

## HOME and FAMILY

JSCYS – July 13-18, 2025

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It hardly seems possible that the time for JSCYC is upon us, but it is! That means that a large group of boy and girl campers, pre-campers, and staff –directors, counselors, teachers, cooks, and medics - will make the facilities of Taylor Christian Camp in Holland, KY home for the above six days. Our gratitude is expressed to all who give of their time and themselves to make camp happen each year. Let's pray for a safe, successful week of worship, Bible study, and fellowship. The good which has been done through the years by JSCYC, only God knows. It is to Him we look for strength and to Him we give the praise!

It might be asked, "Why study "Home and Family" at camp? First, home and family are the foundation of human existence. The very first family was given the charge "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it..." (Gen. 1:26-27). Following the flood, God gave the same command to Noah and his sons (Gen. 9:1-2). Since the dawning of time "home and family" have been at center stage. It all began with Adam and Eve in Eden (Genesis 1-3). The Scriptures are filled with story after story about families and homes, joy and sorrow, happiness and hurt. Sounds a lot like life in today's world, doesn't it? Have you watched the nightly news lately? Study after study has revealed the importance of home and family in developing well-adjusted members of society. Families which function as God has decreed in His word have a better chance of success and happiness. Dysfunctional families will struggle to stay together and succeed as a family.

Divorce is a major disrupter of marriages in our current culture. Divorce is expensive as couples spend on average \$7,000 to end their union. But the real cost is seen in situations involving children. It is hard for them to adjust, and they often carry the burden of guilt for a long time because they think it was their fault. Contested divorces can take over a year to finalize, but children will suffer much longer. Simple divorces might be completed in three months, but children will have issues perhaps for the rest of their lives. God has good reason for hating "putting away" (KJV), or "divorce" (Malachi 2:16-NKJ). It is troubling that the average length of marriages before divorce is eight years, according to Forbes. They also report that first marriages are dissolved at a rate of 43%, where second and third marriages are dissolved at 60 and 73 percent. It is also reported that fewer people are marrying after

divorce. In 2008 those marrying after divorce had 48.9 remarriages per 1,000. In 2021 the percentage was 32% for males and 17.2% for females.

Both "home" and "family" have a sweet ring! These two words should bring to our minds pictures of peace, happiness, togetherness, support, joy, and above all, unconditional love. This "love" is the love described in 1 Corinthians 13 and other classic texts in the Bible. From the very beginning of "The Love Chapter" the importance of agape love is extolled. The first verse reveals that eloquence of the highest order is no substitute for love. Verse two emphasizes that understanding, knowledge, and even "mountain moving" faith, are of little benefit if love is absent. Verse three expounds further that sacrificial benevolence, even to the point of giving one's "body to be burned...profits nothing" in the absence of love.

Verses 4-7 deals with the attributes of love. The description includes the positives and the negatives. Paul reveals what this love is and what it is not. "Love suffers long and is kind" reveals its patience and attitude. Human kindness must first be taught, practiced, and learned at home. "Love does not envy" is the opposite of being jealous. Love will not allow pride, arrogance and conceit to build up and prevail (v. 4). It will keep our behavior on an even keel, push out selfishness, squelch anger, and keep us positive by dwelling on the good instead of the evil (v. 5). The "love" here described is not to be confused with lust, which is evil and a work of iniquity, in which we are not to rejoice. Genuine love "rejoices in the truth" (v. 6). God's truth gives us strength to bear adversity in faith and hope, regardless of what comes our way (v. 7). Truly, truly, "Love never fails" (v. 8)!

While there are exceptions, "home" generally has a good connotation. The exceptions are characterized by those who have not given God first place in their hearts. "I just want to go home" has been often uttered after a bad day at the office, factory, or at school, especially after the horrific "school shootings" which have become all too common in our nation. A contributing factor is often a breakdown of the responsibilities inherent in home and family life. Home is the place where responsibility and accountability are to be accepted by husband/father and wife/mother and instilled early and often in their children. Such begins with the parents who accept responsibility for their roles which begin with love and respect for one another. This provides a pattern of conduct to be observed by their offspring.

This principle is often mentioned in the Scriptures. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it", is an example (Prov. 22:6). The "wisdom literature" contains scores of texts dealing with wise precepts which need application in our homes and families. The epistles from the pens of Peter, Paul, and others have similar warnings and words of instruction. Jesus' teachings are the epitome of

instruction for the home as well as the church. His "Sermon on the Mount" is the sermon of all sermons (Matthew 5-7)! What better rule is there for general human conduct and relationships than "The Golden Rule": "As you would that men should do to you, do also unto them" (Matt. 7:12)? An application of this admonition by the entire citizenry of any nation would revolutionize that nation overnight. But because the expectation of that occurring is unrealistic, we need desperately to "begin at home", placing God, His word, and His church at the center of our interests, activities, actions, and speech. It has been well stated: "As the home goes, so the church goes. That extends to the nation and the world as well.

