

WEEK 5: WORKING TOGETHER
DAY 1: WORK TO KEEP ONENESS

1. We have been studying God's commands to the husband and wife. God has clearly said what they must do. The husband must love her, honour her, not be harsh, and cleave to her. The wife must respect, obey and love her husband.

Where is the first and most honoured place that a woman should work?

What does God want the wife to make in her home? _____

2. The first place for a woman to work is at home. She should make good family life there. God has told the husband and wife how to live and work together. It is very easy for the two to lose their oneness. This takes much joy from their marriage. God wants married people always to enjoy their oneness. Today let us learn:

A husband and wife must work hard to keep their oneness.

When two marry, what do they become? _____

3. They become one. They leave their parents. They cleave to each other. God makes them to be one new thing.

When two marry they usually begin with a good feeling of oneness. They have good fellowship. But as time passes, their first oneness may be broken. The husband wants some things. The wife wants other things. They disagree. They continue to live together, but a wall may come between them.

Write something you have seen which has spoiled the oneness of a husband and wife.

4. You may have seen disagreements about money, place of work, care of children, or problems with relatives. There are many things which can cause trouble and spoil the oneness. This is the important teaching we are learning today: The husband and wife must work hard to keep their oneness.

Is it easy, or hard, for a husband and wife to keep their feeling of oneness?

5. It is hard. There are many things which can come between the two. God knows that it is hard. He tells us how to act during hard times that can spoil oneness.

Ephesians 4:2-3:

with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity (or oneness) of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

In this verse God tells us to be eager to do something. Here are two thoughts. One is right. The other is wrong. Put Yes by the right one and No by the wrong one.

_____ (1) We should be eager to get our own way and please ourselves.

_____ (2) We should be eager to keep the oneness of the Spirit.

6. No, we should not be eager to get our own way. Yes, we should be eager to keep the oneness of the Spirit. These verses are good for husband and wife. God has made them one. They should be eager to keep that oneness and have good fellowship. See the verse again.

Ephesians 4:2-3:

with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Take time now to memorise these verses. When you can say them by yourself, hide them and write them here.

Ephesians 4:2-3: _____

7. Think about the verses.

Write two things which we should have in order to keep oneness.

(1) _____ (2) _____

8. You wrote two of these: lowliness, meekness, patience, forbearing, love. God wants married people to have these in order to keep their oneness.

Henry and Margaret could not agree about how to use their money. Each tried to get his own way. They would not listen to each other. They become angry and refused to speak to each other.

In marriage, should we work to get our own way, or should we work to keep oneness?

9. We should work to keep oneness. There are many other good verses for husband and wife.

Take your Bible now and read Philipians 2:1 to 4. Here God tells people to have the same mind. Do you think God is pleased when husband and wife quarrel?

10. God wants them to agree, to be of one mind. He wants them to work hard to keep their oneness. He wants them to enjoy love and fellowship.

They should have oneness in mind and feelings. They should not be selfish or proud. They must care more about oneness than about getting their own way.

Should a wife try to help her husband get what he wants? _____

Should a husband try to help his wife get what she wants? _____

11. You should have answered Yes to both. God's word tells us to care about the interests of others. It tells us not to be selfish or proud. It is not easy for two people to have oneness. In our own earthly nature we want our own way.

What must we do to keep our oneness? _____

12. We must work hard to keep oneness. Here are some things two people can do to keep their oneness:

- (1) Talk plainly with each other.
- (2) Be open to each other's thoughts.
- (3) Work to find an agreeable answer.

We will learn these tomorrow.

Who must work hard to keep their oneness? _____

13. The husband and wife must do this. God wants them to agree on the plans they make. He wants them to agree on how to use their money. He wants them to agree on how to care for the children.

David and Ann disagreed about where their daughter should go to school. But they knew that God wanted them to agree. They talked plainly together. They listened to each other. They prayed about it. Then they found a very good answer that pleased both of them. Their daughter was happy too.

What did David and Ann work to keep? _____

14. They worked hard to keep their oneness.

Ndiesi and Mutua did not agree on how to teach their children. Mutua sometimes beat the children harshly. Ndiesi became angry at him. She would not talk to him. Mutua became stubborn too. Their disagreement was like a thorn to both of them.

