

The Third Generation

Book One

by

Sylvia L. Camp

"One generation passeth away,
and another generation cometh."—Ecclesiastes 1:4

Into God's World

Graded Literature Series

Published by
World Evangelism Foundation
for
Churches of Christ

Teen-age Girls' Study

Order From:

World Evangelism Foundation

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Winona, MS 38967

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Web Site: www.worldevangelism.org

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1

FROM GAMMA WITH LOVE

Lesson

Dear Becky,

Happy 13th birthday, honey!

I'm missing you today. The last time I called, I told you we may not be able to come for your special day. Papa tried to spare the time for a visit, but the wheat is ready. Harvest begins Monday and there's a lot to do yet.

A teenager! I can't believe that. It seems only a short while since you were born. Yet you've gone through babyhood, childhood, and now you begin the teens. My, how swiftly the years pass.

I want to tell you how much your summer visits mean to me. I thrill at our heart-to-heart talks. They help me know you as you change and as your personality develops. I learn what you like and dislike, who your friends are and what you hope to get from life. I love our comradeship as we do the dishes, take walks or sit in the porch swing. Our friendship means much to me — a treasure. I hope it keeps growing as long as I live.

This seems like a good time to talk about dating. I'd like to share some thoughts with you now, before you begin to go out with the boys. You probably know a young man already whom you like a great deal. That's to be expected.

**"Biblical
truths never
change."**

— Sylvia

I realize two generations separate us. Still, some things remain the same. For example, God's word, the natural laws He set in motion when He created all things and the love human

beings feel for each other. Such facts unite the generations.

Becky, you know I love you. I want you to have a happy, useful, productive life with as few regrets as possible. The way to accomplish this comes from following the guidelines found within the Bible. You probably know Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth..."

Religion is for young people as well as adults.

In some ways, I believe girls in my day received more care and protection in their homes than today's girls. Rules were strict. Even the young men received close supervision.

Discussion Question:

Do you think stricter rules are beneficial? Do they cause a rebellious attitude? Do parents have a right to know where their children are going and with whom, what they are doing, and to legislate when they are expected to be home?

I recall two things my parents used to say that made a powerful impact on my conduct and thoughts: 1) "Remember who you are," and 2), "A boy can go only as far as the girl allows."

Discussion Question:

Have your parents made such statements to you? What response does question 1 bring to your mind? * Positive? * Negative? * Are your standards high? * Do you say 'No' even under pressure and at the cost of 'popularity'? * Are you the one who sets the rules on a date? * Does your own respect for yourself generate respect from your date?

We were poor, but I received a rich Christian heritage. When my parents cautioned me to remember, it meant I must never do anything to disgrace God, the church or my family. My father stressed that conduct on a date must be such that no changes would be necessary even if Jesus went with us. He really does, you know.

Becky, does saying a boy can go only as far as a girl allows confuse you? It did me for awhile. I knew my physical strength in no way compared to that of a vigorous young man. Then my mother taught me that the problem amounted to this — I must guard and prove my character by words and actions, not by a test of muscles. In my mind I can still hear her say, “You are the one to set the standard of conduct on your date.”

My father often said, “Keep your hands to yourself.” My mother mentioned this frequently, “Act like a lady and you’ll be treated like one.”

Would you believe good girls in my day did no single dating until the parents knew the young man well and gave their approval? Until then they spent the evening at her home or made plans to go somewhere with another couple acceptable to her parents.

I’m sure all this sounds strange and even funny to you. It is quite different now. Yet, there’s much to be said for the basics in old-fashioned dating. There was respect for God, parents and self. The rules protected the modesty and purity of both the boy and the girl.

Discussion Question:

Do you think such restrictions would be a good practice today? What dangers do you see in very early dating and single-couple dating?

Today, people often judge all teenagers by a few rebels. I think that’s unfair. Many young people care and take pains to lead pure lives. They exercise self-control. Paul wrote to the young man Timothy, urging him to keep himself pure (1 Timothy 5:22).

"Kids make tough choices every day."

— Unknown

Becky, I know today's youth face more temptations than those of generations past. Now, the message on television and in printed materials is, "Do your own thing." Practically everyone has his own car, so he can come and go as he pleases. For boys and girls who want to live right, tough choices must be made every day.

Peer pressure is one of them. Nobody wants to be different, so often they do what others do even when they don't want to. If you wish, we'll discuss this more some other time.

Discussion Question:

Do you think you are influenced greatly
 some not at all, by television and movies?

Is peer pressure a factor in your decisions and behavior? your clothes? the music you prefer?
 your language? the habits you develop?

I look forward to hearing about your slumber party. I know it will be fun and a special memory always.

We hope you enjoy the birthday gift we chose. Happy Birthday!

We love you,

Gamma and Papa

Goal

With all her heart, Gamma wants to continue her close relationship with Becky. She intends to work as hard as she can to preserve the easy confidence Becky now shows in her.

Gamma knows as Becky matures and develops self-confidence, she'll begin making decisions for herself. She also believes that by using patience, care and love, her influence can give Becky the strength of character to say no to things which are the downfall of many young people. Teaching her the value of her physical body will be a safeguard for her soul.

Search the Scriptures

God included children in His plan for the home and for happiness. He commanded the first man and woman to multiply (Genesis 1:28). He gave children in answer to the prayers of barren women. Rebekah (Genesis 25:21), and Hannah (1 Samuel 1:10-20) are examples.

Solomon wrote that children are gifts from the Lord. He said they're like arrows in their father's hand. He added that a man who has a quiver full of them is happy (Psalms 127:3-5).

God intended that children be given attention because one left alone brings shame to his mother (Proverbs 29:15). He ordered that children must be taught His will (Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:7; 11:19). God knew Abraham would do that (Genesis 18:19). He also wanted the children to attend the congregational assemblies with their parents (Joshua 8:35; 2 Chronicles 20:13; Nehemiah 12:43; Matthew 21:15).

Paul wrote that obedience to their parents is required of children (Colossians 3:20), because it's the right thing to do (Ephesians 6:1). In verse 2 he said, "*Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise.*" He continues that the promise is this — that it will be well with them and they will live a long life (v. 3).

Teaching children includes obedience, love, respect and honor for parents and grandparents. They learn self-control as they absorb these lessons. This fits them to adapt to school and eventually the adult world. It enables them to live a well-adjusted life.

Children also must be taught the value of the physical body (1 Corinthians 6:19,20). We do not own our bodies because we have been bought by Jesus' blood. The Holy Spirit lives there. So we glorify God in them because we belong to Him. Romans 6:12,13 teaches that we control our bodies, not sin. We are not to use them for ungodliness but righteously for God.

Exercise Questions

1. The Bible names ways children can dishonor their parents.

Draw a line to connect the scripture and the way:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| a. despises mother | Micah 7:6 |
| b. strife in household | 2 Timothy 3:2 |
| c. disobedience | Deuteronomy 27:16 |
| d. stubborn and rebellious | Proverbs 15:20 |
| e. curses father | Mark 7:11 |
| f. lack of respect | Deuteronomy 21:20 |
| g. failure to provide | Proverbs 30:11 |

2. The Bible names children who were good but also some who were bad. Fill in the blanks with either the word good or bad, which correctly describes the children.

- _____ forty-two little children (2 Kings 2:23,24)
- _____ Timothy knew the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:15)
- _____ captive girl and her master (2 Kings 5:1-5)
- _____ lad gave lunch to feed crowd (John 6:9)
- _____ those who curse parents (Leviticus 20:9)
- _____ one who robs father or mother (Proverbs 28:24)

3. State your feelings about the relationship of a child and its parents as opposed to that of a child and its grandparents. Note:

Is there any difference? Which has the responsibility? authority? greater influence?

4. The Bible contains guidelines for the way women are to dress (1 Timothy 2:9,10). Define and discuss *modesty*. Can you name two biblical examples of modest women? See Genesis 24:65; Esther 1:11.
5. How does old-fashioned dating compare with modern dating in dress, conduct, places to go and hours kept?
6. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 gives a rule to follow on where to go, what to see and what to do. Explain this, please.
7. Do kids have tougher choices to make now than they did two generations ago? What are some of them?
8. Mark the following with a Y for yes, and N for no, and a Q if questionable as places where young people may go and please God.
 - a. _____ worship
 - b. _____ any movie
 - c. _____ dancing
 - d. _____ skating
 - e. _____ sports activities
 - f. _____ dating
 - g. _____ any party
 - h. _____ bar
 - i. _____ any concert
 - j. _____ swimming
 - k. _____ beer busts
 - l. _____ overnight beach party
 - m. _____ church activities
 - n. _____ school activities
9. Does the saying from Gamma's youth, "A boy can go only as far as the girl allows," fit into today's society?
10. Make a list of things included in this lesson that parents are commanded to teach their children.

2

THE HERITAGE FROM GRANDPARENTS

Lesson

"Becky, I'm so glad you're here. I always look forward to your summer visits."

"I do too, Gamma, but it's hard to understand some of my friends. They visit their grandparents only because their parents make them. Then, they're bored the whole time."

"I'm sorry it's that way. However, many grandparents feel like that, too. Some tell me they fail to understand why I look forward to your visits. They say they raised one family and that's enough."

"You've never acted like you feel that way, Gamma. You're always smiling and happy."

"That's because I am. In His wisdom, God planned that younger people, not the older ones, bear the children. This doesn't mean that the elderly can't love and enjoy the younger generation. They can. It takes all ages to complete a family."

**"A happy family is but
an earlier heaven."
— Sir John Bowring**

"God wants us to have happy homes in which there's joy and affection. We read a lot about homes and families in all forms of literature. I'm thankful we're blessed with good ones."

"Me, too. Did you know I still have the birth-

day letter you wrote me last year?"

"No. That's nice. It tells me something."

"I'm going to keep it forever. I wish Trina Thoma, one of my friends, knew you. I feel sorry for her because she spends so much time alone. I think she's miserable."

"Does her mother work away from home?"

"Yes, and when she comes in, it's a continual fuss."

"Does she have a grandmother?"

"Yes, but she lives a long way off. Trina spends two weeks with her each summer."

"I suppose she looks forward to that."

"No, she doesn't. She says her grandmother nags at her just like her mother does. Gamma, I think life would be easier for Trina if she had a grandmother like you."

"Thank you, Becky. Are you aware of how much the Bible says about grandparent-grandchild relationships?"

"No, I guess I hadn't thought about it."

"You remember the story of Ruth, don't you? When her son Obed was born, she laid him in her mother-in-law's arms, indicating the love and confidence she had in her. Then, there's Timothy. His grandmother Lois taught him to have a strong faith."

"We studied about that in Bible class just a few weeks ago."

"Though thousands of years have passed since the beginning of time, many families before us lived and loved each other like we do. Isn't that interesting? I knew only one of my grandmothers, but I adored her. The family often said I was just like her, even my gestures were the same."

"I wish I could have known her, too. I know I would have loved her. Do you have any pictures?"

"Yes, they're in her trunk in the attic. Several other things that belonged to her are there. We'll look at them tomorrow. It's too late to go up there tonight."

"I'm getting sleepy. Are you?"

"Yes, I am. But before we go to bed, I want to talk to you about why we're so close. I think it's because I see in you the daughter I never had. There's no way I could have loved Claud more but we needed a little girl to go with him. Your parents have been so unselfish with you. Papa and I appreciate the way they've shared you."

"I used to think all families were like ours. Now, I know better. When I tell you things, you don't laugh or say I'm silly. We can talk together and you listen like I'm an adult, not a dumb kid. I'm sure Trina never tries to share anything with her mother or grandmother. They'd make fun of her. I wish I could do something to help her."

Discussion Question:

Do you think that mutual respect between parents and their children is an important factor in having strong family ties? Which character traits are foundation blocks for the development of respect?

"The Christian home is the Master's workshop where the processes of character-molding are silently, lovingly, faithfully and successfully carried on."

— Richard Monckton Milnes

"You can be her friend. I'm sure that's one of her needs. Sometime when you're coming for a weekend visit, I wish you would bring Trina with you."

"Oh, Gamma! What a good idea. I'm not sure her mother will allow it, though. We'll have to ask. At least, we'll know we tried to help, won't we?"

Goal

Gamma wants to keep her intimacy with Becky intact. She believes the way to do this includes listening to her problems without laughing at them, showing the understanding she'd want if she were in Becky's place and never betraying her trust in her.

Gamma cares about the heritage she will leave her granddaughter. She wants it to be a rich example of Christian living, loving God's word, the church and a lifetime of faithfulness to God.

Search the Scriptures

Each generation must learn, "*For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations*" (Psalm 100:5.)

These truths about the Lord are to be passed to successive generations, "*That the generations to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children*" (Psalm 102:18).

The Bible recognizes grandparents in the lives of their grandchildren. "*Children's children are the crown of old men...*" (Proverbs 17:6). Crown means "crowning glory, completes, reward or prize". So, when parents carefully instruct their sons and daughters and see that teaching reflected in the lives of the next generation, this is their reward. The grandchildren are theirs, not to rear, but for little bits of time to enjoy. Thus, they crown or complete the life of the grandparents.

In Genesis 31, we read an account of Laban's love for his grandchildren, though he and their father Jacob had differences. Jacob took his family and possessions and secretly left for his native land. Laban soon learned of their departure and followed. He chided Jacob for leaving without giving him a chance to kiss his children

good-bye. Later, they parted in peace and Laban gave his family a fond farewell.

“A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children’s children...” (Proverbs 13:22). What are some things grandparents leave to their grandchildren?

● One thing — **a good name**. When we hear the word inheritance, the first thought is usually money. The next, how much? Solomon wrote about the value of a good name in Proverbs 22:1. He said it should be chosen over great riches. In Ecclesiastes 7:1, he declared that it is better than precious ointment.

● Another thing — **the memory of a good Christian home**. *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (Proverbs 22:6). This verse shows parents how to rear their children. Train is a stronger word than tell. It includes enforcing the instruction. In other words, the parent sees that the child is taught and that he follows the teaching.

Discussion Question:

With the spread of “women’s lib”, some reason that the stipulation in Ephesians 5, that wives are to be in submission to their husbands, is simply a cultural thing, a rule which does not apply in this enlightened age. The context in Ephesians draws a parallel between husband and wife and Christ and the church. Would such a parallel be based on a changing facet of culture?

