

Se habla
ESPAÑOL

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revista*

simple reasoning about

ABORTION

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and more



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EDITORIAL

Abortion is the greatest slaughter of innocents taking place in the world; it is a shameful war against our own offspring! It is a war that is not only tragic and grotesque but also a war that goes on with little social reflection, repugnancy, and grief. The atrocities against the pure, vulnerable, and innocent hardly make the news; instead, the news spotlights and promotes the “right” to continue this war. Christians cannot let the world close their eyes nor corrupt their thinking concerning this evil (Proverbs 6:16-17). The featured article on this issue helps families, in a very simple yet direct way, consider the world’s arguments in favor of abortion and, most importantly, God’s view on abortion.

This issue is also full of other helpful articles for all the family to continue to grow in the Lord. We hope that it may be a great blessing to you.

Paul Holland & Moisés Pinedo

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Christianfamily
Helping families become stronger in the Lord

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what our

Homes

should be

Part 1



*A home should be more than a place
in which to eat, sleep, and grunt.*

*A home should be a place of fellowship,
where fountains of love spring up in all di-
rections,
and words of kindness are heard on every
hand.*

*A home should be more than four brick walls
with elegant rooms filled with fine and costly
furniture.*

*A home should be a place where personalities
blend
and where affection, fidelity, and loyal ser-
vice are rendered.*

No man can be a good citizen who is not devoted to his home. He should prize it as the most holy and sacred spot on earth. When a nation loses its love for the home, it begins to decay. There are homes in this country only in name. The fathers are strangers to their children. They spend their spare time at the clubs, on the streets, and in the places of amusement. The mothers

spend their time at the clubs, at the neighbors' houses, at the social gatherings, and on the streets. The children are left to run at large and are being trained for the criminal courts and the prisons.

The woman is at her best when she is a keeper at home (Titus 2:5). The highest ambition of some women is to enter politics and hold office; they clamor for their rights. But the Christian woman should know that in the home she is queen and that her home is her kingdom. It is here that she has the greatest opportunity to influence the national life. The mother of James A. Garfield made it possible for her son to become the President of the United States. Were you to study the lives of the men who have become prominent in the world's history, you would discover that their success was made possible by consecrated motherhood.

Every man should strive to own his own home. With the ancient judge, he should say, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). May God help us to strive for our homes to be what they should be. ■

Adapted from William H. Book, *Sermons for the People* (Cincinnati, OH: The Standard Publishing Company, 1918), 137-139.

The art of **LOVING** *Song of Solomon 7 & 8*

Paul Holland

Duane Garrett, in his commentary on the Song of Solomon, wrote that it is a “celebration of the joy and passion of [married—PH] love.”¹ With this study, we bring our meditation over the Song of Songs to a close. Solomon has walked the line, in this greatest of his poems, between “both asceticism and debauchery.”² Let us consider chapters 7 and 8 and then apply to our marriages what Solomon is teaching.

The groom speaks in 7:1-9, again complimenting his bride’s appearance. The word of resemblance, “like,” is used 29 times (NKJV). Even if we do not understand the poetry from his day, what are the comparisons you think Solomon is making? Why is it important to dwell on the positive qualities in your spouse?

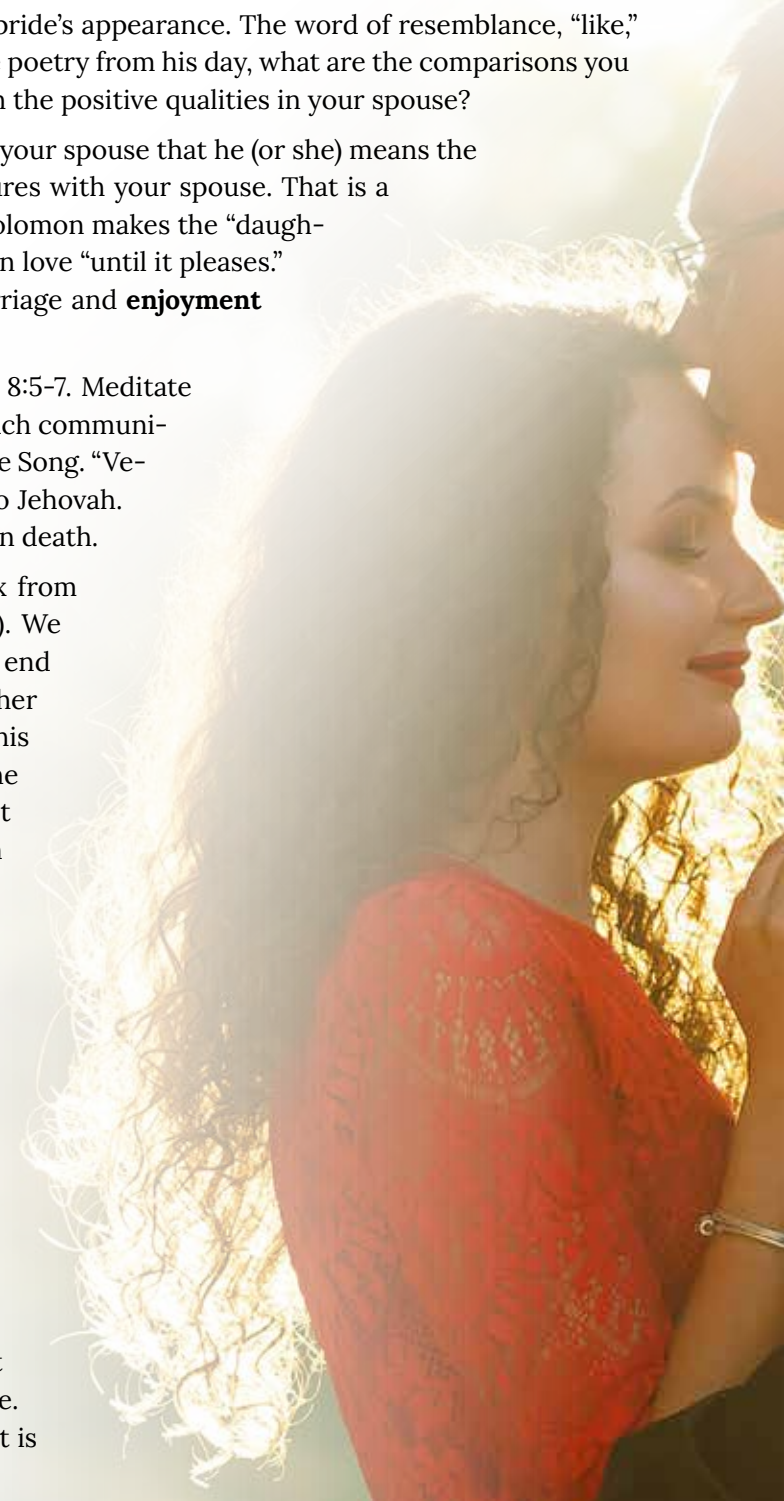
The bride speaks again in 7:9-8:3. How can you show your spouse that he (or she) means the world to you? Meditate on how you can find new pleasures with your spouse. That is a question only the two of you can answer. Again, in 8:4, Solomon makes the “daughters of Jerusalem” swear an oath not to stir up nor awaken love “until it pleases.” What is the relationship between **commitment** in a marriage and **enjoyment** in this relationship?

