

Families Matter!

Caring for Older Parents

In the United States today, we are living longer than at any time in our history. More and more people need to deal with the subject of caring for older parents. I hope that the brief notes in this article will help us to know that there are principles we can use to accomplish the goal of being the best care-givers we can be. I also want to stress that the Bible must be the basis for all of the things that we do for the elderly, because the Bible is the only book on earth that is always right!

We should care for older parents in light of these five points:

1. **In light of the honor that parents deserve according to the command of God** (Ephesians 6:1-3). They occupy many positions during our lives, including being our earliest care-givers, protectors, providers, teachers, examples, as well as being the people who can provide examples of wisdom and courage in their old age. Honoring them in their later years is our duty.
2. **In light of the subject of health.** They took care of us when we were helpless and needy. Now that they are facing the difficulties that come at the end of life, we should be strong for them in any way we can. This includes learning how to be helpful to them just as they learned how to be helpful to us. In the book of Ruth, the story of the helpfulness that was provided to Naomi by Ruth and Boaz (who were not even her children!) has much to offer us.
3. **In light of the happiness they wanted for us.** They desired to have us as their children, and they went to great lengths to provide for our happiness. Sure, they made their share of mistakes and sins—but they did not want us to be un-

happy! They wanted the “best” for us. Now it is time to return the favor! Paul thought of Timothy as his “son” in Christ. Note his requests of Timothy in 2 Timothy 4, as he faced the end of life. He wanted Timothy to do things for him—including trying to be there with him! Being there is a great way to produce happiness for those who are older and often alone.

4. **In light of history.** The history of our family includes their financial sacrifices for us, their emphasis on family, their hope for our happy future as they reared us, and their strong feelings about our relationship as their children. We should attempt to make their last days good ones in view of their track record on our behalf. Jesus was totally unhappy with people who tried to escape their responsibilities toward parents (Mark 7:9-13).
5. **In light of the example of Jesus.** He provided for the welfare of His mother when He knew that He would die before she did (John 19:26,27).

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2)

Duluth Church of Christ

3239 Highway 120

Duluth, GA 30096

770 476-2159

E-mail: duluthcofc@duluthcofc.org

Web Sites:

duluthcofc.org

tftworld.org

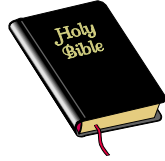
how2bsaved.com

(Please contact us for additional copies or to be added to our mailing list.)

ISSUE
9

Devotional Guide

S	M	T	W	T	F	S



The readings for this devotional guide are both positive and negative. Some of the couples in this list were faithful and true, others were full of evil, and others show that there can be one faithful and one unfaithful person in a marriage. All of them have “something to say” that can help us.

THE COUPLE

THE READINGS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Adam & Eve | Genesis 2:4-4:2 |
| 2. Noah & his wife | Genesis 5:28-9:17; Hebrews 11:7; Matthew 24:36-39 |
| 3. Job & his wife | Job 1:1-2:13; 42:7-17 |
| 4. Peter & his wife | Mark 1:30,31; Matthew 8:14,15; Luke 4:38,39; 1 Corinthians 9:5; 1 Peter 5:1-3 |
| 5. Ruth & Boaz | Ruth 2:1-4:22 |
| 6. Zacharias & Elisabeth | Luke 1:5-80 |
| 7. Ahab & Jezebel | 1 Kings 16:29-33; 19:1-3; 21:1-16; 22:34-40; 2 Kings 9:30-37 |
| 8. Philemon & Apphia | Philemon 1-25 |
| 9. Manoaah & his wife | Judges 13:1-25 |
| 10. Abraham & Sarah | Genesis 12:10-20; 16:1-6; 17:15-22; 18:6-15; 21:1-8; 23:1-4; Hebrews 11:8-12 |
| 11. Elkanah & Hannah | 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:1-11, 18-21 |
| 12. A great woman & her husband | 2 Kings 4:8-37 |
| 13. Jehoram & Athaliah | 2 Chronicles 21:1-24:7 |
| 14. Isaiah & the prophetess | Isaiah 1:1; 8:1-4 |
| 15. Elimelech & Naomi | Ruth 1:1-22 |
| 16. Amram & Jochebed | Exodus 2:1-10; 6:20; Hebrews 11:23 |
| 17. Solomon & his beloved | Song of Solomon 1:1-8:14 |
| 18. Aquila & Priscilla | Acts 18:2,18,26; Romans 16:3; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19 |
| 19. Ezekiel & his wife | Ezekiel 24:15-18 |
| 20. Joseph & Mary | Matthew 1:1-2:23; Luke 1:26-40,46-56; 2:1-52 |
| 21. Ananias & Sapphira | Acts 5:1-11 |
| 22. David & Bathsheba | 2 Samuel 11:1-12:25; 1 Kings 1:11-2:19 |
| 23. Esau & his wives | Genesis 26:34,35; 36:1-8 |
| 24. Jacob & Rachel & Leah | Genesis 29:9-31 |
| 25. Philip & Herodias | Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:17-29; Luke 3:19,20 |
| 26. Felix & Drusilla | Acts 24:24-27 |
| 27. Nabal & Abigail | 1 Samuel 25:1-38 |
| 28. Isaac & Rebekah | Genesis 24:1-67; 25:19-34 |
| 29. The virtuous woman & her husband | Proverbs 31:10-31 |

