

The Godly Woman as A Wife *A Fit Helper for Him: His Home is His Castle*

A castle: a place a wife has “furnished” with a good atmosphere; “warmed” by lovingly met needs and adequate, timely communication; and “lighted” by Godly Homemaking.

This castle might look like a palatial mansion or a humble cottage, or be just one room - what determines whether or not it is a “castle” is the wife that lives there!

Teacher, each section of this lesson is *so vital!* Pray that even though your timing is limited God will enable you to *accomplish the objective* and that the result will be *changed* homes and marriages - to the Glory of God!

A. Object of the Lesson

That wives would:

1. Learn to make home “his castle” by the atmosphere they set - by meeting his needs, by adequate communication, and by godly homemaking.
2. Be willing to make whatever changes are necessary to reach this goal.

B. Discussion Question

1. What conclusions did you come to regarding the atmosphere you set in the home in the way you send him off, welcome him home, by your attitude, appearance, etc?
2. What do you think the overall atmosphere of your home is? What can you do to change and/or improve it?
3. What would you say are some basic characteristics a wife needs most to meet her husband’s needs? (Selflessness, thoughtfulness, servant heart, etc.) Which of these do you feel is the key, or is basic to the others? (Unselfishness. Selflessness *frees* you to think creatively about the other person, to serve, be thoughtful, etc.
4. After you wrote out your husband’s good characteristics what was your reaction or response to the list? Were you surprised it was so long? Did you realize you need to be more aware of his good points?

(Teacher, remind the ladies that the negative characteristics they see in their husbands reveal a capacity for the opposite positive trait. For instance, if his negative trait is being outspoken, harsh or blunt, this shows a capacity for the positive trait of honesty. Or if he has the negative trait of being too permissive, being nonchalant, this shows the capacity for the positive trait of patience. If he is stubborn, hard-headed, this shows the capacity for the positive trait of being resolute. Therefore, we can pray for the positive manifestations of these traits).

5. Did you have any experience this week of proving Luke 6:38 true in your own experience with your husband? Would you share it with us?

6. Many of us have trouble meeting our husband's need for admiration. Let's share our answers to #6 and 7 in order to glean ideas from one another which we might use. (Teacher, here are some suggestions in case the women do not share much: *Mentally*: things having to do with his achievements, skills, and abilities - his faithfulness to provide for his family, his decisiveness in making decisions, his sound judgment. *Physically*: anything that distinguishes him as part of the male sex - strength and endurance, lifting heavy objects, managing difficult equipment, changing a tire. *Spiritually*: inner qualities God has developed - commitment, consistency, integrity, desire to obey God.)

7. How would you rate or evaluate the importance of communication in a marriage? (Teacher, be sure the ladies bring out how totally essential this is to a good marriage. If there is a breakdown in this area, it will significantly influence and contribute to a breakdown or collapse in other areas. It is the "breath of life" to a marriage).

8. How many of you pray regularly regarding good communication with your husband? (Should be praying *regularly* to have it if you don't; to keep it and be growing in it if you do.)

9. What counsel would you give a woman who says her husband won't talk to her any more?

10. Wives generally seem to need to communicate verbally more frequently and more in detail than some husbands do, although both have a need for communication. Why do you think this is often more important to a wife? Why do you think it is important for a husband to communicate verbally?

11. How did you answer #3?

12. Eph. 4:15 gives perhaps the three most important words to remember for good communication. What are they? (Speak, truth, love)

13. Relate some purposes of communication? (Information, decision-making, developing interpersonal relationships, for development of persons)

14. What problems or barriers to communication did you find in the Bible? (#8) Teacher, my thoughts on these were as follows:

- a. selfishness
- b. pride
- c. bitterness
- d. anger
- e. lack of concern
- f. lack of knowledge
- g. fear of rejection
- h. shame
- i. going our own way
- j. heart condition

15. Share your answer to #9. Share your answer to #10.

16. What was your response or reaction to the quote by Gladys Hunt regarding godly homemaking? (Teacher, if they miss the point, draw from them the idea that it cannot be our *casual* interest, but must be our *major* concern - in which we must rely totally on Him!

17. Did you follow through on #3? Would you share what your husband told you, if not too personal?

C. Suggestions for Conclusion

1. Edgar Guest wrote: "It takes a heap a' livin' to make a house a home." J. W. Goethe wrote: "He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home." Another wrote: "It takes a hundred men to make an encampment, but one woman can make a home."

The question for us to answer today is: Have I made our home "his castle?" A place of warmth? love? peace? acceptance? joy?

What step can I take, starting now, to make it so?

2. (Teacher, the basic idea for this suggestion comes from Shirley Rice's book, *The Christian Home*. You may wish to refer to it for more help with this and for many other wonderful ideas.)

- a. Make a list of words that characterize your concept of a home a man would consider "a castle" (e.g. warmth, unity, peace, love, cheerfulness, etc.)
- b. Then make a list of negative things that would keep it from being his castle. (e.g. coldness, bickering, discord, nagging, etc.)
- c. Now from both lists underline the words that best describe your home now. What kind of picture did you get?
- d. Go back through the list and circle the words you would like God to make true about your home.

As we close in prayer - you bring to the Lord the things that need to be taken out of your home. Then bring Him the good qualities you need in your home to make it a cherished castle for your husband. Make yourself available to Him to accomplish these desires.

3. Helen Hunt Jackson wrote the following description of her ideal of a wife, mother, homemaker. Listen as I read it to you.

A Home Creator

"The most perfect home I ever saw was in a little house, into the sweet incense of whose fires went no costly things. A thousand dollars served for a year's living of father, mother, and three children. But the *mother was a creator of a home*; her relation with her children was the most beautiful I have ever seen; even a dull and commonplace man was lifted up and enabled to do good work for souls by the *atmosphere which this woman created*; every inmate of her house involuntarily looked into her face for the keynote of the day, and it always rang clear. She has always been and always will be, my ideal of a wife, mother, homemaker."

How do you measure up? Will you pray now and ask God to make you the ideal wife and homemaker your husband needs.

D. Additional Scriptures

Proverbs 14:30; Philippians 2:14 (LB); Colossians 3:8-10; Proverbs 13:10; Proverbs 17:14; I Corinthians 3:3 (LB); James 1:2-4; Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11-12

E. Possible Project

Take one of the four sections of this chapter as your special improvement project for each week of the next month e.g.

First week - work on improving the atmosphere of the home, particularly your attitude and appearance.

Second week - concentrate on meeting your husband's needs, especially his needs for admiration and acceptance and being "ministered to."

Third week - read one of the suggested books in Extra Helps on communication and really concentrate on improving in this area.

Fourth week - meditate on the quote by Gladys Hunt and then write down some areas of homemaking to which you have been giving only your casual interest. Write what you will do to make this an area of major concern - and then do it!

F. Extra Helps

Art of Homemaking by Hoole

The Miracle of Dialogue by Reuel L. Howe

Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am? by John Powell

To Understand Each Other by Paul Tournier

The Art of Understanding Your Mate by Cecil Osborne

Tell Me Again, I'm Listening by R. B. Wilke, Abingdon Press

Letters to Karen by Charlie Shedd

Hidden Art by Edith Shaeffer, Tyndale House