to see and follow.

In your journey you began by discovering who you are in Christ, that you are fearfully and wonderfully made. In Christ you are a new creation and are chosen by him to be his ambassador. Your husband as a pastor is God's chosen servant. What a wonderful opportunity you have to be a part with him in his responsibilities. Your relationship to your husband can bring great joy and happiness to you and your home as you seek to follow the teachings from God's Word. It will also show others God's plan for every husband and wife. Your home is established by God and is founded in Christian love, love for God and love for one another.

As children become a part of your family, you have the privilege and responsibility of loving them and growing a happy, loving family. Christian parents provide a happy home environment and give each family member opportunities to share in the activities of the home. They see that the family is well cared for, fed, clothed, educated. Each child is to be loved, encouraged as he begins to think and learn, disciplined when he is disobedient. Above all, as a pastor and wife you are to let the love of Christ reach out to each one, sharing with them God's plan for each person. What a joyful responsibility you have to lead your children to the Lord and help them understand about salvation in Christ. Through your family worship you can guide them in their Christian growth.

A journey always leads somewhere, and yours has taken you to your Christian family, your brothers and sisters in

we are to pray for God's kingdom, lifting others up to him, and praying that God's will would be done. Our daily needs are to be brought before him. We must seek his forgiveness for sins, just as we are to forgive those who sin against us. We are to ask the Father to keep us from entering into further sin and temptation, and pray for protection from the evil one.

Jesus told his disciples to take time to go into a room, close the door and pray. He knew the importance of being alone with God, without interruptions. We must also find time to pray alone. Just as Jesus needed to have time with his Father to receive strength and power, so must we. Jesus knew that each of his followers would need time with the Father so that they could grow closer to him and receive his strength and power. We as Christians grow through prayer.

Growing through Bible study. The Bible is God's Word and throughout the Old and New Testament God's people are told to study and learn the Word. Psalms 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." The Word of God is to be read so that the Christian will have guidance for his daily activities and understanding for his ways.

The Psalmist wrote in Psalms 119:11, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." God's Word is to be learned and memorized so that the Christian will not fall into sin and temptation.

The Christian must take time daily to let God talk with him. God speaks to his people through his Word. His Word is to be read, studied, learned and thought upon. Then you will begin to grow even closer to your Father as he reveals his truths to you.

Growing bears fruit. Open your Bible to Colossians 1:10 and read the memory verse for this lesson. You may want to mark this in your Bible. The Christian's whole aim in life is to glorify God. We do this by learning to please him. We do this by seeking daily to live a life worthy of his love and salvation. As the Christian woman grows closer to God through time spent with him, she will begin to discover new ways to please him. She will be abiding in him. She will begin to bear fruit.

Turn now in your Bible to Galatians 5:22-23 and read these verses. This is the fruit you are to bear: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are things we have been talking about throughout this book. These are qualities that each Christian desires to have. What is more, they are YOURS as you grow in your knowledge of God.

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MY COMMITMENT

MY PRAYER

6. MY COMMUNITY 61

BIBLE STUDY: REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

Love is the key to reaching out
Our neighbour is anyone with a need
Reaching out to others is serving Jesus

I AM REACHING OUT IN MY COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

Reaching out through my home and family
Reaching out through my church
Reaching out to a larger world

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ACTIVITIES TO HELP ME GROW

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BIBLE STUDY: GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Growing through prayer
Growing through Bible study
Growing bears fruit

I AM JOYFULLY GROWING AS A PASTOR'S WIFE

Review of my journey
When problems come
Joys of being a pastor's wife

REVIEW

MY COMMITMENT

MY PRAYER

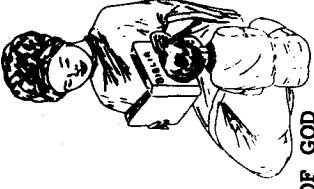
HELPS FOR MY DAILY PRAYER TIME

GUIDELINES FOR MY DAILY BIBLE STUDY

SCRIPTURE VERSES TO MEMORIZE

POSTER: A GOOD WIFE

CHAPTER 7
I AM JOYFULLY GROWING IN MY FAITH



And we pray this that you might live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:10

BIBLE STUDY: GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Have you had the joy of suddenly knowing that you were in the holy presence of God? Perhaps this has come to you during your quiet time when you were alone with the Lord. It may have come when you awoke in the early morning. Maybe it was in the evening as you sat in the stillness and knew in your heart that God, your Father, was really with you. Every Christian needs times like this so that he may grow in knowing that God IS ever present with his people.

This last Bible study will help you to see how to grow in your Christian faith and ministry through your daily quiet time. If you are to be the Christian and the pastor's wife God has called you to be, you must continue to grow closer to God. You can only do this as you take time each day to talk with God and let him talk to you. You can only be prepared for your outward ministry as you know the Father and his Word in your heart. Briefly you will look at a few teachings from the Bible on prayer and Bible study.

Growing through prayer. Jesus is our example for seeing the importance of prayer. As you study his life and work, you see that he regularly went to his Father for prayer. Prayer is talking with God, the Father. Let's look at Jesus' prayer habits. Mark 1:35 says, "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." It was his habit to begin his day by talking with his Father. This prepared him for his work for that day.

Jesus also prayed before he had a special task to perform. Before he chose the twelve men whom he would train for three years as his disciples, he prayed all night. Luke 6:12 says, "One of those days Jesus went out into the hills to pray, and spent the night praying to God." He needed to know his Father's will in selecting the twelve.

One day after Jesus finished praying, his disciples asked him to teach them to pray. His answer in Luke 11:2-4 taught his disciples how to pray. This prayer also shows us how to pray. First, we should glorify God, our Father. Then

4. Read the list of activities to help you enlarge your world and check the ones that you can do now.

- _____ Pray for our missionaries by name and need each day.
- _____ Visit the hospital each week with Christian friends.
- _____ Begin a special offering to help someone with a need.
- _____ Read some magazines and learn more about people's needs in my country or in Africa.

5. Enlarge your prayer list to include your neighbours. Write down specific people or persons to pray for regularly. Put their name and their need. Try to put down names from your village or town, your country and another country. When your prayer is answered you can write the date to the side of the prayer request.

my neighbour _____ his need _____

MY COMMITMENT

Commit yourself to learning to think about others and to see their needs. Make it a habit to listen when someone tells you his problems. Pray with them right then and encourage them. Keep a list of these in a small notebook for prayer. Praise God when their needs are met and prayers are answered. Remember this simple rule: God first, others second, self last.

MY PRAYER

Dear Jesus, Thank you for giving me your Word to teach me how to live for you. I love you and I want to love others. Forgive me for being selfish and thinking so much of myself and my needs. Help me to see the needs of others. Today I have seen in your Word that when I help others I am doing this for you. I want to be a helping pastor's wife in my community. Show me a need and help me to reach out in your name. In Jesus' name. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

As a young pastor's wife, I was very eager to learn all that I could about my responsibilities in helping my husband prepare for the ministry. I had answered God's call to serve him when I was a youth. I committed myself to do my best. But I needed a lot of preparation. Being a pastor's wife was a new role for me. I soon discovered that by carefully studying the Word of God, I could best learn how to serve Christ. I also found help by reading books written by wives who had served Christ with their husbands for many years. When I had opportunities to be with other wives of pastors, we would discuss our responsibilities in helping our husbands.

It was a great honour for me to be called by God to be a pastor's wife. There were many joys in serving the church. But our life was not always easy. Being the servant of a church had many demands and required a great deal of love, patience and work. But as we talked about our responsibilities and prayed together, my husband and I learned to depend on God.

After pastoring several churches, we were called to serve God as missionaries. Our work was to help Christians start new churches and train church leaders. Many times pastors asked me to help their wives understand their role both as a Christian and as a pastor's wife. Often I tried to find materials to help the pastor's wife. But there was little available. This book is an outgrowth of 20 years of listening to the needs of wives, teaching them and trying to show them how God's Word can help meet those needs.

In this workbook, you will be looking at the role of the pastor's wife as she seeks to serve God and to follow him. God has called her to honour, love and help her husband. If you are a pastor's wife and want to be a more effective Christian and helpmate, this book is for you. There are seven chapters in this book. Each one will help you define your role as a pastor's wife. The Bible studies will lead you in understanding your responsibilities to God, your husband, your family, your church, your community and your world. As you journey through the pages, you will discover God's truths to guide you in becoming a better pastor's wife. It is my hope that through this journey you will joyfully grow in faith and ministry.

I am grateful for the many Godly wives with whom I have worked. This book is for them and those who follow in their footsteps. My thanks also go to the following who so kindly answered my letters and wrote about their life as a pastor's wife: Mrs. C. Oia. Akande, Ibadan, Nigeria; Mrs. Tukupasya Mwasandube, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Mrs. Rose Ochwo, Jinja, Uganda; Mrs. Upendo Kung'unde, Lindi, Tanzania; Mrs. Tereza Hassan, Kigoma, Tanzania; and the teachers at the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Arusha, Tanzania. I am also thankful to my friend Synnove Rweyendeia for her artwork.

A fellow pastor's wife,

Betty Ann Whitson

HOW TO STUDY THIS BOOK

1. Find a quiet place and select a good time of the day when you can read and study without interruptions.
2. Have your Bible and a pen for writing.
3. Begin each study time with a prayer asking God to grant you wisdom in understanding.
4. Remember that this is your book. When there are questions to be answered, you are to write in the space provided.
5. Each chapter will have the same divisions so that you can follow the studies easily. They are:
 - 1) THE TITLE tells you what you will be studying.
 - 2) THE MEMORY VERSE is the Bible truth you are to learn for that chapter. In the back of the book is a page with each memory verse printed on it. At the end of the lesson you will be asked to cut out the verse for that chapter. Keep it with you and memorize it.
 - 3) THE BIBLE STUDY gives you the biblical foundation and will lead you through the teachings that will help you to understand your role as a pastor's wife.
 - 4) THE PRACTICAL STUDY will help you discover ways to put the Bible lesson into daily action.
 - 5) ACTIVITIES TO HELP ME GROW is a section with questions on the lesson for you to answer and some suggestions on ways you can apply the lesson in your daily life. There is space right in your book to do the work. So write down the answers to each question. There will also be activities to do during the following week. Be sure you follow up with this.
 - 6) MY COMMITMENT is a brief word to help you follow up your study by making a commitment to put God's teachings to work.
 - 7) MY PRAYER brings the chapter to a close. You are to read it prayerfully, making it your prayer.
6. You can read and study this book at home by yourself. If you find the chapters too long for one session, do a part of it each day. The first day read the Bible Study. The next day read the Practical Study and review. The third day you can finish the chapter. Learn your memory verse and begin to put what you have learned to use during the rest of the week.

REVIEW

As you grow in Christ, you will see more opportunities to serve him. The pastor's wife needs to respond to God's message in his word. You and your husband, your family and your church can follow Christ's command to "love your neighbour". You can begin to reach out to others as you see their needs. A loving Christian is one who is thinking of others. In this lesson you have read what God's Word says to every Christian. 1 John 3:18, the memory verse for this lesson, tells you that you are not only to talk about loving but you are to love. Love is the key, love for God and love for your neighbour. Who did Jesus say your neighbour is? Any person with a need is a neighbour. Jesus expects his followers to help that person in his name.

The pastor's wife is to be an example for others. She should show Christ's love to her husband and her family. That love must go beyond her family and home and reach out to her family in Christ. Finally, the love of Jesus leads his followers to reach out and help all who are in need. You can become obedient to Christ's command by leading your family to help those in your community. As you work in your church, you can help the members to see ways to minister to others. Through opportunities to learn about people in other countries around the world, you can be a part of helping those with needs through your love, your prayers and your gifts. Do not limit Christ's love in you, but give the Holy Spirit opportunity to lead you into a ministry that reaches out to all in the name of Jesus Christ.

ACTIVITIES TO HELP ME GROW

1. Take out the card with the memory verse on it for this lesson. Memorize 1 John 3:18.
2. Christ's command to his followers is to love God and to love your neighbour. Who is your neighbour?
3. Talk with your family about a way you can serve Jesus in your community as a family. Read the questions on page 64 and the suggested ways to help on page 65. Lead your family to decide on one project to reach out and help another. Write your decision here. Tell what you will do to help.

young churches in the New Testament sent offerings to help in spreading the gospel or to meet the needs of the poor, your church will want to share. You will find that God will bless your gifts to others and strengthen your Christian witness.

Joici and Mathayo continued to learn more ways to minister to their church people. As they studied God's word and prayed together, they discovered new ways to lead in the church. As a result of Joici's girls Sunday School class, she was asked to help the young people begin a youth club. She had to work hard to find ways to help the young people make good use of their time together. Mathayo helped her by teaching a Bible study each week. One of the young men started to teach the group special choir songs. They had contests on scripture memory and finding verses in the Bible. But Joici felt that they needed to help others as well. She asked the youth to visit a sick lady behind their church. When they went, they were surprised to see that she had been very sick and had no one to help cook food. There was nothing to eat and her small room was very dirty. In one corner was a pile of clothes that needed washing. She told them her daughter lived far away and did not know she was so sick. The girls cleaned for her and the boys went to the market. Each week they began to visit her and see what they could do to help her. This was the beginning of their plan to help others.

One week they read in a church magazine about work in a nearby country. The lesson mentioned ways to help. Money was needed for those who had gone to share Christ. Prayers were requested for the missionary and two young men he was teaching. The group began to pray for those two young men by name. They soon became so interested they decided to write and get news. When a letter came back they were very happy. One of the two men had become a Christian and had brought some of his friends to the Bible Study. For the first time Joici and her group felt they had a part in the work of God in another country. They took the money they had been collecting for a ball and sent it to the missionary to buy Bibles for new Christians. Soon the whole church wanted to become involved. They prayed every Sunday for the requests that the missionary had given them. Each time they received a letter there were answers to their prayers and new things to pray for.

What happened in Joici's church can happen in your church as you make your world larger. Their church became active in helping meet the needs of people in another country. They could not go themselves, but they were a part of the work through their prayers and gifts.

HOW TO STUDY THIS BOOK THROUGH A SEMINAR

If you live near other pastors' wives or have an association, you may want to study this book together. Ask one woman to lead the Seminar following these guidelines.

BEFORE THE SEMINAR BEGINS

1. Plan to have a 2 1/2-3 hour session for each chapter to have enough time for teaching and discussion. Study one chapter each week. Set the place, day and dates early and announce the seminar. There should be seven sessions.
2. Order enough books for each wife attending to have one.
3. Study the book carefully and prepare materials needed.
4. Have a paper to record the womens' names and attendance.
5. Prepare the room ahead of time: arranging chairs, putting up materials (posters, blackboard, etc.).

WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR LEADING THE SEMINAR

Opening: 5-10 minutes. Singing and prayer.

Review: 25-30 minutes. After the first session, this time is to review the last lesson and go over the activities and memory work the women did at home. All should participate.

Bible Study: 50 minutes. The leader will teach the study.

Discussion: 50 minutes. The leader and the women go through the material following the Bible Study together.

Closing: 20 minutes. Go over the activities to do at home. Make any assignments for the following week.

Session 1: I AM A PASTOR'S WIFE. Prepare a poster with a picture of a woman and write on it "A pastor's wife is". Leave space to write answers. Begin by asking the women to describe a good pastor's wife. Have the women give their answers in a few words and write these on the poster. Give the books out and go over the Table of Contents. Teach the Bible Study and discuss the next section, "I Am a Pastor's Wife," with the women. Go over the "Activities to Help Me Grow". Explain to the women that each week they are to do these at home. Stress the memory work. Answer any questions.