The bride speaks very powerful words about love in 8:5-7. Meditate on each of the metaphors she uses for love. What does each communicate? Verse 6 might be the only reference to Jehovah in the Song. “Vehement” is *Yah* in Hebrew, which might be a reference to Jehovah. Love is, indeed, powerful! Only God is **more** powerful than death.

It is not possible to **buy** love. Someone can buy sex from a prostitute, but he cannot buy love (see Proverbs 6:32). We **receive** love when we **give** love. As we move toward the end of the text, we see in 8:10-12 that the bride is ready for her groom. She is ready for his embrace, for his affection, for his love, for his protection, for his all. The very last verse of the most beautiful of all the songs Solomon wrote shows that married life has begun for this couple deeply in love with one another.

Love cannot be aroused before it is ready (2:7; 3:5; 8:4). I remember praying at 12 years old for a Christian wife. Girlfriends came and went; I am thankful all those relationships came to an end. It was not until I was 23 that God led me to the woman who agreed to become my wife. She has been a tremendous blessing to me for the last 26 years. If I am in heaven (and I presume to be by the grace of God), it will be because of Jesus Christ and my wife.

As we summarize the principles that make for a strong marriage, we see that we need to appreciate our relationship with our spouse. We need to expect the best from our spouse. We need to give the best to our spouse. We need to make a life-long commitment to the love that is



the foundation of our marriage. Finally, we need to examine all of God's teachings on marriage, love, sex, and intimacy and conform our lives to His teachings. In that way, we can give our spouse and experience for ourselves one romantic high after another.

