

# People Positive

Lesson	Content Objectives	Learning Objectives	Vocabulary	Optional
<p><b>1</b> Why Study Relationships?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripture offers principles to guide our relationships with God and other people.</li> <li>• Relationships present challenges that can be navigated with wisdom and love.</li> <li>• Jesus responded with patience and love to relationship challenges.</li> <li>• Faith and trust are critical ingredients to relationships.</li> <li>• For the purposes of this study, “people positive” is an openness to the good that God performs through other people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain in general terms how Jesus responded to the needs of other people</li> <li>• Describe the impact that choice and care can have on relationships</li> <li>• Discuss relational skills or outcomes desired by the end of this study</li> <li>• Discuss benefits of faith and trust in relationships</li> </ul>	<p>Relationship, Prophet / Prophetess, Disciple, Grace, Synagogue, Priest</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> 2 Corinthians 12:9</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Hebrews 11</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Growing up without love</p>
<p><b>2</b> God Our Creator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripture describes a God very different from pagan deities.</li> <li>• God is powerful, holy, and good.</li> <li>• God created humanity in His image, thereby allowing us a relationship with Him.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarize biblical descriptions of God’s power, holiness, and goodness</li> <li>• Explain ways in which God exemplifies an ideal parental figure</li> <li>• Discuss the significance of God’s image to our identity and morality</li> <li>• Describe at least two tensions or conflicts in building our personal identity</li> </ul>	<p>Yahweh, Covenant, Sovereignty, Holiness, Sin, Materialism, Determinism, Egocentrism, Integrity</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> 1 John 3:2</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> 1 John 3</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Cultural differences and identity</p>
<p><b>3</b> God Our Savior</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus is the Messiah promised by God in the Old Testament.</li> <li>• Jesus is fully God as one of the Trinity, and He is also fully human.</li> <li>• Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus offered us restoration with the Father.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recall examples of Jesus showing God’s power, holiness, and love</li> <li>• Explain key principles of the gospel of Christ</li> <li>• Discuss ways they may have grown or matured spiritually</li> </ul>	<p>The Fall, Messiah, The Trinity, Gospel, Miracle, Parable</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> John 17:3</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> John 17</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Emotional intelligence</p>

Lesson	Content Objectives	Learning Objectives	Vocabulary	Optional
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b> God Our Sustainer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As one of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is co-equal with God the Father and God the Son.</li> <li>The Spirit appears in Scripture as a Person, not a force.</li> <li>The Spirit serves as a guide, caretaker, and seal for believers.</li> <li>In the New Testament, the Spirit reached out to all kinds of people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recall at least one appearance of the Spirit in Scripture</li> <li>Explain in general terms the work of the Spirit</li> <li>Discuss ways to recognize and respond to the guidance of the Spirit</li> </ul>	<p>Majestic Plural, Theophany, Baptize, Gentile, Providence, The World, Intercede</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Ephesians 1:13–14</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Romans 8</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Hope and death</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b> Reflecting God’s Love</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religious belief and practice is worthless without love.</li> <li>The greatest command is to love God, and the second is to love others as we love ourselves.</li> <li>Love is the decision to reflect God’s goodness to others.</li> <li>Love is not a feeling or a god, nor is it lust or abuse.</li> <li>Jesus is the perfect example of loving sacrifice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss different expressions and contexts of love</li> <li>Describe ways in which people show corrupted views of love</li> <li>Explain how to demonstrate love apart from feelings or self-interest</li> <li>Summarize the form and characteristics of the love described in 1 Corinthians 13</li> </ul>	<p>Love, Pharisees, Tithe, Legalism, Immutability, Lust, Abuse</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> 1 John 4:19–20</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Romans 12</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Love and suffering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b> Reflecting God’s Truth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus presented His teaching as God’s absolute truth.</li> <li>Truth frees us from sin and gives us the chance to know, love, and worship God.</li> <li>We can reflect God’s truth by studying Scripture, responding to what we learn, and sharing it with others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinguish different uses of the phrase “Word of God” in Scripture</li> <li>Explain why some people might reject truth or freedom</li> <li>Discuss the relationship between truth, freedom, and love</li> <li>Describe one or two ways to reflect God’s truth</li> </ul>	<p>Truth, Inspiration, Natural / General Revelation, Special Revelation, Sanctify</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> John 17:15–17</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Psalm 19</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> The limits of science</p>

Lesson	Content Objectives	Learning Objectives	Vocabulary	Optional
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b> Family and the Home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An ideal home environment is a place of care, security, hospitality, growth, and hope.</li> <li>The family of Christ can and should comfort people with difficult family backgrounds.</li> <li>Jesus faced significant challenges due to His earthly family background.</li> <li>Despite imperfect circumstances, Jesus showed care and respect for His earthly family.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the importance of environments to healthy relationships</li> <li>List several elements of a healthy, godly home</li> <li>Associate trauma with challenges to relational health</li> <li>Discuss ways to respond to suspected abuse</li> <li>Explain two or three challenges faced by Jesus' earthly family, along with Jesus' response</li> </ul>	<p>Home, Trauma, Hospitality, Immanuel</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Luke 11:13</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> John 1:1–18</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Trauma and growth</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b> The Duty of Parents: Part 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We can honor our parents or guardians by appreciating the weight of their responsibilities.</li> <li>Parents can greatly magnify or distort their children's understanding of God's love.</li> <li>Godly parental love can take the form of provision, protection, and preparation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain how parental love can differ from the love between peers</li> <li>Describe several difficulties or tensions that parents may face</li> <li>Discuss ways that parents can affect children's development and view of God</li> <li>Recall one or two positive examples of parental love from Scripture</li> </ul>	<p>Honor, Agape, Eros, Hallowed, Temptation, Pharaoh</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Matthew 19:14</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Luke 15:11–32</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Freedom and growth</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9</b> The Duty of Parents: Part 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God expects parents to teach their children about His character and work.</li> <li>Parents can help their children discipline their feelings, thoughts, and actions.</li> <li>Parents can train children by their example and words, along with both positive and negative consequences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recall one or two kinds of instruction that Scripture challenges parents to share with their children</li> <li>Discuss kinds of knowledge, skill, and discipline that parents can nurture in their children</li> <li>Explain the difference between true discipline and its various methods</li> <li>Describe several ways that parents can reflect God to their children</li> </ul>	<p>Discipline, Discern, Transgress, Wisdom Literature</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Psalm 78:4</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Hebrews 12</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Parenting under constraint</p>

Lesson	Content Objectives	Learning Objectives	Vocabulary	Optional
<p><b>10</b> The Role of Children: Part 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Though God reserves the highest authority for Himself, He expects children to honor and obey their parents.</li> <li>Obedience can protect children and prepare them for the duties of adulthood.</li> <li>Jesus modeled obedience, honor, and submission for our sake.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roughly define the terms honor, obey, and submit as used in Scripture</li> <li>Recall several attitudes or commitments necessary to obedience and honor</li> <li>Discuss limits to our ability to support parents</li> <li>Describe at least one biblical justification for the command to honor parents</li> </ul>	<p>Obey, Submit</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Ephesians 6:1–3</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Philippians 2:1–18</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Home and clutter</p>
<p><b>11</b> The Role of Children: Part 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our parents or guardians deal with many of the same faults and struggles that we'll face one day.</li> <li>The ways we honor our parents will change as we grow older. We will assume new roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>Maturity requires a balanced view of the good and bad in our parents.</li> <li>Joseph made peace with the way his family mistreated him, but Absalom reacted to his father's failure with bitterness and rebellion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss ways the parent-child relationship evolves over time</li> <li>Discuss responses to both good and bad memories of parents</li> <li>Describe one or two ways to show honor to even imperfect parents</li> <li>Recall how Joseph and Absalom responded to their families' failures</li> </ul>	<p>The Fear of God, Concubine</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Proverbs 1:8–9</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Proverbs 30</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Caring for Parents</p>
<p><b>12</b> Why Friendship?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friendships are voluntary relationships through which we celebrate God's blessings.</li> <li>God blesses friendships between people who reflect His love and truth.</li> <li>Friends can encourage, challenge, and grow us.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe at least one unhealthy way to approach friendships</li> <li>Recall several benefits of friendship</li> <li>Categorize many of their existing friendships and communities</li> <li>Discuss different priorities within friendship</li> <li>Recall how God worked through one or two notable friendships in Scripture</li> </ul>	<p>Transactional Relationship, Friend, Community, Judge, Missionary</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Ecclesiastes 4:9–10</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Psalm 25</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Parasocial relationships</p>
<p><b>13</b> Choosing Friends</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God works through friendships to challenge and encourage us.</li> <li>Good friends will support our relationship with God.</li> <li>We cannot build healthy friendships with people who exhibit destructive behavior.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe ways God can grow friendships in our lives</li> <li>Recall several types of friends that Proverbs warns against</li> <li>Discuss the risks of friends who encourage addictive substances or behavior</li> <li>Explain several marks of false friends</li> </ul>	<p>Platonic Friendship, Addiction</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Psalm 1:1–2</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Jeremiah 17:5–18.</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Friends and support</p>

