



# Sixth Grade

Following God's direction helps us to more fully enjoy the gift of family in the future.

## Lesson 6



### Each student will–

- Understand that following God's directions for making good choices in our families now will also prepare us to make good choices in our future families
- Be motivated to discover and practice God's direction
- Role-play family situations, showing God as the coach giving directions
- Respond to God personally in prayer, giving Him the place of "life coach"



### Outline

1. Our need for a coach to help us live in families
2. Discovering direction from God about choices that will help us enjoy the good life He has for us
3. Identifying family situations that require good choices



### Realized Impact

In this lesson students have a chance to consider the way each member of their families should be treated in view of the value God has given their lives. Hopefully, they'll make practical connections between the value of human life and the way they choose to relate to their family members.

In addition, they'll understand how their present choices form their future choices as many of them begin their own families. (Note: In the junior high curriculum, purity will also be discussed as a present choice that will enable students to enjoy their future families as God intended.)



## Materials

Picture of a well-known athlete  
Chalkboard or white board  
Chalk or dry erase markers  
Bibles  
Paper for group recording  
Index cards (3 x 5 size) for each member of the class



## Making an Entrance

Show the students a picture of a well-known athlete. Ask—**How did this person become a superstar athlete?** After the students have thrown out a few ideas, say—**One way this person achieved this level in sports was by making good choices for many years of his life. He chose the right foods, got the right amount of rest, did the right exercises, and had the right amount of discipline so his body would grow and develop in ways that would enable him to perform at the highest ability levels.**

**Another way this person could achieve his goal would be to get a good coach. What makes a good coach?** Accept some responses from the students before moving on.

**So, someone who wants to become a superstar athlete has to make good choices and find a good coach in order to prepare for his future. We all need to consider taking part in God’s ideal family plan in our future. As we know, from seeing the pain of families around us, great families don’t “just happen.” Therefore, we should make good choices right now that will enable us to enjoy and protect the families God may give to us. And God “coaches” us in making those choices that will prepare us for future family life.**



## Informing

Say—**We talked about God’s plan for families: a husband, wife, and children living together and learning about God together. We also talked about how God can take care of us when we end up in situations that differ from His plan. It’s important, though, that even in sixth grade you begin to think about what you need to do to prepare yourself to enjoy God’s good plan for you in the future.**

**He created you and wants you to really experience the good life He’s given to you. Today we’re going to talk about how God is coaching us right now in ways that will help us to become the kind of people who can really enjoy God’s plan for family.**



**Ask—In what ways is God like a good coach? If someone you respected told you there's a way that promises a good life in the future, how would you respond?**

Have the students get into groups of three; give each group a Bible and some paper. The groups should work together to complete the following assignment (write it on the board or create a handout to give to them, but don't include the answers in parentheses)—

READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES AND WRITE DOWN THE CHOICES WE NEED TO MAKE SO WE CAN ENJOY LIFE IN THE FUTURE.

PROVERBS 3:3-4 (*Always make choices that show love and loyalty toward another person.*)

PROVERBS 13:1-3 (*Listen to parents; say only things that are helpful; carefully choose your words.*)

EPHESIANS 6:2-3 (*Give respect to parents.*)

- GIVE A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF WHAT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE TO PUT THESE TRUTHS INTO PRACTICE IN YOUR FAMILY RIGHT NOW.
- WHEN IS IT HARD TO PRACTICE THESE TRUTHS?
- WHY IS IT WORTHWHILE TO CHOOSE TO REACT TO SITUATIONS IN GOD'S WAY INSTEAD OF REACTING OUT OF THE WAY WE ARE FEELING IN THE MOMENT?

After about 10 minutes, ask a few of the groups to share with the rest of the class what they discovered. As students report, list on the board the truths about choices they've identified in these passages.

After the discussion ends, say—**Because we know our family members better than any other people on earth, and they know us, it's difficult to consistently live in a way that allows us to really enjoy our family. It's easy to forget that God created each one of them, and He highly values their lives. When we're feeling hurt, we tend to react instead of making thoughtful choices. God coaches us in relationships and we are wise to listen to His direction, trusting that He knows our weaknesses and difficulties and He can show us how to overcome them.**

**In your groups, look at the following passages and write down any additional instruction God gives to us about making good choices in relationships. All of them reflect the value God gives to each human being He created—even the ones He's placed in your family.**

Write these Scripture references on the board:

PROVERBS 17:17 (*Loyalty; I'm on your side!*)

PHILIPPIANS 2:3 (*Be humble and unselfish, think about others first*)

COLOSSIANS 3:13 (*Forgive; Note: You may wish to talk with your class about what it means to forgive.*

*A simple suggestion: to forgive means to wish someone who has harmed you well as you think of them.*)



## Valuing

Hand out 3 x 5 cards to the class. Ask each student to write down an example of a problem that occurs in family relationships. Collect the cards and then give one card to each group of three. (Of course, you'll want to sort through the cards to make sure situations are clear and appropriate for students to act out.) Give the groups five to ten minutes to prepare.

Then say—**Your group will now role-play the situation I gave to you. Talk about how God would coach each of the family members involved. In your role-play, someone should play God as He participates in a coaching role. This person should give direction to the family. And remember—God values each person in that family!**

After each group finishes, ask for feedback from the rest of the class as to how God coached the family, what the family members could have done differently, whether or not they did as God wanted them to do, and so on. This will provide some good times of class discussion.

After the last role-play has been critiqued, say something like—**Practicing following God's directions now will prepare you to enjoy and protect the family He might give to you in the future. You are practicing God's direction to value life and you're seeing how following His directions will result in great and enjoyable relationships. Practicing good choices now will help you to make good choices in the future, when you're responsible for your own family. Practicing bad choices now will make it more difficult for you to make good choices in the future.** (Note: It may be helpful to point out to your students that bad habits and faulty life perspectives are more difficult to change as we get older.)



## Changing

Lead the students in a time of silent reflection. Ask them to close their eyes and consider these questions (pause between each one)—

- **Who will be your coach for the rest of your life?**
- **With God as your coach, which of His directions is hardest for you to follow within your family relationships?**
- **Ask God to help you remember His directions and to choose to follow them as you live each day as a part of your family.**



**Builds into:**

Sanctity of Life, Purity