

Kids, God Made Marriage
Told for Young Children
— & —

Kids, God Made Marriage
Parents' Edition with Points & Resources



Joelee Chamberlain and Paul J. Chamberlain

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Introduction

I have written and recorded over 35 Bible audios for young children (30,000 downloads so far on sermonaudio.com), so after the Supreme Court decision in favor of same-sex marriage, my son Paul said that I should also write and record something for young children about marriage. Something that might instill in them the knowledge of God's way of marriage. This is aimed at children four to ten years old, hopefully catching them before they are exposed to damaging ideas about marriage. Sort of "inoculating" the children against wrong ideas concerning marriage.

"Kids, God Made Marriage" tells that God made marriage between one man and one woman. It is discretely told for young children so as not to offer too much information. It tells the story of God's making marriage with Adam and Eve, discusses design, and that marriage is a picture of Christ and the church (this is also used to present the Gospel). It discusses what love is, doing what's right even if we feel like doing something else, and other principles in the current marriage debate while only presenting marriage as being between one man and one woman. (There is no mention at all of homosexuality, divorce, polygamy, etc.) It positively covers adoption and situations like Mordecai's caring for his orphaned cousin Esther (as told in the Bible in the book of Esther). I'm a great-grandmother and told this in a way that I would be comfortable to tell to any of my own little ones.

This extended PDF for sermonaudio.com is divided into three parts. The first part simply gives the actual text for the children, one that can be read to them. In the second part, the text is repeated, but my son Paul has inserted within it points for the parents. These notes explain further some of what we had in mind to tell the children, but we didn't want to make it too involved or too explicit for them. These notes may help you in further discussions with your child and if questions come up. Then the third part is simply a list of other resources that Paul thought you might find useful.

This is a joint effort between us, as my son Paul gave me the ideas, and I simply wrote them up as if I were talking to a child. Paul then provided the "Points for Parents" and the resources. We carefully went over each other's work.

If this inspires you to do your own outreach to children in another way, to a different audience, or in a better way, so much the better! Go for it! We just wanted to get something out quickly and do what we could.

Joelee Chamberlain

Kids, God Made Marriage -- Told for Young Children

by Joelee Chamberlain

Hi, there! Let's talk a little about how God made a special something, all right? Yes, we know that God made everything, didn't He? But did you know that not only did God make animals and people and things like that, but God also made marriage?! (Marriage means when a man and a woman get married.) Yes, He did, and marriage is very special, and marriage is the special something I'm going to tell you about today, about how God made marriage. To do that, I'm going to start by telling you the story of how the Lord God made the world. I like stories, don't you?!

All right, then. The Bible tells us that God had a plan, and God followed His plan and made the whole world and the whole sky. God even made light! Yes, God made day and night. And God made the sun and the moon and the stars. And God made the sky and the oceans and the dry land and the plants. Then God made all sorts of mama and daddy fish to swim in the oceans, and He told them to have lots of baby fish to fill the big oceans. And God made all sorts of mama and daddy birds to fly in the sky, and He told them to have lots of baby birds. And God made all sorts of mama and daddy animals to be on the dry land. Mama and Daddy lions, and mama and daddy squirrels, and mama and daddy turtles, and mamas and daddys of all kinds of animals. And God told them to have lots of baby animals to fill the dry land. And God looked at everything, and He saw that it was all good.

Well, right after God made the animals, God made a man. But there was no woman for the man. He would be lonely, wouldn't he? Yes, the man could have animals for pets, but they would only be pets, and that is different than another person, isn't it? So God made a woman for the man. And the man was so happy!

Now, the man and the woman were both people, weren't they? But they were also a little different from each other. The man was bigger and stronger, and the woman, though not so big and strong, was just right to be his friend and his helper. They were made to be for each other. How nice! So that is the way that God made marriage! Yes, the man and the woman got married for their whole lives, and God told them to have children and that they were to take care of the animals and the world.

Do you remember the names of this first man and woman? Yes, Adam and Eve. And God made a beautiful big garden-park for Adam and Eve to live in called the Garden of Eden. And Adam and Eve were so happy to have each other, and God would come and talk with them. What a wonderful life! So the Lord God had made everything, and it was all very good. We could even say it was perfect, couldn't we? Nothing at all was bad.

