

**WEEK 2: FIVE HELPS FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**  
**DAY 1: USE KIND WORDS**

1. Last week we learned two things that must be true of both husband and wife in Christian marriage.

What are these things?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

What things does Genesis 2:24 say are needed to complete a marriage?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Both husband and wife must be Christians. Both must have good fellowship with God. They must leave their parents. They must cleave to each other. They must be one. Today we will learn:

(1) A Christian family must use kind words.

(2) We can get strength from God to use kind words always.

(3) Psalm 19:14 shows us how to have kind speech.

Take your Bible now and read Psalm 19:14. What comes from our mouths that should be acceptable to God?

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3. Our words should be acceptable to God. Many marriages begin well with a feeling of oneness. The new husband and wife want to please each other. They enjoy being together. But after a few months this begins to change. Daily home life seems to spoil their oneness. But this is not God's plan. He wants the two to continue to be happy with each other. He wants their home life to be a blessing.

Have you seen married people who seemed to lose their oneness and love?

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Why do you think they changed? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Talk together in class about this. In daily home life we find many problems and troubles. Families who are not Christians follow their own feelings and earthly wisdom. But in Christian home life we must obey God in everything we face.

What book should a Christian family follow so they can use kind words always?

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5. They should follow the Bible. They should obey it in their daily lives. There are five things a Christian family should do in daily life. We will study these this week. Today we are learning the first one.

- (1) Use kind words.
- (2) Do daily work as for Jesus.
- (3) Have good goals.
- (4) Love as Jesus did.
- (5) Forgive one another.

Look at the five things again. If a family does these things will their home life be happy or unhappy?

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6. It will be happy. The husband and wife will keep their oneness and love. These five things are from the Bible. They are God's plan for happy home life.

Think about using kind words. Our words are very important. What we say and hear changes our thoughts and feelings. Hard words stir up anger and sadness. Kind words make us happy and peaceful.

Where are kind words needed, as we are learning today?

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7. Kind words are needed at home. But sometimes in family living we do not want to use kind words. We want to show anger. We want others to know we are not pleased. Our feelings make it difficult to speak kindly. We must ask God to help us rule our feelings and thoughts. By his help we can speak as he wants us to. David prayed about this.

**Psalm 19:14**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Whom did David ask to help him think and speak rightly?

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Memorise this prayer of David now. When you can say it without looking, hide it and write it here. Psalm 19:14:

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8. David asked God to rule his thoughts and his words.

Today, how can we get strength to feel and speak as we should?

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What kind of words are needed in Christian family living?

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9. We can ask God to help us speak kind words. Kind words are needed in the home. Many people can speak kind words outside the home. They want to be known as wise and pleasing people. But they do not speak well at home. As Christians we should always speak kindly. Others speak kind words to please men. Christians should speak kindly to please God.

Why is it sometimes difficult to speak kind words at home?

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10. Perhaps you wrote that we are angry or tired or have some kind of trouble. Here is what Paul wrote about our words.

**Ephesians 4:31-32:**

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another.

In this verse there are many kinds of speaking which a Christian must put away. Write three of them.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Bitterness is not forgiving. Wrath is like anger. Clamor is loud shouting. Slander is lying about another person. Malice is hate. We should put away these things. Instead we should speak kind words.

Who can make us able to speak as we should?

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12. We must ask God to help us speak as we should. We should speak kindly to our wives or husbands. We should speak as kindly to our children as we do to other people. It is difficult to speak kindly when we are in a hurry or tired or worried. But God can help us. When you feel tempted to use hard words, stop and pray. Ask God to help you speak as you should.

Why should Christians want to speak kind words?

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13. They want to obey God. They want to please him. Some people speak angry words trying to change others in the family. A wife may speak hard words to her husband if he does something she does not like. A husband may shout at his wife if she forgets to do something. But angry words usually do not change another person. The Bible says that man's anger cannot do God's work. Angry words cannot make others good.

**James 1:19-20:**

Know this, my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, for the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God.

Can angry words change another person's heart?