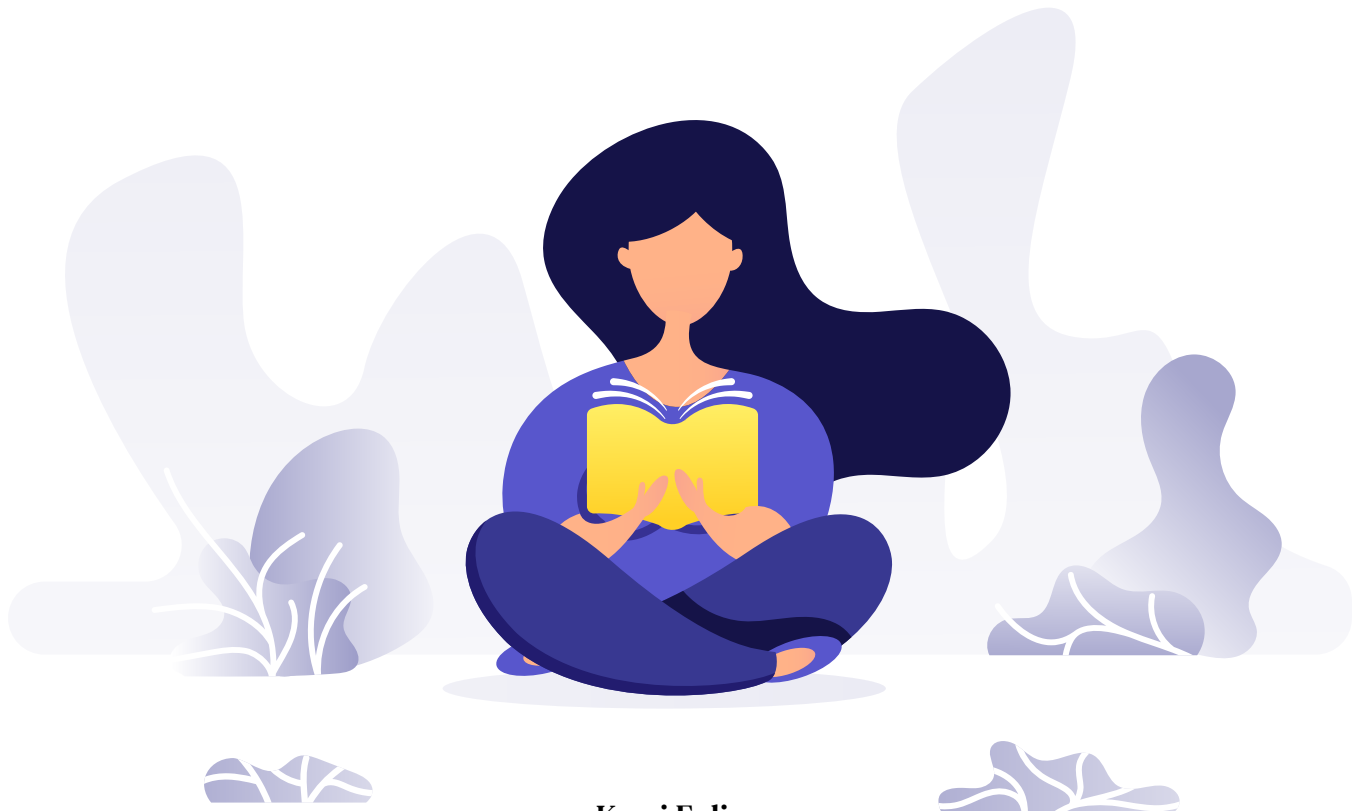
The art of loving is not about **receiving**; it is about **giving**. ■

1. Garrett, Duane A., *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs* (Nashville, TN: Broadman, 2002), 377.
2. Garrett, 380, emp. in orig.

The power of **LOVE**

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
As a seal upon your arm;
For love is as strong as death,
Jealousy as cruel as the grave;
Its flames are flames of fire,
A most vehement flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
Nor can the floods drown it.
If a man would give for love
All the wealth of his house,
It would be utterly despised.

—Song of Solomon 8:6-7



Kerri Epling

JOSHUA

Marching to Victory

Joshua, the son of Nun, was selected by God to succeed Moses as the ruler of God's people (Joshua 1:1-2) as they crossed over into the land of promise in Canaan after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. Only Joshua and Caleb were faithful among the men sent to Canaan to spy out the land, so they were the only ones of their generation allowed to cross over and enter Canaan. As they approached the land, God Himself gave Joshua divine instructions for how to proceed, and reminded him repeatedly to have courage, to be strong, and to obey the will of the Lord (1:9). Joshua's story is known even by many of our smallest children, yet the lessons we can glean from his life stretch far behind our childhood years. May we all be strong, courageous, and unafraid as we follow God in our lives.

Our study comes from Joshua 1-6 and 24. However, I encourage you to take the time to read and study the entire book of Joshua (as well as Numbers 13 and 14) as you dig into the life of Joshua.

Questions to answer as you read

- What had the Lord promised the people regarding the land of Canaan?
- Why had the rest of Joshua and Caleb's generation not been allowed to enter Canaan?
- What did God say would allow Joshua's way to be prosperous (Joshua 1:8)?
- Who was Rahab? Recount her role in this account (see chapter 2).
- According to Joshua 3, what happened at the Jordan river? What characteristic(s) of God does this show?
- According to Joshua 4, why did the men place stones at the Jordan river? What were they to remember?

What are some ways we can make sure to remember the goodness of God and His faithfulness to His promises? How do we regularly remember the sacrifice of His Son that delivered us from the bondage of sin?

- Joshua 5:13-6:5 recounts God's instructions to Joshua. What were they? Were they typical of "battle plans"?
- Imagine for a moment how "foolish" the Israelites must have appeared to the inhabitants of Jericho. Find some verses about how our means of salvation may seem "foolish" to those who are outside of Christ. How does man's "wisdom" compare to the "foolishness" of our message? What does that say about the wisdom of God?
- What happened at Jericho when the Israelites obeyed God? What happened to Rahab and her family?
- Following the victory at Jericho, was Joshua willing to do what was necessary to purge the camp of sin? Are we?

Near the end of his life, Joshua issued a challenge to the people of Israel, as outlined in Joshua 24:15. He encouraged the people to give up any idols they had and to remember what the Lord had done for them. Joshua was a man of influence for God, and he left a powerful legacy, as stated in Joshua 24:31. Think of some ways you can work to be this kind of influence to your own family and friends. Make a list of spiritual goals (short-term and long-term) to put God's Word in the heart of your children and to proclaim Him to those around you, so that those in your sphere of influence will also serve the Lord all of **your** days.