Session 2: MY HUSBAND IS A PASTOR. Prepare a poster with a picture of a man. Write on it "A pastor is". As you teach the Bible study and lead in the discussion, write on it words describing a good pastor. Invite a pastor to come and give a fifteen minute testimony of his call.

Session 3: MY MARRIAGE. Put up the posters of the Pastor's wife and the Pastor with a strip of paper joining the two. As you teach the Bible Study write on the strip the words: "one", "love" and "submit" as you teach about these.

Session 4: MY FAMILY. Have three large sheets of paper with one of these phrases at the top of each: A Place for Growth, Space for Growth, and Food for Growth. Teach the

reached out in love. He responded to our love and accepted Christ as Saviour. At age 82 he was baptized into the fellowship of believers.

Reaching out to a larger world. In Acts 1:8, God's Word tells us that we are to be "witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." This means that you are to share God's Word and Christ's love with people in your village or town, in your regional area, your country and even throughout the world. If you want to be obedient to God's Word and go into all the world, you must make your world larger. As a pastor's wife you can be a leader and an example to the church members. Many of the members will not know how to minister outside of their small community. You and your husband can help them in this. Here are some ways you can make your world and theirs bigger.

1. Cooperate with a group of churches on a missions activity or project. Most churches have a union or association of many churches. This may be in your area and also in your country. Read about their activities and projects. Go to their meetings. Learn ways your church can participate in these projects. The more groups of churches there are that work together in special projects, the farther out they can reach. Plans, workers and funds can be worked out together for a special project and the ministry of helping will be carried out. Such projects can be to send a missionary to a new area, take a group to help build a church in a new area, give blankets and farming tools to refugees, send a group to teach in a new area. These can be evangelistic but also can reach out to meet the needs of people. You and your church can be a part by praying for the project, giving money to help the project, sending a worker to participate in the project.

2. Lead your church to pray for others. Most churches receive news and reports of the Christian witness in their country and often around the world. Youth and women's groups often have magazines and programs that keep them informed about God's work and the needs for prayer, financial help and workers. You can find out what magazines your church has to help you learn about Christians in other areas and countries. Listen to the radio. Pray for leaders and places where there is war or famine or any difficulty. Pray for the Christian witness in those countries. Listen to what other people are saying about your country and its needs. Then you can have specific prayer times for this work. As you become more informed about other places and their needs, you will be able to pray for them more specifically.

3. Lead your church to become involved by sharing their offerings with others. As your world becomes larger and you pray for people in other places, you will want to have a greater part in helping them. Just as the new

Bible Study. Then discuss the work of a gardener. Divide the women into 3 groups, giving each group one of the large papers. Have them discuss ways to help their children grow using the topic given and list these on their paper. Take about 15 minutes for this and have them report back to the group. Go over the steps in solving a problem on page 45, then tell the story on page 44. Ask the women to name the two problems of Augustine and Dorista and tell how they would solve them by following the steps suggested.

Session 5: MY CHURCH. Prepare a large poster with a list of the spiritual gifts. Begin by asking the women to explain the meaning of "church". Discuss their answers and teach the Bible Study. Write these questions across the top of the blackboard or a large sheet of paper: How do I receive nourishment in my church? How do I get "rest" in my church? How can I be used in my church? Using the material from the book, discuss each question and write the answers under each one. Then ask 3 women to read the verses given on page 54 that list the spiritual gifts. Using your poster, explain each gift. Have the women tell what they think their gift is and discuss ways to use these gifts.

Session 6: MY COMMUNITY. Prepare a poster on LOVE. Ask one woman to prepare ahead of time to tell the story of "The Good Samaritan" on page 62 and another the parable in Matt. 25:31-40. As you teach the Bible Study have them tell these. Divide the women into 3 groups to discuss these topics: Group 1 - How to reach out with my family; Group 2 - How to minister through my church; and group 3, How to enlarge my ministry in our country and the world. Each group can refer to the pages with these teachings. Allow 15 minutes then have one person from each group bring a report to the group.

Session 7: I AM JOYFULLY GROWING IN MY FAITH. Prepare a poster with a woman walking on a road and 7 strips of paper with the title of the chapters. Teach the Bible Study and have the women take out the two pages at the back on MY DAILY PRAYER TIME and MY DAILY BIBLE STUDY. Talk about the importance of a daily time with God. Share with the women ways to have a meaningful quiet time and help them understand how to follow the guidelines suggested. Use the last 40 minutes of this session to review the book and lead the women in a time of commitment. Put up the poster, and as you briefly review each chapter put the title on the road. Then lead in a time of worship and commitment. Remind the women that their journey in being a better pastor's wife has just begun. Ask them to bow their heads and think about what commitment they want to make for their journey. Ask each one to share this with the group. End the session by having the women stand together in a circle. Have each one pray for the person on their right. Then sing a song prayerfully and lead in a closing prayer for the group.

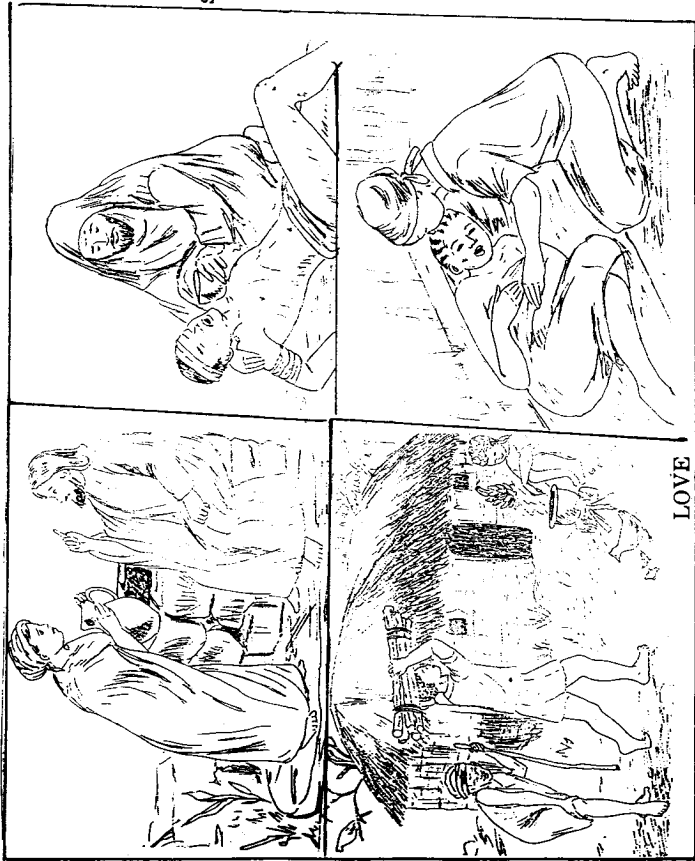
Were Dorista and Agustine good neighbours? Yes, they read God's Word about helping others and used their home and family to reach out. As a pastor's wife, Dorista began to set a good example for her church and her community. You can also do something for others. Look back at the questions you were asked. Ask yourself what needs each of these people have? Do they need a visit from you? Do they need a friend? Do they need food or clothing? Do they need help with their garden or work? Choose one person you can help and make it a family project. Discuss with your family ways you can meet some of their needs, and do it.

Reaching out through my church. Another way you can help in your community is through your church. Perhaps you are a part of a group of women who meet each week for prayer and Bible study. As you and the women see needs around you, you can work together to meet those needs. Because it is a group of women, you will have more ability to help others. It will be good to include every woman in your project or projects. You might read the questions on page 64 to your group and talk about those who have special needs in your community. As a group you could ask permission to teach in the prison each week. The women can lead in singing, read the Bible and offer words of encouragement. You can ask the women prisoners what prayer needs they have. Some may have small children that need special care. As they are released from prison they will have other needs. You can help them get back to their family or find a place to live. Encourage them to abide by the laws of your country and avoid getting into more trouble. Invite them to church and witness to them. There will be many ways you can reach out to their needs.

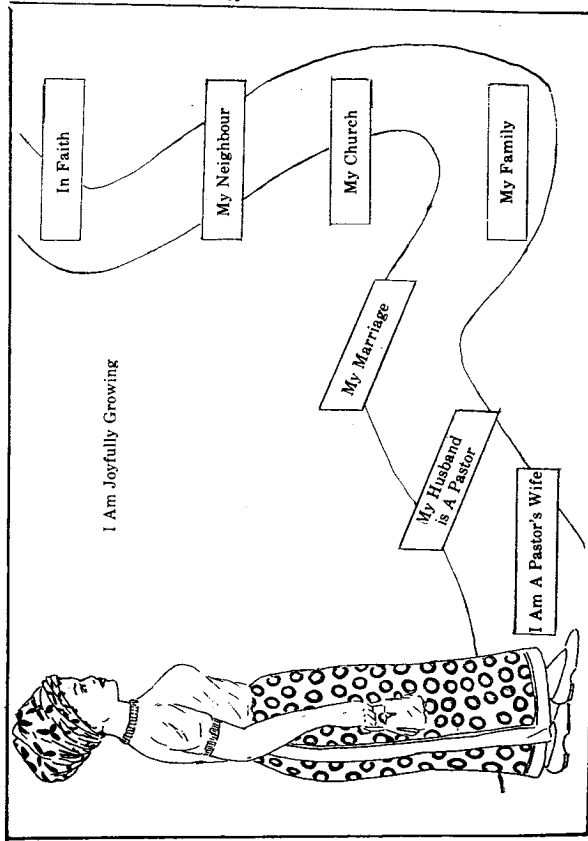
You may want to visit regularly in the hospital. Nurses and doctors are usually very glad to have people visit the patients and pray for them. Your group could take up an offering and buy gospels or tracts to give to the patients. Your children's group could take flowers or make colorful pictures to take. As you go, you will go in the name of Jesus, sharing his love, his Word and his joy.

Perhaps there is a widow in your church or community you can help. Make this a church project. Ask the men to go with you. They can make repairs on the house or do some hard work that she cannot do. You can help with the planting or harvesting. If you take an offering, you can take seeds or something the family needs. Do this in the name of Jesus, witnessing in love.

In a small town church where we were pastoring there was an old man who had no children living near. His wife died and he did not take good care of himself. Our church reached out to him. The young people dug a toilet and built a room for it. The women cleaned his small garden out and planted food. The men showed him an easier way to get water. We all



LOVE



These questions will help you to begin thinking about others. You cannot minister to each of those mentioned, but you and your family can help one or two. After you have answered these questions, think about their needs. Do they need a friend? Invite them to your home for a visit. Are they hungry or without proper clothing? Share with them. Are they sick or unable to work? Help them with their work. Are they discouraged or sad? Spend time regularly encouraging them, comforting them. Volunteer some of your time each week to help at the clinic or prison, or befriend and witness to someone just out of prison. How can you and your husband or you and your family help their need? Let's look at Augustine and Dorista and see how they are reaching out in their community.

Agustine and Dorista were very thoughtful to invite travelers and friends to their home. Their children also were learning to share with their friends. One morning in reading her Bible, Dorista read the parable about the return of Jesus. She was impressed with the explanation that a person who helps another with their need was really helping Jesus. She thought about this for several days. One evening she talked with Agustine about their family reaching out more to help in their community. Agustine had thought about this, but had not really had time to do anything. He and Dorista prayed about a way their family could help others. They did not have much money but they wanted to share what they had. They decided to talk with their children and see what the family could do together.

The family talked about the people near them who have special needs. Ruth's friend had a sister who was blind. They did not like to have her play with them and would complain when her mother asked them to take care of her. Sometimes they teased her when her mother wasn't around. Dorista knew the family but had never visited with them. The father was from a different tribe and most of the people in their village were not friendly with them.

The family decided they would make friends with the whole family. Ruth and her friend began to help the blind girl learn to do things. They taught her songs, the alphabet and to count. Agustine and Dorista visited the parents and soon were friends. They had them in their home and invited them to church. One of Agustine's pastor friends in a nearby town told him about a school for the blind, and their family helped the girl find a place. Many months had passed since they began to reach out as a family. Agustine and Dorista were happy they had been able to help others. Since the blind girl was now in school they began to talk about something else they could do.

school, you and your husband are called upon to meet and talk about plans that concern the education of the children. When a government official comes for a visit, you participate in the preparations. These are some activities most people are a part of in their community.

As a pastor and wife, you and your husband should have a good influence in your community. You need to show your interest and concern over the welfare of those with whom you live. As a Christian you should do this in the name of Jesus. It is very important that you keep alert to the needs of those who live near you. This can be done through your home and family and through your church.

Reaching out through my home and family. It is very easy to stay busy just meeting your family and church needs. If you want to be obedient to Christ's command and reach out to others, you will need to take time and make effort to do so. One of the nicest ways to reach out is through your home. You can have an open door to welcome friends and neighbors into your home. When you meet new families in your community you can invite them for a visit. Encourage your children to bring their friends home to play. As a pastor and wife, you and your husband should be friendly to others and alert to their needs and concerns. Think about your community as you read these questions. Write yes or no after each one. If you do not know find out and then answer.

1. Are there any new people living near us? _____
2. Do we have a neighbour who has had a death in the family? _____
3. Is there a crippled, blind or handicapped person in our community? _____
4. Is there a widow living nearby? _____
5. Do we know a person or family from a different tribe? _____
6. Does our town have a prison? _____
7. Do we live near a very old person who lives alone? _____
8. Do our children have friends whose parents do not care for them? _____
9. Is there a clinic or hospital nearby? _____
10. Are there any young unwed mothers struggling to care for their child? _____
11. Do you know someone who has been in prison? _____

CHAPTER 1 I AM A PASTOR'S WIFE

- "I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
Psalm 139:14
- "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."
2 Cor. 5:17
- "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors."
2 Cor. 5:20

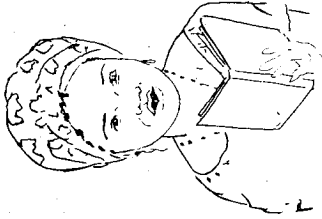
BIBLE STUDY: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

I am God's special creation. King David was a great king who loved the Lord his God. He was also a musician and delighted in making music and singing praises to God. Psalms 139 is a song written by David. David knew God in his own heart. He walked and talked with God, his Father. He knew that even though he had done wrong and disobeyed God, his Father still loved and cared for him. For he created him. Open your Bible to Psalms 139 and read verses 1-18. This song tells us that we are God's perfect creation. In verse 14 the singer says, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Every person, every woman, needs to realize she is a creation of God. She is made special with God's love and care. In the beginning God created! He created man and woman in his own image. (Genesis 1:27). He blessed them and gave them the earth for their pleasure. God wanted his own creations to be happy, to enjoy the earth and its fruits. God also wanted to enjoy his creations, man and woman. He wanted to walk and talk with his people.

You as a person, as a woman - YES, as a pastor's wife are a special person to God. You are created in his very own image. He made YOU himself. There is not one other person just like you! Isn't that a wonderful thought? YOU are God's special creation.