Lesson	Content Objectives	Learning Objectives	Vocabulary	Optional
<p><b>14</b> Building Friendships: Part 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus is the best example of faithful, impartial, sacrificial love.</li> <li>We can show love and friendliness to everyone, even if we're close to only a few.</li> <li>Solitude helps us reflect and meditate, while loneliness results from a lack of deep friendships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recall and justify several critical attitudes or commitments necessary to a healthy friendship</li> <li>Describe how our friendliness can reflect Jesus' own outreach</li> <li>Distinguish healthy solitude from feelings of loneliness</li> <li>Discuss ways to incorporate silence and reflection into daily life</li> </ul>	N/A	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> John 15:12</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Matthew 6</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Choice and community</p>
<p><b>15</b> Building Friendships: Part 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listening is a rare and important expression of compassion.</li> <li>Encouragement is a critical ministry that reflects Christ.</li> <li>Communication, even with close friends, requires sensitivity and wisdom.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe several practical ways to demonstrate the skill of listening</li> <li>Explain ways that clear, respectful communication can encourage a friendship</li> <li>Discuss misunderstandings and insecurities that can get in the way of good communication</li> </ul>	Strawmanning, Steelmanning, Edify, Oath / Vow	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Proverbs 18:12</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Psalm 119:1–40</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Small-talk and listening</p>
<p><b>16</b> Destroying Friendships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationships will fail when people lose sight of their true purpose—to reflect God's love and truth.</li> <li>In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul outlines a form of godly love that excludes hatred, selfishness, and apathy.</li> <li>Knowledge, skill, and service are all meaningless without love.</li> <li>Many disagreements and misunderstandings can be resolved with grace, patience, and careful communication.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinguish between <i>function</i> and <i>purpose</i> in relationships and ministry</li> <li>Discuss the causes and expressions of hatred, selfishness, and apathy</li> <li>Explain how relationships can weaken and fall apart without love and understanding</li> <li>Discuss ways to avoid simple misunderstandings between friends</li> </ul>	Function, Purpose, Hate, Selfishness, Apathy, Blasphemy	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> 1 Corinthians 13:1–3</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Isaiah 54</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Lies and fantasies</p>

