

# Fashioned

IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

## WEEK SEVENTEEN

### LOVE YOUR CHILDREN

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#### DAY 1

1. Begin your study time with prayer. This week we will focus on our attitudes toward children. If you do not yet have children, use this week to think about children that are close to you (nieces, nephews, friends' children, etc.) and consider what role God may be asking you to play in their lives.
2. How does our culture view and treat children?
3. Read Matthew 19:13-15. What is the disciples' attitude toward the children in this passage? How do you see this same attitude reflected in our culture today and its view/treatment of children?
4. The disciples chase the children away as an inconvenience, but Jesus calls them to Himself and blesses them. He communicates that, though they are small, they have great value. Read Psalm 127:3-5. How do these verses speak about the value of children?
5. Do you treat children as a burden, a pest, or an inconvenience rather than a blessing and a gift? How must your attitude toward children change to be more in line with the Biblical view of children?
6. Write out this week's memory verse on a notecard or a piece of paper and post it somewhere you will see it often (e.g. bathroom mirror, car, desk, kitchen sink, etc.).

#### Scripture Memory:

But Jesus said,  
"Let the children  
alone, and do not  
hinder them from  
coming to Me; for  
the kingdom of  
heaven belongs to  
such as these."

~Matthew 19:14

I'm praying about:

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### DAY 2

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. As believers we are called to love others in the same way that Christ loved us. He loves us unconditionally, sacrificially, and consistently. How do you demonstrate this love to your children? What are areas in which you could improve the way you show them love?
3. Read Ephesians 4:1-3 and Romans 15:1. Children, especially young children, can tempt us to be impatient, rude and harsh in our dealings with them and our tone towards them. What do these verses say should be our attitude in dealing with children?
4. Jesus uses a child as an illustration in Matthew 18:1-10 and exhorts us to live in such a way that we do not cause them (or anyone) to stumble. In what ways might our actions, words, and failure to love cause our children to stumble? To whom does verse ten say we are accountable for our actions toward our children? How does knowing this offer accountability to you in how you act toward your children behind closed doors?
5. Write out this week's memory verse below:

### DAY 3

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. In Deuteronomy 6:4-9 who is primarily responsible for instructing our children and what should we teach them above all else?
3. How do you prioritize instructing your children (or children you know) in the things of the Lord? Notice in the verses above this is not necessarily a formal Bible study, although that is also a valuable tool.
4. In Psalm 23 God is called our shepherd. He carefully watches over, protects and nourishes us. Using the imagery of a shepherd caring for her "flock," how do Proverbs 27:23 and 1 Peter 5:2-3 instruct us to watch over those in our care? Does this reflect how you care for your children? Do you intimately know each child entrusted to you? What are their gifts and weaknesses?
5. What was the terrible consequence for Israel when its shepherds abandoned their responsibilities in Ezekiel 34:1-6? We have a very real enemy that seeks to attack our homes and those within them. Are you diligently watchful to protect your children from harm and the enemy's attacks?
6. Write out this week's memory verse below:

## DAY 4

1. Begin your study time with prayer. What does Revelation 3:19 say that God does for those He loves?
2. Read Hebrews 12:4-11. What are the reasons God disciplines us? What is the purpose of it?
3. The book of Proverbs discusses discipline over and over. Why, according to Proverbs 19:18, 22:15, 23:13-14 & 29:17 should we care to discipline our children? What is the consequence of a child left to him or herself?
4. Proverbs 29:15 lists two things that grant wisdom to our children. What are they?
5. The rod (consequence) must also be accompanied by reproof (instruction). As God disciplines us in love, so we must discipline our children calmly, with respect, kindness, firmness and fairness. If we discipline our children harshly or unjustly what does Ephesians 6:4 say may be the result? Is there anything about the way in which you discipline that must change?
6. Write out this week's memory verse below:

## DAY 5

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. On the one hand our culture denigrates children, and on the other hand some people make their children into idols, serving them relentlessly. Idolizing our children is hazardous both to them and to us. What do Exodus 20:3 and Isaiah 42:8 say about doing so?
3. According to Psalm 139:13-16, to whom do our children belong?
4. In Exodus 2:1-3 what do we see Moses' mother do?
5. Imagine the incredible difficulty of placing your infant child in a basket and sending him down the Nile River. The dangers are innumerable from the basket tipping over and your child drowning to a crocodile or hippopotamus deciding he would be a tasty meal. Despite the dangers, Jochebed (Moses' mother) entrusted her son's welfare to Almighty God, knowing He could protect him when she could not. Do you truly surrender your children into the hands of God, their Father? When is this most difficult? Do you allow Him to direct their paths or are you trying to control their future too much?
6. As we face the insurmountable task of loving our children and training them up to fear the Lord, what encouragement do 2 Corinthians 9:8; Ephesians 3:20; Philippians 2:13 & 4:13 offer us?
7. Write out this week's memory verse below: