

# WONDERFUL NEWS – Part 6

ENGLISH BIBLE STUDY  
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The Bible verses in these studies are taken from the Good News Bible

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## OUR WONDERFUL LIFE – continued

### OUR NEIGHBOUR AND US

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#### LESSON ONE

##### YOUR FAMILY

In the book of Acts Chapter 16 we read how God’s servants, Paul and Silas, were thrown in prison by their enemies but were set free by God through an earthquake. The jailer called for a light, rushed in, and fell trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas. Then he led them out and asked, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ They answered, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your whole family’. ‘Then they preached the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. He and his family were filled with joy because they now believed in God. (Acts 16:29-34).

##### THE WILL OF GOD

God wants every one in your family to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Perhaps you are the only one in your family who knows the power of the cross. God has set you as a lighted lamp in the midst of darkness. Through the words that you speak and the way that you live, you can bring the light of the Good News to all your family. (See 1 Timothy 2:3-5 and 2 Corinthians 4:1-6).

##### EVERY FAMILY NEEDS GOD

“If the Lord does not build the house, the work of the builders is useless; if the Lord does not protect the city, it is useless for the sentries to stand guard (Psalm 127:1).

The best foundation for a family is Jesus Christ. He is God’s chosen sacrifice for the sins of the world. The Lamb of God brings peace with God and the blessings of God. The best rules and customs in a home are God’s, and the wisdom of God is found in the Bible. The best protection against evil is God Himself. He never sleeps. He has all power.

“God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble” (Psalm 46:1 and Psalm 121:1-8).

Question: What is the best foundation for a family?

Your Answer: .....

##### MARRIAGE

###### *Marriage is Unity*

Jesus said to them: “God made them male and female and for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one. They are no longer two, but one. Man must not separate, then, what God has joined together” (Mark 10:6-9).

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| God's will is: | <b>UNITY</b><br><b>ONE VISION</b><br><b>ONE FAITH</b><br><b>ONE MOUTH</b> | A man and woman joined together in marriage are one flesh.<br>Both of them must be looking the same way, wanting the same things, walking the same road.<br>They must believe the same things, worship and serve God together.<br>Whatever differences there may be between husband and wife, they are not to be mentioned outside the house. |
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UNITY is God's way to happiness and peace, and is the foundation for a strong family. It does not come through money, or cattle, or a ring, but by the power of the love of God in two hearts. (See Mark 3:25).

Question: What is God's will for a husband and wife?

Your Answer: .....

***Marriage is the Work of God***

The custom of marriage comes from God and not from man. It was God who gave the first man [Adam] his wife. It was God who commanded that a husband and wife are not to be separated. Any one who breaks down a marriage is fighting against God. (See Matthew 5:32, 19:9 and 1 Corinthians 7:10-11).

Question: From whom does the custom of marriage come?

Your Answer: .....

***Marriage is to be greatly respected***

Marriage is to be honored by all, and husband and wives must be faithful to each other. God will judge those who are immoral and those who commit adultery. (See Hebrews 13:4).

A tree will only stand if its roots are strong. A family will have no peace if the husband and wife are not living in love and respect for each other, because they are the roots of the family.

To commit adultery is to destroy the roots and to despise the work of God. Man may laugh, but God will judge. (See 1 Timothy 4:1-3 and 1 Corinthians 7:10-11).

Question: Who is despised when a person commits adultery?

Your Answer: .....

**GOD'S LAWS FOR MARRIAGE**

“But because there is so much immorality, every man should have his own wife, and every woman should have her own husband” (1 Corinthians 7:2).

***The Husband***

“But I want you to understand that Christ is supreme over every man, the husband is supreme over his wife. And God is supreme over Christ” (1 Corinthians 11: 3).

There will be happiness and peace in a family if there is true respect according to God's order. The husband is the head of the family, not the wife or the children, or the husband's father, or the wife's mother.

The husband must respect Christ as his head and obey Him, even as Christ humbled Himself under the hand of His heavenly father. (See Ephesians 5:21-24).

“Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave His life for it” (Ephesians 5:25). It is Jesus Christ who teaches husbands true love. Love is not just taking a woman to enjoy her body. Jesus gave Himself up to the death of the cross because He loved us. A man shows true love when he lives for his family and not for himself. (See Ephesians 5:28-33).

Question: Who is the greatest example of how a husband should love his wife?  
Your Answer: .....

***The Wife***

“In the same way instruct the older women to behave as women should who live a holy life. They must not be slanderers or slaves to wine. They must teach what is good” (Titus 2:3).

The older women have great influence in the home. Let it be an influence for good. Notice three sins to avoid: gossip, drunkenness and teaching the younger ones evil ways and customs.

“Train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self controlled and pure, and to be good housewives who submit to their husbands, so that no one will speak evil of the message that comes from God” (Titus 2:4).

If a woman testifies in the church but swears at her children, preaches in the streets but does not cook her husband’s food, obeys her minister but despises her husband, then she brings shame on the home and on God. The most beautiful clothes that a woman can wear are love, wisdom, faithfulness and humility. (See 1 Peter 3:1-4 and Proverbs 31:10-31).

**Write down two articles of clothing a wife should wear.**

- 1. ....
- 2.....

***Parents***

First of all, parents are to be teachers. “Never forget these commands that I am giving you today. Teach them to your children. Repeat them when you are at home and when you are away, when you are resting and when you are working” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Children must learn the ways of God in the home, all day and everyday. Not just on Sunday at church or Sunday school. This is not the responsibility of teachers at school but of parents at home. (See Genesis 18:19 and Proverbs 22:6).

Question: Who are responsible for teaching God's ways to children? School teachers or parents?  
Your Answer: .....

