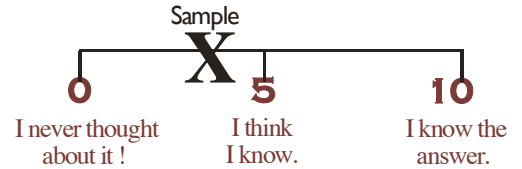




Godly Beginnings for the Family

Family Commitment #1

What do first-time parents really know about babies?



0 5 10

1. Why do babies cry?

0 5 10

2. What are the basic needs of an infant?

0 5 10

3. Do babies in the womb hear and respond?

0 5 10

4. Is the baby's nature a "blank chalkboard" waiting to be "written" on?

0 5 10

5. Does the quality of the parent's relationship influence the infant's life?

0 5 10

6. Can a baby one month and older be trained?

0 5 10

7. Why does God give us babies?

0 5 10

8. Do routines help or harm an infant?

0 5 10

9. Does a baby boy need circumcision?

0 5 10

10. How much does it cost to have a baby and raise it?

0 5 10

11. What qualities do you want your baby to be characterized by?

0 5 10

12. Does saying "No" damage a child?

0 5 10

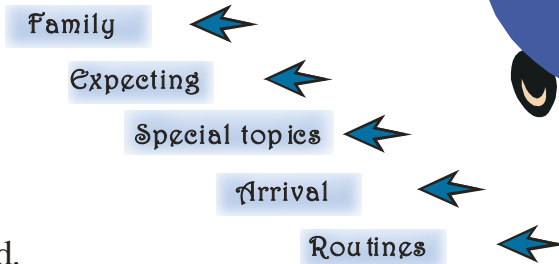
13. Is breast feeding important?

0 5 10

14. Does our understanding of husband/wife roles affect our family life?

0 5 10

15. What is the world's attitude toward children?



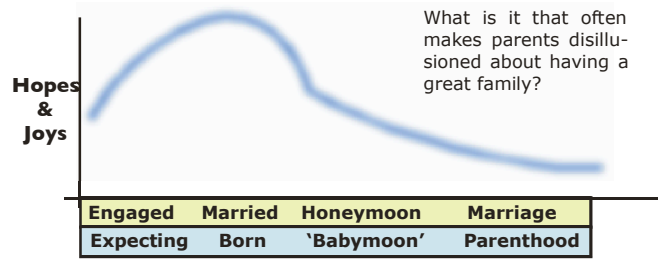
Each section has two sessions. Specialized topics or studies are encouraged.

#1	March 5
#2	March 12
#3	March 26
#4	April 2
#5	April 16
#6	April 23
#7	April 30
#8	May 7
#9	May 14
#10	May 28

Family Commitment #1

A Common Phenomena

What common situation occurs in both new marriages as well as those having their first child?



Our Goals, God's Goals

- Why do **people** want children?
- Why does **God** want us to have children?

God's purpose for giving us multiple children is to cultivate a great number of people to participate in His mission of establish His kingdom on earth. These great numbers of people will share in the great many blessings that God wants to pour out on them throughout eternity. God simply wants to share His blessings with us and show forth His wonderful generosity.

When children are tiny, it is easy for parents to ignore the child's spiritual needs, especially with so many other things to do. As children grow older, the pattern often continues. Parents are caught off guard, not knowing how to start training them in spiritual matters other than bringing them to church.

Need for Commitment

- Does having children fulfill God's purposes? Why or why not?
- What is the sign for revival?
- What is the sign of the curse?

"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse" (Malachi 4:5-6).

Potential Conflict

Conflict of decision can be hidden for a while. Many parents do not know how strong certain desires are for their children until they are tested. We need to examine all our dreams, although good, in light of God's own objectives.

Our hopes ↔ God's goals



Family Commitment #1

Understanding the Family from a Biblical Perspective

- Does having children fulfill God's purposes?
Why or why not?
 - God readies the mission in Genesis 1-2.
 - The family that was set up to establish God's kingdom rebelled.
 - God initiated His specially designed plan by a series of promises.
 - God brought about a new family through the promise of new life.
 - This family (godly seed) seeks out their heavenly Father's will.
- Will our children be part of the family of God?
What does it depend upon?



The Collapse of a Society: A Call for Godly Instruction

- What crucial change takes place in Genesis 6:1-3?
- What event follows in Genesis 6?
- How does Jesus refer to these things? (Luke 17:26-27)
- What special commitment did Moses' parents make? (Ex 2:1-3; He 11:23)

"And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it shall be also in the days of the Son of Man: they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all (Luke 17:26-27)."

Our Response: Making a Commitment

- Make a commitment to have a godly family. Set your heart on choosing to raise a godly child no matter what sacrifices it might cost you.
- Determine to seek God's ways for raising your child even if it goes against your own thinking or what the culture says about what a child needs or would want.