I am a new creation in Christ. Now turn in your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5:17. God's word tells us, "If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come." It is God's desire for each person to be a new creation, to believe in Christ and make him Lord of his life. Jesus came to earth for you and for me. He came to call people to him. He died for your sins and my sins. Jesus rose to life eternal so that you and I might also have life eternal. The Bible tells of many who became new creations in Jesus Christ. We read about Paul, Lydia, Timothy, Priscilla, Aquila. They were just the first. Your name is right there



alongside many others if you have made Jesus Lord and center of your life. By accepting Christ as your Saviour, you are a new creation IN Christ.

Let's stop right here. Have you received Christ into your heart as your personal Saviour and made him Lord of your life? If you haven't done this, you can do that just now. Bow your head right where you are and ask Jesus to come into your heart. If you are already a Christian, you can bow your head and thank him for saving you.

I am Christ's ambassador. Read verse 20 in 2 Corinthians 5. This tells us that we are ambassadors For Christ. YOU, a Pastor's wife - YOU, a new creation - YOU, a woman in Christ - YOU are called by God to be an ambassador.

In one of the villages near us lives an ambassador for our country. He is a very important person. Everyone respects him because he is a representative of the President. He is also a representative of the citizens of the country. As a Christian you are a representative of Christ. You are also representing Christians. YOU are a very important person because you are Christ's ambassador.

What does God's Word tell me about "who I am"? The Bible reminds me that God made me, fearfully and wonderfully, just as I am. As a person who believes in Christ, I am a new creation in Christ. That is why I am called a Christian. God's Word also tells me that as a Christian, yes as a Christian woman, I am called to be an ambassador for Christ. Who am I? God's word tells me who I am:

I am fearfully and wonderfully made by God. Psalms 139:14

I am a new creation in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17

I am Christ's ambassador. 2 Corinthians 5:20

I AM A PASTOR'S WIFE

The privilege of being a pastor's wife. To be a pastor's wife is a very special privilege you and I have. God chooses a pastor and his wife to be his servants and help lead others closer to Christ. Your husband has a divine call from God for service. As his wife you are a part of that divine call. Both a pastor and his wife should accept that call prayerfully.

Being a pastor's wife brings many responsibilities. Along with these responsibilities are many joys, often difficulties, sometimes heartaches. It is not always easy to be a pastor's wife, for there can and will be problems. Yet even

others. In Matthew 25:31-40 Jesus gives us a picture of what will happen when he returns in his glory. The people will be divided into two groups. Those who will be blessed by the Father are those who have obeyed Jesus' command and reached out to others in love. Verses 35-40 says, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you...?' He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" Jesus expects his followers to reach out to the needs of others in his love. They can be lonely, hurting, hungry, poor, in prison, sick; but they are people with needs. As Christians reach out to these in need they are serving him.

REVIEW

Today you have read what God's Word teaches about your responsibility to love others as you love yourself. A Christian shows this love by reaching out to others. In his ministry on earth, Jesus is our example on how to love and minister to those around us. He does not favour any one person. He does not look at outward appearances but looks on the inward needs. He loves the unlovely, the stranger, the outcast. His disciples were shown his love, and they reached out to others. Christians receive his love to share with others and are expected to follow in his steps of reaching out to others. We have learned that:

1. Every Christian has a responsibility to minister to others.
2. The key to that ministry is love, love for the Lord and love for our neighbours.
3. Our neighbour is anyone who has a need.
4. As we reach out to another person we are serving Jesus.
5. We are to show Christ's love in us in our daily actions.

I AM REACHING OUT IN MY COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

What would your answer be right now if someone asked you what you were doing to minister in your community? As a part of your village you have many opportunities to help others. You are already probably doing this. When someone in your village or town has a death in the family you go with the other women to help. If you have children in the local

through Samaria on their way to Galilee. Jesus was waiting at the well for his disciples to bring food when a Samaritan woman came up. He asked her to draw him some water. She was surprised that a Jewish man would talk with her. The Samaritans were hated by the Jews because they were part Jew and part Gentile. A proper Jew did not talk with a Samaritan. Jesus shared with her that he had the power to give her living water but she did not understand. She thought he meant he could give her special water so that she would not be so thirsty and have to keep coming to the well. When she asked to receive this water Jesus revealed to her that He knew all about her life and sins. He was the Messiah. She believed and immediately left her water jar and went to tell others about meeting the Christ. Jesus reached out to an unloved Samaritan prostitute and touched her with His love. He saw her need and helped her in that need.

1 John 3:18 says, "let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." As followers of Jesus, we are to show love for others. Jesus said that first we are to love the Lord, then we are to love our neighbours just as we love ourselves.

Our neighbour is anyone with a need. One day as Jesus was teaching, a young lawyer decided to test Jesus' teaching. He asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus replied to the question by asking him what the law said. The lawyer repeated the law, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself". Jesus told him to do this and he would live. The lawyer wanted to excuse himself from this part of the law so he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus then told him the story of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).

A Jewish traveller was beaten and left to die. A priest came by but went to the other side of the road and did not help him. Then a religious leader passed by but also refused to help. Finally a Samaritan business man saw the dying Jew, stopped, cared for his wounds and took him to a place where he could get well. Jesus asked the lawyer who was the man's neighbour and the lawyer replied "the one who helped him".

Jesus wanted the lawyer to see that a neighbour was any person who had a need. He did not have to be a good friend or someone easy to love and help, he was anyone who had a need for help and ministry. He told him that it was his responsibility to reach out and help those who have needs.

As you reach out to another person you are serving Jesus. Again and again Jesus wanted his disciples to see that their responsibility was to minister to others and their needs. He told another parable which shows the importance of helping

in this you, as a pastor's wife, can have the abiding presence of God. You can do this only as you begin to understand who you are and who your husband is, and God's call to both of you to serve him. Every pastor's wife needs to realize that her responsibility is a privilege from God. She needs to accept the privilege that is hers and be the pastor's wife that God intends her to be.

The role of a pastor's wife. Just as it is important for you to realize and accept the privilege of being a pastor's wife, you also need to accept the responsibilities that are a part of that privilege. There are many pastors and church leaders serving God in Africa. They are people called by God for a special ministry in serving the church, the believers in the body of Christ. Many are men who have a wife and a family. Both the pastor's wife and family should share in his ministry.

As a pastor's wife, you need to understand his responsibilities and your part in them. As a Christian you are responsible for being Christ's ambassador. As a pastor's wife, you are to share with him that responsibility through his ministry. Your husband, your church and your community will expect you to fulfil your role as the wife of a pastor. This study today will lead you to accept yourself as a pastor's wife. It will help you to accept your husband as a pastor. Later studies will continue to help you grow in your knowledge about becoming a better pastor's wife.

A good pastor's wife. Who is a "good" or "ideal" pastor's wife? What are some of the qualifications for being a pastor's wife? A pastor's wife will ask herself these questions many times. There are many qualifications that could be listed, but wives living in many parts of Africa give the following as those that are the most important. A good pastor's wife should be:

- a loving wife and mother
- a helpmate to her husband
- a woman of prayer and Bible study
- kind and friendly
- hospitable and generous
- a good manager
- one who shows love in words and actions

God's Word gives us very little about the qualifications of a pastor's wife. Paul said in 1 Timothy 3:11 that wives of deacons are to be "women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers, but temperate and trustworthy in everything." This is also true for pastors' wives. The list above follows the Biblical teaching. As a pastor's wife, you should be loved by your family and well respected by those who live in your community or village. Daily prayer and Bible study should be

a part of your life. You need to be committed to serving Christ, helping your husband and family and ministering in your community.

Let's visit Mathayo and Joici. As you read about their role as pastor and wife, you will see ways that will help you better understand your role as a pastor's wife.

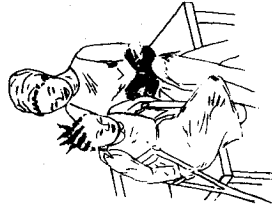
Mathayo and Joici both come from the same village and tribe. Their families worship at the same church. It was no surprise when Mathayo came back from his studies that the two families agreed for them to marry. They had gone to primary school and played together as children. Then Mathayo had gone to secondary school while Joici stayed home to help her mother.

After their marriage they moved to a nearby village where Mathayo had a farm. Soon there were children. Joici had much work caring for her family. She did not go to church often, but her husband went every week. One day he came home and told her God had called him to preach and become a pastor. She did not understand, but agreed. He did not really explain to her what that would mean. Some time later he was accepted to go to a Bible School for pastors. He left Joici to care for the family and farm. The days and months were hard and long, but Joici was faithful to her husband and family. At last he returned home.

Mathayo was asked to lead the village church. Joici sometimes went with him. Mathayo was very happy about serving God but he was sad that Joici did not share in his joy. Often he was angry when she did not go. At times he helped her so that she could attend, but most of the time Joici was confused in her heart. She did not understand her husband's call. She did not understand herself. She was afraid to go to church because the members asked her to lead in prayer and wanted her to help the women in their meetings. "What did it really mean to be a pastor's wife?" she asked herself.

Joici is very typical of many pastor's wives. Have you ever felt like Joici? Many wives have, especially when they are new at being a pastor's wife. What can help you become a happier and more satisfied pastor's wife? What can help Joici understand herself and her role as a pastor's wife better? Let's look at some ways to help her. These are also ways that might help you.

FIRST: Joici needs to know and understand that God loves her and created her. What Psalm could she read?
Write the first part of verse 14 of that Psalm on the line below.



"Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

1 John 3:18

BIBLE STUDY: REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

As a Christian and a pastor's wife you have now begun to enlarge your view of your responsibilities. You can see that you have responsibilities to God, to your family and to your church. God's Word does not stop there, but also tells you that you have a responsibility to others. These "others" may live near you in your village or town. They may live far away from you. They may even live in another country or on another continent. But they are also our responsibility.

Today's Bible study and discussion will help you to discover how to see beyond your small group of family and church friends. It will show you ways to make your own world larger so that you can begin to reach out to all peoples in the name of Jesus.

Love is the key in reaching out to others. Throughout the entire New Testament are teachings on the importance of love. Jesus told his followers over and over again to love one another. The great commandment is to love God and the second command is to love your neighbour. In the letters of Paul, John and Peter, love is the key to serving Christ.

Our memory verse for this lesson tells us that the Christian is not just to talk about love or teach God's Word on love, but to show his love in his daily actions. 1 John 3:18 says, "Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth". Jesus said that his followers would be known as his disciples if we have "love one for another". Love is the key to reaching out to others and serving Christ.

The life and ministry of Jesus was devoted to reaching out to others in love. Love was seen as he walked along the shore calling ordinary people to follow him. Love radiated in his eyes as he looked upon the multitudes as sheep without a shepherd. His love was continuously in action as he sought out the unlovely, the sinner, the outcast - changing them by his touch of love.

This love for others is seen very clearly when Jesus met and helped the woman at the well. You can read about this experience in John 4:4-39. Jesus and his disciples passed

SECOND: Joici needs to have a personal faith in Christ. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ he is

If Joici has not accepted Christ as her personal Saviour what should she do to be saved? Read in your Bible Acts 16:31 and write your answer here.

THIRD: Joici should ask God to help her follow Christ. She needs to know that Jesus has called her to be his worker. 2 Corinthians 5:20 tells Joici that she is

FOURTH: Joici should accept her husband's call as a pastor and her responsibility to be his helper.

FIFTH: Joici needs to realize that being a pastor's wife is a special privilege that is hers and accept this privilege.

The most important thing for Joici or for any pastor's wife is to understand herself and her relationship to God. She needs to read Psalms 139 and see that God made her to be a special person. She needs to learn what verse 14 tells her about herself. She also needs to have a personal faith in Christ. Paul's words in 2 Cor.5:17 tell Joici that by making a personal commitment to be IN Christ she is "a new creation in Christ". If Joici has never made a personal commitment to accept Christ as her Saviour, she needs to do as Acts 16:31 tells her, "Believe in the Lord Jesus", and she will be saved. As she takes each of these steps, she is on the way to knowing and understanding who she is. She then is ready to know that as a Christian she is an ambassador for Christ. (2 Cor.5:20). As Joici takes these steps, she can accept the privilege that is hers to be a pastor's wife. She will be prepared to accept her husband as a man called of God to be a pastor. Then she will be an understanding helpmate, sharing with him in his ministry.

REVIEW

Today, you have learned what God's Word teaches about who you are. As you read in God's Word you saw that God created you to be a very special person, for you "are fearfully and wonderfully made". Psalms 139:14. You learned that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. 2 Cor.5:17. Every Christian has a new life and a new commitment. He is an ambassador, a representative, for Christ. 2 Cor.5:20. It is a privilege to be a pastor's wife. A pastor is a person chosen by God to serve him and his people. Both the pastor and his wife should share in this call and the responsibilities that come with it. By accepting your husband as a

MY PRAYER

Almighty God, I have learned so much about your church. Thank you for the privilege of being a part of the living body of Christ. Help me to follow Christ and commit my life to serving him. I want to feed on your word and grow in you so that I can be used in building up the body of Christ. Forgive me for the times when my faith has been small. Lead me to be faithful in developing and using the gifts you have given me. I pray for my church and all who work together to build up your kingdom. In Jesus' name. Amen.

pastor and your privilege as a pastor's wife, you will be able to become more committed to your role as a pastor's wife.

Do you know who you are? Have you followed the five steps that were given to Jcici to follow so that she would understand herself and her role as a pastor's wife? Let's look at these steps again. They are:

1. Know and understand that God loves you and created you.
2. Make a personal commitment to make Jesus Lord of your life and become a new creation.
3. Ask God to help you follow Christ and be his ambassador, his representative, his servant.
4. Accept your husband as a pastor, a man called of God to serve him.
5. Accept the privilege that is yours to be a pastor's wife.

As you follow these steps, you will begin to grow in your Christian understanding of yourself and your role in being a pastor's wife. You are now ready to begin your journey in learning how to be a helpmate to your husband. Here are some activities that will help you put into action what you have learned in this chapter. Read each one carefully and take time to complete them before you begin the next study. In the next chapter you will learn what the Bible teaches about the pastor: his call, his qualifications, his work. You will discover ways to help you understand your husband's call to service, his qualifications and his work.

ACTIVITIES TO HELP ME GROW

1. Memorize the scripture verses for this chapter. Turn to the back of your book to the page SCRIPTURE VERSES TO MEMORIZE. Cut out the two cards for Chapter 1. There are three short verses to learn. Keep these cards in your Bible or a good place so you can study them daily.
2. List the three things the Bible Study teaches about God's plan for you. If you cannot remember, go back and review.

4. As a pastor's wife, you were given a list of activities to help you fulfill your role. Go back and read these on page 57 and select one activity to work on. Write it down on the lines below.

5. Prayer is an important part of your responsibility as a member of your church. Make a prayer list of three families in your church to pray for every day this next week. Pray that God would meet their physical needs, that they would be faithful in worshipping at church, that their children would accept Christ as Saviour. Pray specifically for any need you know they have. Ask God to help you minister to each family in one way this week. Write the names of the families below, listing all who live in the home. Praise God as he answers your prayers.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

6. Cut out the card with this lesson's scripture verse on it and memorize it. As you memorize it, pray that God would lead many to accept the message of Christ and be baptized.

MY COMMITMENT

Commit yourself and your church to God. Look back over the suggestions for your ministry in the church. Think about the work you are already doing also. Commit these activities to God by writing them on the following lines.

As a pastor's wife you have a special relationship to the body of Christ. You are an example to them. Faithfulness to God and to your church family are important. As you feed on God's Word, fellowship and rest with your church family, you are able to work together with the family of believers and build up the body of Christ.