What did they not have between them? _____

15. They did not have oneness. Think of Ephesians 4:2-3 again. Say it to yourself. Think of your family as you say it.

Are you and your husband or wife humble and patient with each other?

Are you working together to keep the oneness of the Spirit? _____

Perhaps you should stop and pray about this now.

16. What does God want a husband and wife to work hard to keep?

Write Ephesians 4:2-3:

WEEK 5: WORKING TOGETHER
DAY 2: WAYS TO KEEP ONENESS

1. This week we are studying how husbands and wives can work well together.

What should they work hard to keep? _____

2. They should work hard to keep their oneness. This is taught in many verses of the Bible. God wants husband and wife to enjoy life together. Today let us learn three steps a husband and wife can take to keep their oneness.



- (3) Find an agreeable answer
- (2) Be open to each other's thoughts
- (1) Talk plainly with each other.

Who must work hard to keep their oneness? _____

3. The husband and wife must do this. Let us see what they should do first.

(1) Talk plainly with each other.

When they disagree on something, they must share their thoughts. They should not keep silent about their plans. Some people make plans but never tell their husband or wife. They do not give their reasons for doing things. They want to get their own way without thinking what the other wants.

How should two talk together if they want oneness? _____

4. They should talk plainly. Each must tell clearly his real thoughts and plans. Remember that husband and wife are one body before God. Think what would happen in your own body if one part tried to hide things from another. If the arm tried to deceive the head, there would be trouble. If the head tried to deceive the body, there would be pain. A doctor would say that the body was very sick if one part hid things from another part.

Who made the husband and wife to be one? _____

5. God did. He wants the two to enjoy their oneness. As they talk plainly they will be taking a step toward oneness.

Benson did not tell his wife how much money he earned. He did not want her to keep asking him how he spent it. The wife thought he had more money than he really did. She asked him for many things. He became angry and refused to talk at all. She felt that he was deceiving her.

Did Benson keep trouble away by not speaking plainly? _____

6. He did not keep trouble away. Bitterness and distrust came between them. It would have been better for Benson to talk. He should have told his wife the truth about the money. That would have been the first step toward oneness.

Think again of what you have learned. Remember that the wife should accept the headship of the husband. She should respect him when he explains his thoughts and plans. She must think carefully. She must follow the way he leads.

If a wife has an unwilling spirit and refuses to talk plainly, will the two be able to keep oneness?

7. They will not. The wife must follow the commands God has given her. The husband must follow the commands given to him. He must be a head like Christ. He must lead in working to keep oneness. If two always talk plainly together this takes away doubt. Sometimes a wife refuses to obey because she does not trust her husband. Sometimes a husband is harsh because he does not trust his wife. He is harsh because he does not know what she is really doing.

What is the first step two people can take to help them keep oneness?



(1) _____

(2) Be open to each other's thoughts.

(3) Find an agreeable answer.

8. First they must: Talk plainly together.

Ruth was upset because her husband planned to change jobs., At first she did not say anything. Her husband did not know her thoughts He did not know why she was so quiet. Then Ruth talked plainly to her husband. She explained her questions and fears. Her husband was able to answer all her questions.

What step did Ruth take to keep oneness? _____

9. She talked plainly to her husband. Now let us see the next step.

(2) Be open to each others thoughts.

A husband and wife should be thankful for each other. The wife must respect her husband's thoughts. The husband must respect his wife's thoughts. God gave her to him to be a fit helper. God gave her wisdom to share with him.

To whose thoughts should the husband be open? _____

10. He should be open to his wife's thoughts. And she should be open to his, Margaret and Henry could not agree on how to use a certain sum of money. Henry wanted to buy some good cattle. Margaret wanted to make their kitchen better. But they did not want to disagree. So they talked together. Each explained clearly what he wanted. As Margaret listened to Henry she was open to his plan to buy more cattle. She agreed that this would be good. As Henry listened to Margaret he was open to her plan to make the kitchen better. They did not laugh at the other's thoughts. They saw that they were good, even though they could not do both.