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 30. Hosea & Gomer | Hosea 1:1-3:5 |
| 31. Christ & the church | Ephesians 5:21-33 |

Caring for Older Parents (Continued from Page 1)

Let me conclude with a few “DO NOTS”:

- ◆ Do not make any excuse to avoid doing good toward them.
- ◆ Do not waste this opportunity, for their last days often end quickly.
- ◆ Do not rob them of their dignity through neglect.
- ◆ Do not treat them as helpless children.
- ◆ Do not destroy their last days.
- ◆ Do not hurt the ones who gave you so much.
- ◆ Do not fail to do your best, no matter how they may have failed you.

—Skip Andrews

A Note for Men & Women: *Devotional*

The devotional guide on this page of Families Matter can be helpful to men and women if—

- ◆ If you are married. It is a list of Biblical stories and principles that discuss all of the situations that can be a part of your marriage—good and bad. If you use it wisely, it can help you do the good and avoid the bad.
- ◆ If you are single. These same stories can help you to be wise in your treatment of the opposite sex, to handle temptations without falling into sin, and to be the kind of person that someone else would do well to marry.
- ◆ If you have children. All children deserve the best parents. The scriptures provide the best possible encouragement, example, and commandments to help men and women to be good parents.
- ◆ If you are grandparents. Who would like a grandparent such as Ahab or Jezebel—or Athaliah—or Nabal? And who **wouldn't** like a grandparent like Noah, Job, Ruth, or Mary?
- ◆ If you just want to learn the wonderful truths of God about the concept of one man and one woman for life!

Please choose a month—soon—and make use of this devotional guide.

k i d s ,



o

A Matching Puzzle About Children and Parents

Write the letter in the blank that matches the statement.

r

_____ 1. Jacob & Leah

A. Seth

_____ 2. Jacob & Rachel

B. Shem

n

_____ 3. Noah & Mrs. Noah

C. Moses

_____ 4. Zacharias & Elisabeth

D. Isaac

e

_____ 5. Isaac & Rebekah

E. Jacob

_____ 6. Adam & Eve

F. Judah

r

_____ 7. Abraham & Sarah

G. Joseph

_____ 8. Amram & Jochebed

H. John

Answers: 1-F; 2-G; 3-
A; 4-H; 5-E; 6-B; 7-D;
8-C



A Note for Boys

It seems to be a part of American culture that boys quit reading almost as soon as they learn how. But the Bible is **the** way that God communicates His will to us—

and it is a **Book!**

Please read the scriptures in the devotional guide for this issue so that you can learn some of the most valuable lessons in your life.

You can learn how evil it is to live the life of a sinful man. Some of the husbands in the readings were among the most evil people in history. God knew they were evil. He warned them to change—and He punished those who stayed in sin.

You can learn how wonderful it is to live the life of an obedient man. Many of the husbands in the readings were among the most righteous people of all time. God also knew their hearts, and He rewarded them.

You can decide to be a good man when you grow up. And you can make that more likely to come true by being a good boy **now!**



A Question:

What woman died when she was 127 years old?