ACTIVITIES TO HELP ME GROW

1. Read Matthew 16:16-18 again. What are the two teachings on the church:
 - A. The church is built on _____.
 - B. The church is the family of _____.
2. Jesus gave his followers two last words telling them the purpose of the church. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and write these two purposes down:
 - A. The church is to _____
and _____
 - B. The church is to _____
and _____
3. Turn back to page 55 and read the suggestions for working in your church. If you are doing any of these, list them on the following lines.

If you are not serving in your church or feel that you need to do more, go over the list prayerfully. Follow the directions given to begin working in the church and write down the ministry you would like to be a part of.

3. Talk with your husband about what you have read and learned in this study. Ask him to pray with you about becoming a better pastor's wife.

MY COMMITMENT

Read again the FIVE steps on page 6 to help you become a more committed Christian and pastor's wife. It is very important for you to make a commitment to God. Are you ready to make that commitment? If you want to be a better pastor's wife, write down the steps that you now agree to follow. You may have taken some of these steps already. List those that you want to do now.

1. I will _____

2. I will _____

3. I will _____

MY PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for who you are. Thank you for creating me. I am so glad that I am a very special person to you and that you love and care for me. I want Christ to live in my heart and be seen in my life. Lead me to be the best ambassador for you that I can. Help me to be more committed as a Christian and a pastor's wife. I want to make a commitment to help my husband in his ministry. This is also my commitment to you. Give me the courage to follow my words with my actions. In Jesus' name, Amen.

You need to fulfil your responsibilities as a pastor's wife in the church. As a pastor's wife there are certain responsibilities you have that are important in fulfilling your role. Some of the following suggestions are for all church members, but will be especially important for you as a pastor's wife in being a working part of the body of Christ.

1. Be faithful in attending all of the services in the church. You are an example to the members and they will follow what you do.
2. Take your family to church with you. This means you will need to plan ahead so that everything needed is ready.
3. Be a part of the worship service, sharing with your church family in singing, praying, listening.
4. Know the church family by name. Get to know who they are, where they live, what their needs are. Pray for them and visit them regularly.
5. Join the organizations in your church that are for you - Sunday School, women's union, etc.
6. Be your husband's helper. Pray before services and during the services for God's holy power to be upon him. Help him fulfil his duties to the church.

REVIEW

As a Christian you are a part of the family of God, the church. Jesus Christ started the church and he is the foundation on which it is built. All who believe in Christ and make him Lord of their lives become a part of the family of God. Then as Christians, they follow Christ in baptism and become a member of their local church. The New Testament teaches that the church is the living body of Christ with Jesus Christ as the head of the body, the group of baptized believers.

The purpose of the church is the same as the purpose of Jesus Christ, to bring people to him and to prepare them for ministry. Each part of the body has been given special gifts to use in building up the body of Christ.

Just as your body needs food, rest and use, so does the body of Christ. As a Christian you are to receive spiritual food and rest so that you may grow in Christ and become prepared for ministry. You are to use that which you learn through the gifts God has given you. There are many ways you can serve God through your church.

each evening before going to sleep. This helped Joici to see that she had run away from her problem. She talked and prayed with her parents, asking God to forgive her for not trusting Mathayo. As soon as she could, she got the children ready and took the bus back home. Together Joici and Mathayo talked about his work and the trips to other churches he had to make. Mathayo told her he would share with her the purpose of his journeys and try to get home on time.

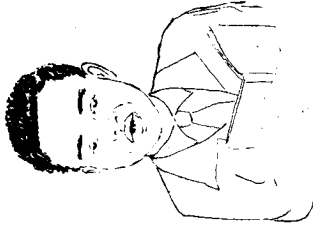
Joici was very happy that she and Mathayo had begun to work out the problem. It was not easy, but she asked God to help her. During this time the church was growing. After an associational seminar on Sunday School their church decided to have Bible study for children, youth and adults. There were very few leaders. The church prayed together asking God to show them those who had the gift of teaching. They asked Joici to teach the youth class because the young people loved her cheerful ways. Joici was very shy, she had never taught before. Finally she agreed to teach the class. At the teacher training seminar, she learned a lot about how to teach. She was surprised at all that had to be done. It was not just standing in front of a group each Sunday morning.

There were four enrolled in her class and soon she discovered that if she would visit them during the week they would come, often bringing a friend. When she did not visit or miss a Sunday, the attendance was not as good as when she visited her students. She prayed to God to help her be faithful in visiting.

At the end of the first year there were 14 in her class. Two of the girls had come to her asking how to become a Christian. What joy she had as she told them the plan of salvation and prayed with them as they asked Jesus into their hearts. One of the best things happened during her visitation. She became a friend of the mother with the twins in her class. Joici's new friend came to the women's meeting each week, then one Sunday she came to church. Joici and Mathayo visited together in the home and both parents began to attend church.

How did Joici become a working part of her church? She worked out her family problem and she continued to be faithful in church. When the members asked her to teach, she was willing to use the gift others saw in her. Joici went to all the training sessions to learn her task. She was faithful to do her work, preparing each week. By visiting in the homes of her class members, she was a witness to others. As she prayed for God's leadership, he opened the doors for her to lead class members to Christ. Joici had the joy of knowing that she was fulfilling her role as a working part of the body of Christ.

CHAPTER 2 MY HUSBAND IS A PASTOR



I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.

Acts 26:16

BIBLE STUDY: CHOSEN BY GOD

Our first study helped you to see what God's Word teaches you about yourself. You began your journey in becoming a better pastor's wife as you were led to understand your relationship to God. By accepting your husband as a pastor and your role as a pastor's wife, you have taken the first step. Today's study will help you understand what the Bible teaches about God's call to service, the qualifications for service and the responsibilities in service. This will give you a clearer understanding of your husband's call to the ministry, the person he should be and his role as a pastor.

God's call to service. God calls each of his followers to commitment. Every Christian is called of God to be Christ's ambassador, to be a servant and a witness to others. Often God calls people for special service. Throughout the Old Testament we see men and women who were called and used by God to serve him. We have many in the New Testament who were called by God to share the gospel message about Jesus Christ. Let's look at some of those called of God for a special purpose.

Open your Bible to Genesis 12:1-4 and read these verses. Abram, who became Abraham, is known as the father of God's chosen people. When God spoke to him, he listened. God asked him to take his family and follow him to a new land for the purpose of raising a great nation who would love the Lord. In verse 4 we read that Abram obediently did as God told him. He left to follow God's call and direction.

In Isaiah 6:1-8 you can read about Isaiah's call from God. As he worshipped in the temple he was given a majestic vision of God. This brought him under conviction of sin, his own and that of his people. Upon confessing that sin, he was divinely cleansed. Thus he was prepared for God's question: "Who shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah made his commitment: "Here am I; send me." Isaiah heard God's call, saw his sins before God, was forgiven and then answered that call. He was deeply convicted of the sins of man. In his ministry Isaiah called upon God's people to repent of their sins.

Now turn in your Bible to Acts 26:12-18. Read Paul's testimony of his conversion and his call to ministry. Paul had not even been a follower of Christ. He was a devout Jew working to destroy all who were Christians. Yet God appeared to him as he was travelling and called him to follow him and to serve him. The memory verse for today's lesson is verse 16. God appointed Paul as a servant and as a witness. He was called to take the gospel of light to all who were not Christians and walked in the dark. Paul obeyed God's call and became a faithful servant of Jesus, preaching, teaching and starting churches wherever he went.

Just as God called people many years ago, he continues to call people today. He calls them in many ways, but every call demands an answer. In many calls, the person is led to see his own sinful nature before a perfect God. This leads him to repent of his sins. God forgives him and cleanses him of all unrighteousness. He is then ready to hear God speak and to answer God's call.

Each one called of God has a choice: to accept the call and obey or to disobey. Every pastor or church leader needs to know in his heart that he has been called of God for serving him and his church. As Isaiah and Paul were burdened by the sinfulness of mankind, so must the pastor be burdened for the lost who walk in darkness.

Qualifications for service. Even as God calls people into his service, he gives them directions on how they are to live and act. Paul gives the church guidelines for those called to serve Christ. These are the qualifications for a man called by God to be a church leader. Turn in your Bible to 1 Timothy chapter 3 and read verses 1-7. These are helps for an "overseer" in the church. An overseer is one who is a "pastor" or a "shepherd". In our study we will use the word "pastor" for the leader of a church. Paul says in verse one that the work of a pastor is a noble task. These verses are very clear about the character of the pastor. Let's list the qualifications as Paul speaks of them.

The pastor must be:

- 1) above reproach - he is to be completely honest
- 2) the husband of one wife - he should not have other wives
- 3) temperate - he is quiet mannered in his speech and action
- 4) self-controlled - he should be in control of his mind, his body, and his activities
- 5) respectable - he should be well thought of by others
- 6) hospitable - he welcomes people into his home
- 7) able to teach - he can learn well and teach others
- 8) not given to much wine - he is not a drinker
- 9) gentle - he is kind and considerate, not violent
- 10) not a lover of money - he is not greedy and is not governed by his desire for money

Second, ask others to help you see what you can do well. Third, decide on a ministry or ministries you feel that you can do. Fourth, talk with your husband and the church about ways to use your gifts, and get their approval to begin. Last, begin by doing the work and remaining faithful.

Now, what are some ways you can serve? Read the list below carefully. You may want to add to the list, or you may want to decide on one of the suggestions already listed.

1. Teach a Sunday School class; it may be children, young people, or adults.
2. Be a greeter in the church, arriving early each Sunday morning ready to welcome all who come.
3. Start a prayer group, enlisting several of the faithful members to meet with you each week and pray specifically for the needs of the church ministry and family.
4. Begin a children's Bible club one afternoon each week. You can tell them a Bible story, help them with verses to learn, songs to sing, and games to play.
5. Take part in the weekly women's meeting. If your church does not have one, lead the women to start one.
6. Join those who regularly visit each week, visiting the sick in their homes or the hospital, in the prison, in homes of visitors, in homes of members who have not been attending church regularly.
7. Lead a discipleship class. Meet each week with new Christians for Bible study, prayer and scripture memory.
8. Open your home as a place for a church group to meet. Be a gracious host helping all feel welcome.
9. Be a part of a mission project in starting a new church.
10. Sew clothes for orphans, read to the blind, help a cripple with his needs.

The important thing for you to remember is that as you grow and rest in Christ, you are being prepared to be used in service for Christ. Let's see how Joici is doing as a pastor's wife.

When Joici went home to her parents, she began to think about what had happened. Her mother knew that something was wrong, but was slow to give advice. She waited for the right time to talk to Joici. In her parents' home the family had Bible study and prayer

Is there another way you can receive spiritual food from your church? If there is, write it down on the line below.

You need rest. The purpose of physical rest is to refresh your body and have renewed strength for the day. There are several ways that you, as a part of the body of Christ, can receive spiritual rest to refresh you and prepare you for service.

1. Worship in God's house with your family. Come into God's peace and rest for the purpose of abiding in him and praising him. Worship is a time of praise, song and prayer when you give the Holy Spirit within you opportunity to speak to you. As you worship you should talk to God and listen to God. Sing praises to your Father and rest in his peace.
2. Attend the prayer meetings in your church. Most churches come together each week for a time of prayer. This brings you closer to God and to the family of God as you praise him for what he has done for you and others. By sharing prayer needs with your church family, each of you grows closer as brothers and sisters in Christ.
3. Fellowship with your Christian family. Enjoy being with them, visiting, laughing, sharing. Do things together with other members - visit together, clean the church together, have tea together, go to the women's meetings together. Christian fellowship brings rest and enjoyment to your spiritual life.

You need to be used. You have read, studied and learned God's Word. You have been faithful to receive daily nourishment and rest. Now you must use this strength in service to God and to man. There is not much value in preparing for Christian service if you do not serve. Remember the scripture you read in the Bible Study on the different ways Christians could serve? There are three lists of suggestions in the New Testament to help members of the body of Christ carry out their task in the church. These are found in Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30. Here are some of the gifts in these verses: preach the Word of God, minister to others' needs, teach God's Word, counsel and encourage others, share what you have with others, lead others, do acts of mercy, live by God's Word, go out to new areas and share Christ with the lost.

God has given every Christian a gift or gifts to serve Christ in one or more of the ways listed. Here are some guidelines to help you use your gifts. First, pray to God and ask him to help you see and use your gifts from him.

- 11) a good family manager - he has a happy home with a wife and children who love and honor him
- 12) not a recent Christian - he is an experienced Christian
- 13) with good reputation - he has good personal and business relationships with others

This is a big list of qualifications. But it teaches that the man called of God to be a pastor must be a Godly person. Certainly no one is perfect. But each one is called to be in Christ and to be holy as Christ is holy. (1 Pet.1:16).

Responsibilities in service. Paul made it very clear to Timothy about his responsibilities in leading the believers. 2 Timothy 4:2 says, "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction." The pastor is to be faithful in preaching and teaching the Word of God. Paul also told Timothy to live in the truths of the Word. He was to follow and teach sound doctrines. The Lord himself told Paul that he was called to be a servant. As Christ came to serve, the pastor is to serve. He is to lead God's people by his own example. He is to minister to God's people.

Christ's followers were encouraged to preach, teach and minister to others. The pastor is to lead all believers in the church in these ministries given to early Christians. They are told to visit the sick, care for the widows, pray for others, bring people to Jesus. The pastor is to be a leader and example.

Your memory verse for today is Acts 26:16, " I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you." This sums up the call, character and responsibility for service to God. Let's look at the three parts of our study on Chosen by God. What does the Bible teach about people called by God?

1. They are called to serve God and his church and are to be obedient to God's call.
2. They are called to be Godly men, well respected by their fellow man.
3. They are called to preach and teach the Word of God and minister to God's people.

MY HUSBAND IS A PASTOR

Think about your husband for a minute. Think about the time when you were married. You and your husband promised each other you would be husband and wife. As you lived

together you began to know more about him. What are some of the things you like about him? Is he nice looking, big, strong? Is he kind and thoughtful? Maybe he laughs a lot or helps you with the garden? Perhaps he reads the Bible with you? There are many things you have grown to love about him because he is your husband. But he is also a pastor, a man called to serve God.

A pastor's call. You have just read in your Bible about some of the men God called. As a wife and a helpmate you need to understand your husband's call from God. He may not be perfect, but he is God's servant on a divine mission. You, too, are God's servant. How have you responded to your husband's call to be a pastor? Let's look at some pastors and wives and see how they responded to the call of God.

John and Miriam are pastoring a growing church in a small town. They are loved by all the members and they love to visit and share God's Word with them. They were not always pastoring. John was a mechanic in a garage. He and his wife were faithful church members. One day the preacher spoke about serving God and every Christian's responsibility to find God's will for his own life. At home that night John could not sleep. He woke up his wife and told her that he was thinking about the sermon that day. He said he felt in his heart that God wanted him to train to become a pastor. They prayed together and told God they were willing to serve him and follow his leadership. The next day they went to their pastor for counseling and prayer. Through their time together reading the Bible, John was assured that God was calling him to be a pastor. He quit his job and both went to a Seminary to learn how to become a better pastor and wife.