How did they hear each other's thoughts? Were they open, or closed?

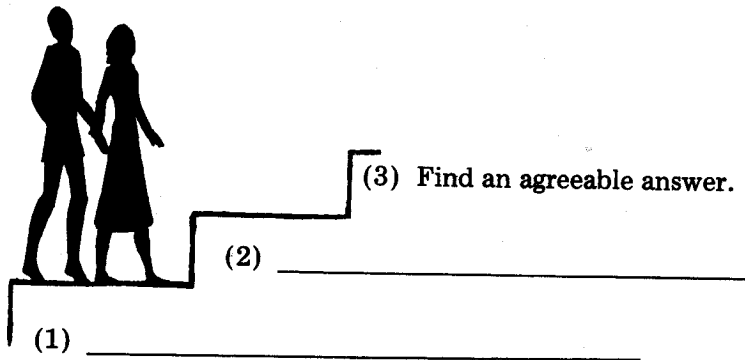
11. They were open to each other's thoughts. This is the second step to keep oneness. (1) Talk plainly together. (2) Be open to each other's thoughts.

Now let us look at the third. (3) Find an agreeable answer. Henry and Margaret did this. As they talked together both decided it would be better to buy cattle now. Later they would use money from selling milk to make a better kitchen. Henry had a way to put a new shelf in the kitchen immediately. This pleased Margaret. They both agreed in their plans.

What did Henry and Margaret keep by being open to each other's thoughts?

12. They kept their oneness. They took three steps to do this.

Write the first two.



13. We must: Talk plainly, be open to each other's thoughts, and find an agreeable answer. Finding a good answer means that both must try to agree. The wife must try to fit in with her husband's plans. The husband must be sure that he is caring for her well.

Should one person always try to get his own way? _____

14. No, the answer must not always be what the husband wants. It must not always be what the wife wants.

What kind of answer should they try to find? _____

15. They must find an agreeable answer. This means an answer which both can accept. It is an answer that keeps their oneness. Each new day may bring something which could spoil the oneness.

Gershom was the son of Silas and Miramu. One day Gershom was sent home from school. The teacher said he was being rude. This brought disagreement between Silas and his wife. Miramu thought it was Silas' fault because he did not teach the boy. Silas thought it was because the mother never punished Gershom.

What is the first step which these two should take to keep their oneness?

16. They should: Talk plainly together. Both the husband and wife will have to be humble and patient. They must not try to get their own way. They must not try to defeat the other. They must work hard to keep their oneness. They must find the best answer to their problem.

Silas and his wife talked together. They prayed for strength to be humble and patient. They prayed for wisdom to help Gershom. They talked plainly to each other. Each explained how he felt.

How should they be toward each other's thoughts? _____

17. They should be open to each other's thoughts. As Silas and Miramu talked, they began to see things more clearly. They saw that the father needed to help teach his son. They saw that the mother also should punish him sometimes. They made wise plans they both agreed to.

What was the last step they took to keep oneness? _____

18. They found an agreeable answer. Both could agree to the plan they chose. Remember Ephesians 4:2-3. Say it to yourself.

From this verse, write some things we must have in order to work hard and keep our onenes.

19. We need lowliness, meekness, patience, and love. Sometimes even after talking and being open, two cannot agree. Then the wife must respect and obey her husband's decision. She should follow her husband's plan. Or the husband may decide that they should follow the wife's plan. With prayer the two can usually find a way that is agreeable to both of them.

When there is disagreement between husband and wife, what three steps should they follow to keep oneness?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

WEEK 5: WORKING TOGETHER
DAY 3: SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE

1. Husband and wife should work hard to keep their oneness.

When there is disagreement, what steps should they take to keep oneness?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

2. The steps are: Talk plainly together. Be open to each other's thoughts. Find an agreeable answer. Today we will learn what husband and wife should speak.

- (1) They must always speak the truth.
- (2) They must speak it in love.

Truth is very important between people who want to keep their oneness. Truth is the foundation for trust.