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What do angry words do to the oneness of a husband and wife?

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14. Angry words cannot change another's heart. Angry words spoil oneness. We need to speak well at all times. We need to speak kindly when we correct our children or another family member. Correctly kindly but clearly is better than speaking hard, angry words.

What kind of words must we always use in our homes? \_\_\_\_\_

15. We must use kind words. God says that our words must be true as well as kind. Lying words are not kind words.

Ephesians 4:15:

Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow. . . .

Ephesians 4:25:

Therefore, putting away falsehood (or lying), let every one speak the truth with his neighbor.

Kilonzo knew that if he told Musimi the truth, Musimi would be unhappy. So Kilonzo told him a lie. Is it right for a Christian to lie so that he can speak kindly?  
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16. This is not right. We are commanded by God to speak the truth in love. Sometimes it is difficult to speak the truth. A wife may tell her husband a lie to keep him from blaming her for breaking something. Parents may lie to a child to get him to stop crying.

How can we get strength to speak the truth when it is difficult?  
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17. We can ask God to help us. He will help us speak the truth kindly. We can ask him for wisdom to speak so that others understand our words in the right way. We can ask for courage to speak the truth.

Read Ephesians 4:15 again in your Bible. How does this verse tell us to speak the truth?  
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18. We should speak the truth in love. Think of the words you have spoken to your family this week. Answer these questions, but do not write the answers. Did you speak kind words? Were they always true? Did they make oneness between you and your husband or wife?

**19. What is the first thing needed for Christian family living?**

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**How can we get strength to use these words always?**

**Write Psalm 19:14 to show how our words should be.**

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**WEEK 2: FIVE HELPS FOR THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY**  
**DAY 2: DO OUR DAILY WORK AS FOR JESUS**

1. This week we are studying things which a Christian family should have in their daily life. Write the first, which tells what kind of words we must use. Then read the rest.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Do the daily work as for Jesus.
- (3) Have good goals.
- (4) Love as Jesus does.
- (5) Forgive one another.

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2. We must use kind words. Problems of daily living often spoil our oneness. This is not God's plan. He wants us to live daily so that we grow in oneness and love. The Bible tells us how to do this. Today we will learn what the Bible says about our work:

- (1) We must do the daily work as for Jesus.
- (2) We must think of all of our work in this way.

Open your Bible now and read Colossians 3:17 to 25. Our lesson today comes from these words, so keep your Bible open. Put a mark here when you have finished reading.

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3. Sometimes we forget that these verses are written especially to families. To what family members are these verses written?

3:18 \_\_\_\_\_ 3:19 \_\_\_\_\_

3:20 \_\_\_\_\_ 3:21 \_\_\_\_\_

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4. They are written to wives (3:18), husbands (3:19), children (3:20), and fathers (3:21). Sometimes family members are unhappy with their work. They may feel it is not important. They may complain about doing it. They may be angry at the one who caused the work. They may do it carelessly, or they may even fail to do it. This will bring problems into home life. It will hinder oneness and love.

Read Colossians 3:23 again. Who should all family members serve in their daily work?

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5. They serve the Lord. This means Jesus. The verses are talking about the daily work of family living. They mean cooking, cleaning, washing, plowing, planting, and caring for children. The common acts of every day are important before God. They have value to him. Doing them well is a way to serve the Lord Jesus.

Now read Colossians 3:17. From this verse, how much of our work should be done to serve Jesus?

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6. We should do everything for him. This means all of our work every day. Therefore we will want to do it well. Work in the home is important to God. He accepts it as service to the Lord Jesus.

Mrs. David swept her house. She also swept outside around her house. As she worked she knew that God saw her and valued her work. She worked carefully, thinking of pleasing her Lord.

Who was the Lord for whom she was doing her work?

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7. Her work was done for Jesus. Her peace and joy made her home life good. Some think that we can work for Jesus only in the church. They think that Sunday is the day we work for Jesus. Yes, we can work for Jesus in the church on Sunday. But the church is not the only place. Sunday is not the only day.

In what other place does Jesus want us to work for him every day?