Lesson	Content Objectives	Learning Objectives	Vocabulary	Optional
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>17</b> Healing Friendships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God expects us to show the same kind of mercy to others as He showed us.</li> <li>• We shouldn't judge or condemn every small failure of our friends.</li> <li>• When we address problems with our friends, we should do so with clarity, love, and humility, with the goal of edification and restoration.</li> <li>• We can always forgive others, but we may not always safely reconcile.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recall several biblical principles that should guide or constrain attempts to heal a wounded friendship</li> <li>• Discuss ways to approach disagreements, offenses, and misunderstandings between friends</li> <li>• Explain how to escalate attempts to correct a fellow believer, as Jesus described in Matthew 18</li> <li>• Describe the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation within relationships</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Forgiveness, Reconciliation</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Matthew 18:15</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Matthew 18:21–35</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Resilience and reconciliation</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>18</b> Review</p>	Special projects • Review exercises • Case studies			
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>19</b> Christ and His Church</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Christian traditions, the word <i>church</i> can refer to several different concepts, including a building, a local assembly, and the universal body of Christ.</li> <li>• Jesus established the universal church to make disciples for the glory of God.</li> <li>• The church gives believers the opportunity to reflect God's love and truth on a larger scale.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguish between different concepts of church referenced in Scripture and other texts</li> <li>• Recall the overall purpose and nature of the universal church</li> <li>• Describe in general terms the stance of Christ toward the church</li> <li>• Discuss ways believers can resist a spiral of sin, guilt, and shame</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Church, Apostle, The Great Commission, Prodigal, Fast / Fasting</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Matthew 16:18</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Matthew 13:10–52</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Church without Christ</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>20</b> The Work of the Assembly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God works through local churches to glorify Himself and make disciples.</li> <li>• Local assemblies reflect love and truth in activities like Bible study, prayer, ordinances, outreach, fellowship, and mutual support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguish between incidental practices of a church and the intentional application of doctrine</li> <li>• Recall six or seven activities of an assembly, along with their connection to the church's mission</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Doctrine, Practice, Praxis, Canon, Orthodoxy, Ordinance, Baptism, Communion, Creed</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Matthew 28:19</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Luke 10:1–24</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Adaptive ministry</p>

Lesson	Content Objectives	Learning Objectives	Vocabulary	Optional
<p><b>21</b> Threats to the Assembly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believers will face mistreatment and even oppression for their faith.</li> <li>• Pride, greed, and fear can give rise to false teaching, conflict, and unhelpful practices.</li> <li>• Many false teachers reveal themselves by distorting Jesus' identity or work.</li> <li>• Believers can respond to threats with trust, love, and a careful study of Scripture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recall several dangers that can threaten assemblies</li> <li>• Explain how some teachers have denied the deity or sacrifice of Christ</li> <li>• Discuss underlying reasons for false teaching and conflict within a church</li> <li>• Recognize some practices that may contradict the core mission of a church</li> </ul>	<p>Persecution, Gnosticism, Asceticism, Heretic</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Romans 16:17</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Revelation 21</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Churches in China</p>
<p><b>22</b> Scholarship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge is precious, as is the wisdom to organize it.</li> <li>• God blesses different people with a variety of gifts and skills, which we can develop and use by His grace.</li> <li>• To continue facing new challenges, we must expect to grow in wisdom our entire lives.</li> <li>• The church includes areas of ministry that require careful scholarship.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain in general terms the value of careful scholarship</li> <li>• Distinguish between <i>knowledge</i> and <i>wisdom</i></li> <li>• Recall several different kinds of intelligence and skill, as well as examples from Scripture</li> <li>• Discuss areas of learning and growth necessary for the next stages of their lives</li> <li>• Describe ways to meditate on Scripture</li> </ul>	<p>Knowledge, Wisdom, Psalm, Hermeneutic</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Proverbs 3:35</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Ezekiel 1</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Conspiracies and intelligence</p>
<p><b>23</b> Stewardship: Part 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewardship is the care and management of God's gifts for good.</li> <li>• Jesus pictured our responsibilities with parables about stewardship.</li> <li>• We can find purpose in work by reflecting God, helping others, and preparing for our eternal future.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recall key points from Jesus' parables on stewardship</li> <li>• Explain in general terms how to steward a gift</li> <li>• Discuss areas of stewardship mentioned in Scripture</li> <li>• Identify principles of stewardship suggested by laws, traditions, and proverbs</li> </ul>	<p>Stewardship, Talent</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> 1 Peter 4:10</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Job 38–39.</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Stewardship at scale</p>
<p><b>24</b> Stewardship: Part 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The priorities, intensity, and direction of our work should reflect the love and truth of God.</li> <li>• We can find meaning and fulfillment in work that helps us grow, serve others, and support God's kingdom.</li> <li>• We should balance work with rest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recall several inadequate motivations for work</li> <li>• Explain in general terms how to find meaning through work</li> <li>• Discuss ways to prioritize work in a job or charity effort</li> <li>• Discuss areas of work and maturity necessary for the next stages of their lives</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Matthew 6:33</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Matthew 11:25–12:21</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Work and purpose</p>