When should Christians speak the truth? _____

3. They should speak it always. This is made clear in God's word.

Ephesians 4:25:

Therefore putting away falsehood (or lies), let everyone speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

From this verse, what should Christians speak? _____

What should they put away? _____

4. They should speak the truth. They should put away falsehood or lies.

Perhaps you are thinking that this lesson is very easy. It is easy to say (1) We must always speak the truth. (2) We must speak it in love. But it is much harder to do this.

Why is it sometimes difficult for a person to speak the truth? _____

5. Perhaps you wrote one of these: He may have done wrong and fears what others will say. He may want to keep something for himself. He may want to make others think he is better than he is. He may enjoy deceiving others.

Some people speak in whatever way they want. They serve their own purpose. When they have finished speaking, others think, "What is the truth here?" This is not God's plan. God wants oneness and trust between Christians. He wants this especially between husband and wife.

What does God tell them always to speak? _____

6. He tells them always to speak the truth. To speak the truth is one of the Ten Commandments. There are also many other verses where we are told to speak the truth always. Read this one again.

Ephesians 4:25:

Therefore putting away falsehood, let everyone speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

A husband and wife are the nearest neighbours of all. They are one body together. It is important that they honour their oneness by speaking the truth. Speaking truth is like the bone that holds their body together.

What happens to oneness if a wife finds that her husband has not told her the truth?

7. The oneness is broken, or it is hindered. The wife is angry. The lies make them lose trust in each other. The husband and wife are commanded to cleave to each other. They should trust each other. They must share the things of life together. Speaking the truth is a big thing which helps them cleave to each other.

What must the wife always speak to her husband? _____

What must the husband always speak to the wife? _____

8. They must always speak the truth.

Rhoda and Samson became Christians after they had been married for four years. Before they became Christians, they often hid the truth. They could not trust each other completely. But when they became Christians they changed. They agreed to tell the truth even when it was difficult. Now they knew they could always believe completely what the other said.

What command did Rhoda and Samson obey which made their oneness strong?

9. The command they obeyed was to speak the truth always. When Samson explained to Rhoda about their money, she knew she could believe him. When Rhoda told him something about the children, Samson could believe her. They told the truth even if they themselves had caused a problem. They did not hide the truth.

Should a husband tell the truth if he has given some extra money to his brother?

Should a wife tell the truth if she spoiled some clothes by her carelessness?

10. Yes, they must always tell the truth. But sometimes there are problems which make it hard to speak the truth. Harshness and anger make it difficult.

Musimi and Laeli had small children. One day while Laeli was in the garden, one child fell and cut her head. Laeli felt very sorry about it. She took the child to the clinic. It was a hard time for her. She wished she had taken the children with her to the garden. When Musimi came home he was very angry. He scolded Laeli harshly. "You are careless. Why don't you care for the children? Where were you when the child fell?"

Did his harshness make it easy, or hard, for Laeli to speak the truth?

11. It made it hard. Kindness, gentleness and love will make it easier to speak the truth.

Benson and Jane had good oneness in their marriage. They were kind to each other. One day Benson lent a friend some money even though Ruth needed it to buy food for the baby. The friend never paid it back. Benson told Ruth about it. He agreed that perhaps it was not wise for him to lend the money. Ruth did not become angry. She trusted Benson. She knew that he loved her and the baby, and would care for their needs. She knew he did not mean to waste the money. Benson and Ruth did not waste time blaming each other.

What did kindness and gentleness help Benson to speak? _____

12. It helped him speak the truth. Kindness and quietness help others. We should speak the truth in love. And we should hear the truth in love. If the wife becomes angry, it is difficult for the husband to speak the truth. Yet he must still speak it.

Speaking the truth may help to take away harshness and anger. Perhaps the husband is harsh because he does not know what is true. The wife also may feel angry because she thinks her husband is deceiving her.

How often are a husband and wife to speak the truth to each other in love?

13. They should speak the truth always. This will give a foundation for trust. Most of us know that it is wrong to tell a lie. Yet sometimes we still want to change the truth a bit. So we may tell half the truth, or we may speak words which have two meanings. Or we may hide part of the truth. Or we may just keep silent. Our words or lack of words may cause another to believe something which is not true.

Take your Bible and read Ephesians 4:25 again. What does this verse tell us to do with all falsehood?

14. We should put away falsehood. Christians must be people of truth. Here is another verse which speaks of this.

Ephesians 4:15:

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

Whom does this verse tell us to grow up into? _____

15. We should grow up into Christ. This means that we should grow to be like him. Different tribes have different ways to work out their problems. But Christians of every tribe must grow to be like Christ. We should follow his ways. This means that we should speak the truth even when this is different from our custom. But we should speak it in the right way. See the verse again.

Ephesians 4:15:

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him.

From this verse, how should we speak the truth? _____

16. We should speak it in love. Charles learned that he should always speak the truth. So when his wife made a mistake he told about it loudly.

He did not care how his wife felt. He often said proudly, "I always tell the truth." Charles has learned (1) Always speak the truth.

But what is the second thing about speaking the truth that Charles must learn?

17. He must learn: Speak it in love. Charles did not speak kindly. He did not care about the feelings of others. When we speak the truth about others we must speak it in love, caring for them.

Do you and your husband and wife have trouble speaking the truth?

Find a time to go over this lesson with your wife or husband. Agree that you will obey this lesson together.

18. What must the husband and wife always speak to each other?

How must they speak it? _____

WEEK 5: WORKING TOGETHER
DAY 4: WAYS TO TALK TOGETHER

1. What must the husband and wife work hard to keep? _____

What three steps should they take to keep it?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

2. The husband and wife must keep their oneness. They must: Talk plainly together. Be open to each other's thoughts. Find an agreeable answer. Yesterday we learned what they should speak.

What must the husband and wife always speak to each other? _____

How must they speak it? _____

3. They must speak the truth, and speak it in love. In God's sight the Christian family is a wonderful thing. The husband and wife are a picture of Christ and the church. The husband is to be like Christ. The wife is to be like the church. They are to enjoy fellowship with each other. Today and tomorrow we will learn four ways husband and wife can talk to each other.

- (1) They can share what has happened.
- (2) They can encourage each other.
- (3) They can speak their thanks.
- (4) They can warn each other.

Do your neighbours see you and your husband or wife having good fellowship, or do they see division?

4. I hope you could write that they see good fellowship. God wants two to enjoy being together. He wants them to share many things. A Christian family should be a living example to the world. It should show how much Christ loves the church. It should show how the church loves Christ. It should show how God wants Christians to live.

Stop now and think. What are your neighbours learning about God from the way you live together?

5. Perhaps it would be good if your neighbours could answer that question! Your neighbours should learn good things from watching your home life. Here is a true story.

A certain man married the girl he had chosen. They moved to the city to live. The wife became very lonely. The man complained to a friend that his wife was now very hard to live with. The friend tried to help him see that he should have fellowship with his wife. The man said, "I did not marry my wife to talk to."

What would you say to such a man? _____

6. Be ready to talk about this in class. Perhaps you would tell him that man and wife are like Christ and the church. And Christ wants fellowship with the church. Or perhaps you would tell him that God created Eve to be a friend to Adam. God did not make a brother or a male friend for Adam. God could have created Eve to be a servant, and then created another man to be Adam's friend. But God did not do that. Instead God created Eve from Adam's own flesh and bone. They were to share all of life together.

Do you think Adam and Even enjoyed talking together? _____

7. God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone. I am sure that Adam enjoyed talking with Eve. But some people find it hard to talk together. They do not know what to say. We are learning four ways that a husband and wife can talk together. The first two are:

- (1) They can share what has happened.
- (2) They can encourage each other.

Do you sometimes wish to share something that has happened to you?

8. To share what has happened is very important. A man and woman have different lives during the day. In the evening they can tell each other the things that have happened. They can learn to share the news they have heard.

Sharing what has happened is one of four ways that a husband and wife can do what together?

9. Sharing what has happened is one way they can talk together. In sharing this, one will talk while the other listens. It is important for a husband to know that he can share by listening to what has happened to his wife.

Helen went to visit her parents. When she returned home she brought her husband greetings from her family. She told him the news of her parents. Helen's husband listened in a good way. He was interested to know what Helen had seen and done.