Where did John hear his call from God? _____

Where did he answer God's call? _____

Did his wife have any part in his answer? _____

What three things did they do together? _____

John heard his call from God during the worship service at church. At night, in the quiet of his home he answered God's call. Miriam, his wife, listened to him and prayed with him about his call. As John went to seek help from their pastor she was also with him.

I AM SERVING CHRIST THROUGH MY CHURCH

As a Christian and as a pastor's wife, you have a responsibility in your church. Through the Bible Study you have seen that the head of the church is Jesus Christ. As a baptized believer you are a member of the church, a part of the body of Christ. You studied the teachings on the importance of all the parts of the body working together so that the body can grow and do the work it was created to do. Let's look at three needs of the body and compare them to your needs as a part of the body of Christ, the church. These needs are food, rest and use. Without any of these three, the body cannot grow and work properly. It soon becomes weak and useless. This is the same principle in your church. As a part of the body you need spiritual food and rest in preparation to be used in service. Let's see how each of these can be applied to you.

You need nourishment. As a church member there are many ways you can receive proper spiritual food so that you can grow as a Christian. Here are some of the ways as a member of your church you can be fed:

1. Attend Sunday School faithfully each Sunday. Listen to the teacher and follow in your Bible God's words for you.
 2. Listen with your ears, mind and heart to the sermons that give you the Word of God and show you ways to grow in Christ. Take notes on the message and discuss it with your husband and family at home.
 3. Join a Bible study class and attend regularly. This could be a study with a group of church women, a TEE class, a local Bible school.
 4. Enroll in a Bible study correspondence course. There are good ones available. Ask your husband for the address.
 5. Attend seminars and associational church meetings that can teach you more about God's Word.
- Perhaps your church has some or all of these opportunities for spiritual growth and nourishment. Which ones are you already faithful in?

Which one can you begin? _____

minute. You have a head, two arms and hands, two legs and feet and many unseen inner parts so that your body will work as it was created to do. Your head tells your legs "walk" and your legs begin to move. Your head says "stop" and you stop. If your arm is hurt, your whole body hurts. Even when some of the parts of your body you cannot see do not do their job, your whole body is affected. If you are to be in good health and have energy to work, your whole body, every part, must be working right.

This is true with the church, the body of Christ. Every believer has a special task to perform for the body so that the whole body, the church, will be able to do that which it was created for - bringing people to Jesus and preparing them for service through teaching the Word of God. Christ is the head and you are the parts of the body. Just as every single part of your body has a special work to do, so does every single believer in the church.

Turn in your Bible to Ephesians 4:11-16 and read these verses. Here we have some of the responsibilities of the believers in the church. Christ gives to different believers different works to do. Some are to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and others pastors and teachers. God has given each believer gifts to be used in serving him. The purpose of this is found in verse 12 "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" and in verses 15-16 "we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

The way chosen by God and led by Christ for the church to do its work is clear. The church, the body of believers, must all work together, each one doing his part for the body.

REVIEW

The church is built on Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. It is the body of Christ, and Christ himself is the head. By following Christ in baptism, every believer becomes a member of the church, the family of God. Each believer is a part of the body and has work to do in the church. The believers are one body in Christ, all working together in his love to build the body. Their work is to bring people to Jesus, to baptize them and to teach them so they will be prepared for service. Christ gave this work to his believers when he said, "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...and teaching them". (Matthew 28:19-20).

Agustine and Dorista lead a small village church. He is a village leader and has a small farm. They attended church in their village along with some 64 other Christians. But the preacher lived very far away. Many times he could not be there on Sundays. After some time he began to teach the members that they must carry on the responsibility of leading their church and growing their members. The members began to pray for God to show them a capable, faithful person in their church who could lead them. They wanted to follow the guidelines in the Bible for church leaders. He was to be someone who was honest, respected and managed his home and work well. When the church came together for prayer and to select their leader, Agustine was asked to take the responsibility as pastor. Through the seeking prayers of his fellow Christians, Agustine was called to serve God.

How did Agustine hear God's call?

How did he respond to that call?

God's call came to Agustine through the church members. As they prayed for God's leadership, they were led to select Agustine as their pastor. He accepted that call and became the leader of their church.

As you have visited with these pastors and wives, have you learned that God calls people in different ways? Do you know when your husband was called? Can you tell how you responded to his call? Write on the lines below what you know about your husband's call to be a pastor. Then tell how you have felt about being a pastor's wife.

A pastor's qualifications. The Bible study from 1 Tim. 3:1-7 was very clear about the kind of person a leader must be. Read the list again on pages 10 and 11. Then ask your self how you can help your husband be a Christian example and

leader. Here are some habits of a good pastor with suggestions to help your husband be the kind of person pictured in the New Testament.

1. A good pastor is well respected in his community. People are to know him as an honest man and one who can be trusted. You can help your husband by encouraging him to pay his debts and to be faithful to his promises. Be honest yourself in the home. Pray that God would lead him to be truthful and dependable.
2. A good pastor does not love money. This can be very hard for a pastor. Most people love money and are led by their desire to have more money so they can have more things. You, as a pastor's wife, need to accept the fact that pastors often do not receive a big salary. Be grateful for the things you have. Do not complain about what others have and what you do not have. Be a wise and careful manager in your home. Do not spend money unwisely but plan carefully for the needs of your family and home. If you, as a wife, demand that your husband provide you with a lot of clothes or furniture and it is above your income, you place him in a difficult position. You are tempting him to look for money in other ways. Cheerfully accept what you have.
3. A good pastor has a Christian home, with a wife and children who honour and respect him. God's Word tells you that you are to love and honour your husband. He is to be the head of the home. You can help him by being a loving and giving wife. Talk with him about decisions that need to be made concerning the family, but let him make the final decision. Teach your children to honour and respect their father. Tell them about their father's work. Make time for daily prayer in your home, with your husband and with your family. This will encourage him in being a loving husband and father.
4. A good pastor should be temperate, self-controlled and gentle. Many pastors' homes are the scene of harsh words and quarrelling. As a wife you can help your husband to be kind and gentle. Make it a habit not to yell at anyone, not your children nor your husband. People usually reply to a soft voice with a soft voice, or they answer a yell with another yell. It is very important for you to listen to your husband and follow his leadership. Do not quarrel, but discuss things that you do not like or approve of. Tell him why. Discuss ways to change things. If he does not like something you or the children do, find out why and try to work it out. If you are self-controlled and quiet, it will help him to be that way also. Make your home a happy place, and your husband and friends will feel welcome there.

words to his followers after his resurrection. Turn in your Bible to Matthew 28:19-20. In these verses we have the Great Commission, the charge that Jesus gave for every believer to follow. This gives the two purposes of the church. The first is to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..."

The first task of each Christian is to share the news about Jesus Christ with others. This is the work of going and telling others about Jesus. Then each believer in Jesus becomes a member of the family of God and is baptized into the local church.

The church is to teach the believers and prepare them for service. The second task of the church is "teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you". Jesus brought men and women to him so that they would know him and believe in him. As they became his followers, he prepared them for service by teaching them.

Can you see Jesus as he called followers to him? He walked by the lakeside, down the dusty roads, into the offices of the taxmen - each time calling people to "Come and follow me". Soon there were crowds following him, listening to his every word, watching his every action. They saw him heal the sick and lame, feed the hungry, minister to those in need. He taught his followers to love by loving, to serve by serving. He was preparing them for the work they would carry out after he had gone. He was building up the church, his family of believers.

This is the task of the church, of every believer and follower of Christ. The church is to bring people to Jesus and then teach them God's Word and prepare them for service. The church is to reach out just as Christ reached out, in love and in service. How is the church to carry out these tasks?

The church works as one body with many parts. In the Bible study on Christian marriage it was explained that the church and marriage are similar. To understand how the church carries out its tasks, you need to look again at the beautiful picture Paul gives of the church. "For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior." Ephesians 5:23. This verse clearly shows that the believers are the church, the body of Christ, and Christ is the head of the body. You are not only a part of his family, but you are a part of Christ's body as a believer in the church.

As a Christian and pastor's wife, you must understand the complete meaning of this doctrine. It is the life giving flow that keeps the body alive. Think about your body for a

The church is built on Jesus Christ. Open your Bible to Matthew 16:13-18 and read these verses. Christ himself first used the word "church". In these verses there are two teachings on the church. The first one is that Christ is the foundation of the church.

Christ was talking with his disciples one day and he asked them a very important question, "Who do you say I am?" They had already told him that many Jews thought he was John the Baptist or Elijah, even Jeremiah. Now he wanted to know what his beloved disciples thought. Peter answered with confidence, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." This was the heart of what Christ had been trying to teach them by his love, his actions and his words. In verse 17 he said, "on this rock I will build my church..." Christ told his followers that on that very answer "Christ, the Son of the living God", he would build his church. He himself was to be the foundation of the church to come, because he was the Son of the living God. 1 Corinthians 3:11 says, "For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." The church is built on Jesus Christ.

The church is the family of baptized believers in Christ. Peter's belief in Christ made him a member of the family of God. Jesus told him "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven". This is the second teaching from this verse. All who believe in Jesus, the Son of God, and follow him are to be a part of the church. The New Testament promises salvation for all who can say with Peter "you are the Christ, the Son of the living God". Acts 16:31 says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved". God's Word gives us the plan for being born into the family of God. That plan is believing in Jesus as the Son of the living God. The church is the family of baptized believers in Christ whose foundation is Jesus Christ.

The memory verse for this lesson is Acts 2: 41-42. Read this again. This tells that all who believed followed Christ in baptism. Together as a family they came for teaching, fellowship and prayer. Then the small group of believers returned to their towns and villages. The church began to grow and spread out in many places. Soon there were many churches, groups of baptized believers, coming together to worship and serve Christ. Each time they followed the teachings of Jesus. What work did Jesus give to the church?

The church is to bring people to Jesus. The purpose of the church is the same as the purpose of Christ. Christ came to earth to bring people to him that they might have eternal life in him and become part of God's family. He taught his followers and prepared them to carry out the work he was to leave for them to do. Jesus gave the church, his body of believers, a specific work to do. This is found in his last

There are many things you can do to help your husband. These are just a few ways to lead you to think about how you can encourage him to live a Godly life and be a Christian example to others. Let's continue to read about John and Miriam.

Miriam was very happy as a pastor's wife, but she was also very busy. She had to get up early each morning to prepare food for the family. Both of their children had to be at school early. She cooked on a small charcoal stove. Many of her friends had a nice gas stove, some with an oven. It would be so nice if John would buy her one, but she knew it was very costly and that their salary was not enough to get one. One pastor of a nearby church bought one on the black market because his wife wanted one. But John would never do that. She did not want to complain or make John feel guilty about the things they did not have. Since they had begun their ministry they would talk each month about the best ways to use their small salary. She had a little money from her garden and sewing. Together they would talk about the needs of the family and plan how to use their money wisely.

Though her days were busy and long, she was always singing songs and laughing with the children. John did his studying right after breakfast while she cleaned the house. He was very happy at home and enjoyed being with his wife and children. He was glad that Miriam did not complain and was so happy. He had many friends and church members who came by to visit with them after work.

They used to quarrel a lot, but when they started to pray together each day, this helped. Oh, they would still have some differences, but they would listen to each other and try to work out a good solution for each problem.

Evenings were Miriam's favorite time. After the children were dressed for bed, the family would get their Bibles and song books and worship together. John would read and explain a Bible lesson. Then they would sing and pray.

Let's see what kind of persons John and Miriam are. Below is a chart that has two sides. On the left write in what qualifications you think John has for the ministry. On the right, write down what Miriam does to encourage and help John. Have your Bible open to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and follow the list.

John is

Miriam helps by

1. honest

not complaining

2. _____

3. _____

CHAPTER 5 MY CHURCH

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and...they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:41a,42

BIBLE STUDY: THE CHURCH, THE FAMILY OF GOD

Your family is one of the most important parts of your life. You have been reading God's plan for the family, how he established marriage between husband and wife. A Christian marriage is an agreement between two believers to become husband and wife and to follow the Biblical teachings on marriage. The home is built on love and respect for one another. Children in the home are gifts from God and are to be cared for in love and taught the truths in God's Word. Mother, father, children, aunts, uncles - these are your family and are very important to you and your life.

Every Christian has another family which is very important in his life. As a believer in Jesus Christ, he becomes a member of the family of God. This family of God is called the church. The book of Acts tells the exciting story of the beginning and growth of the church, the family of believers. Paul's letters to the first churches teach the believers how to live for Christ and serve him together. As a Christian you are a part of the church and have a responsibility to this family. As a pastor's wife you also have a responsibility in the family of God. This study will help you to understand the teachings on the church and your role in the family of God.

Christians often talk about their church but do not understand what God's Word teaches them about their church. When the word "church" is mentioned, what kind of picture comes to your mind? Most people think of a church building. But this is not what the Bible teaches about the church. What teaching does the Bible give for Christians?

This study will lead you to understand the teachings of the Bible about the church. You will learn that:

1. The church is built on Jesus Christ.
2. The church is the family of baptized believers in Christ.
3. The two purposes of the church are
 - A. to bring people to Jesus and baptize them, and
 - B. to teach and prepare believers for service.

John is responsible in the home and community. He is very honest and not greedy at all. Miriam helps him by not asking for things they can not afford. He is respected by the community and very hospitable, and Miriam makes their home a cheerful place for people to visit. They do not quarrel or fight, but try to discuss their problems quietly. John is a mild-mannered person and self-controlled. Miriam encourages this because she does not complain or nag at him. John is a good family manager. His wife and children enjoy being together.

It may look as if John and Miriam are a perfect family. No family is perfect, but each person can work at helping the other be a happy Christian witness. Have you had some new ideas of ways you can help your husband?

A pastor's responsibilities. As a pastor, your husband has specific duties to carry out in his church. Every church will have certain responsibilities for their pastor. These will be different from place to place. What are they?

Preaching and teaching the Word of God will be one of his main duties. Your husband will be expected to preach each Sunday at the worship service. Some churches have two services, one in the morning and one in the evening. Other churches have a time of worship during the week.

A pastor is also to lead the membership in a plan of visitation. There are several important reasons for visiting. The church will want to visit those who are not Christians or members of any church; those who have problems, such as sickness or a death in the family; and members who need encouragement and growth in their Christian faith.

There are many other tasks the pastor is called upon to perform. He will have weddings and funerals, do counseling, be called upon during many emergencies. His time often will belong to the church. You will need to be a patient and understanding wife as he responds to the many demands on his time and energy.

First of all, share in his work by praying for him. Help him find time for his studies. Find a good place for his books and take good care of them. When it is possible, go with him on pastoral visits. You can have his food ready and warm for him even when he is very late for a meal. See that his clothes are clean, pressed and mended. Comment on his good sermon and praise him when he teaches a good lesson.

Let's look at some pastors and wives and see how they are

Have you accepted this as a problem? _____ Do so and then commit this problem to God. Begin to work it out following the guidelines from this study.

7. Memorize the scripture verse for this lesson. Turn to the back of the book and cut out the card with the verse on it. Review all of the verses you have learned. Be sure you keep the cards together and go over each verse daily.

MY COMMITMENT

This study has been on MY FAMILY. In the above activities you have written down things you want to do for each of your children. You have circled words that tell of a good Christian witness in the home. You have shared a problem that is concerning you. With these in mind and from the teachings of this lesson write down your personal commitment to God on the lines below.