In 1 Timothy 2:11,12, women are not permitted to teach or to have authority over men. The reasoning was that Eve was the one deceived in the transgression, carrying God’s rule back to the beginning.

Discuss the advantages in the home when God’s rules are obeyed. Discuss the consequences of disobedience.

When Paul wrote the Ephesians, he made the responsibilities of the father in the home positive and concise. *“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:4).

NOTE: Paul said **fathers**, not **mothers**. The father has always been the head of the home. In Genesis we learn that Adam was made first. Eve was made for him (Genesis 2:8,23). He was to rule over her (3:16). This continues to be true (Ephesians 5:22,23). If a child is lost through carelessness, stubbornness or lack of concern, the father is held responsible. Not a single generation can afford to allow the chain of faithfulness to be broken.

Timothy is a worthy example of a child reared in a home filled with love for God and His word. Paul wrote to Timothy that the unfeigned faith he had was first in his grandmother Lois, in his mother Eunice and then in himself (2 Timothy 1:5).

● Still another — **a wholesome attitude**. Priorities are plainly stated in Matthew 6:33, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things will be added unto you.”*

Exercise Questions

1. Word study: Use a line to connect words that relate
- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| a. admonition ● | ● sane |
| b. attitude ● | ● accurate |
| c. concise ● | ● overcorrect |
| d. crown ● | ● warning |
| e. exact ● | ● sincere |
| f. nurture ● | ● educate |
| g. provoke ● | ● brief |
| h. train ● | ● outlook |
| i. unfeigned ● | ● care |
| j. wholesome ● | ● reward |

2. Name ways parents and grandparents share a child.
3. What are some things parents owe their children concerning the grandchildren?
4. When, where and how far may a grandparent go in using discipline with a grandchild?
5. What do you think when you hear a woman say, "I've raised one family and that's enough"?
6. Numerous grandmothers rear their grandchildren. List some reasons why.
7. Why is this not always successful? Then, what happens to the child?
8. Check the statements that are a valuable heritage from grandparents:

a __ good name	h __ irregular church attendance
b __ oil wells	i __ greed for things
c __ stocks and bonds	j __ clean health habits
d __ memory of a Christian home	k __ family loyalty
e __ love for Bible	l __ respect other's rights
f __ God always first	m __ selfish attitudes
g __ honesty	n __ money so won't have to work
9. Do grandparents enjoy having their grandchildren for summer visits or is it only an act?

- 10.** Why is it that some enjoy having them and some do not?
- 11.** When does a grandchild outgrow its grandparents?
- 12.** When a grandchild finds its grandparents uninteresting, what has happened?
- 13.** Does the size of a family determine the affection in it?
- 14.** Will a grandchild confide things to its grandparents that it will not tell its own parents? If so, why? List your reasons, please.
- 15.** What does "*bring forth fruit in old age*" (Psalm 92:14) mean to you?

3

JUST DON'T DO IT

Lesson

Dear Becky,

I received your letter yesterday. It hurts me that young people your age have to face such serious problems. It surely makes the childhood period shorter. Your good attitude shows your maturity. I'm glad we can discuss these problems together.

I feel that I'm too old and outdated to know much about some of the current problems. Yet, the use of tobacco isn't a new problem. How it's used is.

Much more is known about its effects now than in my younger days. It seems that then it was used with more moderation. Chain-smoking was not even mentioned, yet it's much in evidence today.

Becky, the American Cancer Society has an office here, so I went to see if they had any materials to help us with research. They were so nice, so helpful. I came home with many printed pieces on the subject. Copies of the materials that they gave me are given also to students when some of the personnel lectures at the public schools. It's both informative and frightening. I'm mailing you a packet of them for reference.

Years ago, old people who had no home were forced to live with their children. I read stories about the grandmother sitting on a bench in a corner near the fireplace, smoking a cob pipe. The grandmother of one of my cousins lived with them. I remember seeing her smoke one.

Let me share with you a memory which "cob pipe" has just brought

back to me. When my sister and I were little girls, Mom fixed some soapy water for us and gave us each a cob pipe. We'd dip it in the soapy water, blow on the stem and a shower of beautiful bubbles filled the air. We loved chasing them. What a contrast with today!

Neither of my parents used tobacco in any form but I remember that my grandfather did. He kept a plug of tobacco in a tin box in a trunk in the organ room. Yes, Becky, that's the same organ which I now have. I also have the tin box he kept his tobacco in. My sister has the trunk. The next time you come, remind me and I'll show you the tin box. I've really gotten caught up in memories, haven't I?

Discussion Question:

Amazingly, in earlier years advertisements for cigarettes often carried recommendations by doctors, encouraging smoking as a solution to various health problems. What are some of the reasons people take up the habit of smoking today?

Back to my grandfather — he only indulged in his tobacco once each day. That was after lunch. He'd go by the parlor after he finished eating, cut off a small piece of tobacco and go to the front verandah to savor it.

Well, I've reminisced long enough. I must get back to the problem.

This little piece was in one of the bulletins that I was given. Notice how long ago it was written.

"Tobacco is a filthy word,
That from the devil does proceed;
It drains your purse, it burns your clothes,
and makes a chimney of your nose."

From: Oliver Wendell Homes (1809-1894)

I found it interesting to learn that young people who use drugs and tobacco are among those with poorer grades and lower self-images. What is

Smoking is more than a dangerous habit — it is an addiction which kills more than 400,000 people per year.

that saying? Are parents not showing proper interest in their own children?

One government bulletin stated that about half of high school seniors who smoke daily began smoking before age 15. Also, another stated that

a strong relationship existed between smoking and their academic achievements. Among seniors with an A average, only 7% were daily smokers; of those with a D average, 46% were daily smokers.

Authorities say that young people are being indoctrinated with tobacco promotions at a susceptible time in their lives. Advertisers use many attractive ads to entice them, things that appeal to young people — an air of independence, a sense of adventure and physical attraction. They don't say that nicotine is as addictive as heroin, cocaine and alcohol, or that cigarette smoking is the most common form of drug addiction and causes more deaths and disease than all other addictions combined.

**YOU'RE
TOO SMART
TO START!**

What young people aren't told is that smokers lose an average of 15 years of life — each cigarette takes about 12 minutes off the smoker's life. Also, smoking is the cause of 30% of all cancer deaths. There is no cure for lung cancer and nearly 9 out of 10 cancer victims die within 5 years. Isn't this frightening? If they had it to do over, 81% of current smokers said they would not start.

"It is now clear that disease risk due to inhalation of tobacco smoke is not limited to the individual who is smoking." — Former US Surgeon General C. Everett Koop

Isn't this a big subject? We haven't even mentioned smokeless tobacco. That wrecks one's health as well, although some think it is less dangerous. Neither have we talked about the risks of a non-smoker living in a house with a smoker.

Becky, I want to make some personal observations. Most smokers are very inconsiderate people. They offer to go outside but come back in the house as soon as they throw the stub down. They

**SMOKING IS THE
MOST
PREVENTABLE
CAUSE OF DEATH IN
OUR SOCIETY!**

bring in the smell and the smoke when they return. The smoke is very offensive. Their clothes are saturated with the objectionable odor. Their breath and even the pores of their skin reek of tobacco. But they are so enveloped in it that they are unable to smell it. Even after they leave, the odor lingers on.

The sight of a mother holding her precious baby while she smokes is heart-breaking for the baby's sake. How sad!

Are mothers-to-be really aware of the effects their smoking can have on their unborn child? Higher rates of spontaneous abortions, stillbirths, premature births and infant deaths have been found among smokers' babies. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (crib death) occurs twice as often in this group.

Discussion Question:

- ◆ 37.2% of the 17-year-olds in the U.S. smoke.
 - ◆ The IQ of 4-year-old children of smokers is about 5 points less than that of non-smokers.
 - ◆ About 20% of all deaths in the U.S. in 1990 were directly related to the use of tobacco.
 - ◆ Which is worse, alcohol or tobacco? Why?
-
-

Children of mothers who smoked during pregnancy are also at risk of delayed physical growth, impaired intellectual ability and poor school performance. Low birthweight is commonly seen among babies whose mothers smoked during pregnancy.

This is indeed serious because it's a major cause of infant death. Low birthrate is associated with mental and physical handicaps, learning disorders and behavior problems.

I know this letter is beginning to sound like several lectures rolled into

one. I've been greatly enlightened by making this study. I hope that it will prove to be helpful to you.

Thank you for writing. I appreciate your confidence in me. I wish I had the words to tell you how proud I am of you and how it thrills me to see you stand for the good life. Let me know if this information has been helpful.

We're looking forward to being together Christmas. Give our love to your parents.

I love you,

Gamma

Goal

Gamma has every confidence in Becky that she'll never use tobacco. No one in the family does, so she's not likely to start. She's a good girl, conscientious, of strong character and wants to please God. Gamma feels that Becky can be an influence for good to her classmates by her example. She prays to that end.

Search the Scriptures

Let's look back at three scriptural references used in the last lesson — 1 Corinthians 3:16,17; 6:19,20; 9:27. Now read them again, please. Briefly, here's what we learned:

- 1) our bodies are not to be defiled
- 2) we are to glorify God in them
- 3) we are to control our bodies

What is it to "defile" the body? The word itself has many negative meanings, such as: corrupt, dirty, contaminate, besmirch, pollute, taint, soil, degrade, dishonor.

Now look at the first chapter of Daniel, please. The Jews had been captured and taken to Babylon. The king wanted some of their choice men brought to his court that he might hear about their native culture. He ordered that they be given wine to drink and rich food from his table for three years before they were brought before him. Daniel and three other men were among those selected.

Verse 8, *“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”*

The prince of the eunuchs feared for his life if he failed to carry out the king’s order. Daniel made a bargain with him to allow the four of them to eat only simple vegetables and drink only water for ten days while all the rest ate from the king’s table.

At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked better than those who ate the king’s food, so they were given permission to continue their chosen diet. At the end of the three years, they were found to be ten times better in wisdom and understanding than those who ate the king’s rich food.

This is a strong lesson on bringing the body under subjection by having the moral courage to refuse to partake of anything that would defile one’s body.

Peter wrote to those who had been scattered by persecution to *“...abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul”* (1 Peter 2:11). In other words, they were to be in control of their bodies.

Paul wrote the church in Corinth, *“Whether ye eat therefore, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

The point is — this is the way you are to handle your body. It’s up to you. Only you can do it. So, when it comes to drugs and tobacco, **JUST DON’T DO IT!**

Exercise Questions

1. Why do you think a person begins smoking?
2. Does it become a habit that is easy to break? Why?
3. At what age does smoking usually begin?
4. What is the drug found in tobacco? (8 letters)
5. True or false? Drugs can remain in the body long after use has stopped.
6. How would you define self-esteem?
7. Is it easy to change self-esteem?
8. Does high self-esteem mean egotism?
9. Mark the esteem statements below with an H for high or an L for low:
 effective
 unloved
 worthless
 lovable
 productive
 incompetent
 ineffective
 capable

10. True/False

- a. positive feelings about yourself show you have low self-esteem
- b. negative feelings about yourself show you have high self-esteem
- c. self-esteem can be improved
- d. self-esteem does not affect the way you live
- e. no single event can determine your level of self-esteem

11. Do you think a woman has more reason not to smoke? Why?

12. State again the three facts in our relationship with God

- a.
- b.
- c.

13. Is there any way one can use tobacco and not violate all three?

14. Can you think of other biblical examples of persons who followed these simple rules?

4

JUST SAY NO

Lesson

Dear Gamma,

I had a wonderful summer but I'm happy to be back in school. It feels good to be on a regular schedule again. Besides, I like school.

How are you and Papa? Has he gotten all the wheat sowed? I'm sure you're glad to be through canning. Do you plan to begin your usual fall sewing soon?

Let me tell you again how much I enjoyed my visit with you during the summer. It's so much fun to talk with you. I love hearing about what you did when you were a girl. Knowing about your school days makes me wish mine were like that — uncomplicated.

My closest classmates in school are also my church friends. I'm glad that I have them. There are so many things going on now that scare me. It's good to have each other for support. That way, none of us feels like we're standing alone.

BE SMART.

**LEAVE
DRUGS
ALONE.**

Were there drugs when you were in school? You've never mentioned it. There's really a lot of it now. And, many of the kids in grades lower than mine are using them.

We've had some speakers and law officials as guests who talk to us in our assemblies about the danger of drugs. I don't know why anyone would use them after hearing what they do to our minds and bodies. Also, how hard it is to stop using

them. It makes a person so ill that few can quit without professional help.

I'm glad I don't need anything like drugs to give me a boost. I know a lot of the kids don't have any support at home. That really makes me thankful for my parents. I know they love me and want what's best for me. I feel so good because I can talk to them about anything. They listen to me, and if I'm wrong, they don't laugh at me but carefully explain why I'm wrong.

Discussion Question:

Statistics say that 78% of high school seniors take alcoholic drinks, while more than half smoke cigarettes. Almost 40% have tried marijuana. 82% of violent crimes are committed while the offender is under the influence of some type of drugs.

Discuss some ways that parents and children might work together to reduce all of these rates.

Did you hear Nancy Reagan say on television to "Just Say No!?" I wish that I could have heard her. That impressed me when one of the speakers told us about her and her work to get drugs out of the schools. Of course, the drug dealers hang around the schools because that's where the children are. Kids seem to have the money to buy it. I guess they use their lunch money. After they become dependent on drugs, I hear they'll even steal to get it. I wonder why they think they need drugs. Don't their parents care? Or do you suppose they even know how their children are spending their lunch money? My parents know more about me than that and I'm glad.

I've written a long letter but I always have something to share with you. I love hearing from you, too. That's the next best thing to seeing you.

Give Papa a big hug from me. We're looking forward to Thanksgiving Day. It's always fun to spend holidays together.