Lesson	Content Objectives	Learning Objectives	Vocabulary	Optional
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>25</b> Civil Duty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Old Testament Law gave Israel ways to honor God and learn about their need for a Savior.</li> <li>Jesus and the New Testament writers encouraged believers to obey their rulers and show love despite persecution.</li> <li>Scripture offers no mandate or blueprint for the establishment of a Christian state.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss helpful and unhelpful ways to apply Old Testament laws to modern life</li> <li>Explain in general terms the difference between Old and New Testament teachings on civil duty</li> <li>Describe several ways Christians can practice their faith in a non-affirming culture</li> </ul>	<p>The Torah, Theocracy</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Titus 3:1–2</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Isaiah 45</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Christians at war</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>26</b> Gender and the Fall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God designed men and women to support each other in love and unity.</li> <li>Conditions after the Fall encourage people to attack, resent, or blame the other sex.</li> <li>God’s image rests at the core of our identity, and we can serve God no matter our sex, background, or condition.</li> <li>God worked through Esther and Mordecai despite terribly unjust circumstances.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define and distinguish the concepts sex and <i>gender</i></li> <li>Describe in general terms how sin and the Fall corrupted our relationships</li> <li>Discuss modern conflicts and tensions between men and women</li> <li>Recall key events in the book of Esther</li> </ul>	<p>Feminist, Sex, Sexually Dimorphic, Gender, Eunuch</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Genesis 3:16</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Proverbs 24:1–22</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Detransitioning</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>27</b> Gender and the Gospel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus reached over cultural barriers to welcome both men and women into His kingdom.</li> <li>Thanks to the gospel, men and women stand redeemed from the Fall, and we can live with purpose, hope, and unity.</li> <li>From the whole of Scripture, believers recognize the differences between the sexes, the unique gifts of individuals, and the unity we all share in Christ.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain in general terms how the work of Christ can bring men and women closer</li> <li>Discuss the dangers of tying gender expressions too closely to virtue, vice, or personal identity</li> <li>Discuss ways we can adopt or reject cultural expectations for gender</li> <li>Summarize Paul’s recommendations about head coverings and respect in 1 Corinthians 11</li> </ul>	<p>Preeminence</p>	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> 1 Corinthians 11:11–12</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> John 4:1–42</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Men out of place</p>