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8. He wants us to work for him at home. He wants us to do our daily work for him. When a wife is cooking, she can do it as if she is cooking for the Lord. When a man cares for his family, he can work as if he is doing for the Lord.

For what Lord is our daily work to be done?

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9. It is to be done for Jesus. We are learning five things a Christian family should do. They should have these things in their daily life. The first one is: (1) Use kind words.

In the second one, what does Jesus want us to do for him?

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10. He wants us to do our daily work for him. When we are Christians our whole lives belong to God. Every day is a day to serve him. Sunday is the day we gather together to worship the Lord in church. But in our homes we can serve him each day. We can do our daily work for Jesus.

If a Christian woman cleans her house well thinking of the Lord, for whom is she doing her work?

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11. She is doing her daily work as for Jesus. When we know that our daily work is important, we do better work. Jesus wants us to do each of our daily jobs well. He is interested in the way we care for small children. He sees how we cook and clean. He cares about the way we farm or teach. He sees how we care for our animals.

We have learned two things that a Christian family should do. Read the first and write the second.

(1) Use kind words.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

12. We need to (1) Use kind words and (2) Do the daily work as for Jesus. Men as well as women should do their daily work for Jesus. The verses in Colossians which we read tell how men should act. The verses speak to husbands, fathers and masters.

Read Colossians 3:19 in your Bible. What does this verse say husbands should not be?

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13. Husbands should not be harsh with their wives. Jacob was carpenter. He worked at his shop each day. One day the leg of a chair at home was broken. His wife asked him to fix it. Jacob did not think that caring for things at home was important. He forgot to do it for some days. Then he was harsh with his wife about it. He said, "It is your fault. You should take better care of the house." Finally one day he brought his tools and fixed it. But he was in a hurry and did not make it look nice.

What do you think Jacob's actions did to his oneness and love with his wife?

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14. I think his actions spoiled their oneness. The way we do things in daily life is important. Jacob should have been ready to fix the chair. He should have done it well. He could have done it as if he were fixing it for Jesus to sit in. Our homes belong to Jesus. When we work in our homes we are working for him.

How much of our work should be done to serve Jesus?

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15. He wants us to do all of our daily work for him. He wants us to work for him every day. Remember these words.

Colossians 3:23-24:

Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ.

From this verse, who will reward you for doing all your work well?

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16. The Lord will reward you. You are doing the work for him. Knowing this will help us do our work well.

Helen's husband worked in the city. She was often left at home with all the work. She felt sad. She felt that her husband did not see how important her work was. She often did her work carelessly. Then she learned that her home work was important to God. She learned that her daily work was to be done as for Jesus. She learned that the Lord would reward her.

How do you think she did her work after that?

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17. She did her work well. She was happy. Doing her work for Jesus changed the way Helen felt. It made her home life much better.

Think of some of the things you do each day. Write three things you do.

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Now ask yourself these questions: How have I been doing my work? Do I do it in any way just to please myself? Do I do it carelessly because I do not like it? Do I do it in an angry way? Do I do it to please the Lord Jesus? Does my daily work help family oneness and love?

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18. Write the first two things needed for Christian family living.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

How much of our work should be done as for Jesus?

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**WEEK 2: FIVE HELPS FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**  
**DAY 3: HAVE GOOD GOALS**

1. We are learning five things needed for Christian family living. Write the first two. Then read the rest.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

- (3) Have good goals.
- (4) Love as Jesus does.
- (5) Forgive one another.

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2. The first two are: (1) Use kind words. (2) Do daily work as for Jesus. Today we want to study the third thing needed for Christian family living.

(3) Have good goals.

We will learn two goals that a Christian family should have:

- (1) To seek first the things of God.
- (2) To serve others.

How much of our work should be done to serve Jesus?

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3. All of our work should be done to serve Jesus. We can serve him in many ways. Think about a goal. A goal is something that we work for because we want it. Some people have good goals. A young person might have the goal of finishing secondary school. He works hard to finish. But some have wrong goals. A man might have the goal of being rich. He works very hard to get more money.