But then what happened? Yes, Adam and Eve disobeyed God, didn't they? Disobeying God is called sin. And sin is bad, isn't it? So this sin broke the happy times with God in the Garden of Eden, and this sin sort of broke the perfect world that God had made. The world wasn't all good anymore. So Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful Garden of Eden. But God still loved them, and God told them that someday Someone would come Who would make things right again, Who would fix the brokenness. (That Someone would be Jesus, wouldn't He?)

But there were still many good things, even after Adam and Eve had sinned. And one of those good things was marriage. Yes, marriage was part of God's plan. One man and one woman; a husband and his wife, to be married for their whole lives. The husband was to be strong and to love and protect his wife and their children and to work so they could have food and someplace to live. The wife was to be loving and respectful of her husband, to help him, and to love and take care of their children and to make a happy home for all of them. A daddy and a mama and their children. That's called a family, isn't it? And when the children grew up to be big men and women, they would get married and have their own babies, and then they would be starting their own little families. And when there were enough families, they started making tribes and whole countries. And good people and good marriages and good families help countries be strong.

And that's how we get grandpas and grandmas and aunts and uncles and cousins and nieces and nephews and in-laws. (An in-law is someone who marries one of your relatives. Like if you had a big grown up brother and he married a woman, that woman would be your sister-in-law, part of your family.) Yes, these relative are all part of a family. And since they know each other and love each other, they know how to help each other, don't they? In fact, that's part of their job. Also, now sometimes mamas and daddys see another child that doesn't have a mama and daddy of its own. And they love this other child so much, that they adopt that child and make that child part of their family, too.

But sometimes things happen so that the mama and daddy aren't there. So then maybe the children live with their grandparents or with an aunt or an uncle, and then that is their family. In fact, in the Bible it tells about a beautiful girl named Esther, and Esther's parents were dead. So Esther lived with her older cousin Mordecai, and he took good care of her like a father would. So Esther and her cousin were a family.

The Bible also tells of a Jewish woman named Naomi and how she and her husband and her sons had left their home in the land of Israel and had moved to the land of Moab. Her sons had then married women from Moab; one of these women was named Ruth. But later Naomi's husband and sons died. And after a while Naomi left the land of Moab and went back to her home in the land of Israel. But one of her daughters-in-law, Ruth, insisted on going with her. So then Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth were a family by themselves, weren't they? They were a little family, but they were still a family. But after a while a Jewish man named Boaz married the Moabite woman Ruth, and they had a baby boy, and the mother-in-law Naomi lived with them and helped take care of the baby. So now Naomi had a bigger family, didn't she? (And do you want to know something interesting? Boaz and Ruth became the great-grandparents of King David! And that means that Boaz and Ruth were the great-great-great-great-grandparents of Jesus!!)

So, Naomi with Ruth and Boaz and their baby were a family, weren't they? And Esther and her cousin Mordecai were a family, too. But marriage is the first family, and that is how families started. The man and the woman were made for each other and were made to have children. So God had made marriage, and it was good. One man and one woman; a husband and a wife, to be with each other all of their lives.

Yes, in making marriage, God made a man and a woman for each other. And they could work together and make something good together. And we do sort of the same thing, don't we? We make or have things that go together and are good together, too. Like, well, a button and a button hole for instance. The button and button hole work together to keep our shirt closed, don't they? Two different things, the button and its button hole, that are made for each other and work together, and they are good that way. Or think about a lock and a key. We could never get the lock open without its key! But the two of them, the lock and its key, are made for each other, and they work together, and they are good that way, aren't they? We can lock something up and then unlock it again with its key. Two different things, the lock and its key, made for each other and working together. But -- we couldn't open a lock with a button, could we?! No! The button wasn't made to open locks! And even if we said that a button was a key, it still wouldn't make the button be a key, would it?! No, it would still be a button! We use things for what they're made for, the right way, if we want them to work the way they should.

And marriage is sort of the same way. When men and women grow up, that is when they can get married. And they were made by God to be together in a marriage. And just think -- without a man and a woman, there would be no children, would there? And pretty soon there would be no more people!