A Note for Girls

Most girls seem to be very interested in reading. This is one of the best things you can do! But what kinds of things do you read?

Please read the scriptures in the devotional guide that is in this issue of Families Matter. These references are about various “couples” in the Bible. And the Bible is the best reading in the whole world! These scriptures can help you learn some of the most important lessons you will ever need.

You can learn to decide to be a good woman when you grow up. And you can make that more likely to occur by being a good girl **now!**

You can learn how bad it is to live the life of a sinful woman. Some of the wives in the readings did some of the most evil things that have ever been done by women. God knew that they did these things—He tried to get them to stop—and He punished them when they refused.

And you can learn how good it is to live the life of a woman who obeys God. Most of the wives in the readings were wonderful women who chose to do the will of God. God also knew their hearts, and He rewarded them for their faithfulness.

A Scrambled Answer:

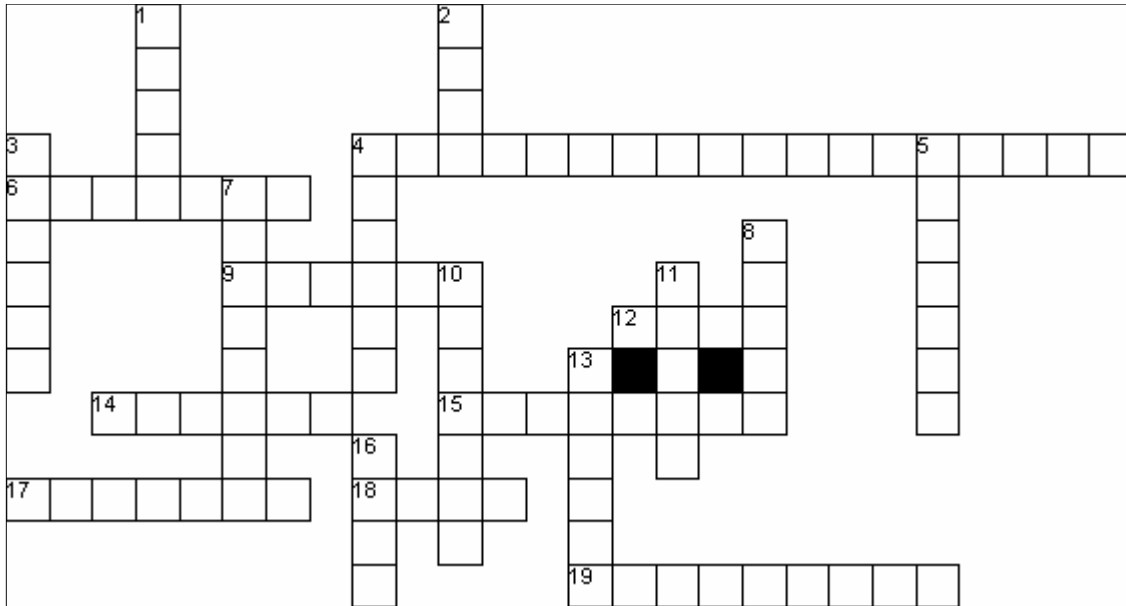
RAHAS (Genesis 23:1)



A Crossword Puzzle—Children & Parents



Use the clues to find the names of children in the Bible.



Across

- 4. Son of Isaiah
- 6. Son of Ahab and Jezebel
- 9. Son of Eli
- 12. Son of Zacharias and Elisabeth
- 14. Daughter of Amram and Jochebed
- 15. Son of Joseph and Asenath
- 17. Son of Eunice and grandson of Lois
- 18. Son of Boaz and Ruth
- 19. Daughter of Hosea and Gomer

Down

- 1. Son of Judah and Tamar
- 2. Son of Adam and Eve
- 3. Son of Manoah
- 4. Younger daughter of Saul
- 5. Son of David and Bathsheba
- 7. Daughter of Ahab and Jezebel
- 8. Daughter of Jacob and Leah
- 10. Son of Abraham and Hagar
- 11. Son of Ahaziah and Zibiah
- 13. Son of Elkanah and Hannah
- 16. Son of Salmon and Rahab