What kind of family must have good goals?

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4. A Christian family must have good goals. You want your family to be Christian. Therefore your family must have good goals. The Bible tells us two goals that a family should have before any others. Read them again.

- (1) To seek first the things of God.
- (2) To serve others.

Do you think that the goals of a Christian family will be the same as those of a worldly family?

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5. I think the goals of a Christian family should be different. A worldly family will follow the goals of their own feelings. They will follow other people. But a Christian family will get their goals from the Bible.

This week we are learning five things needed for Christian family life. Write the third one. (1) Use kind words. (2) Do daily work as for Jesus.

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

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6. We should: Have good goals. The Bible tells us what these goals should be for a Christian family. We should (1) Seek first the things of God.

Take your Bible now and read Matthew 6:30-33. From these verses, whose things did Jesus say we should seek first before food and clothes?

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7. We should seek God's things. This is the first good goal that a Christian family should have. Jesus spoke these words to people who were working very hard for food and clothes. They were so busy with these things they had no time to think about God.

What did Jesus tell them to seek first before food and clothes?

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8. He told them to seek first the things of God. Andrew owned a shop. Because he was a Christian, he did not sell beer or cigarettes. One day a salesman came and tried to get Andrew to sell these things. He showed Andrew how much more money he could make. He told him how many new customers he would get. Andrew listened. Then he answered, "I know I could get more money. But I put obeying God ahead of getting money. God does not want me to sell things that hurt the lives of other people." So Andrew refused.

What was Andrew's goal? Was it to get money, or to seek first the things of God?

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9. His goal was to seek first the things of God. Andrew's shop continued to do well, even without beer and cigarettes. God blessed him and protected him. Andrew did not become a very rich man. But he had what he needed for a good life for his family.

What will God do for us if we seek his things first?

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10. He will give us the things we need. We may not be rich, but we will have what we need. And we will have his blessing in our family life.

But some families do not put the things of God first. They do not have good goals. A man may have the goal of getting power over his enemies. A woman may have the goal of getting nicer clothes than anyone else.

What do you think happens to family life if the husband's big goal is to get much money?

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11. Be ready to talk about this in class. Perhaps you wrote about quarreling, or that the husband is always away from home. Wrong goals can spoil family living. A Christian family needs good goals.

A certain family wanted much schooling. They wanted learning more than they wanted God and righteousness. When the children were grown, they had many years of school. But they turned away from God. They were sometimes drunk and took other men's wives. One was put in prison for stealing money in a government post.

What did this family lack? Write it as the third thing needed for Christian family living.

- (1) Use kind words.
- (2) Do daily work as for Jesus.
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Love as Jesus does.
- (5) Forgive one another.

12. We should: Have good goals. We have studied the first good goal that a family should have. (1) Seek first the things of God.

Read about these people. Write Yes beside those who are putting the things of God first. Write No. beside those who do not put God first.

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Silas plowed his land on Sunday. He did not have time to go to church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Isaac gave much of his time to help young people in his church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Benon agreed for his daughter to marry a rich man who was not a Christian.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Pius put his own pleasures before his work as a father.

13. (1) No. (2) Yes. (3) No. (4) No.

What should be the first good goal for a Christian family? \_\_\_\_\_

14. The first good goal is: (1) Seek first the things of God. Now here is the second goal for a Christian family: (2) Seek to serve others.

We find this teaching in Mark 10:42-45. Read these verses in your Bible now. When you have read them, put a mark here \_\_\_\_\_. From Mark 10:45, why did Jesus come?  
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15. He came to serve and give his life. Jesus was teaching his disciples to be leaders. He told them they should be like him. They should not try to get others serve them. They should really try to serve others. Every Christian should have the same goal Jesus did. We should: Seek to serve others.

The husband is the head of the family. If he has this second goal, what should he want to do for others in his family?  
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16. He should want to serve them. We are learning two good goals that Christian families need to have. (1) Seek first the things of God. (2) To serve others.