Yes, God made marriage in order for us to have families, the husband and the wife and their children. Then those children would grow up into big men and women, and the men from one family would marry the women from other families, and then they would have children of their own. And they were to raise their children to be good people and to know about how loving and good and kind God is. God is so good to us, isn't He? And God gives children their mamas and daddys to take care of them. It would be hard for a small child to try to take care of himself, wouldn't it? Imagine a little child trying to get food and clothes and a home all by himself! But God made mamas and daddys to do that for the child.

Now, most people get married. In fact, the Bible even tells us that the apostle Peter was married and had a wife. But not everyone gets married; the Bible also tells us that the apostle Paul wasn't married. But Paul was still able to do lots of good things for God, wasn't he? So a man who doesn't get married is still good and can do lots of good things for God, can't he? And a woman who doesn't get married is still good and can do lots of good things for God, can't she? Also, sometimes a man and his wife don't have any children. In that case, just the two people are still a family, though a small family, and they can do good things for each other and for God.

Yes, God made marriage as something good for people. Marriage gives a man and a woman company and gives them a way to help each other and makes them a family. And God said that the man was supposed to love his wife enough so that he'd even die for her if he had to. And the woman was to love her husband and be respectful to him and do what she could to help him. And together they were to raise their children and teach them about God. And the children were to obey their parents, their mama and daddy. And they should all love each other.

But what is love? Love is wanting good for someone and doing good for them in a kind way. Love is also not helping people do things that might be bad for them or that would be bad for other

people.

The Bible also tells us something else very interesting about marriage. The Bible tells us that marriage is a sort of picture to help us understand how much God loves us. But how is that? Well, remember that I said that a man is supposed to love his wife so much that he would die for her if necessary? Well, Jesus (Who is both God and a man) loves us so much that He did die for us. Jesus loves us very much, and He wanted us to be able to be with Him in heaven someday. But people who sin can't go to heaven. So Jesus, Who never did any sins Himself, died for our sins. And if we trust Jesus to forgive our sins, He will do that. And then we can go to heaven and be with Him someday. How wonderful! So Jesus' loving us and dying for us is like a picture of how a husband should love his wife and be willing to die for her.

But marriage is like another picture about Jesus, too. When a man and a woman get married, at the wedding they are called the bridegroom and the bride, aren't they? Well, the Bible says that Jesus is like a bridegroom and that all the people together who believe in Him are like His bride. So when a man and a woman get married now, it is sort of a little picture of how much Jesus loves us, like a bridegroom loves his bride. I like that, don't you? It helps me understand better how much Jesus loves us.

Oh, and another thing. The Bible tells us about a bigger kind of family, too. That is the family of God. This is a very big family! God the Father is the loving Father, and the Lord Jesus (Who is also God) is like a big Brother, and everyone (men and women, boys and girls), everyone who has trusted Jesus to save them and loves God is a child of God. Imagine being a child of the Lord God! Wow!

So even if we don't have a mama or a daddy, we can still be part of this big family of God and still have a loving Father, can't we? In fact, in the Bible it tells us that Jesus told a man that when we trust Jesus to save us from our sins, then it's like we've been born again! You see, we are born to our mama and daddy when we are tiny babies, aren't we? And that makes us part of their family. But then when we get older and can understand about Jesus and how much He loves us, and when we ask Him to forgive our sins, then it is sort of like we are born again, that we are sort of "born" into God's family! So then we are part of two families; one is our parents' family and the other is God's family. Isn't that wonderful?! Oh, and since God would then be our King, we would also be a child of the King! Just imagine!

Now, I said that God wants children to obey their parents, their mama and daddy. After all, the parents have lived longer than the children, haven't they? And the parents really do know more than the children. And that is the job that God gave the mama and daddy, the parents, to take care of their children and teach them to be good and to teach them how much God loves them. But sometimes we don't feel like doing what we should do, do we?! And sometimes we even feel like doing what we should not do, don't we?! Why, sometimes even big men and women don't feel like doing what they should do or might even feel like doing what they shouldn't do. But feelings aren't what's important. Doing the right things is what's important.