I love you, Gamma,

Becky

Goal

Say YES to LIFE
and
NO to DRUGS

Gamma is well aware of the drug problem. She'd never believe that Becky would fall into that trap, but it makes her feel good to hear it from Becky's own lips. Gamma counts her blessings for the fine relationship she has with her granddaughter. She and Papa were careful to rear their only child Claud to have strong family values. Their associates were the kind that could be good role models for him to admire and to be like. It answers her prayers to see Becky with the same feelings.

Search the Scriptures

Many treat their physical bodies as if they were of no consequence. Are they worthless? The Bible teaches otherwise.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (1 Corinthians 3:16,17).

The human body is God's handiwork because He made us. *"...for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yes, I have made him."* The part of us that is like Him and will never die is our spirit. It is housed in a physical body while we live here on earth. We are not to defile this body in any way but we are to care for it. If we do not, what did the above scripture say God would do? That's right — destroy us!

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).

The above verses especially stress why we must take good care of our bodies. We cannot say, "This is my body and I'll do as I please with it!" To begin with, it isn't ours. It belongs to God. It isn't ours because it was bought at a very high price — the precious blood of God's son. Our orders are to glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits. That includes all that we do and are.

How do we do that? First, we are to be in command of our bodies. "*But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection...*" (1 Corinthians 9:27). Anything that prevents us from being in control of our bodies or our minds is wrong and is to be avoided, whether it's drugs, food, drink, or bad habits.

Discussion Question:

The tragedy of drugs is many-fold: the terrible crimes committed against society, the terrible crimes committed against one's family and dependents, and the terrible crimes committed against one's own body and soul.

How do you think that such deadly habits have been able to gain control and acceptance as they have? Do you think that public disapproval, and labeling 'wrong' as 'wrong' would help to turn the tide of acceptance? How has the campaign against smoking cigarettes affected visible smoking? actual participation in the habit? shame?

Perhaps this is a good time to discuss cocaine, in the form commonly called "crack". Many turn to it because it costs less than some of the other drugs, which makes it more attainable. Crack is a highly dangerous drug because it causes dependency very quickly. Often heard on the streets is, "Once you start using crack, you can't stop." It causes severe health problems. Research shows that smoking crack can cause lung damage, heart attack, stroke, breath-

ing problems, burning of the lips, tongue and throat, and general poor health.

Does this sound like keeping our bodies in subjection? Is this the way to glorify God in our bodies? Paul wrote in Colossians 3 that we must mortify (put down) earthly things (all uncleanness) and put on Christlike attitudes.

Why do some turn to drugs? Government bulletins and other such literature suggest several reasons:

- A. *To see what it's like*
- B. *Because their friends do*
- C. *To not be lonely*

There are three common traits among drug abusers:

- A. **Low self-esteem**
- B. **Lack of emotional control**
- C. **Unable to have close relationships**

Exercise Questions

Parents should be fit role models for their children. Their strong beliefs in the value of religion, making one's own choice for right living, respecting and having a healthy lifestyle will influence their children to have the same.

1. Do you think that Nancy Reagan's words, "JUST SAY NO", has had any influence on drug usage?
2. Would it help if more of the leaders in our government took a firm stand against drugs? Why don't they?
3. Are young people left alone too much with no accounting for the way they use their time?

4. Make a list of things that you think children should be taught.
5. How do you think having low self-esteem makes one more vulnerable to drugs?
6. Can one say, "I have no problem with this. I can quit any time I want to." Do you think they honestly can?
7. One of the world's more popular drugs is found in items consumed daily: coffee, tea, cocoa, cola, aspirin, non-prescription cough and cold remedies and diet pills. Do you know what it is?
 - a. Is this one habit-forming?
 - b. What is the difference between this and hard drugs?
 - c. Can one indulge in this one while condemning drugs?
8. Check the statements that show how you'd handle it if you learned your child used drugs. Please discuss.
 - a. Call the police
 - b. Ground them as punishment
 - c. Go into hysterics
 - d. Call your doctor
 - e. Go to school officials
 - f. Calmly talk to them
 - g. Tell them this is unacceptable.
9. Make a check mark by the statement which you consider to be a strong family value
 - a. Following the crowd
 - b. I'm young, I'll quit later
 - c. Belief that it's important to be in control

- d. Have a strong desire for a healthy lifestyle
- e. Able to stand alone if necessary
- f. One has to go along with the crowd to be popular
- g. Respect for the physical body
- h. Ability to make the right decisions
- l. Parents who believe they are the only role models for their children
- j. Telling children to not drink while parents drink in front of them
- k. Teach the child to value individuality
- l. Children want structure in their lives so set limits

10. Do you know where to go to receive help if there's a drug problem?

5

DON'T YOU TRUST ME?

Lesson

"Oh, Becky, I thought you'd never get here."

"I meant to leave home earlier but a friend dropped by and delayed me. I hope you weren't worried."

"Not really, just eager to see you."

"Where's Papa?"

"He had to pick up some feed. He'll be back soon."

"You look good, Gamma, but haven't you lost some weight?"

"Yes, a little. We've been busier than usual. Let's take your bags in and get you something to eat."

Soon, the two women sat in the swing on the porch eating cookies and drinking milk.

"Gamma, you remember that I saved the letter you wrote me on my thirteenth birthday?"

"Yes. It still thrills me that the letter meant so much to you."

"It did, but I need more help now. You know I trust you to know all the answers."

"I'm grateful, but your mother can give you more help than I can. I'm another generation and out of touch."

"I talked to Mom, but she thought I should talk with you, too. She has complete faith in your wisdom and Bible knowledge. We don't think you're outdated at all."

After Papa went to bed, Gamma and Becky talked awhile about the vacation the families planned to take together next summer and Becky's junior year in high school.

"Let's get ready for bed, Gamma. Then, can you come to my room so we can talk? That way we won't disturb Papa. It's not too late for you, is it? Are you tired?"

"No, no, this is a good time. We'll need to go to bed early tomorrow night so we won't be late for worship services. Then you'll have to leave for home soon after lunch. Now is perfect. I'll see you in your room in a few minutes."

"Gamma, I can't think of a better way to tell you what's on my mind than to just say it. A lot of my friends, and even some I go to church with, are going too far on their dates. I can't believe this is right. It's not what I've learned at home or at worship. Did girls do that when you were young?"

"Would it surprise you if I told you some did? While still in high school, I learned one of my best friends was pregnant. I couldn't believe it. Why, we double-dated. I didn't know anything like that was going on."

**"Purity of soul
cannot be lost
without consent."**

— Augustine

"What did you do, Gamma?"

"I cried and cried. For the first time in my life, I couldn't sleep. It broke my heart."

"Did she have an abortion?"

"I didn't even know the word. If that were practiced then, I never heard of it."

"Then, what did your friend do?"

"She left town in disgrace. It was years before she came back."

"I wonder if that's going to happen to Trina. She's starting to run with a

fast crowd and dating boys with bad reputations. I'm really worried about her."

"Have you talked with her?"

"No, and that bothers me. But, frankly, that's my problem. I just don't know what to say."

"Let's begin with some things we've already talked about. Remember your birthday letter? In it we mentioned Paul told Timothy to keep himself pure. He wrote the church in Corinth that the sin of fornication was against their own bodies. He told them to flee from it.

"The body is the soul's image; therefore, keep it pure."

— Selected

Gamma chuckled, "I remember an incident that happened in a fourth grade Bible class I taught several years ago. We were studying about the closing days of King David's life. He was ill and cold. I told the class

his servants decided to bring in a virgin so he'd get warm. Abishag, a beautiful young maiden, was brought to him. One of the students asked what a virgin was. One sharp little boy spoke right up and said, "A virgin is used to keep an old man warm."

"Oh, Gamma, how funny. You never told me that."

"I guess it slipped away from me but our conversation brought it back. Seriously, all young people need to realize the sex drive is strong and that it was intended to be expressed only in marriage. A girl is pushing her chances to remain a virgin when she engages in heavy petting and expects the young man to stop when she says to. After being aroused over and over by fondling, he wants only one thing — gratification."

Becky spoke up, "She's doing wrong in two ways. She's wrong to arouse him and wrong to tempt him. But, he's wrong, too."

"The woman who has lost her honor can refuse nothing!"

— Tacitus

"Yes, he is," Gamma said. "Some young men will see how far they can go. They'll ask, 'Do you love me?' Then they will want the girl to prove it. The proof they're after is only for a husband and his wife.

To infringe on that is sin.”

“This really is frightening,” Becky said. “I see a pattern in the way girls conduct themselves today that scares me,” Gamma added. “They flout the command in the Bible to shun the appearance of evil. They chase the boys, make all the advances, dress immodestly, hang all over them, spend much time alone in a bedroom behind a closed door (listening to records, they say) and other indiscretions.”

Discussion Question:

Do you think a girl/woman is responsible for the message she communicates to a boy/man by the way she dresses? the way she talks? her body language? the places she goes? the company she keeps? her preferences in entertainment?

“Gamma, that’s what I’m talking about. Even the church kids aren’t acting like Christians should.”

“It’s clear to me that some parents have failed to teach their children about godly living. Some aren’t good examples themselves. When young people are unsupervised in their activities, this freedom leads them into taking too many liberties.”

“The most difficult job teenagers have today is learning good conduct without seeing any.”

— Unknown

“I wish I could do something. Do you have any suggestions on how I could help Trina? I’m concerned because her relationship with her mother is so poor. I’m fearful she’ll make a terrible mistake if one of these boys says he loves her. She’ll do anything he says then.”

“I can think of one thing that I believe could help not only her but other girls, too. What do you think about forming a class to study the Bible together in your homes once or twice each month?”

"Oh, that sounds good! But, who could teach it?"

"What do you think about the preacher's wife, or the wife of one of the elders? There could be one among the older women who'd be happy to be asked. After all, older women are to teach the younger women (Titus 2:3-5). I'm sure your mother could give you some wonderful advice on a place and a teacher."

"I like this! I'm getting excited."

"Becky, I hope Trina will come to the class. Since you told me how unhappy she is, she may not want to come at first. She has problems."

"I'll make the invitation warm and offer to pick her up. I'll ask some of the girls to invite her, too. Thank you, Gamma. I'll keep in touch."

Goal

Gamma realizes Becky is at a crossroad, part girl — part woman. Decisions Becky makes now can affect not only the rest of her life but her eternal destiny, also.

Gamma desires to instill in Becky biblical truths that will enable her to show the strength of Joseph when temptations come. Joseph's question should be a guideline for all Christian young people, "*How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God*" (Genesis 39:9)?

Search the Scriptures

The Bible is explicit about purity of life. Jesus taught in the Beatitudes that the pure in heart are blessed, and they are the ones who will see God (Matthew 5:8). Paul urged the Romans to "*...Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good*" (Romans

12:9). He commanded the Christians at Thessalonica to *“Abstain from all appearance of evil”* (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

The inevitable question is, “Why? Why must we shun evil and cling to good?” The answer is simple. God made us human, not animal. This means we have the power of choice — to know right from wrong. Made in God’s likeness, we are to glorify Him (Isaiah 43:7). We do that when we bear fruit (John 15:8) and offer spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5). We are able to do this through our bodies and spirits which belong to Him (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Sin is attractive. *“...I beseech you...abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul”* (1 Peter 2:11). Paul exhorted Timothy to *“Flee also youthful lusts...”* (2 Timothy 2:22). He wrote the church in Corinth to *“Flee fornication”* (1 Corinthians 6:18). In the 13th verse, he said, *“...Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord.”*

Discussion Question:

From your own knowledge of friends, acquaintances, or relatives, can you trace a story through the process of sin from temptation, falling, practicing an ungodly and immoral life-style, to the effect this behavior has on ✿ the person’s own sense of self-respect. ✿ the qualities of relationships. ✿ the stability of a marriage.

When a boy and girl develop an immoral relationship before marriage, what effect might this have on their sense of trust for each other in the years following their marriage?

Since God made us human beings with the power of options, a time of reckoning will come for the decisions we have made. Paul left no room for any misunderstanding. *“For all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things*

done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Exercise Questions

1. Who is to blame when parents say of their children, "They won't listen to me"?
2. Is there a difference in trust and permissiveness?
3. Must boys and girls "sow their wild oats"?
4. Gamma suggested a regular Bible study to help girls. Can you think of other positive activities for them?
5. Suggest ways to give support to young men who desire to lead pure lives.
6. True/False:
 - a. ___ Purity of soul is lost only by consent.
 - b. ___ Fornication is a sin against one's body.
 - c. ___ Petting and fondling is expected from teenagers.
 - d. ___ Older people should set examples as role models of good conduct.
 - e. ___ "Young people will be young people" and nothing can be done about it.
 - f. ___ To experience sex before the wedding makes marriage happier.
 - g. ___ The Bible teaches that purity in life pleases God.

7. *“Abstain from all appearance of evil”* (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
List and discuss things prohibited by this direct command.
8. Do girls realize what they are doing to a young man when they deliberately “lead him on”?
9. In a weak moment, a young woman commits adultery. She repents and leads a pure life. Will her life ever again be like it was before the sin? Why?
10. Memorize the question Joseph asked in Genesis 39:9.
11. Name risks young people take when they make the wrong choice.
12. Mark out the statements below that are a negative influence on purity:
 - a. Date a person with a bad reputation
 - b. Always put God first
 - c. “It won’t hurt to try sex just one time”
 - d. The “I can take care of myself” attitude
 - e. Stay away from anything questionable
 - f. Don’t let anyone tell you what to do
 - g. Remember who you are
 - h. What you do is your own business
 - i. “I can quit any time I want to”
 - j. It matters what people think
13. Could the way Trina’s mother and grandmother treated her be a factor in her conduct?

14. Do you think there is a casual attitude toward impurity today? Consider: Not upset if a pregnancy occurs; no screening of movies or television programs for even small children; kind of children they play with; supervision of their companions; when they are to be home.

15. Read the following scriptures:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Corinthians 10:31 | Job 20:11 |
| Colossians 3:20 | 1 John 2:13,14 |
| Ecclesiastes 11:9 | Titus 2:6 |
| Lamentations 3:27 | 2 Timothy 2:22 |
| 1 Timothy 4:12 | Ecclesiastes 12:1 |

16. Fill in the blanks. References go in the first one. Use the part of the verse which applies in any way to pre-marital sex.