Questions for children

- How many spies went to Canaan? What did they see? How many good/faithful spies were there? How many did not trust God? What happened to those who did not believe God?
- Who was the leader of Israel after Moses?
- What did God tell the people to do around Jericho? How many days did they march one time? What happened on day 7? Were they supposed to be loud or quiet when they marched the first six days? What did they do after marching the seventh day? What happened when they obeyed?
- God kept His promises to Israel. What promises do we have from God? How do we know He keeps them? ■

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at kerrieling@gmail.com with email subject of "Christian Family Study."

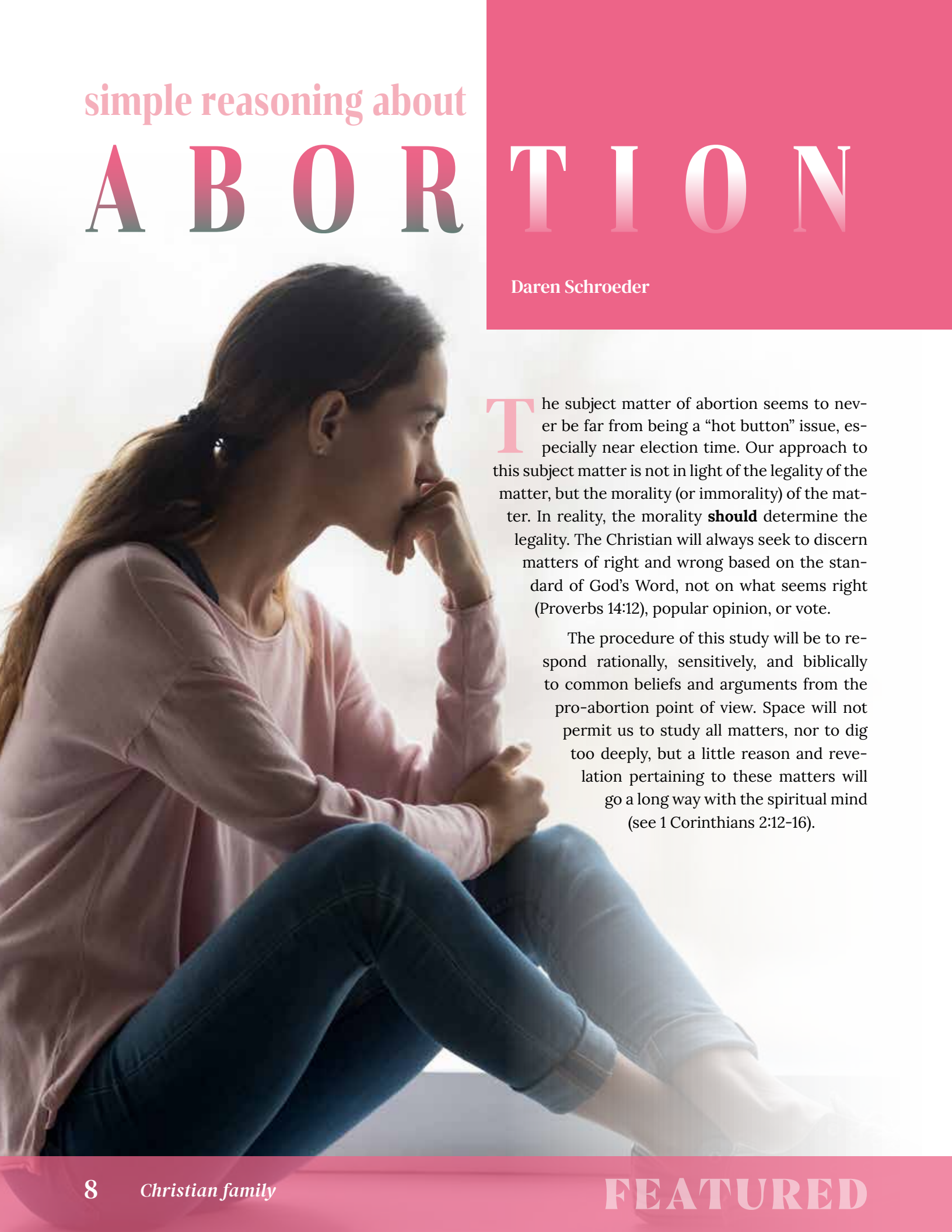
Suggestions for interaction with children

There are multiple songs about Jericho and the battle of Jericho. Learn one and sing it with your children. Re-enact the battle of Jericho with walls made of toy blocks. Find 12 rocks and build a "monument," and talk about how God wanted the people to remember what He did for them; you could even let the kids write on the rocks things God has done for us. Write ways to "choose God" on craft sticks and put them in a jar. Once a week, pull out a stick and do whatever it says. Point out how to "choose God" when you and your kids make decisions. Draw happy and frowny faces on two circles of paper. Have your kids hold up the appropriate circle as you propose scenarios that either show that someone chooses God or does not choose God.

simple reasoning about

ABORTION

Daren Schroeder



The subject matter of abortion seems to never be far from being a “hot button” issue, especially near election time. Our approach to this subject matter is not in light of the legality of the matter, but the morality (or immorality) of the matter. In reality, the morality **should** determine the legality. The Christian will always seek to discern matters of right and wrong based on the standard of God’s Word, not on what seems right (Proverbs 14:12), popular opinion, or vote.

The procedure of this study will be to respond rationally, sensitively, and biblically to common beliefs and arguments from the pro-abortion point of view. Space will not permit us to study all matters, nor to dig too deeply, but a little reason and revelation pertaining to these matters will go a long way with the spiritual mind (see 1 Corinthians 2:12-16).