In fact, the Bible tells us that when Jesus was here on earth, Jesus didn't feel like dying on the cross. But the man Jesus (Who is also God and Who had never done any sins) knew that was the right

thing to do and the loving thing to do, to die on the cross to make a way for us to be able to go to heaven someday. So Jesus was obedient to God the Father, and Jesus let men put Him on the cross, and Jesus died there for our sins. (But He didn't stay dead, did He?! No, three days later He was alive again, and He's still alive in heaven!) Jesus did what He was supposed to do, didn't He?

And we need to do what we're supposed to do, too. So when we don't feel like doing what we are supposed to do or we feel like doing something we are not supposed to do, those are bad feelings and we shouldn't pay any attention to those bad feelings, should we? And we don't have to do what we feel like doing. Instead we can choose what we will do. First, we should just choose not do the wrong thing. And then we should choose to do the right thing instead, shouldn't we? And when we obey our parents, we are obeying God, because God told us to obey our parents.

Also, not only should we not do bad things, we shouldn't even think about bad things. If we think about bad things, it makes it easier to do the bad things. And then thinking about and doing bad things would become a bad habit; and it would become easier and easier to think about bad things or even to do those bad things. And bad habits can be hard to break, can't they? Instead, we should think about good things, and we should do good things. This will make good habits for us, and soon it will be easier and easier to think about and to do good things.

Sometimes, though, we might still do bad things, and then we need to ask God to forgive us and ask Him to help us to do good things instead. And we can ask God to help us to feel like doing the good things, too, and not to feel like doing the bad things. And that's a way that we can love God and love each other. And no matter how we feel, we should love each other and love and obey God, shouldn't we?

So what did we talk about today? First we talked about how God had made everything, didn't we? And then we said that God had even made marriage, which is when a man and a woman get married. And God said that marriage is good. Marriage was part of God's plan when He first made the whole world; and it still is God's plan, isn't it? And we also talked about how we all need to obey the Lord God and do what He says, even if we feel like doing something else. And that's a way we can show our love for God, by doing what He says. And we talked about how the Lord Jesus died for our sins on the cross, and that He rose from the dead three days later, and that made a way where we could someday be with God in heaven if we trust Jesus to forgive our sins. And we also talked about being part of God's family, about being a child of God. And what is the way to become part of God's family? Yes, Jesus is the way! There is no other way!

And someday the Lord Jesus will come back, and if we have trusted Him to forgive our sins, we will be with Him! And when Jesus comes back, that is when He will fix the unhappy and bad parts of the world, the parts that sort of got broken when Adam and Eve first sinned. Then things will be all fixed and happy again! Won't that be wonderful?!

God loves us so very much. And we should love God, shouldn't we? And we should obey God and do what He tells us to do in the Bible.

PARENTS' EDITION: With Points for Parents

Text by Joelee Chamberlain
Points by Paul J. Chamberlain

Hi, there! Let's talk a little about how God made a special something, all right? Yes, we know that God made everything, didn't He? But did you know that not only did God make animals and people and things like that, but God also made marriage?! (Marriage means when a man and a woman get married.) Yes, He did, and marriage is very special, and marriage is the special something I'm going to tell you about today, about how God made marriage. To do that, I'm going to start by telling you the story of how the Lord God made the world. I like stories, don't you?!

***Describing, Not Defining** -- Marriage is something that God made. It is not a social construct, but part of Creation's order. Some of God's commands are related to a certain time or people (like circumcision, for instance), but marriage is a universal institution, grounded in Creation.

All right, then. The Bible tells us that God had a plan, and God followed His plan and made the whole world and the whole sky. God even made light! Yes, God made day and night. And God made the sun and the moon and the stars. And God made the sky and the oceans and the dry land and the plants. Then God made all sorts of mama and daddy fish to swim in the oceans, and He told them to have lots of baby fish to fill the big oceans. And God made all sorts of mama and daddy birds to fly in the sky, and He told them to have lots of baby birds. And God made all sorts of mama and daddy animals to be on the dry land. Mama and Daddy lions, and mama and daddy squirrels, and mama and daddy turtles, and mamas and daddys of all kinds of animals. And God told them to have lots of baby animals to fill the dry land. And God looked at everything, and He saw that it was all good.