How many people in the family should have these two good goals?  
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17. All should have these goals. The husband should be like Jesus, the Head. He should seek to serve rather than be served. The wife also needs the goal of serving others. She should not serve others because she is forced to do so. But her goal and desire should be to serve them. She will be happy to do things for others, especially her own family.

Which goal should a husband and wife have--to be served, or to serve others?

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18. The husband and wife should both be happy to serve others. If the wife is tired, the husband will be ready to help her. If the husband is tired, the wife will be happy to help him. This is the way Jesus wants the family to work together. Then the family life will be good. It will continue to build oneness and love between the husband and wife.

Write the second good goal which a Christian family should have.

(1) To seek first the things of God.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

19. The second goal is: To serve others. A husband may think that work around the home is too low for him. Even if he is doing nothing and the wife is tired, he does not help. He feels that he married his wife to care for him. Remember this verse.

Mark 10:45:

But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant.

What did Jesus say a leader should be?

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20. A leader should be a servant. Think of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. He did the work which a servant should have done. He was the leader, but he served them. In family living, small children need much care and love. This is hard work. Sometimes children need care when we are busy with other work. Sometimes they make our clothes dirty as we care for them.

Do you think that comforting a two-year-old child is too humble a work for a father?

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21. Be ready to talk about this together. In a Christian family everyone should be ready to help and serve the others.

Think about these questions. Does your family living show good goals? Is there anything you are putting ahead of the things of God? Do you have the goal to serve others? Or do you try to get others to serve you? Stop now and pray about this.

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22. What is the third thing needed in Christian family living?

- (1) Use kind words.
- (2) Do daily work as for Jesus.

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

What are two good goals that a Christian family should have?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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**WEEK 2: FIVE HELPS FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**  
**DAY 4: LOVE AS JESUS DOES**

1. Christian family life needs five things. Write the first three. Then read the others.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Love as Jesus does.

(5) Forgive one another.

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2. The first three are: Use kind words. Do daily work as for Jesus. Have good goals.

What are two good goals that we should have?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Two good goals are: To seek first the things of God, and to serve others. Today we will study the fourth thing needed in family life.

(4) Love as Jesus does.

We will learn two ways in which this love will show:

(1) In actions

(2) In inner feelings

Jesus gave a command to his disciples. It is a command for our Christian family life too.

John 13:34:

Love one another, even as I have loved you.

We should love others in our families as much as Jesus loves us. At the end of his time on earth, what did Jesus do to show how much he loved us?

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4. He died for us. He sacrificed his own life to help us. This is how family members should love each other. They should give of themselves. Loving as Jesus loves will make family life peaceful. There will be little quarreling or selfishness. There will be helping and oneness and love. Then daily family living will make the oneness between husband and wife strong.

The fourth thing needed in family life tells what we should do as Jesus does. What is it?

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5. We should love. We should love as Jesus does. People often show love to those who please them. They show love to those who give something to them. But the love of Jesus is different. He shows love to those who are his enemies. Jesus died for us while we were sinners and were disobeying him. The love of Jesus is happy to give. He does not only love those who give to him.

Think carefully about this. If a father loves as Jesus does, will he love a child who does not obey?

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6. Yes, Jesus loves us all the time. He sacrificed himself to save us from sin. The love of people alone is too weak for daily living. It fails when it meets hard problems. Love from man can only love good people.

It is not easy to love a child who disobeys. It is not easy to love a wife who refuses to help her husband. It is not easy to love a husband who always speaks hard words. The love of people will fail in these problems.

We need to love as who loves?

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7. Our love should be like the love of Jesus. Problems come in daily family living. Our own love can grow weak. There is only one who can give us the right kind of love. That is God himself. We can ask God to put the love of Jesus in our hearts. Then we can love others as Jesus does.

What is the fourth thing needed in Christian family life?

- (1) Use kind words.
  - (2) Do daily work as for Jesus.
  - (3) Have good goals.
  - (4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (5) Forgive one another.
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8. We must: Love as Jesus does. Love like the love of Jesus will show in two ways.