“It is my body.”

Some argue that a woman can do as she wishes because, after all, it is her body. This argument may sound good on the surface, but it is actually flawed from the beginning. The Scripture teaches that our body is not our own and that we are to use it to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 6:19). This is a prime example of how one’s world view radically shapes perspective and morality. Christians are stewards of the body that God has given them—so are non-Christians, no matter how ignorant they may be about this fact.

Related to the former argument, some proponents of abortion make a moral distinction based on the “zip code” of the baby. In other words, if the baby is in the womb, it is merely a mass of tissue, and the mother has every right to do with “it” as she pleases. But why would the exact location of the baby make any moral difference? Three seconds after birth and it is morally wrong? Three seconds before birth and it is perfectly acceptable? To some, the practice of abortion while the fetus is yet in the womb may seem less barbaric than after birth, but the same life is being taken. Perhaps we could liken it to taking dead aim at an apple on someone’s head and closing our eyes when we pull the trigger. That hardly changes the nature of the crime!

Evidently, Moses did not reason like many in our day. He stated in Exodus 21:22-25, “If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman’s husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges *determine*. But if *any* harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.”

Note three important points here. First, there is absolutely nothing qualifying how long the woman has been pregnant; whether three months, eight months, etc., it does not matter! Secondly, that “tissue” within the pregnant woman is considered life. Life is sacred! Human beings are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Finally, the seriousness of the penalty of this crime (“life for life”) should tell us how important life is!

In some states the legality of abortion is determined by what trimester the woman’s pregnancy is in. It would be arbitrary, to say the least, to conclude that abortion was moral on the last day of the second trimester and immoral on the first day of the third trimester. Remember, the laws of man do not determine the morality of God. We are responsible for obeying God first and foremost (see Acts 5:29), no matter what the laws of the land say. **Legal doesn’t always mean moral.**

Of course, the Scripture strictly condemns the shedding of innocent blood (Proverbs 6:17). What blood is more innocent than the blood of the unborn child?

“It is not alive.”

When does life begin? This question is crucial to evaluating the morality of abortion. If life has not begun when abortion is performed, who could argue against it?

The truth is, however, that even the scientific community (which is sometimes not so scientific) generally accepts that when the DNA of a mother and father comes together, a new individual or life is “born” (or conceived). This certainly adds another dimension to the previous argument about a woman’s body. If it were indeed so that a woman had total authority as to what she did with her own body, it still could be argued that there was something inside her that had its own identity—something that was dependent upon her but also very distinct from her.

Psalms 139:13-15 says, “For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and *that* my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, *and* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.”

Note that the inspired writer attributes personhood to the unborn. The Scripture frequently gives names to those in the womb (Genesis 17:19; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:13). The unborn have a distinct identity and personhood of their own.

To seek to identify any other point, aside from conception, as the point at which life begins, is thoroughly subjective and lacking in scientific principle.

“But we aren’t ready to have a baby.”

One can hardly doubt the frequent reality of this statement. Of course, the problem is not the baby; the problem is that the couple engaged in activity that naturally resulted in the situation they find themselves in. We should always be willing to accept the consequences of the actions we take. If one jumps from an airplane, it will work out much better if he has thoughtfully prepared for his landing! The sexual relationship between man and woman is a serious matter. It should be engaged in according to God’s plan (Hebrews 13:4) and also with sobriety and planning.

It is true that a person (or a couple) may lack the maturity or financial resources that should exist to be a parent. In some cases, an individual or couple desires to pursue further education or a career, and they see the coming of a baby as an impediment to their goals. Again, that should have been thought about beforehand, but at this point, it is too late. What should they do?

While these and other circumstances might bring difficulties, difficulties can be overcome. Such difficulties, when coupled with great effort and prayer, can lead to spiritual growth (see James 1:2-5). Often, through hard work a couple is able to better their financial circumstances. There are also educational opportunities that oftentimes can still be pursued. But it is important to note that one’s ambitions and goals may also need to be changed or adjusted; and, after all, what could be more significant than raising a precious child, and raising him or her to know the Lord?

Many have helped in different forms available to them, though care should be exercised in placing too much burden on others. Though it may be difficult, it is vital that the people in this situation bear their own burden as much as possible (cf. Galatians 6:7). If we do the right thing, and seek to bear our own load, God will be our help and He will provide!

“But what about rape?”

Many years ago, when I was a high school student at Fox High School in Arnold, MO, a man by the name of Dan Quayle spoke to the student body. At that time Mr. Quayle was on the ticket as the hopeful Vice President to be, alongside of George Bush Senior. After Mr. Quayle’s speech, he entertained questions from the student body. One of those questions concerned his stance on abortion. His answer was cut and dry, something like: “I am against abortion, period.” To this the student responded, “What if your wife was raped and became pregnant?” His response: “Then we would have a baby.”

While such trauma as this would exceed the pain and suffering that many ever experience throughout the span of their life, taking the life of a baby is not the answer, and it will likely add even greater trauma to the situation.