The Bible gives much attention to home and family. There are hundreds of passages devoted to the subject. A "topical" Bible (such as Nave's) lists scores of texts which address respective members of the family - husband, wife, children (sons and daughters). Of course, most of us have access to the internet with numerous websites with the same material. Inspired directions are given for every family member pertaining to relationships within the family, societal relationships (government and employer and employee for example), as well relations within the church. It is interesting to review the Law of Moses and consider the emphasis given to behavioral patterns in the family. The importance of proper behavior was emphasized by the severity of the punishment for non-compliance (Lev. 20:9; Deut. 21:18-21; cf. Matt. 15:4; Mark 7:10).

It is very important that we take note of the numerous passages/texts in the New Testament which deal with home and family. In His sermon on the mount, Jesus addresses the matter of home and family and the seriousness of "putting away" one's spouse (Matt. 5:31-32). Let us remember that the Lord's "Golden Rule" found toward the end of this sermon (Matt. 7:12), should be practiced in the home, too! It is not insignificant that several of the epistles, especially those written by Paul, have pointed and practical sections pertaining to home and family (See 1 Cor. 7; Eph. 5:22-6:4; Col. 3:18-20; 1 Peter 3:1-7). We would all be blessed by including these and other related material in family devotions, Bible classes, and sermons. God's help in developing happy homes, is available and accessible.

The home is irreplaceable in God's plan for the well-being of His creation. Home and family become a "springboard" for either success or failure. May we apply ourselves to practicing the principles of righteousness God reveals in His word and avoid the evils He identifies as detrimental to our homes and families. May God bless us all to that end.

# **Jackson-Smith County Youth Camp**

## **2025 Bible Class Material Outline**

## Day 1 - God's Image and Family Design

### Class 1: Created in God's Image

Understand that each person is made in God's image, with purpose, dignity, and value, as male or female.

**Scripture References:** Genesis 1:26–31; Genesis 2:7; Psalm 139:13–16; Jeremiah 1:5

#### Points to Emphasize:

- Humans are uniquely made to reflect God's nature.
- God has created every person on purpose – not a mistake or accident.
- God knows each person and made all wonderfully.

#### Worldly Lies vs. Biblical Truth:

Worldly Message	God's Truth
You are a product of evolution.	You are created by God, in His image. (Gen. 1:27)
You can choose your gender.	God made you male or female by design. (Gen. 1:27)
Boys and girls are the same.	God made male and female with purpose. (Gen. 1:27)
Worth comes from appearance or performance.	Worth comes from being God's creation. (Ps. 139:13–14)

#### Discussion Questions:

- How do we reflect God in our attitudes and actions?
- How does knowing you are made in God's image affect your self-worth?
- What is the difference between the world's view of identity and God's view?
- How do we reflect God in our attitudes and actions?

## Class 2: God's Plan for the Family

**Objective:** Understand that God designed the family structure: Husband , wife , children.

**Scripture References:** Genesis 2:18–24; Matthew 19:4–6; Ephesians 5:31–33; Malachi 2:15; Ephesians 5:23; 1 Peter 3:1-7

### Points to Emphasize:

- Family is not man-made; it was created by God and part of His perfect design.
- Marriage = one man and one woman for life. (Rom. 7:2, 1 Cor. 7:10-11)
  - Sexual immorality is an exception for the faithful spouse and reason for divorce, but it is not to be taken lightly or used as a loophole! (Matthew 19:9)
- Each role in the family is intentional.
  - Husbands and Wives have different, good roles.
  - Children are a special part of the family, too!
  - Foster families, grandparents, single parents, etc will often have to fill these roles. What's important is that it is done in love and according to God's will.

### Worldly Lies vs. Biblical Truth:

Worldly Message	God's Truth
Marriage can be any combination.	Marriage is one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24)
Marriage is just about love and feelings.	Marriage is a lifelong union between a man and a woman. (Matt. 19:6; Rom 7:2)
Gender roles are oppressive.	God designed unique, purposeful roles. (Deut 22:5; Rom 1:26-27; 1 Cor 6:9-11)
Roles in the family are unfair.	God gave each person a role that fits His plan. (Eph. 5:33; 1 Tim 5:8)

**Discussion Questions:**

- What does God's plan for the family look like?
- Why did God give different roles to fathers and mothers?
- How does your family help you learn about God?
- How does the world's definition of family differ from God's design?
- What do you think makes a family strong in God's eyes?
- How can we support our family in following God's design?