MY PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you for your Word and what it teaches me about my family. Show me how to be the right kind of Christian example in my home. Help me to show love and patience to each of my family. I commit them to you and your care. I also want to commit myself to you. Guide me as I try to fulfill my responsibilities to my family. In Jesus' name. Amen.

adjusting to God's call to the ministry. As you read about them, look at ways the wives are helping their husbands in their ministry. Also look at things that need to be changed.

Charles and Mary have been pastoring their church for three years. They have two little boys and a baby daughter. Although Mary is very busy in the home she is a good pastor's wife. Each morning the family has tea together and prays for the day, for their father as he visits and teaches. Mary works part time in an office, but in the afternoons she takes time to visit families in their church with her husband. One day a week she goes with the children to their Bible Club. She is always at church and has many activities to keep her busy. Because she does not like to clean house, it stays rather dirty. Often when people come to see the pastor they find the sitting room cluttered with dirty clothes and family articles. But they always feel welcome because Mary is very hospitable.

List three things Mary is doing as a helpful pastor's wife.

List one change she needs to make.

Sara and Amos live on their parents' farm in a small village with their three teenage children. Amos is a farmer himself but leads the village church and as he is able visits the members and teaches. Sara stays busy helping with the farming so that he can be working at the church. Sara is very friendly and although she does not like to teach a class, she is always early for services to welcome people to the church. Because the children do not like to attend church with their parents, they stay at home. Often they run around with the village youth and stay out late at night. Sara is very concerned about her children because they do not respect their father or his work.

List three ways Sara is helping her husband.

Write down one thing she needs to do to be a better helper.

Thomas and Martha have a big family of seven children. They love the Lord and work together serving him at their church. Thomas is a good leader but has to work very hard in preparing his sermons. He has had very little education. Each morning after the two older children go to school, Martha takes the children with her to the fields. The baby plays in the shade while the smaller ones watch him. The two older ones help Martha. This gives Thomas time alone at home to study. On Saturday everyone works very hard getting their clothes and food ready for Sunday. Then early Sunday morning the family go to church. After Sunday School everyone goes to worship, but Martha has a hard time with three of her children and they often run around outside, disturbing the service.

Write down the ways Martha is helping her pastor husband.

What problem can she work on to help her family support her husband?

These three homes are examples of typical pastors and wives. Each family is serving God. Mary helps by seeing that her family has prayer each morning. She also leads the children to pray specifically for their father's work as a pastor. She helps her husband in his work by attending the Bible Club. Perhaps Mary should look at her schedule and make time for taking better care of their home. Then guests would feel more welcome.

Sara works hard keeping the family garden. This gives her husband more time for his ministry. She helps him at the church by greeting all who come to worship and making them feel welcome. She needs to teach her children more about respecting their father. If she would encourage them to attend church and teach them why, it would help.

As Martha accepts her role as a pastor's wife, she is very concerned that her husband has enough time to study. She keeps the small children away from his workroom. She knows it is important to have clothes ready on Saturday so the family can dress and arrive on time at church. She has the children help her with them. Martha likes to teach in

3. How do you and your husband discipline your children? Do you have any rules to guide them? Write down three of your rules to help them live peacefully with the family members.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4. Do you have daily worship with your family? Write down briefly what you do in your worship time.

If you do not have daily worship with your family, talk with your husband and work out a good time to do so. Write in the line below the time you have set for worship with your family.

5. Below are some words that describe the habits of people. Read the list carefully and circle the ones that show a loving pastor's wife and mother.

forgiving	helpful	quarreling
trusting	caring	rebellious
gossiping	cheerful	complaining
comforting	nagging	listening

6. Problems come to every family. Think prayerfully about the problem that is bothering you most. Complete the following sentence: My most difficult problem at this time is _____

The care of a family is much like the care of a garden. Children need a pleasant place to live and grow in. They need to have time with their parents and be shown love and support. Parents are to encourage their children to think and plan wisely. In a Christian home, each child is given responsibilities to share and rules to follow to help him live happily with others. When he breaks these rules, he is to be punished. Children also need to see the faith and witness of their parents in the home. Through daily worship, reading and learning God's word, praising God in song and praying together, a strong faith is planted in the heart and life of each child. There is a proverb that says "A family that prays together stays together." Share your faith in love, care for your family, and then Proverbs 31:28 can be true for you, "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her".

ACTIVITIES TO HELP ME GROW

1. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Write on the lines below four things you are doing or plan on doing for your children in training them in the ways of God.

2. Write the name of each of your children on a separate line below on the left. Beside each name write down one thing you can do for that child to show him your love this week. Put a check by the name as you complete each one.

the Sunday School. She is a bit careless in teaching her children how to behave in God's house. It is very important that she help her children learn to be quiet and respectful in church.

REVIEW

As a pastor's wife you have a privilege to share a life of ministry with your husband. You have a special opportunity to help him become the person God has called him to be and to minister to his church. It is very important for every pastor to understand his own call and commitment to serving God. You as a pastor's wife must also understand his call and the areas of ministry he has in his church. His call is also your call. Then you need to look for ways to encourage and help your husband fulfill his commitment.

Your husband is to be as much like the person described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 as he can. He will need a lot of help in this. You can love him, pray for him, forgive him, encourage him, support him.

Through the Bible Study, there were three things taught about pastors:

1. They are called to serve God and his church and are to be obedient to their call.
2. They are called to be Godly men, well respected by their fellow man.
3. They are called to preach and teach the Word of God and minister to God's people.

The purpose of this study has been to help you know what the Bible teaches about God's call to special service. This will help you as a pastor's wife to understand more about your husband's call and responsibility. This study has shown you several steps you can take to become a happier and better pastor's wife. Now let's see what you can do to apply what you have read about and learned today.

ACTIVITIES TO HELP ME GROW

1. Open your Bible and read John 1:6-8. Now read the verse as it is written below and put your husband's name in the blank. When you have done that read it again. "There came a man who was sent from God; his name was _____ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might

believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light." (John 1:6-8) This will help you to see your husband as a pastor, called of God to bring the good news to all people.

2. Turn back to page 13 and read what you wrote about your husband's call. Then ask him to share with you about God's call to him. Discuss with him your thoughts about his call to the ministry and his responsibilities in the church. Tell him you want to be his helper and ask him to give you some ways you can do this. Write down his suggestions.

3. Memorize the Bible verse for this lesson. Turn to the back to the page SCRIPTURE VERSES TO MEMORIZE. Cut out the card with the verse for Chapter 2. Put it where you can see it often. Help your children learn this verse and explain to them that this is God's call to their father.

4. Write the three things the Bible Study taught you about God's call to pastors:

- 1) They are called _____
- 2) They are called _____
- 3) They are called _____

MY COMMITMENT

This chapter has given you many ways you can support and help your husband in fulfilling his call and work in the ministry. Read the following list and circle three or four activities you would like to begin doing that will help support your husband's ministry.

Agustine and Dorista first prayed about their problems. Then they talked about the actions they could take to solve them. They looked at their own home and ministry. Neither one wanted to leave their church. They knew God had called them to the ministry. Their small home was sufficient for a family of seven.

Agustine talked with a deacon in their church who had a big farm. He advised them to cut some of their expenses and save money to buy more land. This would help them to meet the needs of their family.

They also saw that if they kept having more children they would soon be in debt again. Both were very happy with their four children and would like to have more. Even their parents expected them to have a big family. But they knew this was not the answer.

So Dorista went to the family planning clinic in a nearby village. Then she and Agustine discussed the things she had learned.

All Christian parents should follow the steps that Agustine and Dorista took in solving their problems. What are these:

1. Recognize the problem and pray together about it.
2. Study God's Word for the teachings and guidance needed.
3. Look for help from qualified persons (such as a pastor or friend whom you respect).
4. Discuss what you have learned.
5. Prayerfully decide together the action you will take.

Problems will be different. Some will have deep roots and not be easy to see. It can take time to get to those roots and carefully remove them. Harsh words, quick actions, or an unforgiving heart will not help the problem but often make it bigger.

You, as parents, should not let your pride or anger keep you from talking about the problems and seeking ways to work them out. Follow the steps above. Remember to accept and name the problem. Be willing to work it out with love, patience, forgiveness and prayer. If the problem is very serious, be quick to get help from a pastor or friend who has the ability to counsel and give direction.

REVIEW

You, as a pastor's wife and mother, are to set a Christian example by your daily life. The home and family were planned by God. God's Word gives clear instructions to you as a parent on the care and teaching of your family. Your children should be taught God's Word daily, have their needs provided, and be trained to respect and obey their parents. Above all, your home should show love for God and for one another.

of course not. Neither is there a family without problems and difficulties. A pastor's wife must realize that when problems come, they must be carefully solved so as not to hurt the family.

Children will disobey. Teenagers will want to refuse their parents' advice. Husband and wife will have different ideas on doing things. All of this is normal. Today's world has many pulls and pressures on the family and its members. Christian parents, especially a pastor and his wife, must always be alert to problems as they begin. They should seek to work them out with love, wisdom and patience.

Let's look at Augustine and Dorista and see how they worked out a problem they had in caring for their family.

There are four children in Augustine and Dorista's family. Augustine's mother also lives with them. They had always wanted to have many children. But life had become very difficult and they were having a hard time caring for the family. The children's school fees had gone up. They needed uniforms. Two of the children had been in the hospital. Soon they were in debt. Both parents became so busy that they did not have enough time to be together as a family. Their children were not getting the guidance and training they needed. These problems took away much of the joy Augustine and Dorista had in pastoring. Augustine knew that they must do something about these problems. He prayed to God to help them find a way to solve their problems.

They began to study God's teachings on family duties. Augustine knew he was to provide for his family and that it was not good to be in debt. They needed time to teach and train their children. It was the parents' responsibility to provide their children with food to eat and clothes to wear. Education was important. They both realized that their problems would increase as their family grew in number. Augustine and Dorista discussed ways to meet these needs. They decided to list the actions they could take to solve these problems.

Let's look at their list. Read each action and put a check by the two that you think would be best for their family.

- ___ 1. Augustine could leave his church and look for a higher paying job in the city.
- ___ 2. Dorista could look for more work outside of her farming.
- ___ 3. They could go to a family planning clinic for help.
- ___ 4. They could save their money carefully and buy more land near their home.
- ___ 5. They could ask another relative to care for Augustine's mother.

I will pray and read the Bible daily with my husband.

I will stop complaining about my "wants" and talk about better ways to meet our needs.

I will make a few visits with my husband each week.

I will mend any of his torn clothing and keep his clothes neat and clean.

I will sing and laugh more at home.

I will help my husband have a quiet place to study and prepare his sermons. I will explain to the children and guests that when he is studying he is not to be disturbed.

I will follow the suggestions made by my husband for helping him in his ministry.

I will not get angry when he comes in late for a meal.

I will do something special each day to show my love for God, my husband or my children.

Write this list on a piece of paper or in a notebook to help you remember.

MY PRAYER

Dear Father, I thank you for my husband and for his call to the ministry. Help me to be a better pastor's wife. I want to be more understanding of his responsibilities in the church. I want to be more helpful in his ministry. Help me to follow through with the commitments that I have made and circled. Lead me to be a more caring pastor's wife. In Jesus' name. Amen.

3. They can punish him every time he goes to the forest.

4. They can talk with him about his love for the forest and animals and encourage him to study books to learn more and guide him to think about becoming a forester.

Parents who really love and care for their children want to see their children happy and find God's will for their lives. Dorista and Agustine can take time to find out why Thomas likes to go to the forest and show him ways to learn more about the trees and animals there. They can talk to him about his schooling, helping him to see that as he grows older he can study and work to become a forester. This tells Thomas that he is special to his parents and shows their love and care for him.

A part of giving each child space to grow in is helping the child to know where his space ends and the space of another starts. In a garden there is a special space for each kind of seed being grown. There may be beans and corn and cabbage. Each has its own space but is still in the same garden. There may be some plants that even share the same space, but this needs to be carefully planned. This is true in the home. Each person has his space for growing. The rights of other family members should be respected. When a child is allowed to disobey or get in the way of another's space the growth is slowed down. This is why family discipline is important. Children need rules and guidelines to follow so that they can live happily with others.

Children need proper food for growth. The small and growing plants in your garden get plenty of care, water, and sunshine which help them to grow into strong fruit bearing plants. As a parent, you will need to see that your children have daily spiritual food to become strong Christians in the Lord. You do this through your daily actions and through daily teaching.

Christian parents need a strong faith in God and a commitment to his purposes for their family. As you prepare for Sunday worship you are training your children to respect Sunday as a day of rest and worship. Family worship each day will help the children learn the importance of reading the Bible, singing praises to God and praying together.

As each of your children reach the right age, you will want to share with them how to become a Christian. One of the greatest joys you can have is to see your children accept Christ as personal Saviour. Then you can continue to lead them into a closer walk with Christ.

There are problems and difficulties in all families. Have you ever seen a garden that did not have a single weed? No,

Below are a list of words that describe different kinds of homes where children grow and live. Circle the words that tell about the home of Augustine and Dorista.

a big house	costly furniture	a small house
love and caring	friendliness	quarreling
sharing	kindness	selfishness

Which words tell about the care of Augustine and Dorista's family? They did not have a very nice or big house, but used the small house they had lived in for years. They were a loving family, caring for each other's needs. Because Dorista and Augustine were friendly and kind to others, the family had many friends. Although they did not have much, they were always happy to share with others. Dorista and Augustine provided a good home for their children to grow and live in.

Children need space to grow in. Just as seeds need the right amount of space to become plants, children need good space for growing. Each child is a special creation and gift from God. Each child has special needs. All want to be loved and treated as an important person. You, as a parent, need to take time to show each of your children that he is special to you and that you love him. Look for his gifts and talents and help him to develop them. Encourage him to think for himself and set some goals to reach. Even the smallest child can do this with careful leading. Let's look at Thomas in Dorista's family.

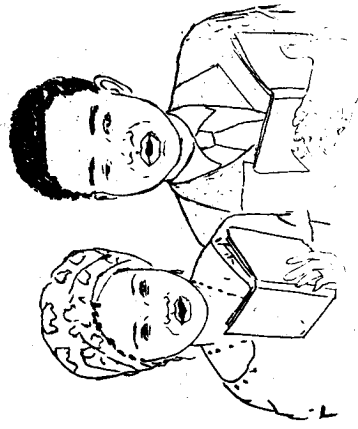
Thomas is the second child of Augustine and Dorista. Their children are good children and usually obey their parents. Both Augustine and Dorista try very hard to help and encourage their children. They want them to be responsible to their duties and be kind and thoughtful of one another.

Their son, Thomas, is 12 years old. He does not always follow the directions of the parents or like to be with his brother and sisters. He spends much time in the forest and loves all of the animals and bugs.

How can the parents encourage and help Thomas? Check the two answers you think would help Thomas.

- _____ 1. They can tell him he needs to be working on the farm and not playing in the forest.
- _____ 2. They can work out time for him to help at home so he can have time to spend in the forest.

CHAPTER 3 MY MARRIAGE



But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.

Mark 10:6-9

BIBLE STUDY: GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE

The verse from Mark 10:6-9 is one of the most well known verses to Christians. It is read at many Christian marriage ceremonies. It is the basic foundation of the Bible teaching on the Christian marriage between two believers. This is God's wonderful plan for companionship for Christian men and women.