- (1) In actions
- (2) In inner feelings

Both actions and feelings are important. We should do good things that show love like the love of Jesus. Our inner feelings should show love like his too.

In what important place should we especially show love, besides in the church?

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9. We should show love in the home. We should show it in our daily family living. In our homes the love of Jesus will help us do good actions. We will do good even to one who is unkind or cannot help himself. Here is an example.

Grandmother had lived with Agnes and Peter for four months. Often she spoke crossly to Agnes. Grandmother was feeling bad because she had to leave her old place of living. Often her unkind words hurt Agnes. Then grandmother became sick and could not get up. But Agnes cared for her each day with love. She washed her and changed her clothes. She cooked soft food. She spoke kindly to her.

What kind of love did the actions of Agnes show?

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10. Her actions showed love like the love of Jesus. She showed good actions to one who was not kind to her. Love like the love of Jesus shows itself in two ways. Inner feelings are not enough. Love must show in our actions too.

Elijah's wife had been sick for some months. She had surgery in the large city hospital. Now she was back at home. She was very weak and tired and could not do any work. She sometimes spoke crossly to her family. Yet Elijah was kind and gentle to her. He helped her and cared for her with love.

Love like the love of Jesus shows itself in two ways. Write the first and read the second.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) In inner feelings.

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11. The love of Jesus shows itself: (1) In actions (2) In inner feelings. We ought to have good actions of love in our homes. But actions are not enough. Our inner feelings must have love like Jesus' too. God sees our inner feelings as easily as he sees our actions. Our inner feelings need to go along with our actions.

The love of man is not strong enough to show feelings and actions of love always. How can we get the love we need?  
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12. We can ask God for it. When our own love fails, we can ask God to give us the love of Jesus. The love of Jesus in us can show good actions to one who is unkind. The love of Jesus is ready to give without getting. Even in our inner feelings we must have love like the love of Jesus.

Who can plainly see all our inner feelings?  
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13. God can see this. But some people think their inner feelings are known only to themselves. They secretly feel anger or hate or bitterness or jealousy. But God calls these sin even though they are only felt in the heart.

James 3:14:

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

Where does this verse say these sins are?  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. These sins are in people's hearts. Some people think that heart feelings do not matter if they do good actions. But this is not true. God tells us to kill wrong feelings. We are to put on inner feelings of love from God.

There are two ways in which love like the love of Jesus will show. Write the second.

(1) In actions

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

15. The love of Jesus must show in actions and in inner feelings. God does not want Christians to hide bad feelings. He wants us to get rid of them. We should dress ourselves in the love of Jesus.

Charles was angry at his wife. She had failed to do some of the farm work and had lost some profit. But Charles tried to hide his anger. He said smooth words as they talked. But inside he was angry and bitter.

Write Yes by the words which are true. Write No by the words which are wrong.

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Charles did right to hide his anger and pretend he did not care.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) God was pleased with what Charles did.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Charles should have got rid of his anger.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Charles should have asked Jesus for love for his wife.

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16. (1) No, he could not hide it from God. His wife also probably saw that he was angry. (2) No, God was not pleased. He can clearly see anger and bitterness. They are sins. (3) Yes, Charles should have put away his anger. (4) Yes, he should have asked for love like the love of Jesus.

What kind of love can show in our actions and in our inner feelings?

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17. This is love like the love of Jesus.

How can we get this love?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. We can ask God for this kind of love.

What are the five things needed in Christian family life?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) Forgive one another.

What are the two ways in which the love of Jesus must show?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_
-

**WEEK 2: FIVE HELPS FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**  
**DAY 5: FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER**

1. Write the first four things we need to do in Christian family living.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) Forgive one another.

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2. We need to: Use kind words. Do daily work as for Jesus. Have good goals. Love as Jesus did.

What are two good goals for Christian family members?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. We should seek first the things of God, and serve others.

What are two ways in which the love of Jesus must show?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_

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4. The love of Jesus must show in actions and in inner feelings. Today we will study the fifth thing needed for Christian family living. We must:

(5) Forgive one another

In daily family living forgiving is very important. Things happen which hurt others. Bitterness and anger can easily come between family members. This is not God's plan. God tells us what to do when trouble comes between people.