***Made This Way** -- More examples of God's design and how it's made to work together producing life can be found in another one of the children's Bible audios, "The Master Builder". Also, many of the videos in Dr. Moon's *Moody Science Classics* have excellent examples (though he includes some post-Fall predatory examples in some of his videos). The video series *Incredible Creatures That Defy Evolution* is packed with examples of God's design. Some of the *Illustra Media* videos are also good for older children.

Well, right after God made the animals, God made a man. But there was no woman for the man. He would be lonely, wouldn't he? Yes, the man could have animals for pets, but they would only be pets, and that is different than another person, isn't it? So God made a woman for the man. And the man was so happy!

Now, the man and the woman were both people, weren't they? But they were also a little different from each other. The man was bigger and stronger, and the woman, though not so big and strong, was just right to be his friend and his helper. They were made to be for each other. How nice! So that is the way that God made marriage! Yes, the man and the woman got married for their whole lives, and God told them to have children and that they were to take care of the animals and the world.

***Eden and Beyond** -- The model of marriage given in Genesis 2:24-25 was not just the pre-Fall ideal. This Creation model of marriage was referred to in the Old Testament by the prophet Malachi (Malachi 2:15) and in the New Testament by both the Lord Jesus (Matthew 19:4-6), and the apostle Paul (I Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 5:31). So this was not only the model for marriage in Eden, but also the model after the Fall but before Christ, again the model at the time of Jesus, and still the model for the present age. It is the Biblical standard for marriage.

Do you remember the names of this first man and woman? Yes, Adam and Eve. And God made a beautiful big garden-park for Adam and Eve to live in called the Garden of Eden. And Adam and Eve were so happy to have each other, and God would come and talk with them. What a wonderful life! So the Lord God had made everything, and it was all very good. We could even say it was perfect, couldn't we? Nothing at all was bad.

But then what happened? Yes, Adam and Eve disobeyed God, didn't they? Disobeying God is called sin. And sin is bad, isn't it? So this sin broke the happy times with God in the Garden of Eden, and this sin sort of broke the perfect world that God had made. The world wasn't all good anymore. So Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful Garden of Eden. But God still loved them, and God told them that someday Someone would come Who would make things right again, Who would fix the brokenness. (That Someone would be Jesus, wouldn't He?)

***What About Being Born This Way?** -- Whether people are born with certain inclinations is a complex genetic topic (heredity versus environment). But the Bible teaches that we are all born sort of sick from sin -- and living in a fallen world doesn't help! But this doesn't excuse engaging in self destructive behavior or other damaging behavior. If someone were born more likely to be an alcoholic, that wouldn't make that behavior good, excusable, or not damaging; and it wouldn't mean we should abandon them and not try to help them. But we should be gentle and bear in mind our human brokenness when dealing with others. For more on this and the positive solution, see the Parent Point below, "Born His Way!".

But there were still many good things, even after Adam and Eve had sinned. And one of those good things was marriage. Yes, marriage was part of God's plan. One man and one woman; a husband and his wife, to be married for their whole lives. The husband was to be strong and to love and protect his wife and their children and to work so they could have food and someplace to live. The wife was to be loving and respectful of her husband, to help him, and to love and take care of their children and to make a happy home for all of them. A daddy and a mama and their children. That's called a family, isn't it? And when the children grew up to be big men and women, they would get married and have their own babies, and then they would be starting their own little families. And when there were enough families, they started making tribes and whole countries. And good people and good marriages and good families help countries be strong.

***Marriage/Families Came Before Governments** -- Marriage is an institution the precedes government. That's what we're told in the Bible, and Nature itself also shows us that you have to have a lot more people than just a marriage before you can get a government going. Marriage is the first human institution.

***Healthy Families Make a Healthy Country** -- Since marriage is the first institution and the building block of society, when marriage is healthy, it contributes to a healthier society. And the opposite is also true.

And that's how we get grandpas and grandmas and aunts and uncles and cousins and nieces and nephews and in-laws. (An in-law is someone who marries one of your relatives. Like if you had a big grown up brother and he married a woman, that woman would be your sister-in-law, part of your family.) Yes, these relative are all part of a family. And since they know each other and love each other, they know how to help each other, don't they? In fact, that's part of their job. Also, now sometimes mamas and daddys see another child that doesn't have a mama and daddy of its own. And they love this other child so much, that they adopt that child and make that child part of their family, too.