As a pastor's wife, it is very important for you to understand the plans of God. The first chapter was about God's plan for each of his creations. Each person is created to be special and it is God's desire that all men be saved. God has a plan for each of his chosen people. As a Christian, you are chosen to be God's child and inherit eternal life. You have learned that God calls all Christians to serve him. Every Christian is Christ's ambassador. God calls some people for a special ministry in serving Christ. This is why your husband is a pastor. God called him to serve him and minister to his people. This is why you are a pastor's wife; God chose you to serve with him in his ministry.

The purpose of today's study is to give you the basic foundation of marriage as planned by God and taught in both the Old and New Testaments. It is to help you, as a wife and a pastor's wife, understand your responsibilities to your husband as taught in God's Word.

Marriage was established by God from the beginning. Open your Bible to Genesis 1:27-28 and read these two verses. God's plan for marriage begins with the creation of man and woman. In Genesis 1:27-28 we read that "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." After God created man he said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him," Genesis 2:18. So God showed his love for his creation and made woman to be man's helper and companion.

God completed his plan for marriage between man and woman in giving them the pattern for making their marriage strong and secure. Read Genesis 2:21-24. This is the pattern given by God for man to follow. Look at verse 24 again. This gives the three steps that should be followed for a marriage to have a good foundation: to leave, to be united as husband and wife, and to become one. "A man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and they will become one flesh." The first step is that of leaving. The previous home is left and a new one is begun. The second step is that of becoming united. With this union man and woman agree to be husband and wife. They are now to follow the third step. They are to be one flesh. No longer are they two people from two families, but through this final union they are to be completely one. This union is called marriage for it is an agreement between a man and a woman to become one. It is holy because it was planned by God.

A Christian marriage is an agreement between two believers to leave their homes, unite as husband and wife and become one. There are many kinds of marriages in today's world. Customs are different in many parts of the world. Different religions have different types of marriage ceremonies. There are also differences in the way many Christians are married. Some Christians are married in a special service in the church. Others are married in their village. And still others are married in a government ceremony.

What is a Christian marriage? The New Testament teachings explain that a Christian marriage is an agreement between two believers to become husband and wife. Christ himself reaffirmed God's plan for marriage. Turn in your Bible to the New Testament. Read Mark 10:6-9, the memory verse for this lesson. This teaching is the foundation for a Christian marriage. God's Word very clearly says that "at the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his mother and father and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." This is an agreement between a man and a woman to leave, to unite as husband and wife and to become one flesh. They are now joined together as husband and wife in the eyes of God. Jesus teaches that this union is lasting and is not to be broken. Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:14 encourages believers to marry believers. This is the ideal for a Biblical marriage between Christians.

A Christian marriage should be in the church where the family of believers can come together for the ceremony and the church can bless the marriage. In many African countries Christians want to have a church wedding, but the cost of the wedding often prevents it. The church family should help and encourage all who want to have a church wedding. But the Bible does not say that it is not a marriage if it does not take place in the church.

These same steps can be followed in growing a happy family. This does not just happen, but it takes constant planning and daily work to grow a loving family. Look back at the memory verse for this lesson. It tells us that a good woman works hard to take care of her family. She is like the gardener, planning and working. You are to be like that. You are to plan and care for your family. There is no time to be lazy and idle. Your harvest will be the love and praise of your family, your children and husband.

How does a pastor's wife grow and manage a happy family? You can follow the four steps that the gardener followed. The gardener grew seeds but you will be growing your children. You can 1) provide a good place for growth; 2) see that there is sufficient space to grow in; 3) give the right food and support necessary; 4) remove the weeds as they come.

Children need a good place to live and grow. What makes a home a good place for the family to live in and grow? Let's visit Augustine and Dorista again. He is a village leader and pastor of the small church there.

Augustine and Dorista were very happy that their church called them to pastor the membership. When the association of churches had their seminars and meetings, Augustine and Dorista both went. They enrolled in a Bible Study Correspondence Course to help them grow as Christians and lead the church. They wanted to serve Christ and use their gifts and home for helping others.

The church did not have a house for the pastor, so Augustine and Dorista stayed on their farm. Their house was very small and made of mud and poles. Augustine had kept a good grass roof on and had plans for putting on a better tin roof when there was money for it.

The women and young girls liked to visit Dorista. She was a happy person and always made them feel welcome. Her children played happily with others, often playing "home" or "church". Dorista helped her children to make a clean play area under a tree. Sometimes the children would have Sunday School, one teaching a Bible story, another leading the songs.

Dorista's home was always clean and neat. The older children helped to sweep around the house and there was always a clay pot with fresh river water for guests.

Sometimes Augustine would bring in a traveller or a beggar and Dorista would welcome him to their meal of rice and beans. Sharing with others was a habit with them and even the children would help friends in making toy trucks or a rag doll. Although the family of seven were crowded in the three rooms, there was always a place for another.

REVIEW

As you review what the Bible study has taught, you have studied five teachings on the home that can help you as a parent and a pastor's wife.

1. Children are a gift from God.
2. Parents have God-given responsibilities to love, care for, teach and train their children.
3. Children are to follow God's laws to honour and obey their parents and to love and serve God.
4. All family members are to love and respect each other, working together to fulfill their responsibilities.
5. The pastor and his wife have a special responsibility to manage their home well and to be a Christian example.

As parents you are to be good examples so that your children may see your love for God and know your love for them. You are to provide for your children's needs, helping them to be a part of your home. Your children need your love, care and guidance. If you are willing to follow the teaching of God's Word, then you will be able to grow a happy, loving and caring family.

ME AND MY FAMILY

Now we come to the discussion on how you as a pastor's wife and mother can grow a happy, loving family. Building and growing a happy family can be like planting and growing a garden. Have you ever had a garden? Let's look at the steps a good gardener takes to have a fruitful harvest. The gardener first needs a good, clean place for his garden. He prepares the soil, carefully taking out all the rocks and weeds which would keep the small seeds from growing and taking root. As the seeds are planted and begin to take root, he sees that each seed has space for growing. The plants receive regular water and sunlight so they will grow. Often they need support for their stems so that they will not fall over. As weeds come up, they are quickly removed so the plants will not be harmed. Finally, after much hard work and lots of care, comes the harvest. With the harvest before him, the gardener knows that all his work, time and planning were worth the effort.

Love is the key to the Christian marriage. God's Word tells Christians that love is the key to serving him. It is also the key to the marriage relationship between husband and wife. This is one of the most remarkable teachings of the New Testament. Paul compares the relationship between husband and wife to that between Christ and the church. Open your Bible to Ephesians 5:21-25 and read what God's Word says.

The Bible teaches that it is God's plan for man to be the head of the wife, just as it is God's plan for Christ to be the head of the church. This is a wonderful picture of the Christian life both in the church and in the marriage! As the Christian is ONE with Christ, so is the husband ONE with his wife.

Think about the love that Christ has for his believers, who are his church. His love was so great that he left his home in heaven to come to earth. Christ so loved us that he died on the cross for our sins. But his love went even further, for with his resurrection he gives us a place in heaven with him as we submit ourselves to him. This is the kind of love husbands and wives are to have for each other.

Let's look briefly at the two commands given to husbands and wives.

1. "Wives submit yourselves to your husbands". The word "submit" is often misunderstood. To submit means to "freely give" or "to choose to give". In the Bible, the word to submit means to "voluntarily give or obey in love". The Bible says that the Christian believer gives himself to Christ, the head of the church, in loving obedience. The person who wants to become a Christian freely chooses to give himself to Christ. He does this because he loves Christ. All Christians are to love one another. All Christians are to submit to one another. These same relationships carry over in Christian marriage.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:21-22, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives submit yourselves to your husbands as to the Lord." Wives are to choose to give themselves to their husbands because of their love and respect for their husbands.

2. "Husbands love your wives". The Bible also says that every husband must love his wife as himself. Read Ephesians 5:25. Each husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. The love of Christ for his church is a giving, caring love. So should the love of the husband be for his wife. One cannot really separate the words "love" and "submit". As you study the picture of Christ's relationship to his church, you see that there must be both submission and love. As we read on in

Ephesians 5, verse 33 says that the husband "must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." Thus, we have a complete plan for the relationships in a Christian marriage. Love, giving of one's self in submission, respect: these are all part of the commitment of the husband and wife to each other.

REVIEW

This then is the Biblical teaching on marriage. God created woman for man because it was not good for man to live alone. She was created to be his helpmate. God's Word very clearly gives the foundation for a Christian marriage between two believers: man is to leave his old home to begin his new one; man and woman are united as husband and wife; they become one flesh, no longer will they be two.

The New Testament gives a beautiful picture of the relationship between husband and wife. It is seen in the example of Christ giving himself in love for his church and his church responding in obedient, self-giving love. In a Christian marriage both the husband and wife give of themselves to each other in love.

In this study on marriage, you have learned five important Biblical teachings on marriage. Let's list these:

1. God established marriage when he created man and woman.
2. God saw that it was not good for man to live alone, he needed a helper. So woman was created.
3. God's plan for a Christian marriage between believers is for man to "leave" his home, "unite" with his wife, and for the husband and wife to "become one".
4. The New Testament teaches that the relationship between a husband and wife is to be the same as that between Christ and his church. It is one of self-giving love.
5. Wives are to submit to their husbands as husbands are to love their wives.

I AM A WIFE

You have just read the teachings from God's Word about marriage. In the discussion today you will look at your marriage. The marriage of a pastor and his wife should be an example to others. You, a pastor's wife, need to know God's teaching on Christian marriage. This will help you to have

the teaching of his mother and grandmother and became a faithful servant of Christ. His training began as a young child. Paul says to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:15, "from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures...." Timothy, a servant of Jesus Christ, remembered his creator and the teaching of the Word from his home.

Others in the home. Although the study for this lesson is mainly about the relationships between parents and children, it is good to remember that there are often others living with the family. Sometimes there are homes without children. Throughout the Bible there are examples given of God's servants and their families. Aquila and Priscilla served Jesus together, opening their home for Paul and the early believers. There is no mention of children. Some families have relatives living with them, aunts, an uncle, cousins. Peter's mother-in-law lived with him and his wife. Yet God's Word shows through the examples of families serving him, that each member shared in working together, serving the Lord and fulfilling his responsibilities.

A pastor and his wife have special responsibilities. 1 Timothy 3:4-5. One of the qualifications for becoming a church leader is that the pastor be able to manage his family. What does this mean? This means that a servant of Christ follows the teaching in God's Word. Through being faithful to these teachings, a pastor with the help of his wife will lead his family in the ways of Christ. As his wife and children follow his direction and leadership, their home will be an example to others. His children will be obedient and respectful.

One day a pastor's wife was teaching in a youth meeting. One of the members was the daughter of a new pastor in a nearby village church. As she was talking to the girl, she asked how her parents were. With a soft answer she replied, "It's so different now, my father comes in every evening and our family reads the Bible together. He takes time each day to sit and talk with me about God and we pray together." It was easy to see that this teenager respected her father.

Proverbs 31:27 speaks of a Godly woman and says, "she watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness." Although the care of the children is to be shared, a pastor's wife will often have to carry out the tasks given her by God. It is the wife who most often sets the atmosphere in the home, for the husband, for the children, for others. The home and family of the pastor is to be an example for all to see. It is like an open Bible for others to read. Many who look at the family and home of a pastor will not be Christians. They will be influenced by exactly what they see. If a pastor's wife manages her home well, works hard, and shows kindness and love to her family, God will be honoured and "her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

their love, taking time with each child, listening to him, hearing what he is saying, touching him with hands and heart to heal his hurts, being with him in times of need. Parents teach, in love; care for, in love; discipline, in love.

Responsibilities of the children. As parents teach the Word of God at home, their children are learning how God's Word teaches them to act. As parents care for and love their children, the children are also learning to honour and respect their parents. With loving direction from their parents, children can learn and fulfil their duties in the home. What does the Bible say that these duties are?

Open your Bible and read Ephesians 6:1-3. Paul gives two duties that children are to fulfil. Let's study these two.

1. **Honour your father and mother.** Ephesians 6:2. The first duty is that of giving honour and respect to parents. This is one of the ten commandments and does not change. Children are very quick to take on the habits and attitudes of their parents. When they see love and respect for God and man in their parents' daily life, they will learn the same love and respect. If a mother and father are honest and fair with their children in the home, they will be honoured by their children.
2. **Obey your parents.** Ephesians 6:1. This command from God's Word goes together with the responsibility to honour the parents. Children need to learn that they are to be responsible to their mother and father. There will be guidelines to help the children become a part of the family. It is the parents' duty to give fair and clear directions to their children. It is the duty of the children to be obedient to these directions.

Children need to be taught early in their lives that love and peace in the home come as each family member shares in carrying out his responsibilities. This teaching begins when a child is very small. He is given work to do in the home and learns to obey. As he grows, his understanding grows with him. Being obedient to his parents and sharing in the work of the family are both an important part of his growth and development from a child to an adult.

3. **Remember your Creator in the days of your youth.** Ecclesiastes 12:1. Parents are to teach their children to love and honour God, to follow his commands and to grow in his Word. This verse clearly tells the young that they are to keep these teachings from their youth. Children who grow up feeding on the Word will live by the Word.

One of the best examples we have of a young child taught in the Word is that of Timothy. He grew up under

a happier marriage. Many Christians have a confused idea about what marriage is. Marriage is an agreement between a man and a woman to unite and become one, giving of themselves to each other in love. It can be a ceremony in the church, a civil ceremony or a tribal ceremony. A Christian marriage is an agreement between two believers to become husband and wife and is binding as God's word teaches.

It is very important that you and your husband follow God's teachings for a Christian home and marriage. Because your husband is a pastor, many people will look at your marriage and your relationship to each other. Your home should show a happy, Christian marriage. As a pastor's wife your relationship with your husband should teach others that marriage is a commitment of love between a husband and wife.

In most ways, your role in marriage as a pastor's wife will be like that of any Christian wife. You will seek to follow the Bible's teachings on marriage and have a happy relationship with your husband. It is your responsibility from God to respect, love and submit to your husband. Let's look at a few Bible teachings and discuss some ways you can apply them in your married life. What are a wife's duties in marriage?

A wife is one with her husband. The Bible says that you and your husband are to become one. What does this mean?

1. First, you are to become one flesh. This means that you share your body with your husband. You do this because you love him and he loves you. You can enjoy giving yourself to your husband. God created marriage for this pleasure. Wives who deny their husbands this oneness in sharing their bodies often have problems in their marriage. You need to lovingly care for your husband and his needs. If you do not, you are encouraging him to meet his needs outside of God's plan and will.
 2. Second, you are to become one mind. How can you do this? The best way is by talking to one another. Many husbands and wives say only words without really "talking". Talking is sharing your thoughts and ideas. Make time to sit down with your husband and talk with him. Tell him you want to share about things that are important to you and him. Talk about your home, your activities, the children, the church. Share your ideas in serving God, what you read in the Bible, what you learned at church. But talk to each other.
- If you have not done this, begin by following these three steps: 1) find a quiet place where you will not have any interruptions 2) find a time when the children are resting or out playing 3) find a time when neither of you is busy.

Becoming one mind is also listening. You need to hear what your husband is telling you. Listen to what he says and try to understand what he means. Listen to what he does not say. Sometimes this tells you something very important. If he comes in from church visitation and you begin yelling about his being late, he may just turn around and walk out. What has he just told you? That he does not like to hear you yell. People often speak very loudly with their actions.