Hint: The number of blanks equals the number of words in the phrases.

- a. _____
“ ... _____ ”
- b. _____
“ ... _____ ”
- c. _____
“ ... _____ ; _____ ”
- d. _____
“ _____ ”
- e. _____
“ _____ ”
- f. _____
“ _____ ”
- g. _____

6

WHEN DOES LIFE BEGIN?

Lesson

"Becky?"

"Yes?"

"This is Gamma."

"Gamma! Where are you?"

"I'm just a few blocks from the campus. I hoped I could catch you between classes."

"I'm so glad you did. But why are you here? Will I get a chance to see you?"

"I'll have time. Papa is a delegate to a convention here in town. We'll be staying overnight, but the day is mine. How busy are you?"

"I only have two classes today. One's over and the other begins in 20 minutes. I can pick you up at the hotel when I get through, and we can go somewhere for lunch."

"That sounds wonderful. Since Papa is already in session, we can't see him now. Tell me when and I'll be out front."

"Class is over at 11:30. I can be there in 10 minutes."

"OK, I'll be waiting."

"I'm so eager to see you."

"Where would you like to eat, Gamma?"

"It doesn't matter to me."

"Let's go where it's quiet. We have lots of talking to do. What would you like to eat?"

"I like salads. How about you?"

"I love them and I know just the place."

"This is nice, Becky. I'm glad we came here. The selection is excellent and I'm enjoying mine. How's school?"

"It's fine. I look forward to next year and graduation. Can you believe it?"

"It doesn't seem possible. Time goes so quickly."

"I'm glad you and Papa have good health and stay busy. The grandparents of some of my friends have nothing to do. Their lives are so dull. You and Papa are fun to be with. You know what's going on."

"Perhaps you're the challenge we need — always full of questions."

"Well, I have the hardest one yet. It's Trina again."

"Oh? I remember she was in the wrong crowd in high school."

"That's what caused us to grow apart. We haven't been as close in college. But, last week she came to me with a problem. She's pregnant and determined to have an abortion."

"We cannot treat the human embryo as cheap and worthless without passing judgment on all human life, including our own."

— Monica Furlong

"Oh, Becky, how sad. I know you're upset."

"I've never had anything bother me like this. So far, she hasn't had one. I tried to tell her that abortion is murder. I even quoted, 'Thou shalt not kill.'"

"What did she say to that?"

"She's only interested in herself. She hates morning sickness and doesn't want to be pregnant. She says it's not a baby yet anyway. Besides, it's too inconvenient to have one now. She'd have to quit school and go to work. But, she says she can't work and take care of a baby, too. Her mind is only on one thing — get rid of it."

Discussion Question:

It is possible that one-fourth to one-third of the babies conceived in the U.S. are aborted. For every 1000 live births in 1992, approximately 339 babies were aborted. Estimates say that probably one-fourth of American women under the age of 45 have had at least one abortion. What do these figures say about the value placed on life in this country?

What do you think lies at the root of this attitude toward life? ignorance refusal to take responsibility cultural acceptance of low morals or no morals loss of a sense of shame desire for convenience above value placed on life humanism replacing biblical values in our society.

“Becky, let’s go back to the baby. Is it alive? When does life begin?”

“I think life begins at conception, the instant the seed is fertilized. Otherwise, how could it grow?”

“That’s a good observation. That alone proves abortion is murder, doesn’t it?”

“Gamma, most girls think there’s a difference in a fetus and a baby. Is there?”

“A fetus is simply an unborn baby but a baby nevertheless. You remember the story of Mary’s visit to Elizabeth when both were pregnant, don’t you? Luke 1:41,44 records that when Mary came, the baby in Elizabeth’s womb leaped with joy.”

“To love a thing means wanting it to live.”

— Confucius

“I see that and it’s clear to me.”

“But what about the baby’s father? Isn’t he willing to lend some support?”

"Gamma, I'm ashamed to tell you this. Trina doesn't know which one is the father."

"Then, the possibility of marriage is out. That makes me feel terrible. But, there are other alternatives. Did you ask her about adoption?"

"Yes. I told her lots of people want to adopt a baby because they can't have one. They're able to give it advantages that Trina can't, and they want one to love."

"Did that seem to make any impression on her?"

"None at all. I suggested a place that offers maternity care. I also mentioned that some are adoptive agencies, too. She didn't ask me any questions. It's obvious she'd never consider raising the baby as a single parent."

"Life! What a beautiful choice."

— Advertising Ads

"If she's intent on going through with it, will she be able to find a licensed doctor to perform the surgery?"

"I don't know. I've heard some scary things about some clinics."

"Yes, I have, too. However, I understand it isn't hard at all anymore to find doctors and clinics who legally take care of the problem."

"I guess I don't know much about that."

"Even so, problems have to be faced. The memory of the abortion will always be with her. She'll wonder about the baby again and again. There'll be many "what ifs". She'll never forget what she did.

"I have a friend who works at a maternity home. After four years, one girl who agreed to adoption for her infant, called. 'Is my baby happy?' she

"If wombs had windows abortion would end."

— Shari Richard

asked. That brings tears, doesn't it? It confirms that once a baby has been conceived, the mother will never forget it."

"I wish I could get through to Trina. If she hasn't had the abortion yet, do you suppose she could

be thinking about the conversation she and I had?"

"It's possible. You've really tried and I'm proud of you, Becky. I wish we could get the biblical point across to young people that they must keep themselves pure. Sexual relationships are God-given but only for marriage. Then, it's a language of love to be spoken only between one man and one woman who are legally married to each other."

"Thank you so much, Gamma. I'll call Trina. Maybe she'll listen this time."

"I'll be praying that she will. I know this is not what she wants to hear now, but tell her that she can be forgiven, if she'll repent and lead a clean life."

Goal

Gamma thrills at Becky's wisdom and sensitivity in trying to help her troubled friend. She feels confident that Becky's biblical knowledge will enable her to set a good example before her peers and keep her life above reproach.

Gamma believes that young people must be taught to take the responsibility for their actions. Mother Nature made it easy to become a parent, but one must be taught to be the kind of parent God wants. Though able to reproduce oneself, there are biblical rules that must be followed.

Search the Scriptures

Paul wrote to a young man concerning what he needed to do to lead an acceptable life. "*Flee also youthful lusts...*" (2 Timothy 2:22). "*But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned...And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which*

are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:14,15). "...keep thyself pure" (1 Timothy 5:22).

Paul warned Timothy that some had turned to follow Satan (1 Timothy 5:15). Long before this, Isaiah wrote, "Woe to them that call evil good, and good evil..." (Isaiah 10:23).

Discussion Question:

For the past thirty years immorality, live-in situations, divorce, adultery, free love, homosexual relationships, and a continued obsession with sex have dominated the American scene. These are portrayed as the 'in thing', to-be-expected, a normal and healthy life-style, the modern concept in man/woman relationships.

Biblical requirements of purity and abstinence are ridiculed as unrealistic. Mothers, in this age of humanism, even buy birth-control measures for their pre-teen and teen-age daughters, a silent and terrible testimony that dating is expected to become an immoral relationship.

List five immediate and long-range consequences of such immoral behavior and then discuss them in class.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

Paul made it plain in a letter to the Corinthian church that when a man commits fornication, he sins against his own body (1 Corinthians 6:18). In the Old Testament there is a verse which states that sin is against one's soul (Habakkuk 2:10). How serious! Sin destroys both body and soul!

Approximately 1.4 million abortions are legally performed each year in American clinics.

The majority of women who have abortions are white, unmarried, and under the age of 25.

20% of white births in the U.S. are to unwed mothers. 66.5% of black births are to single women.

One of the Ten Commandments under the Law of Moses was a command to not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18). If one committed adultery with his neighbor's wife, both he and the woman were put to death (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22).

Possessing self-control is a deterrent to the sin of fornication. Paul wrote in Titus 2 that it is imperative that men and women of all ages have this attribute.

Each year an enormous number of babies are born out of wedlock, because the parents failed to exercise self-control to keep themselves pure.

If only every young person were taught and believed that it is the responsibility of each one to help the other stay chaste in body and soul, much unhappiness, tears, heartbreak, and worry could be avoided.

To add to the tragedy, even more are conceived but aborted, a live topic in today's world. Speeches, rallies, sit-ins, marches, articles in magazines and newspapers show the strong feelings that exist, pro and con, on the subject of abortion.

God forbade murder (Exodus 20:13). He has never condoned it. Early in the history of mankind, He held Cain accountable for taking the life of his brother Abel (Genesis 4:9-11). He warned

Sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise, with new strains developing for which there is no known cure.

Noah's descendants that murder would be punished (9:6).

But some claim abortion is not murder, because the fetus is only a blob of tissue. That it is not a baby until it is born. Fetus means an unborn child. God spoke to Jeremiah and told him He knew him before he came from the womb (Jeremiah 1:5). When Rebekah carried twins in her womb, "...*the children struggled within her...*" (Genesis 25:22). Other examples of life in the womb are found in Psalms 139:13; Luke 1:41,44; Galatians 1:15.

Even the medical field proves the baby is alive in the womb and that it is not just a mass of tissue. A detectable heartbeat can be heard at two and one-half weeks, and brain waves are evident at five and one-half weeks. It is alive!

The theory is advanced that cases of rape are acceptable for abortion. The Bible teaches that a rapist must be put to death (Exodus 21:22,23). Today, his wrist may be slapped or he could receive a short prison term. Anything more would be considered "cruel and inhumane treatment." But the innocent baby is executed!

Others say that if the fetus is deformed, it must be aborted. What if a young child were permanently crippled in a car accident? Would it be lawful to kill it to keep it from being a burden and suffering a lifetime of pain? Is there a difference? Remember, the fetus is alive.

It is on record that 75% of those having abortions do so because it is inconvenient to have a child. They want to get a degree, buy a house, travel, have time together before being tied down for years or they simply do not want a baby. This is advocating pro-choice for such women to have an abortion. But she made the choice before conception. Those involved need to take the responsibility for their actions, because abortion is not an option.

We are appalled by the story of the two women who agreed to eat their babies to keep from starving to death (2 Kings 6:24-30). Yet, it shows we can justify what we *want* to do. An example is abortion. Babies are killed this way now with far less reason.

Morality does not change because circumstances are diffi-

cult. *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”* (Galatians 6:7). So, we conclude that right is still right, and wrong is still wrong.

The teaching in this lesson has been straightforward but scriptural. Is there no hope for the guilty? Is there no forgiveness? Yes. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9). God also promised, *“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more”* (Hebrews 8:12). What a loving Father! When He forgives, it is as if it never happened.

Discussion Question:

Forgiveness suggests to the mind that all the wrongs of the past have been erased. God erases the *guilt* of sin, but is it always possible to erase the *consequences*?

What consequences might one have to live with because of immorality? engaging in homosexuality? breaking one's marriage vows? having an abortion?

Exercise Questions

1. Is it realistic to prevent premarital sex?
2. Is it possible to stop premarital sex once it has begun?
3. Check the following statements which you think are possible reasons for premarital sex:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ___a. curiosity | ___g. get back at mother |
| ___b. peer pressure | ___h. get attention of father |
| ___c. acceptance | ___i. won't get pregnant |
| ___d. no supervision | ___j. everybody's doing it |
| ___e. adults do — why not? | ___k. pregnant — he'll love me |
| ___f. popularity | ___l. make me a man! |

4. What one trait will keep one's life pure?
5. Discuss the aftermath of the sin of fornication (1 Corinthians 6:18; Habakkuk 2:10).
6. What is the difference between a fetus and a baby?
7. How do you feel about adoption instead of abortion?
8. List alternatives a pregnant teenager has for her baby:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
9. Is there ever a reason for abortion?
10. Multiple choice:
 - a. Stopping premarital sex is the responsibility of the (church, school, home).
 - b. Parents (are, are not) responsible for their children after they reach 18 years of age.

- c. Life begins at (birth, conception).
- d. A mother-to-be (has, doesn't have) the right to abortion.

11. Compare the difference in the way the courts of law consider the rapist and the verdict of God.

12. Try to learn how abortions are performed.

13. Have you seen one performed on television? Or a birth?

14. Is it true that "If wombs had windows, abortion would end"?

15. Would you vote for a law to make abortion illegal?

16. True/False:

- _____ a. One old enough to reproduce himself is old enough to be responsible for his actions.
- _____ b. Sex outside of marriage has only been known in the 20th century.
- _____ c. A fetus and a baby are two different things.
- _____ d. An unborn baby is not alive until birth.
- _____ e. If a mother-to-be loves her baby, she will not abort it.
- _____ f. Abortion is murder because it takes a life.
- _____ g. After a baby is aborted, the mother puts it out of her mind.
- _____ h. Morality does not change because circumstances are difficult.

7

A VIRUS CALLED HIV/AIDS

Lesson

"I'm so glad that you could come for a visit before you leave for college. I know how busy you must be getting ready to leave," Gamma said.

"I couldn't go without seeing you and Papa again. The campus isn't really that far away but the schedule doesn't allow much time off," Becky responded.

"Will you be in the same dorm?" Gamma asked.

"Yes," Becky replied, "but I'll have a different roommate. You remember Karen married and won't be returning."

"Do you know yet who your new one will be?"

"No, but I hope she'll be a friend like Karen. Gamma, I have something I need to talk over with you when you have time."

"I have time now. How about getting a cup of coffee and going to the swing on the front porch? Also, I just happen to have a new batch of cookies baked."

"Oh, Gamma, what a jewel you are — always there when I need you, and you provide a perfect atmosphere for serious talking."

The two women took a tray with the coffee and the cookies to the front porch.

Sipping her coffee, Becky began. "I'm hearing and learning about a grow-

ing danger to people. It isn't confined to any certain age group. It strikes young people and mature adults as well. Even babies can have it."

"Well, what is it, Becky? I wonder if I've even heard of it."

"I'm sure that you have," Becky answered. "You probably found pamphlets and bulletins on it when you went to the centers for information on drugs and tobacco."

"Tell me more," Gamma said.

"It has to do with a virus called AIDS. It and HIV go together," Becky said.