## Day 2 - God's Design for Fathers and Mothers

### Class 1: Fathers – Loving Leaders

**Objective:** Recognize the biblical role of the father as a sacrificial leader.

**Scripture References:** Ephesians 5:25–30; Deuteronomy 6:6–9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Peter 3:7

### Points to Emphasize:

- Fathers lead through love and responsibility.
- A godly father teaches, protects, and models Christ.
- Boys must prepare now to be future leaders.

### Worldly Lies vs. Biblical Truth:

Worldly Message	God's Truth
Dads are irrelevant or dumb.	Fathers are essential and honorable. (Eph. 6:4)
Masculinity is toxic.	Godly masculinity is sacrificial leadership. (Eph. 5:25)
Men should avoid emotions.	Godly men lead with both truth and compassion. (Col. 3:19,21)

### Discussion Questions:

- What traits should a Christian man develop?
- How does a father help a family follow God?
- Why is it important for fathers to teach their children?
- How does a father show Christ-like love to his family?
- What should a godly man look like?
- How can boys start preparing now to be godly fathers?

## Class 2: Mothers – Noble Helpers

**Objective:** Understand that biblical womanhood is noble, wise, and vital.

**Scripture References:** Proverbs 31:10–31; Genesis 2:18; Titus 2:3–5; Colossians 3:18; 1 Timothy 5:14

### Points to Emphasize:

- God praises the role of the mother.
- Moms are helpers, teachers, and caretakers with strength and grace.
- God honors women for fear of the Lord, not just beauty.
- Boys must learn to honor women as God does.

### Worldly Lies vs. Biblical Truth:

Worldly Message	God's Truth
Real strength means rejecting traditional roles.	Godly women are strong in wisdom, kindness, and fear of the Lord. (Prov. 31)
You don't need to listen to your parents.	Obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (Eph. 6:1)
Men and women are interchangeable.	God created men and women with distinct, complementary roles. (Gen. 2:18)

### Discussion Questions:

- What are things your mom (or grandmother) does that you often take for granted?
- Why do you think God commands children to honor their mothers?
- How can showing respect to your mom honor God at the same time?
- How can you show godly strength by being respectful and helpful at home?

## Day 3 - God's Design for Children

### Class 1: Children – Honoring and Obeying

**Objective:** Learn that obedience to parents honors God.

**Scripture References:** Ephesians 6:1–3; Colossians 3:20; Proverbs 1:8–9

#### Points to Emphasize:

- God commands children to obey their parents.
- Honoring parents shows love, respect, and gratitude.
- Even when it's hard, obedience is always right.

#### Worldly Lies vs. Biblical Truth:

Worldly Message	God's Truth
You don't have to listen to your parents.	Children, obey your parents in the Lord. (Eph. 6:1)
Rules are meant to be broken.	Obedience brings blessing and peace. (Col. 3:20)
You know better than your parents.	Listen to your father's instruction and mother's teaching. (Prov. 1:8–9)

#### Discussion Questions:

- Why is it sometimes hard to obey?
- How does obedience show trust in God?
- What are ways to honor parents even when it's hard?
- Why is honoring parents important to God?
- What happens when children disobey their parents?

## Class 2: Growing in Wisdom

**Objective:** Encourage young people to grow spiritually and mature in responsibility.

**Scripture References:** Luke 2:41–52; Proverbs 1:7; Ecclesiastes 12:1

### Points to Emphasize:

- Jesus grew in wisdom even as a child — and so can you!
- Learning about God is a lifelong journey that starts now.
  - Growth is intentional, not automatic.
- Wisdom isn't just about knowledge; it's about fearing God.

### Worldly Lies vs. Biblical Truth:

Worldly Message	God's Truth
Youth is for fun, not faith.	Youth is the time to grow in God. (Eccl. 12:1)
Wisdom comes from experience.	Wisdom begins with fearing the Lord. (Prov. 1:7)
Only adults make a difference.	Even young people can grow in favor with God. (Luke 2:52)
Kids can't grow spiritually yet.	Jesus grew in wisdom and favor with God. (Luke 2:52)

### Discussion Questions:

- Why is it important to learn about God and study the Bible when you're young?
- What does it mean to fear the Lord in a good way?
- What habits help us grow in godliness?
- How did Jesus set an example for young people?
- How can you gain wisdom beyond just getting older?
- What's one area of your life where you want to grow in wisdom?