Lesson	Content Objectives	Learning Objectives	Vocabulary	Optional
<p><b>28</b> Understanding Marriage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus taught that God originally intended marriage as a lifelong commitment.</li> <li>Ideally, marriage exists to reflect God's love and truth.</li> <li>Governments and societies may not affirm God's ideal for marriage.</li> <li>Spouses can show love and truth to each other even if they're unable to fulfill all the functions of marriage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinguish between sacred and civil conceptions of marriage</li> <li>Explain a way to define marriage in terms of its purpose, form, and function</li> <li>Recall how some Old Testament figures failed to respect God's intent for marriage</li> </ul>	Divorce, Adultery, Vow, Civil Marriage, Existential, Polygamy, Monogamy, Patriarch, Contract	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Genesis 2:24</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Matthew 19</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Marriage and partnership</p>
<p><b>29</b> Focusing Marriage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marriage will not solve all our problems, nor is it the only way we can show love.</li> <li>Not everyone will enjoy a good marriage.</li> <li>Spouses will ideally submit their relationship to God, then focus on loving and understanding each other.</li> <li>Within a godly marriage, love and submission can reflect the relationship between Christ and His church.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss unhelpful conceptions or expectations for marriage</li> <li>Explain in general terms the priorities of a godly marriage</li> <li>Recall several ways for spouses to pursue love and intimacy</li> </ul>	N/A	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Ephesians 5:1–2</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Colossians 3</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Views on marriage</p>
<p><b>30</b> Staying Close</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God intended husbands and wives to serve each other as one flesh.</li> <li>Married couples in Scripture offer varying examples of godliness and unity.</li> <li>While husbands and wives are different in many ways, they should still honor and love each other as joint-heirs of God's grace.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define intimacy broadly as the understanding and closeness idealized in Scripture</li> <li>Recall broad areas in which husbands and wives should nurture intimacy</li> <li>Connect principles of friendship, communication, and integrity from Proverbs to a marital context</li> <li>Discuss ways to encourage or discourage trust</li> </ul>	Intimacy, Narcissism	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Matthew 19:6</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> John 14</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Talking about money</p>
<p><b>31</b> Knowing and Belonging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rightly understood, the purpose of sexual activity is to express loving intimacy between spouses.</li> <li>Functions of sexual activity include both procreation and pleasure.</li> <li>Removed from the context of loving intimacy, sexual activity can become a weapon, a burden, or an idol.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define and distinguish <i>sexual activity</i> and <i>sexuality</i></li> <li>Explain in general terms the relationship between sexual activity and intimacy</li> <li>Contrast corruptive views of sex with the ideal presented in Genesis and the wisdom literature</li> <li>Recall the sexual ethic outlined in 1 Corinthians 7:1–4</li> </ul>	Sexual Activity, Sexuality, Rape, Sexual Assault	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> 1 Corinthians 7:4</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> 1 Corinthians 6</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Committed love</p>

Lesson	Content Objectives	Learning Objectives	Vocabulary	Optional
<p><b>32</b> A Banner of Love</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy sexual expression emerges from a safe, private, trustworthy relationship.</li> <li>• God challenges married believers to commit their sexuality solely to their spouse.</li> <li>• A total commitment to marriage will require complete dependence on God.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain, in general terms, how relational and emotional context can affect sexual activity</li> <li>• Describe the relationship between intimacy, vulnerability, and trust</li> <li>• Discuss ways to encourage trust and intimacy within marriage</li> <li>• Recall key themes and imagery from the Song of Solomon</li> </ul>	N/A	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> Song of Solomon 7:10</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Ecclesiastes 2:1–11 and 12:1–14</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> The sexual revolution</p>
<p><b>33</b> Patience and Preparation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before, during, and after any marriage, we should seek God’s grace and wisdom.</li> <li>• Before marriage, we can embrace opportunities for service, growth, and flexibility.</li> <li>• God can build us up through many kinds of relationships, not just marriage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the tensions and pressures over the decision to marry or remain single</li> <li>• Explain some legitimate reasons for staying single</li> <li>• Recall several pieces of marital advice given by Paul in 1 Corinthians 7</li> <li>• Discuss the values reflected by different approaches to dating and marriage</li> </ul>	N/A	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> 1 Corinthians 6:12</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Philippians 4</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Dating and tradition</p>
<p><b>34</b> Seeking a Spouse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking a spouse requires self-awareness, honesty, discipline, and maturity.</li> <li>• We should show love and understanding even if a relationship does not lead to marriage.</li> <li>• We should try to edify a potential spouse while learning more about them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss healthy and unhealthy approaches to dating and courtship</li> <li>• Explain in general terms how to apply principles of love, understanding, and holiness to a relationship that might lead to marriage</li> <li>• Describe ways to navigate relationship tensions with honesty and compassion</li> <li>• Recall key events and themes in the story of Ruth and Boaz</li> </ul>	N/A	<p><b>Scripture Memory</b> 1 Corinthians 9:23</p> <p><b>Meditation</b> Psalm 139</p> <p><b>Video Discussion</b> Dating and technology</p>
<p><b>35</b> Review</p>	<p>Special projects • Review exercises • Final reflections</p>			