

# Fathers' Studies: Personal Growth

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 2 OF 52

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

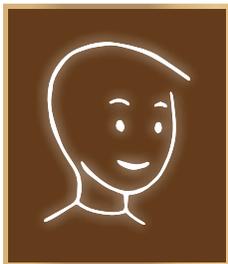
**LESSON AIM:** To show fathers that their love for God, their wife, and children is very important.

### KEY VERSE:

1. **DEUTERONOMY 6:4,5** What were the Israelites to remember to do before all else? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. **MATTHEW 22:36-37** According to Jesus, what is the greatest command? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **COLOSSIANS 3:19** What is the Bible's command to husbands? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. **EPHESIANS 5:25** How deeply should a husband love his wife? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **EPHESIANS 6:4** After showing fathers how to please God and how to love their wives, the Bible tells them how to treat their \_\_\_\_\_.

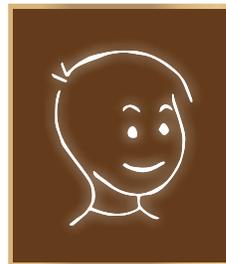
### PERSONAL NOTES:

## For You To Do



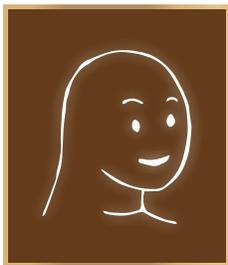
### By Yourself

Check up on yourself. Do you spend more time in recreation than you do in prayer, Bible reading, and worship?



### With Your Children

Pick a day in the coming week and count up how many minutes you spend talking with your children.



### With Your Wife

Pick a normal day in the coming week and count up how many minutes or hours you spend talking with your wife.

## FIRST—FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

The most important thing in a man's life is his friendship with God. This friendship affects the life to come. It also affects a man's life on earth. It affects how he treats his wife and children. When a man puts God first in his life, he tries to be the kind of husband and father that God wants him to be. By putting God first, he is following the example of Jesus and obeying what Jesus said in Matthew 22:37: "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

**MATTHEW 16:26, MATTHEW 22:37-38**

## SECOND—FRIENDSHIP WITH YOUR WIFE

The next important thing in life for a husband is his friendship with his wife. Next to God, a husband is to love his wife more than anyone else in the world. She is more important to him than the children, his job, their parents, or other people. He must do his best to support and help her.

**GENESIS 2:24; EPHESIANS 5:28, 33; 1 PETER 3:7**

## THIRD—FRIENDSHIP WITH CHILDREN

The third most important thing in life for a father is his relationship with his children. A father should know and love his children. He should know their feelings, hopes, likes and dislikes, and disappointments. A good father learns what is important to them and how they look at life. A father must spend time getting to know his children. Part of this time is spent teaching them about God, his word, and how to live for God; and part is spent having fun together. After God and his wife, the children are the most important priority in a father's life.

**DEUTERONOMY 6:7, PROVERBS 22:6, EPHESIANS 6:4**

**THEY GAVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD FIRST. (2 CORINTHIANS 8:5)**

**A man's friendship with God affects how he treats his wife and children.**

**A husband's friendship with his wife is more important than:**

- children
- job
- parents
- other people

**A father should know his children's:**

- feelings
- hopes
- likes and dislikes
- disappointments

## WINDOW TO LIFE

One day Vernon told his twelve-year-old son that he would take him fishing the next Saturday. Early Saturday morning Vernon's boss called and asked if Vernon could work that day. Forgetting about the promised fishing trip, Vernon said he would. When the boy awoke and found his father gone, he felt very sad. Vernon never told his son that he was sorry.

A few years later the boy rebelled against his parents. His hurt that had never been healed grew into rebellion. What seemed to be a small thing to Vernon was very important to his son.

Then the father began to talk to his son. They were able to forgive each other. Vernon even took time off from work to go on a fishing trip with his son. Slowly the broken relationship began to heal.