What did Helen do to share what had happened? _____

What did her husband do to share what had happened? _____

10. Helen shared by talking. Her husband shared by listening. This gave them a good time of talking together. Simon often went to meetings and committees. One time he had to stay in the city for a full month taking a course. During that time he wrote a letter to his wife each week. He told her what was happening. His wife was very happy to get the letters. She told the children and other family members about them. They all prayed for Simon. His wife wrote and told him about the family.

If a husband must be gone for a time how can he still share? _____

11. He can share by writing letters. When Simon returned, he and his wife talked together. He told her about the work he had done. He told her about life in the city. His wife told him what had happened while he was gone.

What is the first way husbands and wives can talk together?

(1) _____

(2) They can encourage each other.

12. First, they can share what has happened. They can also share what they think and feel. It takes work to learn to share in a good way. But it brings great blessing. The wife should share with her husband by both telling and listening.

Can you think of something right now to share with your husband or wife? Write a few words about it.

13. Perhaps something happened in your work that was interesting. Perhaps the children said something you want your husband or wife to enjoy. Perhaps there is something from this book that you would like to share.

Sharing what has happened is a good way for husband and wife to do what?

14. Sharing is a good way to talk together. Now let us look at the second way. (2) They can encourage each other. Sometimes the husband or wife finds the troubles of life very heavy. He becomes discouraged and feels like leaving the work. The husband or wife can strengthen the discouraged one. They can speak good words that encourage.

Today we are learning two ways a husband and wife can talk together. What is the first way?

(1) _____

(2) They can encourage each other.

15. First they can share what has happened. But perhaps the husband has some troubles. He may become discouraged. His wife will see this. She can talk to him and encourage him.

What are some things that may make a husband discouraged? _____

16. Perhaps you wrote about lack of money, or a problem with his boss, or disease in the crops, or loss of a cow. A wife can speak kindly. She can remind him of other blessings. She can tell him of her love and prayers for him.

What is the second way that husband and wife can talk together?

(1) They can share what has happened.

(2) _____

17. They can encourage each other. Sometimes the wife may be discouraged. Perhaps she is too tired. Perhaps the children are sick and crying. Perhaps there is lack of money, or quarreling among the relatives.

How do you think a husband can encourage his wife? _____

18. Be ready to talk about this. He can talk kindly. He can remind her of their blessings. He can help her see the good side of her life. He can tell her of his love. It is a great blessing when husband and wife encourage each other.

Sometimes one or the other becomes discouraged in serving God. They may become tired of going to church, or teaching Sunday School or doing some other good thing. They need to be encouraged to keep on doing right. God's word tells us what to do.

Hebrews 10:24:

let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

Have you ever encouraged your husband or wife to do good works?

_____ Is there something he or she needs to be encouraged

in now? _____ What will you say to him or her? _____

19. In what ways can a husband and wife talk together?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) They can speak their thanks.

(4) They can warn each other.

WEEK 5: WORKING TOGETHER
DAY 5: MORE WAYS TO TALK TOGETHER

1. Some husbands and wives want to talk together. But they do not know what to say.

What are two ways a husband and wife can talk together?

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. These are some of the ways they can talk together:

(1) They can share what has happened.

(2) They can encourage each other.

(3) They can speak their thanks.

(4) They can warn each other.

Today we will learn the third and fourth ways.

Look at the third. What does it say we should speak? _____

3. We should speak our thanks. This means that we tell our husbands or wives the good things we like about them. Paul, the apostle, often spoke his thanks for his friends.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4:

We are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren, as is fitting, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

Do you think the church people were happy to hear that Paul thanked the Lord for them?

4. I think they were. It showed them that they were going on in the right way. I think this gave them courage to keep on going. Paul thanked God for the people. Then he told the people about it. He spoke his thanks to them as well as to God.

It is not enough to be thankful in our hearts. What should we do with our thanks to God and to people?

5. We should speak our thanks. In other verses Paul thanks the people for helping him.

Philippians 1:4-5:

always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership (or help) in the gospel.

Philippians 4:14:

Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.