***Adoption and Foster Families -- Restoring Eden** -- In our broken world things don't always work out, and adoption is loving and also is a way of building families. Foster families would be another way.

But sometimes things happen so that the mama and daddy aren't there. So then maybe the children live with their grandparents or with an aunt or an uncle, and then that is their family. In fact, in the Bible it tells about a beautiful girl named Esther, and Esther's parents were dead. So Esther lived with her older cousin Mordecai, and he took good care of her like a father would. So Esther and her cousin were a family.

***Marriage and Families** -- All marriages are families, but not all families contain marriages. The Bible doesn't say whether Mordecai was married or not, but clearly Esther and Mordecai were a family. For a clearer example, see the next paragraph.

The Bible also tells of a Jewish woman named Naomi and how she and her husband and her sons had left their home in the land of Israel and had moved to the land of Moab. Her sons had then married women from Moab; one of these women was named Ruth. But later Naomi's husband and sons died. And after a while Naomi left the land of Moab and went back to her home in the land of Israel. But one of her daughters-in-law, Ruth, insisted on going with her. So then Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth were a family by themselves, weren't they? They were a little family, but they were still a family. But after a while a Jewish man named Boaz married the Moabite woman Ruth, and they had a baby boy, and the mother-in-law Naomi lived with them and helped take care of the baby. So now Naomi had a bigger family, didn't she? (And do you want to know something interesting? Boaz and Ruth became the great-grandparents of King David! And that means that Boaz and Ruth were the great-great-great-great-grandparents of Jesus!!)

***But Isn't It Like Interracial Marriage?** -- This is a fallacious argument used by advocates of same-sex marriage. It's fallacious because, after all, interracial marriage is natural marriage, marriage between a man and a woman that can produce children. Even though marriage within one's own group is more common, interracial marriage is probably as old as shortly after the time that the different races arose! After all, we all descended from Adam and Eve and are part of the human race. One example (above) is Boaz the Jew marrying Ruth the

Moabitess. And Matthew 1:5 tells us that Boaz' parents were Salmon the Jew and Rahab the Canaanite. In fact, let's consider Moses to whom the Lord gave the Law which forbade certain sexual acts. (In Leviticus 18:27-28, the point is made that the acts in this chapter are wrong for Jews and also wrong for those who aren't part of the Jewish nation, though this does not necessarily imply that the consequences under the Law of Moses are universal, since the Jews were a theocracy under the Lord and specifically called to be a holy nation). This Moses was married to an Ethiopian (Cushite) woman, and when his brother and sister spoke against him because of it, God judged them (Numbers 12:1-15). Trying to make marriage narrower than God's word and design does not justify trying to make marriage broader. The Bible is full of admonitions not to depart from the right hand nor to the left of the Lord's way. The Jews' command not to marry Canaanites was probably because the Canaanites' false religious beliefs and practices would spread to the Jews if they intermarried -- as they did. (In many cultures one's religion is integral to one's tribal identity.) This seems to be the reason for the command against Israelite intermarriage with Canaanites. After all, when Rahab the Canaanite turned to the Lord, then she was able to marry a Jew and even became an ancestress of the Jewish Messiah.

So, Naomi with Ruth and Boaz and their baby were a family, weren't they? And Esther and her cousin Mordecai were a family, too. But marriage is the first family, and that is how families started. The man and the woman were made for each other and were made to have children. So God had made marriage, and it was good. One man and one woman; a husband and a wife, to be with each other all of their lives.

Yes, in making marriage, God made a man and a woman for each other. And they could work together and make something good together. And we do sort of the same thing, don't we? We make or have things that go together and are good together, too. Like, well, a button and a button hole for instance. The button and button hole work together to keep our shirt closed, don't they? Two different things, the button and its button hole, that are made for each other and work together, and they are good that way. Or think about a lock and a key. We could never get the lock open without its key! But the two of them, the lock and its key, are made for each other, and they work together, and they are good that way, aren't they? We can lock something up and then unlock it again with its key. Two different things, the lock and its key, made for each other and working together. But -- we couldn't open a lock with a button, could we?! No! The button wasn't made to open locks! And even if we said that a button was a key, it still wouldn't make the button be a key, would it?! No, it would still be a button! We use things for what they're made for, the right way, if we want them to work the way they should.