Colossians 3:13:

forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Read the verse three times. Think carefully what it means. What should we do when we have a complaint against another?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. We should forgive. To have a complaint means we have a reason to blame someone. That person has done something to us. It is something which hurts or makes us unhappy. He has done something which offends us.

Now read Colossians 3:13 again in your Bible. From this verse, why should we forgive someone who has offended us?

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6. It is because the Lord has forgiven us. He has forgiven our sins. This verse is especially important for family living. We are thinking about Colossians 3. This is the chapter which we studied earlier this week. It is written especially for families.

Now read Colossians 3:8 to 17 in your Bible. Put a mark here when you have read it.

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7. These verses tell us how to live well in our families. They tell what to do when we have difficult problems. They tell us how to act when another has offended us.

Colossians 3:8:

now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice (or hate), slander (or lies about others), and foul (or evil) talk from your mouth.

We must forgive one another in the family. What does this verse tell us to put away?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

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8. We must put away anger, wrath, hate, lies, and evil talk. When another offends us we must not answer back with these bad things. Colossians goes on to tell us what we should do. We must be patient and forgive even when another has hurt us.

Colossians 3:12-13:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other.

Besides the church, in what important place should we be forgiving one another?

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9. We should do this especially in the home. Perhaps this is the hardest place to be kind and patient. In the home it is easy to be harsh and angry. But these sins are from our old nature. We are told to cut them off.

Instead, what should we do to someone who offends us? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. We should forgive him.

Write the last thing needed for Christian family living.

- (1) Use kind words.
- (2) Do daily work as for Jesus.
- (3) Have good goals.
- (4) Love as Jesus does.

(5) \_\_\_\_\_

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11. The fifth thing is: Forgive one another. Someone may offend another without meaning to. We should be kind, humble gentle, and patient. We should forgive. Or someone may offend us on purpose. In either case we should forgive him.

Why do you think it is so hard to forgive one who offends us? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Be ready to talk about this. Perhaps you said: Because we are angry. When we are offended, we usually become angry. But God tells us to put off anger and put on patience and forgiveness. We should put off pride and put on humility. This will stop bitterness and hate from coming into daily family life.

If we truly forgive another person, will we try to pay back the offence? \_\_\_\_\_

13. No, to forgive means that we do not try to remember the offence. We put on patience and kindness. We forgive because the Lord has forgiven us. One time Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive. He asked whether he should forgive his brother seven times.

Matthew 18:22:

Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."

That means 490 times. Jesus meant that we should never stop forgiving one who offends us.

Try to write answers to these questions. How many times should a husband forgive his wife for burning the food?

How many times should a wife forgive her husband for things he says?

Is it right for me to become bitter against someone who offends me 100 times?

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14. We should forgive as many times as we are offended. Of course, others should try not to offend us. But our work is to forgive. People cannot forgive in this way unless God helps them. Jesus is our example and his power gives us strength to forgive.

Susan's husband treated her badly. He went to bars and used their little money for drinks. He offended her in other ways too. Susan often felt like being angry. She felt like paying her husband back. But she asked God for help to put these things away. She asked for strength to forgive. God helped her and Susan was able to be patient. She was kind to her husband. She did not stop loving him.

Susan had a complaint against her husband. Instead of complaining, what did God give her strength to do?

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15. God gave her strength to forgive. Sometimes we may need to speak to a person to correct him. The Bible tells us how to do this in a good way.

Galatians 6:1:

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

Should you speak with anger when you correct someone who has offended you?

16. The Bible tells us to be gentle. We do not correct a person because we cannot forgive him. We speak to him to help him do right again. We should first forgive him in our heart. Next we should pray for gentleness and patience. Then we can speak to him.

Think of your home life. Perhaps there is someone who has offended you. Has this hindered your family oneness and peace?

Where can you get strength to forgive? \_\_\_\_\_

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17. We can get this from God.

Write the five things needed in Christian family living.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 
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