"Oh yes, I've heard and read some about it. I'm not sure but I think I have a few things on it from the centers. They had material on several subjects. It's all in the bookcase in the den. Shall we go in or would you like for me to bring it to the porch?" Gamma asked.

"It might be better to go in. We'd have more room to go through the materials, wouldn't we?"

"Would you like more coffee?" Gamma queried. "I can bring it in there."

"I've had enough, Gamma, but thanks. I'd just let it get cold. Take a raincheck?"

In the den the two women began looking through the booklets.

Discussion Question:

How long can the HIV virus reside in the body before AIDS symptoms develop? one year one week ten years.

HIV is usually spread from one person to another through molecules in the air the exchange of body fluids, such as semen and blood sharing needles in drug injection.

Gamma remarked, "I've heard some things that are frightening, such as getting HIV/AIDS from blood transfusions, food, kissing, using the bathroom, shaking hands, coughing or sneezing, mosquitos, being with an infected person, even just out of the air."

"Here's a bulletin that answers those very things," Becky exclaimed. "Let me read this to you."

"HIV is not spread through everyday social activity. It is not spread through casual contact, nor through air or water. Donated blood and plasma have been tested for antibodies to HIV since 1985. If found, the blood is destroyed."

"Becky, I really am not sure I understand what HIV and AIDS are. Have you seen anything that defines them?"

"Just a minute, I think I saw something on both in this same bulletin. Yes, here it is."

"AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. It is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and primarily affects you by making your body unable to fight diseases and infections which can kill you. Symptoms vary from person to person. Only a blood test can tell if someone is infected with HIV. Only a doctor can diagnose AIDS which comes when HIV worsens."

Discussion Question:

What are the two categories of men who account for the largest number of **AIDS** victims?

53% of all adult and adolescent **AIDS** patients are homosexuals. 31% of the patients are drug abusers, making a total of 84%

By the year 2,000 it is estimated that 30 to 40 million people will carry the **HIV** virus.

"Does it list symptoms?" Gamma asked.

"Yes. Although it may take years, when they do appear, they're like many common illnesses: swollen glands, coughing, fever and diarrhea." I can see why a blood test is necessary."

Do NOT share ANY object that can break the skin.

"Looking through this pamphlet, I find that there are only two main ways to get HIV," Gamma noted.

"Just two? What are they?"

Gamma answered, "Having sex with an infected person or sharing needles."

"What is sharing needles, Gamma?"

"Just a minute. I'm sure I saw that question in another bulletin. Yes, I did. Here it is, Becky."

Becky read it aloud. "Under no circumstances should needles or syringes be shared, even if they are for prescription medication such as insulin. Needles used for tattoo application or ear/body piercing must also be disposable or sterilized before and after each use."

"Becky, let's talk about the first one — having sex with an infected per-

Discussion Question:

Re-read the story of Lot and his family (Genesis 19), as they settled in the city of Sodom, from which our word 'sodomy' has come. Discuss the behavior of the men of Sodom, as they attacked Lot's house, demanding that the two "men" (angels) be turned over to them. When the men of Sodom were struck with blindness, did that startling event bring them to their senses? Does the fear of — or presence of — AIDS bring homosexual men to their senses?

son. There seems to be much promiscuity going on. We hear about safe sex although there's no guarantee that it is. We need to be safe by following biblical guidelines."

Discussion Question:

There are those who argue that the Bible does not condemn the homosexual life-style, that such a choice is a personal matter, one that was decided by the genetic make-up from conception. Are these statements true? Read Genesis 19; Romans 1:24-32; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:9-11.

In these passages, does God portray homosexuals as sinners, evil people who have chosen to live in disobedience to Him? Does the statement in 1 Corinthians 6, 'such were some of you' affirm that homosexuals can quit that life-style and live pure lives that are pleasing to God? Would God require anything of a person if it was not possible for him to do it?

"I agree, Gamma. Children know what's going on and they need to be taught to live right, how to deal with peer pressure that might lead to risky behavior, and they need to read and discuss such material as we have here to correctly inform them of the truth about HIV/AIDS. One thing they need to learn is:

It is possible to become infected from just ONE sexual experience or ONE shared needle or syringe with an infected person.

"I wonder how one can begin a sexual relationship with all these dangers present in such conduct. Some seem to go from one partner to another as

easily as changing clothes. Isn't it reasonable that having sex is not only having sex with one person but also with the ones that one has had sex with and everyone their partners had sex with, and so on. Any one of them can give that person HIV/AIDS, it seems to me," Becky continued.

"There's a way to run no risks," Gamma said. "It's prevention by sexual abstinence. The Bible plainly teaches that sexual intercourse should be for married people only. When each one believes this, they keep themselves pure for marriage. This eliminates any fears of contracting HIV/AIDS."

"God's plan is for me," Becky declared.

Goal

Although she's in college and is a very level-headed woman, Gamma wants Becky to stay the same sweet, pure Christian girl that she is now. She prays that she will marry a man who believes in leading the good life that Becky lives.

Search the Scriptures

The lifestyle pictured in this lesson is not what God wants for His creation. Paul wrote the Corinthians, "*Now the body is not for fornication, but to the Lord...*" (1 Corinthians 6:13). He wrote Timothy to not be a "*partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure,*" (1 Timothy 5:22).

Paul asked the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 6:15,16) if they didn't know that their bodies belonged to Christ. He then asked if the members of Christ could be made members of a harlot. He concluded with, "*What? know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.*"

Humanity was made with these urges for satisfaction, but they are to be controlled. We've already learned from Paul that we

are to keep our bodies in subjection (1 Corinthians 9:27). He gives the solution in 1 Corinthians 7:2 that in order to avoid fornication *“every man is to have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.”* He continues in the following verses to instruct each husband to *“render unto his wife due benevolence”* and the wife is to do the same. This self-giving is binding and is a weapon against Satan’s temptation to look to another for gratification.

In writing to the churches of Galatia, Paul sent a list of the works of the flesh. Adultery, fornication, and uncleanness headed the list (Galatians 5:19). He wrote the church in Thessalonica that they were to abstain from fornication (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

Please keep in mind that we’ve already learned that humanity is God’s creation. The human is to control the physical body and not defile it. It is to be used to glorify God. If this were done, there would be no need for a lesson on HIV/AIDS. That, as well as other things, would become a part of the past.

God bless you with success as you enter the fight to help stamp out all that defiles.

Exercise Questions

1. Multiple Choice: Draw a line under the correct answer.
 - a. Becky and Gamma have a (good, bad, indifferent) feeling for each other.
 - b. Do you think their relationship is (normal, unusual, unreal, ideal)?
 - c. As a grandmother, is Gamma (unbelievable, believable)?
 - d. Is this problem of HIV/AIDS (true, overdrawn, worse)?
 - e. Is it (possible, impossible) for a young person to live a pure life?
 - f. One (can, cannot) contract the virus by kissing.

- g. The HIV virus (is, is never) passed on by sharing needles used by an infected person.
- h. AIDS comes (before, after) HIV.

2. Discussion:

- a. List and discuss the three things we studied that we are to do for the body.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
- b. Discuss when it's right and when it's wrong to have sex.
- c. How many times must one be exposed to HIV/AIDS before contracting it?
- d. Is it possible to have safe sex? How?
- e. Is using a condom safe? Discuss when it is and isn't.
- f. What is the only safe method for preventing AIDS?

3. True-False:

- a. AIDS is easy to cure.
- b. It's impossible for a woman to come to marriage pure.
- c. The same is true for a man.
- d. AIDS is passed through infected blood, semen, and vaginal secretions.
- e. HIV kills off the good cells that the immune system uses to fight infections.
- f. It doesn't matter if you use a shared needle to pierce your ears.
- g. It's easy to know you've contracted AIDS because of the rare signs you're having.
- h. A woman with HIV/AIDS can have a healthy baby.
- i. Only a blood test can tell if one is infected with HIV.

8

THE AWAKENING OF A WOMAN

Lesson

"Gamma?"

"Is that you, Becky?"

"Yes. I had to call you. I have some exciting news."

"Let me guess. You're graduating from college with honors."

"No, though that's partly true. I will graduate in the top ten. My news is, I met the nicest man in Bible class a few Sundays ago. His company transferred him here recently. We met at a party the College Class hosted. He said he would like to ask me out. Gamma, we've gone out several times now, and I think he's the one! I feel something electric between us. I'm so excited."

"You sound like it. Tell me more about him."

"I think you'll like him. Guess what, we were in college at the same time for a year. He earned his degree three years ago, but I never saw him. He says he doesn't remember me, either. But of course, he wouldn't. A senior doesn't notice a lowly freshman."

"Becky, you're not telling me what I want to know first of all."

"I know what this is. No, he's never been married. Yes, he's a Christian but his parents aren't. It's interesting how he learned the truth. His best friend in college went to worship regularly, so he invited Eddie to go with him. Finally,

he did and became interested. Both of them studied with the preacher. Just before he graduated, Eddie was baptized.”

“That’s good. Does he attend regularly?”

“Well, since he’s been here — yes. It was hard for him to attend after he began work for this company, because he worked a lot on Sundays. He doesn’t now.”

“Describe him to me.”

“Love is the child of freedom, Never that of domination.”

— Erich Fromm

“He’s really good-looking. Tall, slim, smartly styled auburn hair, brown eyes and a neat mustache. He’s polite and treats me like a lady. I think you two will be impressed with each other.”

“If you like him, then I’m sure I will, too.”

“Here’s what I need to hear from you, Gamma. You know what to look for in a man, things I’m not aware of. I wish you would tell me what you think is important.”

“I don’t want to sound preachy, Becky, but I do want you to be happy. Probably, you have not talked seriously about marriage. Yet, there are some basic things that you need to think about. First, there must be a love that can survive all difficulties. Marriage is for better or worse, you know.”

“Yes, and I want one that will last for life. But, just what kind of love will do that?”

“It’s one that endures in spite of adverse circumstances. This kind of love never wavers through long illnesses, financial setbacks, misunderstandings, differences of opinion or disappointments. In fact, it grows and intensifies as the years go by.”

“That sounds good. But, if a couple is to have that kind of marriage, they will need time to get well-acquainted with each other before the wedding, won’t they?”

Discussion Question:

What did Jesus say concerning marriage? He showed that God's plan for marriage has never changed, by making reference to "...He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.'

"...Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery, and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery" (Matthew 19:4-9).

"That's right. Then, there are so-called little things that can also make or break a marriage."

"I'm almost afraid to ask. But, what are they, Gamma?"

"Love is not to be purchased and affection has no price."

— St. Jerome

"Lack of trust is one of them. A man doesn't like being questioned each time he comes home. Most men resent having to give account of where they've been, who they've been with and everything they said. Another point is habits that grate on one's nerves. For instance, wet towels on the floor or shoes all over the house. A serious one is a lack of consideration for one's feelings in front of others. Examples: constantly belittling one's companion, correcting each thing that's said and laughing at his mistakes. Being selfish in wanting one's own way all the time is another."

"Gamma, stop! You're bringing up more things than I can grasp," Becky said and laughed. "You're right, we haven't talked about marriage, so that makes this a good time to discuss these things. I can be more objective now than after we get serious, if we do."

**"Wherever there is a bit of colour,
A note of song, a grace of form,
Then comes the call of our love."
— Rabindranath Tagore**

"You're very level-headed, Becky. I'm proud of you. I would like to mention one other problem couples have. It's how to handle finances. I think this one gives more trouble than any other."

"I can see how it would," Becky said. "You've given me a lot to think about and I will. Thank you, Gamma."

"When are you coming to see us?"

"I have a free weekend in two weeks. Would it be all right if I came then?"

"That will be fine with us. Can Eddie come, too? We'd like to meet him."

"Thank you, Gamma. I'd love that. We have a date tomorrow night. I'll ask him then and let you know."

"Good. We hope he can."

"Tell Papa hello for me, and if Eddie accepts, we'll see you in two weeks."

Goal

Gamma expects Becky to face the prospect of marriage in the near future. She prays often that the one she marries will be a Christian and that they will always be faithful to the Lord.

Gamma believes the top priority in a Christian's life centers on Matthew 6:33: *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* She thinks if young people learned this lesson before marriage, fewer unions would fail.

Search the Scriptures

Genesis 1 and 2 tell the story of the beginning of all things. *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1). *"The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep..."*. For six days, God brought order out of the chaos. After each day's work, He said it was good. He said of the vegetation that the seed was inside and that it would bear after its own kind. He commanded each part of creation to be fruitful, to multiply and to fill the earth.

After making the land animals on the sixth day, God's work to prepare the world for man's habitation was completed. He then said, *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..."* He *"formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."*

After God looked on man, He said, *"It is not good that the man be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."*

God brought all the animals and fowls to the man, Adam, who gave them names. But none was suitable as a mate for him. Why? He needed someone like himself. Animals were not the same. Adam was the only one made in God's image. His companion must be *like him, only different, made as his completion.*

God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, took a rib from his side, and of it He made a woman. God then presented her to Adam.

What must have been Adam's thoughts when he looked at the woman? Was it possible that he wondered, "Now what am I going to do with this?" Was he curious? Did he think, "It is obvious she is different from me." Or, after looking at so many animals, did he say, "She's beautiful!"

"Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of man."

Discussion Question:

Discuss ways — mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually — that man and woman were designed by God to be like each other and to complete each other.

Do we realize what Adam is saying? “She is just what I need. I can talk to her and she understands. What I am unable to do for myself, she provides. We love each other. Why, this is what God meant when He said we are to multiply, to fill the earth. The same (another man) could not do it. Different (woman) could.”

By these words, Adam knew she was the same as he, “bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh.” When he said, “*she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of man,*” he acknowledged her difference.

Adam accepted her and said, “*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*”

After God blessed the man and woman, He told them they must be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth. They also were given dominion over all living things.

Exercise Questions

1. The 14 words of creation are in the puzzle below. The six numbers of the days of creation are also included. The words are across, up, down, or diagonal.