***Made to Fit** -- We know we're using something properly if the parts fit together well and we produce something good. Apologist Greg Koukl uses the analogy of computer hardware and software. The hardware (the computer and the disk) fit, and the software (the program in the disk and the operating system) fit. These fit to be productive. This would be analogous to the male and female bodies' "hardware" and the sperm and ova's "software". They fit to be productive. God's physical design for male and female is a sign and wonder for us. It shows us His spiritual intention for males to be males and females to be females (whether they are young or old, married or single). When we don't follow the Manufacturer's design and

instructions (God's Creation and His Word, the Bible), things go wrong. We may at times be smarter than some human creators, but we're never smarter than God the Creator. And God has given us so much leeway in Creation in other areas for us to be creative ourselves. For example, giving us building material, but not houses, or giving us food that we can turn into numerous recipes, or giving us hands, but not tools. For more creation examples see the earlier Parent Point "Made This Way".

And marriage is sort of the same way. When men and women grow up, that is when they can get married. And they were made by God to be together in a marriage. And just think -- without a man and a woman, there would be no children, would there? And pretty soon there would be no more people!

***But in Europe That's How They Do It!** -- The American Left seems enamored with the way Europe does things, thinking Europeans are always on the moral cutting edge. But a problem Europeans are having is that they're not taking marriage and children seriously; and as a result of this, they're not having sustainable birth rates.

Yes, God made marriage in order for us to have families, the husband and the wife and their children. Then those children would grow up into big men and women, and the men from one family would marry the women from other families, and then they would have children of their own. And they were to raise their children to be good people and to know about how loving and good and kind God is. God is so good to us, isn't He? And God gives children their mamas and daddys to take care of them. It would be hard for a small child to try to take care of himself, wouldn't it? Imagine a little child trying to get food and clothes and a home all by himself! But God made mamas and daddys to do that for the child.

***It's About the Children** -- Something that gets lost in the marriage debate is that our primary focus shouldn't be on what adults feel like doing (whether that's same-sex marriage, easy divorce, or pre-marital/extra-marital sex) but should be on what's best for the children. The children are the most vulnerable in this situation and are designed by God for their parents to take care of them. The ideal situation for children to be raised in is with their father and mother. One advantage is that this way the children, as they are maturing, have an adult male and female to interact with and model after.

Now, most people get married. In fact, the Bible even tells us that the apostle Peter was married and had a wife. But not everyone gets married; the Bible also tells us that the apostle Paul wasn't married. But Paul was still able to do lots of good things for God, wasn't he? So a man who doesn't get married is still good and can do lots of good things for God, can't he? And a woman who doesn't get married is still good and can do lots of good things for God, can't she? Also, sometimes a man and his wife don't have any children. In that case, just the two people are still a family, though a small family, and they can do good things for each other and for God.

***Godly Offspring** -- Though not all marriages can or do produce children, this is the design standard, and exceptions don't nullify it. Also, in this fallen world, not all are able to marry, and in addition some willingly forego marriage in order for them to do greater work for God.

Yes, God made marriage as something good for people. Marriage gives a man and a woman company and gives them a way to help each other and makes them a family. And God said that the man was supposed to love his wife enough so that he'd even die for her if he had to. And the woman was to love her husband and be respectful to him and do what she could to help him. And together they were to raise their children and teach them about God. And the children were to obey their parents, their mama and daddy. And they should all love each other.

But what is love? Love is wanting good for someone and doing good for them in a kind way. Love is also not helping people do things that might be bad for them or that would be bad for other people.

***"Love Is Love"** -- This popular slogan doesn't tell us what love is. Love is many things, but it is never less than doing good for others in a good way. The questions are: Do homosexual acts and same-sex marriage do good in a good way? Do they fit God's design? Are homosexual acts capable of producing life? Do they promote physical health? Do they promote personal and societal well being? This is a question of God's design in Creation and His "users manual", the Bible. More details on this can be found in Frank Turek's book *Correct, Not Politically Correct*. For some Bible verses on love, see John 14:15, I John 3:23, and I Corinthians 13.