Paul was not slow to speak his thanks to others. What is the third way that a husband and wife can speak to each other?

6. They can speak their thanks. Some do not give thanks because they think the other will stop working. A man once said, "If I say thank you to my wife, she will not go on helping me." This man thought that speaking thanks is like giving a school certificate. But this is not so. Speaking thanks gives courage to the other. It helps him continue in the right way.

Susan is thankful for her husband's good life. Do you think she should tell him so?

7. She should tell him. Perhaps she could say, "I want you to know that I thank God for you. I see the value of your kindness and clean living."

We are not afraid to say thank you to our friends. We know that thanking them will encourage them to go on doing good. But sometimes we are afraid to thank a husband or wife.

What can a husband say to thank his wife when she prepares food which he likes?

8. Be ready to share your answer in class. Perhaps he can say, "I am glad the Lord gave me a wife who is a good cook."

Ruth was a busy wife. She had much work at home. Her husband, James, did important work for the church. But Ruth thought, "I just stay at home with the children and the farm." James saw the value of Ruth's work. He knew that her good work made him able to work in the church. But he only thought about this in his heart. He never spoke the words to Ruth.

Which should we do—speak our thanks, or keep our thanks quietly in our hearts?

9. We should speak our thanks. Speaking our thanks is not flattery. Flattery means smooth words which are too strong, or which are not true. Flattery is used to get people to like us, or get them to do what we want. Christians should not use flattery. But it is good to tell someone what you truly like about him.

Think of something that pleases you about your wife or husband.
Write it here _____

Plan to speak your thanks to him or her.

10. We are learning ways in which a husband and wife can talk together.

Write the first three.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) They can warn each other.

11. They can share what has happened, encourage each other, and speak their thanks. There is also something else they can say. (4) They can warn each other. To warn means to help another avoid wrong and do right. Sometimes a husband or wife is tempted to sin. They begin to slip into a wrong way of thinking or acting. When this happens the husband and wife should gently warn each other. This may stop the other from doing wrong.

Hebrews 3:13:

But exhort (or warn) one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness (or lies) of sin.

From this verse, what should we do for one another? _____

12. We should warn one another. Remember that we must be gentle and humble when we warn each other. It is not to be done harshly.

Galatians 6:1:

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted.

One who warns should have what kind of spirit? _____

13. He should have a spirit of gentleness. Kamau worked in a certain shop. Sometimes the workers asked customers for extra money. Then they served them quickly. Kamau told his wife about this. His wife was troubled and prayed about it for some day. One day they talked together. Gently the wife said that she thought the Lord was not pleased about the extra money. At first Kamau was angry. But his wife remained quiet and gentle. Then Kamau agreed that he was not sure about the money. A few days later he told his wife about his decision. He would serve all customers as quickly as possible without asking for extra money.

What was Kamau's wife doing when she spoke to him? _____

14. She was warning him. She gently helped him so he did not become hard from sin.

What are four ways a husband and wife can talk together?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____

15. They can share what has happened, encourage each other, speak their thanks, and warn each other.

Peter was the secretary of a farmer's society. Sometimes he was discouraged about the way the members acted. His wife listened quietly to his troubles. He knew that she would never tell anyone the things he told her. His wife reminded him of the good things his society had done. She reminded him of how important his work was.

Which of the four ways of talking did Peter's wife use? _____

16. She encouraged him. Daniel and Margaret were talking about their older children. The two boys wanted to go to a dance at the community centre. Margaret thought it was not very bad. She wanted to be easy with the boys. But Daniel saw that it was not good. He gently reminded his wife that it would bring temptation and bad friends. Then Margaret saw that her husband was right.

Which of the four ways of talking did Daniel use? _____

17. He warned her. Think of the way you speak with your husband or wife. Read each question. Draw a line around the word that gives your answer.

How often do you share what has happened?

Often Sometimes Very few times

How often do you encourage each other?

Often Sometimes Very few times

How often do you speak your thanks?

Often Sometimes Very few times

How often do you warn each other?

Often Sometimes Very few times

18. Perhaps your teacher will want to see your answers and help you.

In what four ways can a husband and wife talk together?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____