F	I	S	H	E	S	L	W	O	F
I	I	U	F	I	E	A	R	T	H
R	V	N	X	O	Q	S	A	E	S
M	N	N	S	A	U	S	E	C	Y
A	J	A	T	J	F	R	D	A	B
M	Z	M	A	N	I	M	A	L	S
E	G	O	R	I	V	A	Y	L	M
N	O	W	S	G	E	N	K	T	O
T	N	P	T	H	R	E	E	W	O
V	E	G	E	T	A	T	I	O	N

2. God said it was not good for man to be alone. List as many reasons as you can why it was not.

3. Why could no companion for Adam be found among the animals?

4. Connect the creation to the day it was made.

Day	Creation
1 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sea, earth, vegetation
2 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sun, moon, stars
3 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> fishes, fowls
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> animals, man, woman
5 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> firmament
6 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> day, night

5. Explain how woman filled Adam's needs.

6. What made her different?

7. How would Adam know about a man leaving his parents to marry a woman? Remember, he did not have parents.

- 8.** What do you think should be the primary reason for marriage?
- 9.** How long is a marriage to last?
- 10.** Name some so-called little things that are harmful to a marriage.
- 11.** Money problems are a source of trouble in many American marriages. Is this true in other countries?
- 12.** The husband is the head of the wife. Does that mean that he is to be domineering?
- 13.** What age do you think is ideal for marriage? Why?
- 14.** When a young woman begins to awaken, what are some questions she asks herself as she falls in love?

9

THAT EXCLUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

Lesson

"Becky, I don't remember ever seeing so many lovely gifts. Is there anything you'll need in your new home that you didn't get in the shower tonight?"

"I don't think so, Gamma. Isn't it wonderful to have so many generous friends?"

"Yes, it is," said Norma Hill, Becky's mother.

"Gamma, how can I ever thank you enough for the beautiful kingsize spread you made for us? It's gorgeous! I know you put a lot of hours into working on it. There must be millions of cross-stitches. And, counting those made when you quilted it — it's hard to comprehend."

Becky gave her grandmother a big hug. "You can be sure I'll treasure it," she promised. "It'll be a family heirloom I can pass on to the daughter I hope to have some day."

Norma folded the spread and put it back in its box. "Mother, Becky wants to talk with you. Since you'll be going home in the morning, this might be a good time. That is, if you're not too tired. If you'll excuse me, I have some things to do now."

"Gamma, you and Papa have such a good marriage, Eddie and I want ours to be just like yours. What can we do to make it like that?"

"No mystery, adventure or sexual discovery is left for the marriage bed, if sex is experienced before marriage."

—Glover Shipp

"I don't have all the answers, honey, but I believe in marriage God's way."

"What do you mean, Gamma?"

"To begin with, God instituted marriage. He did it for the good of men and women, to fulfill their every need. You remember, we talked about this a little when you and Eddie began to show an interest in each other. So, a man and woman fall in love, marry, and become one flesh. In this way, they share themselves in a lifetime commitment. This is the exclusiveness of marriage — one man for one woman"

"There's no doubt in my mind that I've found the one man for me. Yet, I know we'll have to get used to each other. I want to love Eddie's family even though they're different. They never go to worship. Some of their ideas seem strange to me."

"Adjustments are common to all couples, I'm sure. Yet, there are some things that remain basic to a successful marriage."

"Which one do you think is the most important, Gamma?"

"Love and service to God come first, of course. But, would it surprise you if I said friendship is next?"

"I hadn't thought of that. Why friendship? I know Eddie and I love each other. But friendship?"

"Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Walk beside me and just be my friend."

—Albert Camus

"A good marriage requires **loving** a person, but it must also include **liking** that person. I recently found an excellent article on that subject in a magazine and here's a copy for you. I think it'll prove helpful as you learn to live together."

"Thank you, Gamma." Becky said as she began to read the article. "It looks good. The eight things mentioned seem practical. Look at the first one, 'Enjoyment of each other.' Eddie and I do 'enjoy each other'. We respect what each has to say. We seem to have the same set of values."

"What do you think of the second one, Becky, 'an ability to change'? Eddie is on his way up the corporate ladder, while you'll likely begin a family and become a housewife. Will you feel he's outgrown you? That he doesn't appreciate all you do in the home? Will he take you for granted and go on his way? You can see changes will come. You'll both need to work to make your marriage successful."

"There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage."

— Martin Luther

"Thanks for the article, Gamma. I want to keep it to refer to. But, let's go back to what you said about marriage being exclusive. Just what is that?"

I've already mentioned it briefly — one man for one woman for life. But, we do need to enlarge on it. The mass media makes light of marriage and purity of life. As a result, divorce is rampant. In this family, we don't believe divorce is the answer. We live by God's plan — one man and one woman for life."

"Oh, I hope Eddie and I never consider divorce. We want our love for each other to grow into one like your's and Papa's and my parents'. You've all set good examples of exclusiveness in marriage. What else do you consider important, Gamma?"

"You seemed surprised when I said 'being friends'. This one may shock you, too. I think each partner in a marriage should be able to say exactly what he or she wants to say and in a way that the other will understand. They should feel free to talk about any problem and to work it out together."

"You're right, I'm stunned. But, Gamma, we do talk to each other. Already, we've talked about what each of us wants from our marriage."

"That's good, but its not really what I have in mind. Having one's companion as a best friend is wonderful, but there must be other friends. In a happy marriage, each must have some room. Each needs to be with others some, but not to the neglect of each other. An unrealistic burden is placed on one whose companion wants to be the **only** friend. The husband may want to play golf with a male friend once each week. The wife may want to have lunch

with a female friend. The one left out shouldn't feel threatened. They need to talk and share these other relationships on a regular basis. This makes it a willing, mutual giving."

"I'm glad to hear more about this point, Gamma. I can see we should understand each other's needs for the friendship of others, but without overlooking one's best friend."

Norma appeared at the door. "May I come in?"

"Of course," Gamma and Becky said in unison.

"I don't want to interfere but, Becky, do you realize how late it is? I'm sure Gamma is tired."

Becky hugged Gamma and kissed her on the cheek.

"Oh, Gamma, please forgive me. I didn't mean to be inconsiderate. Thanks for all you shared tonight. You've always been so sweet and helpful. We'll talk more some other time. I love you, Gamma."

Goal

Gamma is grateful for the love and friendship she shares with Becky. She thinks this opens the way for frank discussion on what it takes to have a successful marriage. She is thrilled that Becky has a good attitude about learning.

Becky does not want her marriage to end in divorce. She thinks that is not the answer to a troubled marriage. She has been taught that when a man and woman marry, it is for life. She is firm in her belief that putting God's word first can solve any marriage problem.

"By friendship you mean the greatest love, the greatest usefulness, the most open communication, the noblest sufferings, the severest truth, the heartiest counsel, and the greatest union of minds of which brave men and woman are capable."

—Jeremy Taylor

"Always seek communion. It is the most precious thing man possesses. In this respect, the symbol of the religious is indeed full of majesty. Where there is communion there is something that is more than human, there is surely something divine."

—George Duhamel

A few years ago, the teacher of a girls' class Becky attended, asked them to memorize a poem, "His Ways" by Esther Guyot. Becky still remembers it and believes it will help her keep things in the right perspective.

"God has a thousand ways where I can see but one: when all my means have reached their end then His have just begun."

Search the Scriptures

God made man but He did not intend that he be complete by himself. He said, "*it is not good that the man be alone*" (Genesis 2:18). Several reasons show why this is so. Man needs someone with whom he can share his life, his joys, his sorrows. He needs someone on whom he can lavish his love and possessions. He needs a friend, a lover, one who can challenge the best in him, one who can help him be faithful to God. He needs one with whom he can reproduce himself.

This one was not found in the animal kingdom (Genesis 2:20). This one could not be another man, because they would be alike with the same needs. This one had to be like him in being human, but there must be differences that would complete his needs. The story of the creation of woman, and Adam's words when God brought her to him, leave no doubt that here was the one which was suitable for him (v.21-12).

Many things are shared in marriage. When the woman was brought to the man, he said a man leaves his parents, clings to his wife, and they become one flesh (v.24,25).

In 1 Corinthians 6:15-17, it is clear that "*one flesh*" means the sexual union of two bodies. In this passage, one flesh outside marriage is forbidden by God. In 1 Corinthians 7, rules are given for this sharing. Each person has his own companion (v. 2). Each is to show consideration for the needs of the other (v. 4). The sexual

relationship is not to be withheld indefinitely at any time (v. 5).

This sexual union is more than just the power to have children — animals can do that, but they do not become one flesh. By the intimacy of one flesh, love grows for each other and a bond of unity becomes strong. In fact, the two become fortified to the point that nothing can pull them apart.

Other things shared strengthen the bonding of a marriage. They wear the same name, have the same children, possessions, money, and aims. Those things belong to them, and them only. It is a picture of an exclusive relationship.

The Bible has a lot to say about friends and friendship. “*A friend loveth at all times...*” (Proverbs 17:17). “*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends*” (John 15:13). Jesus called His disciples His friends (John 15:14,15). David and Jonathan are examples of a deep friendship (1 Samuel 18:13; 2 Samuel 1:26). “*A man that hath friends must show himself friendly...*” (Proverbs 18:24). These examples are inspiring.

When the relationship between a husband and wife is what it should be, it becomes another beautiful symbol of friendship. They want above all else to be together. There are secrets that they share alone because they are private. They are for each other and no one else. As friends, they enjoy laughs with each other. They build memories that make a strong house.

When two people from different backgrounds marry, of course changes will be made. Each one needs to develop the ability to change. Love enables them to do this. Each wants the best in life for the other. The husband tries to provide the things that his wife is used to and that will make keeping the home easier. The wife learns to cook her husband’s favorite foods. She keeps his clothes ready to wear and sees that he is contented. Their love grows as they work to keep each other happy.

The thing they should want above all others is to have a Christian home and salvation for each member of the family.

Exercise Questions

1. The words listed below are found in this lesson. Look up the definition of each and find the words in the text. This should make the lesson more meaningful.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| a. suitable | e. share |
| b. complete | f. exclusive |
| c. change | g. bonding |
| d. commitment | h. friendship |

2. Will a young woman love her father and husband with the same love?

3. When plans are made to marry an unbeliever, many girls have said with all confidence, "Oh, that's OK. I'll change him after we marry." Will she?

4. When are her winning powers greater — before or after marriage?

5. The following line is in this lesson. "A good marriage requires loving a person but it must also include liking the person." Please explain this statement.

6. What do you think?

- Do marriages succeed because couples feel it has to, or because it is important to them to make it work?
- What are the biggest arguments about in marriage?
- What is the strongest bond in marriage?
- How long is one married before all the changes are made?

- e. How does one live with something that is unchangeable?
- f. How can one make a marriage permanent?
- g. How important is trust in marriage?
- h. Is it possible for a husband and wife to be mutually dependent?
- i. Older people have written a story of their marriage, chapter by chapter. They treasure the memories of their history. By contrast, young people have no history — only the present. Could this be a reason for the high divorce rate?
- j. What part does “luck” play in picking a mate? Having a successful marriage?

7. Should a couple find each other interesting?

8. What is the meaning of “the exclusiveness of marriage”?

9. Is it possible for every husband and wife to be best friends?

10. Is it important to talk over differences? When?

11. If a young couple decides to divorce rather than work at their differences, what does that say about their future?

12. Who gives more trouble in a marriage — in-laws, children, finances?

13. What is your reaction when you hear about a bride who refuses to wear her husband’s name?

14. Make a list of some of the things shared in marriage.

10

NO ONE TOLD ME IT'D BE LIKE THIS

Lesson

Dear Gamma,

"This is the unspoken contract of a wife and her works. In the long run wives are to be paid in a peculiar coin—consideration for their feelings. And it usually turns out this is an enormous, unthinkable inflation few men will remit, only with a sense of being overcharged."

—Elizabeth Hardwick

It seems ages since our last long visit the night of my shower. Please forgive my neglect. I promise to stay in touch more often. You know you're dear to me.

How are you and Papa? I remember how nice you looked at my wedding. You are a striking couple. Papa was so handsome in his new dark suit, and Gamma, you were as radiant as a bride yourself. Your new blue dress made you look like that delicate Dresden figurine in your china cabinet that I've admired all my life.

With so many at the reception, I missed not having time to chat a bit with you. And then Eddie and I left on our honeymoon in a great flurry.

We had a wonderful honeymoon in San Francisco. All I knew about it was glimpses I'd seen on television. Eddie had been there before, and he remembered how the tourist attractions impressed him. He thought it'd be fun to show me the city. I loved it all.

The day we saw the Golden Gate Bridge, a cloud of smog hung over the middle part of the structure. The sun burned it off at the top which made the towers look as if they were reaching for heaven out of the fog. What a majestic sight! We thrilled at the rides on the famous trolley cars. We tried one of San Francisco's specialties — sour dough bread. Though delicious, it runs second to yours, Gamma! We saw the Pacific Ocean from the deck of an excursion boat. The many fishing boats made a spectacular picture. The view from Telegraph Hill gave us a good overall view of the area.

We took rolls and rolls of film. The pictures will add a lot to the brief account above. Not that we'll forget, but we think they'll be a good way to keep our honeymoon memories alive.

I never dreamed Eddie could be so sweet, thoughtful, or show such consideration as he did in San Francisco. He truly made me feel loved and special.

Eddie enjoys his work. It looks like his promotion may come up sooner than he expected.

In spite of our doubts, there's a place in our condo for all the lovely gifts we received. We can hardly wait for you to see it, especially the spread you gave us. It's beautiful on our new bed. I never see or handle it without thinking of the love you stitched into it.

Gamma, I'm sure you expect me to say something's wrong. I've always run to you to set my world right again. Like most newlyweds, we've had our first fuss. And, the incident that started it was insignificant.

"No greater sorrow than to recall in our misery the time when we were happy."—Dante

Eddie left for work one morning without kissing me good-bye or saying a word. I cried and cried. I felt rejected and hurt.

When Eddie came in that evening, he sensed something was wrong. He asked if I were sick. I burst into tears. He hadn't seen me cry before.

When he learned why, he gave me no sympathy. In fact, I sensed a little disgust. He said he couldn't baby me

all the time, he had to make a living. One word led to another. But, we soon worked it out with apologies. Both of us grew up a lot over that incident.