I do not know anyone who would minimize the difficulty involved in the situation of a woman becoming pregnant after being raped. Certainly, she would be in need of great compassion and fervent prayer. However, the baby is not guilty of any wrong. That precious baby can be raised to live a very different lifestyle than his biological father lived. Again, though the situation would be nearly unfathomably difficult, what an extraordinary opportunity this might be to turn a great evil into something so beautiful. Paul said, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). Perhaps we could liken it somewhat to what Jesus did for us on the cross!

In the end, we know that there are situations where people are truly not ready or capable of providing what a baby needs. Or, in the rare case of a rape situation,¹ an individual or couple may truly feel they cannot handle being the parents of this child. In such a situation there is still a legitimate option that can be a great blessing to someone else. A woman, or a couple, may decide that putting the baby up for adoption is best, not merely for them as parents, but especially for the baby. In this case there will be a family on the receiving end that is so thankful for the selfless decision that allowed this precious child to be born.

“But there is no father in the picture.”

It is certainly tragic that in many instances there is no man in the picture who can be counted on for help with a newborn baby, monetarily and otherwise, but this does not change the morality concerning abortion. A woman giving birth may mean that she will be a single parent. I personally have a difficult time imagining how challenging this would be. I do know, from the example of many, that it can be done, and I know that God will bless the woman who seeks to do what is right.

From a different perspective, God’s people should help such ladies make the right decision. Let us seek to be available for those who face very difficult challenges in life.

“What about birth control?”

It is beyond the scope of this article to evaluate all of the forms of birth control that are available today. We should note, however, that there are forms of birth control that are designed to cause the abortion of a fertilized egg. This is true of the so called, “morning-after pill.”

Some other common forms of birth control may have the possibility of causing abortion. Suffice it to say, Christians will want to carefully investigate the use of birth control in regard to this matter. Preventing life from occurring is one thing; aborting life after it begins is something quite different.

CONCLUSION

Morally speaking, this is not a difficult issue to sort out. Emotionally, however, it can be very challenging. Having a baby is certainly life changing, but nothing can compare with the preciousness of that life that God has made possible. **Choose, teach and support the value of life.** ■

1. Most statistics indicate that pregnancy occurs in 5% of all rape incidents. See Holmes, Melisa M., et al., “Rape-related pregnancy: Estimates and descriptive characteristics from a national sample of women,” *AJOG* 175.2 (1996): 320-325, August, doi: 10.1016/S0002-9378(96)70141-2.

YOU CAN DO GREAT THINGS FOR THE LORD!

Moisés Pinedo

Let me start with a confession: I am tired of society's low expectations for teenagers! For several years when I was a younger father with little children and I mentioned how much I enjoyed them, I had to hear the "doomsday predictions" from older parents (a few in the Lord's church): "Just wait until your children become teenagers!" Now I have three teenagers, and I guess I am still in my naïve bubble because I still enjoy them. Of course, they are not easy and perfect (nobody is), but they are amazing girls who love the Lord, His church, their family, and their neighbors. Now I don't usually hear those negative statements from those people, but that doesn't mean that teenagers are no longer viewed in a negative way. In fact, it seems that, at large, society's opinion is that children are enjoyable until they become teenagers, and then, suddenly, they turn into "uncontrollable hormonal monsters" that only want to run far, wild, and free; or, at best, they turn into "lazy parasites" who cannot be trusted with any serious responsibility nor expected to achieve any worthy accomplishment.

Let me continue with an apology: I am sorry that society doesn't expect much from people like you—just because you are trapped in an age that ends with "teen." You may not only feel that society doesn't have high expectations for you, but that your own family, and worse, maybe your Christian family, doesn't expect much from you. If that is the case, let me apologize again for such a gloomy way that has been paved for you.

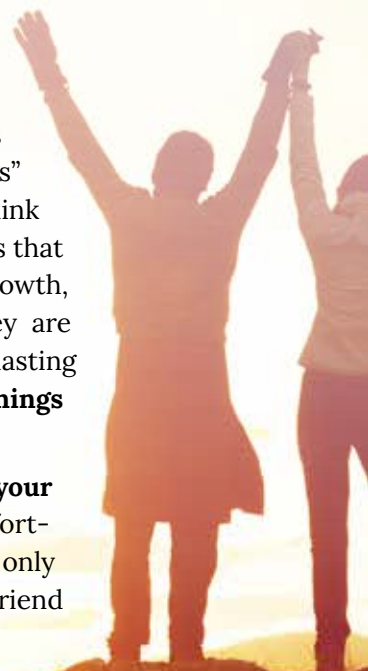
1. The next five points (text in bold) are from Alex and Brett Harris, *Do Hard Things* (Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2008), chapter 4.

Having said that, let me break the bad news: This low expectation most likely will not change—at least, not soon. I understand that this may sound like the "doomsday prediction" that I am criticizing here, but what we learn from history is that incorrect general perspectives are hard to break. Even though Joseph was the favorite child (only 17, by the way), his father still rebuked him when he had a "high-expectation dream" (cf. Genesis 37:10). Even though young David had mastered more courage than the entire army of Israel, King Saul still doubted his "giant-killing" abilities (1 Samuel 17:33). Simply put, low expectations on young people are an ancient, deep-rooted problem in every society.

