

Joyce's Wedding

What's It All About?

The house is busy and buzzing. It's the night before Aunt Joyce's wedding day, and she, her bridesmaids, and other members of the bridal party are spending the night at Dakota's house preparing for the big day. Dakota and her cousin Kenya are extra excited because they are junior bridesmaids. They are getting their hair and nails done with some of the others as Aunt Joyce sits at a desk writing.

"What are you doing, Aunt Joyce?" Dakota asked in between blowing her nails dry.

"I was wondering the same thing," added Kenya.

"Well, my beautiful junior bridesmaids, I'm writing my wedding vows," explained Aunt Joyce.

"Why?" Dakota asked. "Don't they have vows you can just repeat?"

"They do, but Ted and I wanted to write our own. We love each other very much and can't wait to start a family. This day is important and the family we are creating is important. We want to use our own words to describe how special this relationship is and how we pledge to love one another always."

The girls smiled. "Can we read them?" Dakota asked.

"No," Aunt Joyce teased. "You have to wait 'til tomorrow like everyone else."

Do you agree with Aunt Joyce that marriage and family are important? Explain. How should family members—husbands and wives, parents and children—treat each other? Do you think Christ's love for the church serves as an example of how families should love each other? Defend your answer.



Learning From God

Christ loves us more than we can imagine. He loves us so much that He gave His life for our salvation. Jesus' relationship with His people—the church—is full of love and care. The family relationship should be the same way.

Ephesians 5:21–6:4, NIV—Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. **22** Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to

make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. **28** In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— **30** for we are members of his body. **31** "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his

wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a **Choosing What's Best** profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and The family unit is important to Christ. Take a the church. 33 However, each one of you also must moment to think about how important your family is love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must to you. Create your own greeting card! Write a few respect her husband. lines of love to and about your family. **6:1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. What I Have Learned Unscramble the following words and then use them in a sentence that helps summarize today's lesson. hanrote velo gntariin urhcch bisumt

Keep In Mind

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21, NIV).

Doing My Part

Your challenge this week is to do something that shows love for your family. For example, do extra chores without being asked to or give random hugs throughout the week.



Why'd She Really Ask?

What's It All About?

"Ask your mom if you can come with us to an ice cream sundae party!" Becca almost knocked Lillie down as she ran up to her.

"What ice cream sundae party? How much does it cost?" asked Lillie.

"Free! It is free! Our Sunday School class is having a party on Saturday afternoon. We will fix sundaes and play games. Our teacher, Mrs. Woods, will talk about Jesus and invite everyone to come back on Sunday." Becca seemed in a hurry to tell Lillie everything.

Noah listened to Becca from a distance. They were in the same Sunday School class. Mrs. Woods had said there was a prize for the person who brought the most friends.

Maybe Becca just wants that prize, Noah thought angrily. Lillie is my friend, too. Becca hurried to invite her without waiting for me.

The more that Noah thought, though, the less upset he was. He could not read Becca's heart. He didn't know why she had rushed to invite Lillie.

The important thing is that Lillie is invited; she'll hear about Jesus, Noah thought. He walked over to the girls to talk about the party.

What did Noah understand about telling others about Jesus? Should a person's motives (reasons) for telling others about Jesus prevent the message from being given? Why or why not? How do you tell others about Jesus? Why do you tell others about Jesus?



Learning From God

Paul was in prison for preaching the Gospel. In his letter to the Philippians, he discussed the preaching of Christ. Some people were preaching the Gospel for the wrong reasons. Some were even happy that Paul was in prison. He could have been bitter, but Paul chose to react in a different way. He understood that the motives for preaching Christ were not important. The important thing was that the Good News about Jesus was shared.

Philippians 1:15–26, NIV—It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. **16** The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. **17** The former preach Christ out of

selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. **18** But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, **19** for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. **20** I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as

always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. What I Have Learned Use the best word from the choices below to	To share your joy in being a part of Jesus' family To convince people that you are a good Christian To make sure everyone hears the Good News To encourage others to accept Christ as Savior Doing My Part Your challenge this week is to create your own personal proclamation of the Gospel. How do you
complete the following sentences.	(or would you) proclaim the Gospel to others?
rejoiced joy love envy Christ	
1. Paul says to live is	
2. Some preach out of	
3. Others (like Paul) preach out of	
4. Paul when Christ was	The state of the s
preached.	
5. There is in faith!	
Keep In Mind	
"But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice," (Philippians 1:18, NIV).	
Choosing What's Best	
Paul taught that it is important for God's Word to be spread. Sometimes people spread God's Word with selfish motives. Read the following list of reasons for telling others about Christ. Put a check by the selfish motives.	
To make sure you have the biggest church in the area	