I don't want such things to keep happening, but it seems I'm the one to make the adjustments. Eddie's lifestyle has changed very little. In fact, it's easier because of what I do for him. He doesn't do any cooking, cleaning, laundry, making the bed, planning the meals or buying groceries. This looks so unequal to me. I work away from home, too. I could use some help from him.

I hope you'll write soon and help me with my attitudes. Give Papa a kiss for me.

I love you,

Becky

Discussion Question:

What suggestions would you make from your own experiences about

- ◆ timing in discussing problems or disappointments.
 - ◆ sharing responsibilities in the home when both husband and wife are working outside.
 - ◆ about lifestyle changes and how to achieve them with the least amount of pain.
-
-

Dear Becky,

I'm in a hurry but determined to answer immediately. This will be brief. It made us happy to hear about your honeymoon and your first home. We look forward to seeing your honeymoon pictures, too.

"If you truly want to understand something, try to change it."

— Kurt Lewin

Papa is to serve as a delegate to the next convention, so we'd like to make plans to visit you. We want to take you and Eddie out to eat and then see your home afterwards. We'll be in touch later to make final plans. Be thinking about where you'd like to eat.

“Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength.”

—St Francis de Sales

What to say? You’re going through what many women experience. I know the mixed emotions. You love and then you almost hate, but not really. This is a part of that adjustment period we talked about the night of your shower.

Do you remember the two points we discussed for a happy marriage? Friendship and the ability to talk and say what you really mean. Does this look to you like the time to talk? It does to me. But there’s an art to choosing the right time as well as the right words.

Do you think you chose the time and words wisely? Had you, there likely would have been no fuss.

Put yourself in Eddie’s place. Try to feel like he did. I’m sure he felt bad about not kissing you good-bye but wouldn’t you have said what he did? He was forced to become defensive.

You could have met him with a smile and a hug and said, “I missed my kiss this morning. I really need that. Don’t you?”

Or, say nothing but be there for it the next time he leaves. Say, “Thanks, I needed that.” He won’t miss that message.

About the chores, the problem for many, many couples. We’ll talk about that later, but some men are not good at doing things around the house. Some are. This problem is worked out according to each individual. Meanwhile, study Titus 2:3-5.

Thinking of you and looking forward to a visit soon.

I love you,

Gamma

Goal

Gamma was sure the differences in Eddie and Becky’s backgrounds would lead to some adjustments in their marriage.

Eddie's parents were not church-going people like Becky's. He knew little about girls. He had no sisters and his mother showed no affection. Becky, an only child, knew only the mature men in her family. Reared in an atmosphere of love and devotion, she expected to receive the same pampering she had always known.

Gamma admires Eddie. She has every confidence they will have a successful union.

Gamma carefully and prayerfully laid some groundwork. She talked to Becky about being friends with Eddie and about talking it over when a difference of opinion occurred. Now, with specific examples, she thought she could make the points clearer. In making changes, Gamma knew that both of them would grow and mature.

Search the Scriptures

Eden is defined as any delightful region or abode; a paradise; a state of perfect bliss.

The first couple, Adam and Eve, lived in the beautiful Garden of Eden. They dressed it and kept it but there was no work. Eve did no cooking because they ate fruit from all manner of trees. God walked and talked with them in the cool of the evening. What more could one ask?

After the temptation, radical changes were made. God sent them out of Eden, never to return. He told Adam he was made from the ground — now he would cultivate it and grow his food there. It would not be easy because thorns and thistles would grow. At his death, he would return to the ground. “...for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return” (Genesis 3:17-19).

God told Eve He would multiply her sorrow and conception. Her role would include subjection to her husband who was to rule over her (Genesis 3:16; John 16:21).

The roles for men and women are made clear by the above account. Man makes the living while woman obeys her husband and bears the children. For over 6,000 years, these God-given roles have not changed.

Paul wrote to Titus that older women are to teach young women their duties (Titus 2:3-5). Effective teaching involves more than telling or passing information from one person to another. To teach means to train. This indicates repetition in various ways until the student learns the material.

The first lesson is — she must learn to be sober. Unless she has an interest in spiritual things, she is unteachable. Her interests are on herself. Only when she learns the meaning of sober is she ready to love a husband and children.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians that a wife is to be submissive to her husband because he is her head. He illustrated that with Christ being the head of the church. As Christ loved the church and died for it, men are to love their wives with the same sacrificial love (Ephesians 5:22-25). When a woman is loved in this way, it is easy to return that love and accept him as her head, her leader, her guide.

Mothers do not always love their children. One has only to look at children in various shelters who have been forsaken by their mothers, or the homeless and abused on the streets to know this is true. Many who live in lovely homes are neglected by affluent parents. After much study, the conclusion is that loving her children is doing whatever is best for the good of the child.

Other traits the young women need to learn are to use discretion or self-control, to be chaste or pure, and to be good or kind.

Next, she needs to be taught the things that go into keeping a home. Finally, she learns to be obedient to her husband.

When women fulfill God's commands, they will be happy and will bring glory to God by their lives. If they refuse to be obedient, then they blaspheme God.

12. What would you suggest to make early marriage adjustments easier?

13. Whose responsibility is it:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. _____ vacuum | f. _____ buy groceries |
| b. _____ make up bed | g. _____ pay bills |
| c. _____ clean bathroom | h. _____ take out trash |
| d. _____ fill car | i. _____ clean garage |
| e. _____ mow lawn | j. _____ cook |

14. If woman's role is to be wife and mother, may she work outside the home and please God? Why? Why not?

15. Make a list of Bible women who worked away from home.

16. Have you ever been in a class when an older woman taught Titus 2:3-5?

11

THE OTHER FAMILY

Lesson

Dear Gamma,

I think of you and Papa often. I miss you. Eddie says he misses you, too. He's grown so fond of you. He never felt close to his grandparents, because he rarely saw them. They lived far away.

How are things on the farm? I hope you have a good year because you deserve it. Both of you work so hard. I'm sure Papa sees no need to slow down yet, does he?

Eddie likes his work. It looks as if he will hear about his transfer any time now. I think he wants it very much. It means a big promotion for him. He and his family aren't close, so a separation from them wouldn't be the consideration it would be for me and mine. But, crossing that bridge comes later, I guess.

I wish I could talk to you face to face. That would make my little problem clearer. There's no trouble yet but I don't want any. We aren't with Eddie's folks often. Maybe that's why I can't feel close to either of them.

I'd like to have an in-law relationship like you and Mom have. I'm sure many people think she's your daughter instead of your daughter-in-law. Your special friendship shows that you genuinely love each other. When I study Ruth and Naomi in Bible class, I think of you two. How did you form this closeness?

"All happy families resemble one another. Every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."—Leo Tolstoy

It's hard for me to have a conversation with Eddie's mother. What should I call her? I can't say

'Mom'. She's nothing like Mom to me. I'm afraid to use her given name. She'd probably think me disrespectful. To call her Mrs. Briggs sounds too cold. Eddie has no suggestions. He realizes the differences and I'm thankful he does.

We can't talk about the church because it's no part of their lives. I understand they've never attended any church at any time. We can't exchange recipes. She cooks the way her mother taught her and won't make any changes in methods or menus. I don't think she has any interests outside her home. I asked her to tell me stories about Eddie when he was a little boy. That didn't work either. It surprises me that Eddie went to college from such an environment.

Discussion Question:

Discuss the effort required to talk of the deepest thoughts and needs of the heart, to help in the "training" of a mate in a way of life that he has not known from childhood. If a mate chooses not to invest this degree of effort in the marriage, what will be missed in the oneness that should be developed?

His parents never show any affection toward each other. Why, when we go for a visit, Eddie never gets a hug from his mother nor a handshake from his dad. They just nod at me. Eddie says he can't remember his parents ever saying, "I love you," to him as a child. This is so different from all of my memories of home and family.

Frankly, I'm uncomfortable the entire time we're there. Gamma, can you think of a way to help me become a part of the family? I'd appreciate your suggestions. I certainly want my future children to love their grandparents and great-grandparents. But, will they? You've always been a vital part of my life and I want my children to have the same blessing.

"Go not empty unto
thy mother-in-law."

— Ruth 3:17

I hope you and Papa are well.

I love you,

Becky

Discussion Question:

Is it of any real importance to the success of a marriage to know and understand something of the proposed mate's family and background? In contrast to the thinking, "I'm marrying only a wife/husband," there is a saying, "You are marrying the family as well." Is this usually true?

"Hello"

"Becky, how are you?"

"Oh Gamma, how wonderful to hear your voice. We're fine. Are you and Papa OK?"

"Yes, we feel fine as usual. You seemed so concerned, I decided to call you rather than write. Your problem isn't at all unique. In fact, examples go back to early Bible times. Do you remember how Isaac and Rebekah felt about Esau's wives?"

"I'm not sure I know."

"If we examine the sources of our troubles and agitations, we find that they almost invariably spring from a desire for appreciation or a fear of contempt."— Selected

"In Genesis, it says they were a grief of mind to them. Rebekah even told Isaac she was tired of living because of them."

"I'm thankful I don't feel that way. But, I do wish I knew how Naomi and Ruth became such good friends. Several things could have made their relationship difficult, couldn't it? Ruth was a foreigner and didn't worship Jehovah."

"You're right, Becky. Yet they shared Mahlon who was dear to each of them. He was Naomi's son and Ruth's husband. Do you see any similarities in your case?"

"Yes, I do, Gamma. But there's a big difference in Naomi and Eddie's mother. Naomi served God. Eddie's mother doesn't know Him."

"Now that's where your concern lies, isn't it? If Eddie's parents were Christians, many of these other differences would fade away. Yet religion is a highly sensitive area."

"I know Eddie would like to talk to his parents about the Bible, but he thinks he might do more harm than good. He knows he has much to learn himself."

"Becky, I wish I could give you some rules which guarantee success. But there are none. I'm sure you and Eddie remember them in prayer. That's good. Your example of Christian living is also a powerful tool. If you're there on the weekend, in all kindness and love, let them know you must be in worship. Invite them to go, too."

"Oh, that scares me. I'm not sure I can handle it."

"If they're not warm to this idea, then you might use less obvious ways. Tracts are usually available in the foyer of church buildings. They are well-written, biblical, and brief. You might send one with a note that you enjoyed reading it and thought she might. On your next visit, quietly look for it. If you don't see it, ask if she received it, or if she's had time to read it. Then, leave it alone. Do you see anything that might lead to a conversation in these suggestions?"

"I like the one about sending tracts. That just might work. I'll talk all of your suggestions over with Eddie. Oh, thank you, Gamma. I knew you could help."

"I'll continue to think about this. If I come up with anything more, I'll let you know immediately. Give our love to Eddie."

"I will. He'll be sorry he wasn't here to say hello."

"Oh, just a minute, Becky. There's another thing I intended to mention. I've heard this several times and I fully agree with it. 'If you don't want to lose your son, make a friend of his wife.' Though she doesn't show affection, I'm

sure Eddie's mother loves him. Likely, she'd like to be friends with you but doesn't know how. Can you think of little gestures you could make which would show your good will?"

"I saw a pretty head scarf recently and I almost bought it for her. Now I wish I had. She wears them. I'll take her one the next time we go to see them."

"Now I must go, Becky. Let me know if the little gift idea seems to work. Thank you for staying in touch. Some young people grow apart from their grandparents when they marry and have wider interests."

"Oh, Gamma, don't you know I could never do that to you? Thanks for calling and for your help. I love you."

"I love you, too. Good-bye."

Goal

Gamma wants to encourage Becky to let Mrs. Briggs see Christ in her life by the way she conducts herself. One way is to attend the worship services faithfully even when they visit them. Gamma hopes Becky realizes it will be slow because they are not together often. Small considerations, such as phone calls or short letters from time to time, are a good way to build friendly feelings. It can be a way of keeping in touch. Not only does it say they are thought of but it is a way to keep them informed of their activities.

Search the Scriptures

A few stories about in-laws are found in the Bible. There is one about a man and his wife's mother who lived with them (Mark 1:30,31). Another is of a man who came to see his son-in-law with some good advice (Exodus 18). Two more stories show a contrast in mothers-in-law. One finds life unbearable, while the other finds life a blessing.

Isaac, the son of Abraham and Sarah, and his wife Rebekah had twin sons, Jacob and Esau. The boys were opposites in looks and personalities. Jacob was the favorite of his mother, while Isaac preferred Esau, the first-born son.

Esau, at forty, married two women of the Hittites, women who did not believe in God. They proved to be a grief to Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 26:34,35).

With time, the problem worsened. Rebekah said to Isaac, *"I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth..., what good shall my life do me?"* (Genesis 27:46).

The other story is that of Naomi and Ruth. Because of a famine in Bethlehem-Judah, a man took his wife Naomi and their two sons to Moab where there was food. The father died. The sons married Moabite women. After ten years, the sons died.

After learning the drought was over, Naomi made plans to return home. Her two daughters-in-law wanted to go with her, but she begged them to return to their own mothers. Finally, Orpah did. Ruth refused.

She said, *"Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me"* (Ruth 1:16).

These words have come down through the centuries as a classic in literature. They have been put to music and incorporated into wedding ceremonies. Artists have painted scenes from the lives of these women.

Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem-Judah. Listening to Naomi's advice, Ruth married a kinsman in the family. Later, a son was born to them. Her neighbor women told Naomi she was indeed blessed. She now had a kinsman. *"...for thy daughter-in-law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him"* (Ruth 4:15). Naomi took the child and became its nurse.

Exercise Questions

1. Make a list of possible reasons the relationship of Ruth and Naomi was so ideal.
2. Name incidents in Naomi's story that show her to be unselfish.
3. What would you consider the greatest lesson Naomi taught Ruth?
4. Does Esau's marriages to the "daughters of the land" parallel Christians today who marry non-Christians? How?
5. On a sidebar in the lesson, Boaz said to Ruth, "*Go not empty unto thy mother-in-law.*" What are some gifts that can be taken?
6. No doubt many young women have said, "I'm not marrying the whole family. I'm marrying only him." Is this true?
7. This saying was in our lesson, "If you don't want to lose your son, make a friend of his wife." Discuss, please.
8. "Oh, my son's my son till he gets a wife,
But my daughter's my daughter all her life." — Young and Old
What do you think this means?
9. How does this fit Becky and Eddie and their parents?