Yet, let me welcome the good news: You can do great things for the Lord! You don't have to be shaped by the same pitiful cookie-cutter mold society uses for every young person. You can use your life to accomplish the things God has set before you, because, accomplishing those things relates more to **God's** expectations for you, and **your own** expectations of yourself, than society's expectations for you. The apostle Paul told young Timothy, "Let no one despise your youth" (1 Timothy 4:12). This was not a command Timothy was to give the church, but it was a command **to Timothy** to raise the expectations of the church by being "an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Not only can you do great things for the Lord, but the Lord also wants you to do great things for Him. Now, these "great things" may not be the things people think are "great," but these are the things that matter to God, to your spiritual growth, and to your eternal destiny. They are great things in view of their everlasting value. Well, **what kind of great things can you do?**¹

1. Things that are outside your comfort zone. Are you "too comfortable" with your "faith"? Do you only love those who love you or befriend



only those who are friendly to you? Jesus basically says, “You are not doing anything out of the ordinary!” (Matthew 5:46-47). Christianity is an “uncomfortable religion” (Luke 10:25-37). “Greatness” starts with a determination to break the routine and habits causing stagnation in life. Make a list of those good but uncomfortable things you can do for the Lord, and then do them. Here are some ideas: Speaking to others about God; making friends with the friendless to encourage him/her; helping the needy; learning to lead singing or teach; helping your younger siblings (or other children at church) with their homework; befriending the older people at church; etc.

2. Things that go beyond what is expected or required. You will never achieve great things for the Lord by doing the minimum. Christianity is a “second mile” religion (Matthew 5:41). Just thinking about doing great things at your age is already thinking beyond what is expected from you, but don’t stop there; do more! Check the list you have made and add a little bit more.

3. Things that are too big to accomplish alone. Christianity is a community religion (Acts 2:42). Sometimes we don’t accomplish great things for the Lord because we want to do them alone. But even Jesus looked for twelve friends to reach all the nations (Matthew 10:1-4; 28:19-20). Do you have a great idea, but it is just “too great” for yourself? Find friends to help you. Then you may be able to organize a youth meeting, pro-

vide greater help for the needy, or start a service project for the community to see God’s love for them. Even those things that you can do by yourself may be best accomplished by reaching out to others. Find a mentor who will help you with your goal to become a stronger Christian, a song leader, a Gospel preacher, a missionary, and/or a future husband or wife.

4. Things that don’t earn an immediate payoff. When I started my website back in 2010, I was disappointed to see that I was not getting the traffic I expected. I read some articles about “How to Get Thousands of Hits Every Day”; they did not help much. I read other articles that were more serious, and the common advice was, “Don’t worry about the numbers; start writing relevant content and you will build solid traffic with time.” That was not the answer I wanted to read, yet that was the answer that proved right. Do you want to do great things for the Lord? Do the “little” great things, and do them consistently, and you will see the results. Christianity is a sowing religion (1 Corinthians 3:6): you sow little seeds, work the land while patiently waiting, and then something amazing sprouts!

5. Things that challenge the culture norm. Again, don’t let the expectations of the world define you; go against it! One simple biblical principle is that the people of God should not be like the world (Romans 12:1-2). By not dressing provocatively like the world, speaking profanity like the world, thinking wrongly like the world, going to questionable places like the world, engaging in sexual sin like the world, or drinking and smoking like the world, but doing the opposite, you will be doing exactly some of the great things the Lord wants you to do.

Finally, don’t get discouraged. You may already be doing great things for the Lord but with not much appreciation (though the Lord appreciates it!); keep on doing them! Otherwise, determine to do them now! I believe in you, but most importantly, God believes in you! ■





God's **NOT** Dead!

Kimberley Pinedo

Christ is a risen Savior! We learn in the Bible that He came to this earth to live and die for us. He hung on the cross to be able to save all people, and, then, the most glorious part happened: He arose from the tomb! He did not stay buried, for He lives again! The God that we serve is a living God. Jeremiah wrote, "But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King" (10:10). Death could not keep Him in the tomb. He is an all-powerful, all-mighty, living God Who has shown us His power in the world that He created for us.

"God's Not Dead" is a little song that many children love to sing. This song reminds us that we can know that God is alive by the way that we "see Him" and the way that we can "feel Him" in our lives. I can feel him "all over me!"

How can we feel God? "I feel Him in my hands." I am wonderfully and fearfully created (Psalm 139:14). My hands can do so much good for God! I can make cards for other people to encourage them. I can make food for others in need.

"I feel Him in my feet." My feet take me where I need to go. My feet can take me to the church building to worship God, and my

feet can take me to go tell others about the Good News of Jesus.

"I feel Him in the church." I love to be with God's church. The church is God's people trying to please Him as a group. I can really feel close to God when I surround myself with others who are also wanting to praise and please God. It feels good to belong to His church and to be able to have friends and encouragement! Have you ever felt an amazing feeling when you are singing with a large or small group of God's people (the church)? Do you feel a sense of belonging when you are with God's church? God created His church

so that we could have a support group to help us in this life.

“I feel Him on the street.” I can feel like God is with me wherever I am; I am never alone. Joshua 1:9 reminds me that the Lord my God is always with me wherever I go. I can feel that God is with me in my car, in my school, when I’m playing outside, or wherever I am. Whenever I leave my home, I am not alone. God is with me every step of my day, whether I am at home or whether I am away from my home.