They also speak loudly with their silences. If you tell your husband that your son has brought in a very poor grade in his school work, he may not say anything. He may just sit very quietly, or get up and walk around. You must ask yourself what is he saying: is he disappointed? is he sad? Talk, listen and understand so that you may become one mind.

3. You can also become one heart. What does this mean? As you become one body and as you become one mind, you grow closer together. You understand each other better. Your joys soon become your husband's joys. His hurts become your hurts. You begin to share your inner feelings with each other. Love begins to grow and your heart's desire is his heart's desire. How can I work on this, you ask? As you talk and listen, you learn what gives him pleasure. If he delights in bringing guests into your home, you can delight in having guests. As you see him sitting down to read the Bible, you can enjoy sharing in reading God's Word.

A wife loves her husband. The Bible teaches you that you should love your husband. Love is a very special relationship that people have. Love is a growing relationship. Many husbands and wives did not even know each other before they were to be married. Their families chose for them to be married. Other husbands and wives knew each other, began to love one another and made plans for marriage. However your marriage started, it is important for love to be planted and nurtured and grow. How do you show love?

God's Word teaches that you should submit to your husband who is head of your marriage. Submit means: give yourself freely to him in love. The heart of the word "submit" is love. As a Christian, you give yourself in love to Christ. You submit to Christ. As you submit to your husband, you are to do so with that same kind of obedient love. You do this of your own choice because you love and respect him. If you look at Christ to see how he heads the church, you will see that he does it with love. Your husband is the head of your home, just as Christ is the head of the church. He is to love and give himself for you. As his wife, you respect and accept his decisions because you know that he also loves and respects you. Submission is a shared relationship of love.

It is not easy to do this in today's world. Jobs often do not pay much. Education is costly. Clothing and food use up a family's income very quickly. Parents must plan wisely how they are to care for their family. Needs should be written down and carefully discussed. The most important items on the list will need to be taken care of first. Good budgeting and planning are necessary for every parent. There is no time for being lazy and idle, but each parent must share in the task of providing for daily needs.

Parents also need to consider the size of their family. Good planning is important as husband and wife look at their abilities in providing for the children they have. With the rising costs of bringing each child to adulthood, parents should seek help and counsel from family planning groups. There are some in every community now. A wise pastor and his wife should be aware of ways available to help them plan their families. This will help them fulfill their command from God to care for the needs of each child.

3. **To train them to be obedient and respectful.** Many parents find it hard to discipline a child in the right way, but the Bible says in Proverbs 23:13 "do not withhold discipline from a child". Every child will need some rules to follow. The parents must agree on these rules and then be consistent in seeing that they are followed. They can follow God's example. God gives his children rules to follow so that man can live in peace with God and with his fellow man.

Life is governed by rules and when the rules are broken, there is punishment. The family must also set some basic rules to follow. These should be clearly set forth so that the child will learn how to live in peace with his family. By following these guidelines, he is being prepared for becoming an adult. Parents must work together in setting up family rules and responsibilities so that their children can be taught in love. Children need to understand that each one in the family should share in the work of the home. They should be taught the reasons for the rules and the results in breaking them. Rules are given to protect them from harm and to teach them God's laws for living in peace with others. God's Word says that "he who loves him (his child) is careful to discipline him." Proverbs 13:24b.

4. **To love them as Christ loves us.** Each parent loves his children, but not every one shows his love to his children. Each child needs to be shown daily by acts of love and kindness that his parents love him. Christ showed his love for his own by his acts of kindness. He took time to be with his disciples, to listen and hear, to touch and heal, to be there and comfort. So should parents show

One of the clearest pictures of a loving parent is found in Genesis 33:5. On meeting with his brother Jacob after many years, Esau asked Jacob, "Who are these with you?" and Jacob answered as a loving, grateful parent, "They are the children God has graciously given your servant." Jacob knew that his family were a gift from the God he served.

Parents have God-given responsibilities to their children. Marriages which have been blessed with children have also been given a responsibility both to God and to the children. God's Word gives careful instructions for parents to follow. They are to teach their children the Word of God; to care for their children's daily needs; to train their children to be obedient and respectful; and to love their children as Christ loves them.

1. **To teach them God's Word.** Read Proverbs 22:6. This verse should be memorized by every Christian parent. This gives the foundation for raising children beginning with their birth. It says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Many parents make the mistake of waiting until a child reaches a certain age, then they begin to plan for teaching and training their child.

When does a child begin to learn? At birth! That's right. He learns the sound of the mother's voice. He learns that by crying he gets his milk. He learns when to sleep and when to wake. As the baby gets older he discovers his hands and feet and learns how to use them. When his parents keep repeating the same words to him, he learns to say those words. And so the small baby becomes a child, and then a youth, learning all the time.

He also learns by imitating the actions of his family and carefully puts into his mind the attitudes shown by his parents. It is by the parents' attitudes and actions that a child is taught. It is also by what they say. For this reason God says for parents to live and teach His word to their children throughout each and every day. "Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Deuteronomy 6:7. Christian parents are to teach their children the truths in the Word of God and their responsibilities to God and to man.

2. **To care for their daily needs.** Parents have the pleasure of providing for each of their children as they bring them into the world. 2 Corinthians 12:14b says, "children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children." It is the responsibility of the parents to see that the children's needs are met. They must be well fed, have clothing for their bodies, get a good education, be taken care of during illness.

How can you show your love for your husband? Accept your husband as he is. When there are disagreements, do not hold a grudge, but be willing to forgive. You can show your love for him by trusting him. A pastor must be away from home often, visiting in many homes, attending meetings. Make your home a happy place for him to return to where he can relax and rest and study. Be alert to the moods of your husband. When he is discouraged, comfort and cheer him.

There are many small things you can do to show your love. Do things that please him. Cook his favorite food. Be clean and neat around him. You can do things that show you care for him. Mend his clothes, and wash and iron them. See that his books are kept in a safe place, protected from the children, from bugs and dust. You can do something special just for him. Save some of your money until you have enough to buy him a new shirt. Always keep in mind that a wife loves her husband.

A wife helps her husband. God's Word teaches that a wife was created as her husband's helper. As a pastor's wife, you have a special responsibility in your marriage to help your husband. What are ways you can be a helper to your husband in his work?

1. Fulfill the duties that you both have agreed are yours: caring for the house, the garden, the children, the food and clothes. This will show him you are willing to be his helper if he can depend on your help in these areas.
2. Be faithful to your husband. He will often be away from home. Make certain your relationships with other men are not misleading. People believe what they see. A pastor's wife must be very careful in this matter.
3. Be loyal to your husband. As a pastor's wife you will hear complaints and perhaps accusations against "the pastor" from church members or from neighbours. Do not join them in their talk. If there is any truth in the comments, go to your husband and share with him your concern and discuss ways to make things right.
4. Support and encourage your husband in his work. Pray with him and for him. Discuss ways you can help him. Praise him for the good messages and guidance he gives. Share in his goals for his work. Listen to his difficulties and encourage him. At times you may need to offer criticism, but be certain it will help him. Pray about it first, then kindly share with him what needs to be said.
5. Read the Bible and pray together each day. This will be your greatest help in building a Christian marriage. It will strengthen your relationship to God and to each other. It will give you daily counsel and guidance.

There are many ways, as a wife, you can help to build a happy marriage. These are just a few to put you on the right path. For a few minutes let's see how our friend Joici is doing in building her marriage.

Joici was very pleased with the help she was given in understanding her role as a pastor's wife. She made a new commitment to God and to her husband to be a good and loving wife and to help her husband. Together Mathayo and Joici began to study God's teaching on their call to minister to others. Mathayo was very patient with Joici as she began to take a greater part in his work. They began to talk more about his work.

Joici soon discovered that her relationship as a wife was most important. When she heard about a Seminar for Wives of Pastors, she asked her husband if she could attend. At first Mathayo said no, because who would care for the children. Then after she talked with him and made plans for her mother to come, he agreed. At the seminar she learned many new things about herself and how she was to help her husband. She was very excited when she returned home.

For some months things went very well. Joici worked hard to care for Mathayo, seeing that his needs were cared for. When he was gone for a week, she had time to visit with some of the women in the church. There was a lot of gossip, and they began to talk about some of her husband's long trips asking her where he went and what he did. When she went home she began to think about their questions, and doubts entered her mind. Mathayo was several days late coming home. By this time, Joici was angry. She was not sure she could really trust him. Many men who went away from home were unfaithful to their wives, maybe he was no different. After quarreling, Joici decided to take the children and go back to her parents for a visit.

Read the following list of ways to build a marriage. Draw a circle around the ways Joici followed to help her husband. Put a line through ways which she did not follow.

- a wife fulfills her duties in the home
- a wife supports her husband in his work by talking and sharing with him about his responsibilities
- a wife is faithful to her husband and does not go with other men
- a wife is loyal to her husband and does not listen to gossip
- a wife reads the Bible and prays with her husband
- a wife talks with her husband and works out the problems

CHAPTER 4 MY FAMILY



She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her...

Proverbs 31:27-28

BIBLE STUDY: GOD'S PLAN FOR THE HOME

What a wonderful verse of praise Proverbs 31:28 is! Every wife and mother inwardly desires to have her children and her husband feel this way towards her. This verse should be the desire of any woman, especially a pastor's wife, who loves the Lord and her family. All that you have learned about your role as a pastor's wife will give you encouragement and help as you seek to grow a loving, caring family.

The pastor's wife should be a woman led by God to prayerfully accept her responsibility as the wife of a pastor. She accepts herself and her role to be a servant of Christ. As she grows in her knowledge of God's teachings, she should be committed to building a Christian marriage and growing a happy family.

In today's Bible study and discussion you will continue your journey as a Christian woman and as a pastor's wife. Our scripture readings will guide you as you learn God's plan for the home and family. This study will give the Biblical guidelines for raising children in the home and help you as a pastor's wife to make your home an example for others.

Children are a gift from God. Just as it was in God's plan for husband and wife to become one, loving and respecting each other, it is also God's desire for husband and wife to "be fruitful and multiply". Genesis 1:28. Children are a part of God's plan and a gift from God. Throughout the Bible there are verses that tell of God's love for his children who were created to bring him honour and joy. So is it with man. Through love husband and wife bring their children into the world that they might bring joy and honour to their home..

Open your Bible and read Psalm 127. These verses tell of the importance of letting God build the home. Families who serve God and live by his Word receive his blessings. The Psalmist says in verse 3 "sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him."

Bible Verses to be written here:

Which responsibilities did Joici follow? She really tried to be a faithful, helping wife. She did her work in the home, cared for her husband's needs. She had time to talk with him about his work and prayed with him. But Joici was too quick to listen to the gossip and doubts of others. She began to mistrust her husband. When she talked with him, she did not work the problem out, but ran away from it.

As a pastor's wife, you must be careful and not listen to gossip. You need to trust your husband, and when doubts come, talk with him about them. It is your responsibility to build up your marriage with love and trust. Let's review the lesson for today and the steps you can follow to have a happy Christian marriage.

REVIEW

With the creation of man and woman came God's plan for marriage. After God created man, he saw that it was not good for man to be alone. Man needed a helper. So woman was created. Both were made in the image of God. (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:18,22) Then God gave man the foundation for marriage. Man is to "leave" his home and "unite" with his wife to make a new home and they are to "become one flesh". (Genesis 2:24). When Christ came he reaffirmed God's plan.

The New Testament teaches that marriage is an agreement between two believers. It is to be a lasting agreement between them, not to be broken by anyone. (Mark 10:6-9, and 2 Corinthians 6:14). It is a commitment before God. It should be blessed by the family of God whether it takes place in a church service or in the village.

In Paul's teachings to the Christians, he told them that all Christians are to "love one another" and to "submit to one another". These teachings apply also to the Christian marriage and the relationships between husband and wife. He compares the relationship in marriage to the relationship of the church. Ephesians 5 gives a beautiful picture of the relationship between a husband and his wife. As Christ loves the church and is head of the church, so the husband loves the wife and is head of the wife. There are two words Paul gives for the husband and wife: wives are to "submit" to their husbands and husbands are to "love" their wives. But the key to Christian marriage is love which both give freely to one another.

Every wife has responsibilities in building a good marriage. A wife is one with her husband, one flesh, one mind, one heart. She loves her husband and is caring and forgiving. A wife helps her husband in his work and in the home. A pastor's wife also has a responsibility to make her marriage an example for others to see, showing that it is a loving relationship between husband and wife.

ACTIVITIES TO HELP ME GROW

1. You have made a marriage commitment to your husband, just as he has made a commitment to you. Put your names in the right spaces in these verses from Mark 10:7-8. "For this reason a man, _____, will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, _____, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one."
2. Put a check under the answer which best tells how you relate to your husband. Be honest with yourself.

	every _____ a few time _____ times times _____ times
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- a. I happily agree to be one body, one mind and one heart with my husband.
- b. When my husband is discouraged I try to make him feel happy.
- c. If my husband is late for a meal, I have his food saved and ready.
- d. I take time each day to sit and talk with my husband about his work needs.
- e. I accept my husband's decisions without complaining.
- f. I try to praise my husband when he preaches a good sermon.
- g. I keep my family problems to myself and do not talk about them to others.
- h. When there is a problem between us, I talk with my husband about it.
- i. I forgive my husband when we have disagreements.
- j. I try to do one thing each day to show my love for my husband.
- k. I trust my husband when he is out on trips or visiting homes of others.

Did you answer the comments honestly? If you did, you will have some checks in each line: ways you act all the time, others sometimes, and still some only a few times. Go back and circle the actions that you need to improve in your marriage and look for ways to do this.

3. The Bible teaches that a Christian marriage is an agreement between two believers to follow God's teaching on marriage and that this is a lasting agreement. Do you believe this? _____ If you and your husband did not have a church wedding but were married in a village ceremony, do you both accept this as a marriage? _____ If you answered "no", talk with your husband about this. Discuss how you can accept it if it has been a problem to you. Here are some suggestions you can follow.
 - 1) If you would like to have a church wedding, you may do

so. It does not have to be a big wedding, but can be a small ceremony for your family and close friends. Make it a time to commit your marriage to God and have him bless it.

- 2) If you are uncertain about this teaching, go to an older pastor or Bible teacher and ask his counsel.
- 3) It may be that after studying this teaching you and your husband agree that the Bible teaching does not say that a Christian marriage must be in a church. Perhaps you both were not Christians at the time, or one of you was a Christian. Both of you may have been Christians, but were not able to pay the cost of an expensive ceremony. If this has been a problem to you, you may make things right. Both of you can kneel right now and pray together and commit your marriage to God asking him to bless it. You may do this in the quiet of your home or your church.
4. Cut out the card for Chapter 3 and memorize the verse for this lesson. Go back and review the other verses. Say them to your husband or children. Write them down on the page following your prayer.

MY COMMITMENT

Today you have studied the Bible teachings on marriage. You have learned ways to build a better marriage and make your marriage an example for others. Write down two commitments you want to make as a pastor's wife to improve marriage relationships with your husband.

1. _____
2. _____

MY PRAYER

Dear God, I thank you for my marriage and the relationship I have with my husband. Thank you for your teachings to help me as a Christian to follow your plan in my marriage. Please help me to be a good and loving wife to my husband. I ask you to give me your Holy Spirit to guide me as I try to follow your word. Forgive me for the times I have not been loving and forgiving. Lead me to be a caring wife and have a happy Christian marriage. In Jesus' name, Amen.