## Day 4 - The Church as God's Family

### Class 1: We Are One Household

**Objective:** Understand the church is a family, and every member has a place.

**Scripture References:** 1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 4:12

#### Points to Emphasize:

- The Church isn't a building – it's God's family and is eternal!
- Christ is the Head (Eph. 1:22-23, Eph. 5:23)
- Christ/Husband & Church/Wife (Eph. 5:22-33)
- We need each other—across all ages.
- Everyone has a place in God's family.
  - Boys, girls, mothers, fathers, the young, the elderly, single, married
  - EVERYONE!

#### Worldly Lies vs. Biblical Truth:

Worldly Message	God's Truth
Church is just something you attend.	Church is a family. (Eph. 2:19)
Kids can't contribute and aren't important.	Everyone has a role. (1 Tim. 4:12)
Church is optional.	The church is the household of God. (1 Tim. 3:15)

#### Discussion Questions:

- What makes the church like a family?
- What is your role in your local church family?
- How can you show love to people outside your biological family at church?
- Why is the church called a "household"?
- What makes the church different from other groups or clubs?

## Class 2: Brotherhood and Service

**Objective:** Emphasize teamwork and serving within the church.

**Scripture References:** Acts 2:42–47, Galatians 6:2,10; 1 Timothy 4:12; Ephesians 4:16, Titus 2:2-5

### Points to Emphasize:

- Entrance into Family of God (Acts 2:38, 47; John 3:3-5; Gal. 3:26-27)
- The early church was a united, serving family.
- Boys can encourage, help, and teach others.
- Brotherhood means helping each other grow.
- You are never too young to do good!

### Worldly Lies vs. Biblical Truth:

Worldly Message	God's Truth
Church is about what you get.	Church is about what you give. (Acts 2:44-45)
Serve when you're older.	Serve now with your gifts. (Gal. 6:10) Examples: Samuel, David, Timothy, etc.
Helping others is a burden.	We carry one another's burdens in love. (Gal. 6:2)
You're too young to help others.	God says to always be an example even in your youth. (I Tim. 4:12)

### Discussion Questions:

- What talents has God given you for service?
- Who can you encourage today at camp or at home?
- How can brothers and sisters in Christ strengthen each other?
- Why is it important to serve even if no one sees?
- What does it mean to "carry one another's burdens"?
- How does service build unity in the church?

## Day 5 - Living Out His Image

### Class 1: Being Lights in the World

**Objective:** Teach young people to live boldly and differently in a dark world.

**Scripture References:** Matthew 5:14–16; Philippians 2:15; Ephesians 4:15; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 1 John 2:15-17

#### Points to Emphasize:

- God made us to shine in a dark world.
  - Even small lights make a big difference
- Your behavior reflects God to others.
  - Our words, clothes, attitudes, and choices show who we follow. (Eph. 4:29)
- Don't blend in with the world—stand for truth. (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:33)

#### Worldly Lies vs. Biblical Truth:

Worldly Message	God's Truth
It's better to fit in.	Stand out for Christ. You are the light of the world. (Matt. 5:14-16)
Don't talk about your faith.	Shine your light in the world. (Phil. 2:15)
Don't offend anyone with truth.	Speak the truth in love. (Eph. 4:15)

#### Discussion Questions:

- When is it hard to shine your light?
- What makes your light brighter?
- What makes a light go dim in a Christian life?
- How can you be a light at school, on the field, or with friends?
- What happens when one person stands for what's right?

- Why does God want us to shine even when it's hard?

**Class 2: Living as God's Chosen People**

**Objective:** Inspire young people to embrace their identity and mission.

**Scripture References:** 1 Peter 2:9; Romans 12:1–2; Genesis 1:27; 1 Peter 1:14-16

**Points to Emphasize:**

- You are chosen, royal, holy.
- You are called to be different.
- Live out your identity in actions.

**Worldly Lies vs. Biblical Truth:**

Worldly Message	God's Truth
Be who you want to be.	Be who God made you to be. (1 Pet. 2:9)
Your identity is up to you.	Your identity is given by God. (Gen. 1:27)
Blend in to avoid trouble and being different is weird.	Do not conform to this world. (Rom. 12:2)

**Discussion Questions:**

- What makes you special to God?
- What makes God's people stand out in the world?
- How does knowing your identity help when you're tempted?
- What does it mean to "not conform" to the world?
- How can you remind yourself of your identity in Christ?
- What can you do to glorify God when you return home?