Speaking of playing outside, “I can feel Him in the air.” When I play in the grass, near the trees, under the huge sky of clouds, I can see God’s creation and remember that my God is the One who made all of this beautiful world for me to live in. I am reminded of how awesome and mighty my God is to be able to create this world just by speaking it into existence. He created the air that I breathe!

“I feel Him everywhere! I can feel Him all over me.” God can be seen and felt in all areas of our lives

if we will take the time to stop and recognize Him. He has physically shown me His power of creating a wondrous earth to live in. He has created my body for good works (Ephesians 2:10). I can know that my God is not dead. He is alive! ■

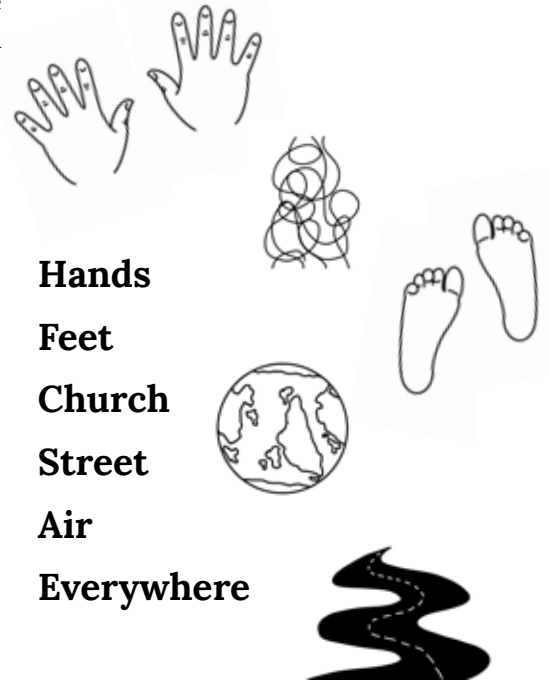


Illustrations on this spread by Kelsey Pinedo (age 13)

Where Can I Feel GOD?

This song has taught that we can feel God in our hands, our feet, the church, the street, the air and everywhere. Find those things (words on the right) in the puzzle.

A R R E A E N T I M I H N A
 N E K R U N E O A E C V O I
 G S T R E E T V J R B T L R
 O P Z D U V O O U I E R P B
 S I D E C E D H A N J Z M T
 T R A N A R C U S S N U Y U
 A I U H V Y E N O D D U A A
 S R T A O W T T G I U E M N
 C U J N N H X A M F E E T U
 H S B D R E A D T N
 B A U S I R M O P R
 Q N P Y G E Z M X A
 I T X M J O T A N T
 E O L N A P E H I B



Hands

Feet

Church

Street

Air

Everywhere

Online and printed Spanish materials for children at www.ebherencia.org
 Contact editorial@ebglobal.org

Q: *How can we share the Gospel with relatives who are atheists or profess a different faith? Sometimes it seems that it is harder to talk to them.* —MONTERREY, MEXICO

Consider the apostle Paul's approach to his pagan audience in Acts 17. First, he acknowledged their seriousness (17:22-23). Secondly, he pointed out some obvious facts (from nature) about the nature of God (17:24-27). Be familiar with the major arguments for the existence of God and His nature that shows He is the God of the Bible. Third, he found support from their writings that also supported the claims of Christianity (17:28). For example, even the Quran mentions biblical people like Moses, David, and Jesus. Fourth, he drew the logical conclusions from the evidence (17:29). Finally, he called them to repent because there will come a judgment day (17:30), the evidence of which is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. —PH

Q: *I have a daughter who is 15 and stays in her bedroom about 12 hours a day; what can I do?* —NICARAGUA

Take her bedroom door off the hinge. Seriously! Tell her that you and the family would like to spend some time with her (give her a set time: two hours each evening, for example), and if she does not make time for you all, then remove the door and tell her that, when she decides the family is important to her, you will replace the door. When you do spend time with her, do things that she wants to do. Listen to her day, without being judgmental. Play games; listen to music. Invite her to be a part of your lives as well. Maybe she would like to go for a hike or a walk. Meet her where she is and then invite her to meet you where you are. —PH

Q: *Why is there a lack of Christian families in Latin America from which to choose leaders for the eldership and deaconship?* —ALAJUELA, COSTA RICA

We can think of several reasons: (1) The Lord's church is relatively "younger" in Latin America than in the U.S. Some congregations (or most) may be composed of first-generation Christians, so, having strong families from which to choose men for these offices may require extra time. (2) Many Latin American countries place little emphasis on marriage, having a greater percentage of couples living together. This living arrangement (called "fornication" and condemned in the Bible—Ephesians 5:3) additionally hinders the strength and development of families from which to choose men for these offices. (3) Church families may have the wrong perspective that the church is to ensure their development. Although the church is helpful, it cannot take the place of the family. Fundamentally, each church family is responsible for its own development and strength. (4) Some congregations may not be doing their work in inspiring families to be strong and training men, old and young, for these offices. They may be happy with their "preacher's arrangement" and may not even aspire to be organized with elders and deacons. This situation is unfortunate. There may be other reasons, but the lack of organization in a congregation must be analyzed and dealt with on an individual basis. —MP ■

To ask a family-related question to the editors, go to:

www.ebglobal.org/info/cfq

For more material, visit:

www.ebglobal.org/eng