Secondly, parents are to be examples. “Parents do not treat your children in such a way to make them angry. Instead, bring them up with Christian discipline and instruction” (Ephesians 6:4).

This is a word for mothers as well as fathers! Remember, children need discipline and as well as instruction. An ox will only plough well if it is under the discipline of the yoke and the whip. God’s discipline and instruction is in righteousness, self control, truth, love, humility and kindness.

But a child learns with his eyes as well as his ears. It does not help to beat a child for stealing if the father is a robber! (See Proverbs 13:24).

***Young People***

“Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents, for this is the right thing to do. ‘Respect your father and mother’ is the

first commandment that has a promise added” (Ephesians 6:1-2).

In these days, many children despise their parents. Perhaps the parents have never been to school, cannot read or write. Remember knowledge is not wisdom, wisdom only comes through experience in life. Parents must always be respected, that is a command of God. A child who despises his parents will destroy the family and himself. Children must obey their parents even as Jesus obeyed His parents although He was the Son of God. However, if young people are asked to do something which they know is sin, then they must decide whom they obey - God or man. (See Luke2:41-52 and Proverbs 19:26).

**BE WISE**

“Avoid the passions of youth, and strive for righteousness, faith, love and peace, together with those who with a pure heart call out to the Lord for help” (2 Timothy 2:22).

It is wiser to run away from a snake than to play with it! Do not play with sin in your heart, it will bite you! SIN WILL DIE IF YOU DON'T FEED IT, therefore fill your eyes, ears, thoughts, mouth and hands with the things of God.

Walk with the children of God and they will strengthen you in the way of holiness. (See Ecclesiastes 12:1 and Psalm 119:9-11).

Question: When we fill our eyes and thoughts with bad things, what do we feed?  
Your Answer: .....

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**LESSON TWO**

**YOUR COUNTRY**

“One day Jewish rulers asked Jesus, ‘Tell us, then, what do you think? Is it against our law to pay taxes to the Roman emperor, or not?’ Jesus said: ‘Show me the coin for paying the tax!’ They brought him the coin, and He asked them, ‘Whose face and name are these?’ ‘The emperor’s’ they answered. So Jesus said to them, ‘Well, then, pay the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor, and pay God what belongs to God’” (Matthew 22:17, 19-21).

Every Christian must remember that he lives in two countries and serves two kings.

- The Kingdom of Heaven where Jesus is King
- The country ruled by men where they live for the present.

The Emperor was the ruler of the Jewish nation in the time of Jesus. Today you have your rulers. The Bible teaches that a Christian must obey and serve our earthly rulers in such a way that he is a blessing to his people and brings glory to God.

Question: If you are a Christian, who is the new king in your life?  
Your Answer: .....

**THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN - THE ETERNAL KINGDOM**

“At the time of those rulers the God of heaven will establish a kingdom that will never end. It will never be conquered, but will completely destroy all those empires, and then last forever” (Daniel 2:44).

Every one who receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour is born into the kingdom of God. That is the only kingdom that will stand forever. It is a kingdom of righteousness, peace, joy and love in the Holy Spirit.

***The Eternal King***

“There is no god like you, O Lord, not one has done what you have done. All the nations that you have created will come and bow down to you. They will praise your greatness. You are mighty and do wonderful things; you alone are God” (Psalm 86:8-10).

The Lord Jehovah is God. His word is to be respected more than the word of men, His laws and commandments to be obeyed before those of men.

***Christians must obey God***

See Acts 4:19-20. “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

The last and greatest judge will be the Son of God. He will also be the great King who will reign forever: King of kings and Lord of lords. Fear Him, obey Him and follow Him. If you deny Him, He will deny you. Remember: His judgment is forever.

Question: For how long will Jesus rule in his kingdom?  
Your Answer: .....

**THE KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH**

“Righteousness makes a nation great but sin is a disgrace to any nation” (Proverbs 14:34).

What is it that makes a nation great? Money? An army? Education? God says it is **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. What will children learn from a drunken school teacher? Will people respect a member of Government if he is dishonest or trust a magistrate who lives by bribery?

***Live like Jesus***

Let your light shine, be an example of good to your people. You can help to raise up your nation by living the wonderful life of righteousness in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Question: What makes a nation great?  
Your Answer: .....

**OBEY!**

“Remind your people to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey them and to be ready to do good in every way. Tell them not to speak evil of anyone but to be peaceful and friendly and always to show a gentle attitude towards everyone” (Titus 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:3-17).

One man can be a great influence on many people - for good or evil, for peace or trouble. You can be an influence for peace. Christians are the salt of the earth. Respect your rulers, keep the laws of the land, live at peace with men. Jesus brought peace to your heart, you can bring peace to your people. (See Matthew 5:13-16 and James 3:17-18).

“Pay, then, what you owe them (the authorities); pay them your personal and property taxes and show respect and honour for them all” (Romans 13:7).

Do not just be a Christian before men, but also in secret. Do you pay your debts? Not just to men but also to the Government? Do you pay your tax? Do you respect those who rule over you? Remember, men may not be able to see the things you do in secret, but your Heavenly Father sees everything.

Question: Who knows when we do not pay our tax?

Your Answer: .....

**PRAY!**

“First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people; for kings and all others who are in authority that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence towards God and with proper conduct” (1Timothy 2:1-2).

The greatest service that you can give to your country is prayer. Pray that the men who rule shall be wise and just. Pray for peace. Pray that the Good News, the Gospel, shall be heard all over your land. If you are on a council or committee, begin your discussions with prayer. When you have elections, pray that God will guide men to choose the right people for the work. Through the prayers of Christians, God will rain the blessings of His Spirit upon your country. (See Romans 9:1-3; 10:1, Hosea 10:12 and Zechariah 10:1).

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