- 10.** Do you think jealousy might be a problem between a mother-in-law and her daughter-in-law? Why would it?
- 11.** Who is caught between them?
- 12.** If the mother-in-law is not pleased with her son's wife, is it ever wise to push him to a choice between them? Which would he choose? Why? Then, what happens next?
- 13.** Would the in-law relationship go more smoothly if the couple knew both families well?
- 14.** Make a list of the five things you consider to be the worst trouble-makers in marriages.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
- 15.** Are most in-law differences between the men or the women?
- 16.** Would Eddie likely have a closer relationship with Norma than Becky would with his mother? Why?

12

WHITHER THOU GOEST, I WON'T GO

Lesson

"Gamma and Papa, we've looked forward to this visit. We have some exciting news to share with you. You tell them, Eddie."

"Weep if you must,
parting is here—

But life goes on, so
sing as well."

— Joyce Grenfell

Gamma, Papa, Becky, and Eddie were enjoying coffee on the front porch after the evening meal. Gamma and Becky sat in the swing, while Papa and Eddie sat in rockers. The young couple had come for a weekend visit.

Eddie began, "I've gotten the promotion I expected. But, a transfer to the northwest goes with it. I'm to report to the office in exactly a month."

"Oh, no," Gamma exclaimed. "I knew you expected a change, but does it have to be so far away?"

"Now, Gamma, you know the business world's a rat race, and young people have to take advantage of these benefits as they come or they'll be passed over for any future offers," Papa said.

"Yes, of course," Gamma said, "but I'm selfish. I want them near."

"The increase in salary made it impossible to turn down," Eddie remarked.

"I've such mixed emotions," Becky said. "I'm thrilled with the confi-

dence the company has in Eddie. With more money, we can see buying a home in the near future. But, of course, I'll miss my family and lifelong friends."

Gamma observed, "It's not so bad nowadays. There's the telephone and the airlines. Several hundred miles don't seem nearly as far as it used to."

"We want to start our family," Becky added. "I really counted on having my first baby while we lived near home."

"Don't worry, we'll just come to you," Gamma said.

"What about your responsibilities in the new position?" Papa asked.

"That's one thing we don't like," Eddie answered. "I'll have a huge territory, so I'll be gone most of the time."

"I plan to look for a job after we get moved," Becky commented. "Until I become pregnant, I'll need to do something with my time. I'll have plenty of that with Eddie gone so much."

"I don't remember. How long have you worked since getting your degree?" Papa asked.

"Almost four years," Becky replied.

"You should be able to step right in without anything other than a short orientation course, shouldn't you?" Gamma asked.

"I think so. I'll apply soon after we move. If I have a little time before beginning work, it'll give me a chance to get everything in place and to locate a supermarket, a bank, a dress shop and the post office."

Discussion Question:

Discuss some of the dangers involved in this new move:

- ✿ re-locating so far from family so soon after a new marriage.
 - ✿ Eddie's expected absence most of the time.
-
-

"Aren't you forgetting something, Becky?" Gamma asked.

After a minute's pause, Becky said, "There must be something or you wouldn't have asked. What is it, Gamma?"

"You do intend to find the church first of all, don't you?"

"Oh, Gamma, of course we will. You know, most of my life I've been in

the same place, gone to the same church and have known nearly everybody in town. I wonder what it will be like to see people I don't know," Becky said in a pensive voice.

"Man is pliable, a being who gets accustomed to everything."

— Feodor Dostoevsky

"With your personality and your friendly manner, you'll like it. You'll soon know lots of people," Papa assured her.

"One thing worries me," Becky said. "I've friends who've married but refused to go when their husbands had opportunities like Eddie has. Did they do right in refusing to go? I wonder if they didn't lose something in their marriage though they got their way."

"I like your thinking on this, Becky," Papa said. "In the very beginning Eve was told her desire should be to her husband. Doesn't that sound like his wife should begin packing when a husband needs to move?"

"I'm glad I married you, Becky," Eddie said as he smiled. "I got you and your wonderful family."

Goal

Gamma is surprised at herself. Her life has been so comfortable and controlled, but now it is changing. Her only grandchild and her husband will soon be moving away. Her reactions are hardly what she expected. There is fear in her heart. Will Becky continue to be a faithful Christian? Will the people be kind and loving to her? Will she be all right with Eddie gone so much?

Gamma began to look at herself in a new perspective. She must study and pray more. She thought her faith was strong. Now, she wonders if it really is. She knows she needs to make more growth herself. There are some things she must learn to accept.

Gamma has been careful to read her Bible every day. Now, she plans to spend more time in study. She will not allow separation to make her lose her close contact with Becky. She is beginning to see that she herself can mature from this situation.

Search the Scriptures

With modern means of travel, much of our world is mobile. Today, it is not new for families to make long moves.

When God said to Abraham, “...*Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house...*” (Genesis 12:1), it was not the usual thing.

The writer of the book of Hebrews wrote that Abraham left without knowing where he was to go (Hebrews 11:8). In verse 9, we learn that he sojourned in a strange country, living in tents. Joshua quoted the Lord who said He led Abraham throughout all the land of Canaan (Joshua 24:3).

Was this not Sarah’s lot, too? She married Abraham. As her husband, he was her head. When God called Abraham to go to a land He would show him, that included Sarah. Did she leave her best china in Ur, Chaldees? How about her best linens, her favorite pieces of furniture, other things that once belonged to her mother?

When Abraham left with Isaac to go to Mt. Moriah, did Sarah watch from her tent door? Was she aware of Abraham’s intentions? As Isaac asked later, she could have wondered why her husband did not take an animal along to offer as a sacrifice. Was there a spark of fear in her heart as she watched them disappear in the distance?

The book of Genesis includes another story of a long move. This time the one making the trip was a young maiden, named Rebekah (Genesis 24).

Abraham did not want his son Isaac to marry a woman from among the Canaanites where they lived. He sent his trusted servant Eliezer to see if he could find one among Abraham's own kin in Mesopotamia.

After arriving there, Eliezer met a beautiful, unmarried girl at a well. He learned that she was the daughter of Bethuel, Abraham's nephew. He talked with the family about his mission and asked if they would allow Rebekah to go with him to become Isaac's wife. They agreed.

Eliezer said, *"Send me away unto my master,"* v. 54.

The family asked him to wait a few days, but he insisted on going at once. They called Rebekah to them.

"Wilt thou go with this man?" they asked, v. 58.

"I will go," she said.

So Rebekah became Isaac's wife and he loved her, v. 57.

We have looked at a man and his family who left their home on a long journey, and a young woman who made a long trip to marry.

Psalm 137:1-6 records the feelings of the Jewish nation after they made the long trip from Canaan to Babylon as captives. This psalm is a mournful song, a lament.

The Jews were prisoners in a strange land, but their hearts were in Zion. They were settled along the rivers in Babylon. They brought their harps, but with no will to play, they hung them in the willow trees along the banks of the rivers. Their captors wanted them to sing happy songs to them. Too, they wanted to hear their native songs. But the hostages could not sing. They were too homesick to be happy. They were unable to forget the glories of Jerusalem, their home.

Exercise Questions

1. Did Gamma react to the announcement of Becky and Eddie's move as any ordinary grandmother would have?
2. Did Papa react like a typical grandfather?
3. Was their attitude good about accepting it?
4. Is it easier to be the one left at home or the one who is leaving? Why?
5. Does leaving one's home need to be traumatic? Cause unhappiness?
6. Where would you say Sarah's priorities were when she left Ur with Abraham?
7. Did her faith match Abraham's?
Consider:
 - a. Was it necessary for her faith to equal his?
 - b. She was in subjection to her husband
 - c. How much choice she actually had
8. Match these references in Genesis to Rebekah's traits:

24:16 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> modest
25:22 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> deceitful
24:65 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> believed in God
25:28 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> beautiful
26:35 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> willing worker

27:15

hospitable

24:19

showed partiality

24:25

unhappy mother-in-law

9. Can you learn whether Rebekah ever saw her family in Mesopotamia again?
10. Check those from the following list that could have been possible reasons why Rebekah went with Eliezer:
- a. _____ There was no one for her to marry among her kin in Mesopotamia.
 - b. _____ Abraham was rich.
 - c. _____ All his wealth was to go to Isaac.
 - d. _____ God had a hand in the choice.
 - e. _____ She did not want someone else to marry Isaac.
 - f. _____ The rich gifts Eliezer gave all the family.
11. Study and discuss these verses which show various reactions of people forced to make changes:
- a. Joshua 24:3
 - b. Genesis 47:1-6
 - c. Ruth 1:1
 - d. Psalm 137:1-6
12. Consider the differences in the circumstances of the above examples. Is there any comparison in what they faced and the problem of Becky and her family?
13. Do you agree with the words in the sidebar at the beginning of the lesson?
14. Do you think it is true that humanity has an amazing ability to adjust to almost any situation?

13

REVIEW

1. FROM GAMMA WITH LOVE

1. Name the characters in this lesson and their kinship.
 - a. Does the story begin in the summer or fall?
2. Why did Gamma write the letter?
3. How would you describe these people?
4. Are there people like this today?
 - a. Would you say they are typical of the average family?

2. THE HERITAGE FROM GRANDPARENTS

1. Contrast Becky's family relationship with that of her friend Trina's.
 - a. Are they representative of families today?
 - b. The greatest number of families would fit into which category?
2. Describe the relationship in the following biblical families:
 - a. Ruth
 - b. Timothy

- c. Isaac
 - d. Laban
 - e. Jacob
3. Make a list of some of the things grandparents leave their grandchildren.
- a.
 - b.
 - c.

3. JUST DON'T DO IT

1. Would you expect Becky to become a user of tobacco?
2. What kind of grades do school children make who smoke or use drugs?
3. Toward which age group do tobacco advertisers aim ads?
4. Is it now a proven fact that living with a smoker is harmful to the non-smoker?
5. Is an unborn baby affected when its mother smokes?
6. Do you remember the three ways to use the body?
 - a. Make an application using tobacco.
 - b. Name a Bible character who took good care of his body.

4. JUST SAY NO

1. Is this lesson on drugs needed today?
2. Why do young people get caught in the trap of drugs?
3. Which drug is the cheapest?
 - a. Is addiction to it slow or quick?
4. List three reasons some turn to drugs:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
5. What are the three common traits of drug abusers?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
6. Name some things you consider to be strong family values.
7. Is the human body worthless?
8. When one quits drugs, does the body rid itself of the drugs quickly or slowly?
9. Name three ways one is to use the body:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

5. DON'T YOU TRUST ME?

1. Is pre-marital sex a problem only in the present generation?
2. Since the sex drive is strong, how is it to be dealt with?
 - a. Consider Joseph's example when tempted, Genesis 39:9.
3. Are parents wise to supervise the activities of their young people?
4. Are they distrustful when they want to know whom their child is dating? Where they'll be going? Why they are going there?
Setting a curfew?
5. What are the dangers in heavy petting?
6. How should a girl handle "Prove that you love me"?
7. Is it possible for a girl to set limits?

6. WHEN DOES LIFE BEGIN?

1. Are you surprised that Trina became pregnant? Why?
2. True/False
 - a. Life begins at conception
 - b. Abortion is never a choice
 - c. A fetus is not a baby yet
3. Did Trina have a right to abort?

4. List the reasons she said she would:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
5. Is it realistic to stop premarital sex once it's begun?
6. Is it the responsibility of the church or the home to teach young people to lead pure lives?

7. A VIRUS NAMED HIV/AIDS

1. Name the two ways one contracts HIV.
2. Are the symptoms distinctive?
 - a. So how does one know he/she has HIV?
 - b. Is it dangerous to have HIV?
 - c. It may take years, but what does it eventually become?
3. Is it true or false that it's easy to contract HIV?
4. Are either HIV or AIDS ever fatal?
5. Is there a cure for this virus?
6. What is the only sure way to prevent having HIV/AIDS?
7. List some scriptures showing the way to prevent it.

8. THE AWAKENING OF A WOMAN

1. What influence does Gamma have on Becky? Why?
2. What do you think Becky would look for in a male friend?
3. Do you agree with what Gamma put first in marriage?
 - a. What was it?
 - b. Why is it so important?
4. Does this quality lose intensity or does it intensify?
5. Do most girls consider marriage as seriously as Becky did?
6. Who instituted marriage?
 - a. Why?
 - b. How long is it to last?

9. THAT EXCLUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

1. It is one _____ for one _____ for _____.
2. Make a list of things which keep that relationship exclusive.
3. Does "exclusive" rule out lunch with a friend, a game of golf, etc.?
4. Is divorce ever a solution when a problem arises?
5. Find a scripture which shows how God regards divorce.
6. List some things being "one flesh" keeps out.

10. NO ONE TOLD ME IT'D BE LIKE THIS

1. What do you think is the important thing to learn in this lesson?
2. Was Becky's reaction to the incident mature or immature?
3. What do you think about the way Gamma handled it?
 - a. Could that solution work for other young brides?
 - b. Has God changed His role for women?
4. Is "submission" a hard word for modern women to accept?
 - a. Is she right or wrong?
 - b. How is Christ an example of this attribute?
5. How would you go about teaching a woman God's sphere for her?
6. Would that rule out a career?

11. THE OTHER FAMILY

1. Does a bride also marry the groom's family?
2. Is his family a consideration as she considers marriage to him?
Why?
3. Do the feelings of Isaac and Rebekah for their daughters-in-law touch you?
4. Which attribute do you think is important in an in-law relationship?

5. How does one accomplish this?
6. Was Gamma's advice to Becky sound?
7. Name one in-law relationship in the Bible that has been a classic in literature for generations.
8. Is it easier for a man to adjust to in-laws than for a woman? Why?

12. WHITHER THOU GOEST, I WON'T GO!

1. Was Gamma's reaction a natural one at the prospect of Becky's long move?
2. How about Papa's?
3. How could Gamma accept it?
4. Is it easier to be the one leaving or the one left behind?
5. What did God tell Eve her desire was to be?
6. What was the one thing Gamma feared most about Becky's move?
7. Name some women of the Bible who made long moves with their husbands.