

Meeting the Ups and Downs of Life – Week 17

Lesson 6.1 – When Our Children Marry

Goals

- Understand the respect God demands between children and parents.
- Grow in the understanding of God's will for marriage.
- Learn how to use God's Word as we talk with one another in our family relationships.

Introduction

1. This scenario (children leaving the nest and marrying) can simultaneously bring ups and downs. What advantages can be enjoyed by the empty-nest couple?

2. An advertisement for continuing education in counseling listed a class entitled "Fighting for your empty-nest marriage." That assumes that empty nesting isn't always easy. What are some of the struggles married couples face when their children marry?

3. What special fears or worries did your parents express about your marriage?

4. What special fears or worries do you (or did you) have about your children getting married?

Life Example – Charlotte and Timothy

Although Charlotte and Tim have been married for two years, her mother (whose husband died ten years ago and whose only child is Charlotte) continues to involve herself heavily in Charlotte's life. Whenever Tim and Charlotte try to do something that goes against her mother's advice, an emergency mysteriously develops. Once her mother's dog ran away, and Charlotte was needed to help find it. Another time., the front window of her mother's house was broken and needed Charlotte's attention. Usually though, Charlotte's mother gets sick or faints. So as not to excite her mother and make her more ill, Charlotte usually goes to help her mother. While they are together, her mother convinces Charlotte to take her advice.

5. What is happening between Charlotte and her mother?

6. For what reasons is such a relationship harmful to Charlotte's mother?

7. By allowing her mother to manipulate her, Charlotte probably thinks she is showing love and respect for her mother. However, in what ways is this actually hurting her mother?

8. What advice would you give to Charlotte?

Light from the Word

9. Turn to **Genesis 2:18-24**. From the account of the institution of marriage, give a brief description of marriage.

10. In what ways do relationships between son/daughter and father/mother change once the child becomes married?

11. Compare Charlotte's marriage to the description of marriage this passage gives.

12. Using this section as the foundation for your discussion, what counsel would you give Charlotte's mother?

We have a number of other "life examples" to look at in the following weeks, along with more helpful Bible passages for marriage, empty-nesting, and other related topics.

Closing Prayer CW 764 Gracious Savior, Grant Your Blessing v.1

**Gracious Savior, grant your blessing to all husbands and all wives,
that in peace they live together in your love throughout their lives.
Christ, defend them from the tempter and from all that would destroy
love's foundation you've established and its pathways paved with joy. Amen.**