The Bible also tells us something else very interesting about marriage. The Bible tells us that marriage is a sort of picture to help us understand how much God loves us. But how is that? Well, remember that I said that a man is supposed to love his wife so much that he would die for her if necessary? Well, Jesus (Who is both God and a man) loves us so much that He did die for us. Jesus loves us very much, and He wanted us to be able to be with Him in heaven someday. But people who sin can't go to heaven. So Jesus, Who never did any sins Himself, died for our sins. And if we trust Jesus to forgive our sins, He will do that. And then we can go to heaven and be with Him someday. How wonderful! So Jesus' loving us and dying for us is like a picture of how a husband should love his wife and be willing to die for her.

***Living Parables** -- Since marriage is a picture of Christ and His church, marriages are to be living parables. Also, in a way parents' relationship to their children should be a picture of God's relationship to us.

But marriage is like another picture about Jesus, too. When a man and a woman get married, at the wedding they are called the bridegroom and the bride, aren't they? Well, the Bible says that Jesus is like a bridegroom and that all the people together who believe in Him are like His bride. So when a man and a woman get married now, it is sort of a little picture of how much Jesus loves us, like a bridegroom loves his bride. I like that, don't you? It helps me understand better how much Jesus loves us.

Oh, and another thing. The Bible tells us about a bigger kind of family, too. That is the family of God. This is a very big family! God the Father is the loving Father, and the Lord Jesus (Who is also God) is like a big Brother, and everyone (men and women, boys and girls), everyone who has trusted

Jesus to save them and loves God is a child of God. Imagine being a child of the Lord God! Wow!

***The Bigger Family Picture** -- As important as marriage is, there is a bigger picture: Are we part of God's eternal family? And in the resurrection there will be no marriage (Mark 12:24-25).

So even if we don't have a mama or a daddy, we can still be part of this big family of God and still have a loving Father, can't we? In fact, in the Bible it tells us that Jesus told a man that when we trust Jesus to save us from our sins, then it's like we've been born again! You see, we are born to our mama and daddy when we are tiny babies, aren't we? And that makes us part of their family. But then when we get older and can understand about Jesus and how much He loves us, and when we ask Him to forgive our sins, then it is sort of like we are born again, that we are sort of "born" into God's family! So then we are part of two families; one is our parents' family and the other is God's family. Isn't that wonderful?! Oh, and since God would then be our King, we would also be a child of the King! Just imagine!

***Born His Way!** -- Contra Lady Gaga who makes a big deal of being "born this way", that's not the important way we're born. The important way is whether we're born His way, born again (born from above). John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

***A Father to the Fatherless** -- No earthly family is perfect. But the Bible tells us that God is a Father to the fatherless (Psalm 68:5).

Now, I said that God wants children to obey their parents, their mama and daddy. After all, the parents have lived longer than the children, haven't they? And the parents really do know more than the children. And that is the job that God gave the mama and daddy, the parents, to take care of their children and teach them to be good and to teach them how much God loves them. But sometimes we don't feel like doing what we should do, do we?! And sometimes we even feel like doing what we should not do, don't we?! Why, sometimes even big men and women don't feel like doing what they should do or might even feel like doing what they shouldn't do. But feelings aren't what's important. Doing the right things is what's important.

***More Than Feelings** -- We are made to be feeling beings, though we are more than that. To be a well functioning adult or even a responsible child, we need to exercise choice and use self control even when we feel like doing something else. Fields as diverse as marriage counseling, hostage negotiation, personal and business success, and self defense have all noted that living out of "if it feels right, do it" is a dangerous way that leads to failure or even to getting yourself or someone else hurt or killed!

In fact, the Bible tells us that when Jesus was here on earth, Jesus didn't feel like dying on the cross. But the man Jesus (Who is also God and Who had never done any sins) knew that was the right thing to do and the loving thing to do, to die on the cross to make a way for us to be able to go to heaven someday. So Jesus was obedient to God the Father, and Jesus let men put Him on the cross, and Jesus died there for our sins. (But He didn't stay dead, did He?! No, three days later He was alive again, and He's still alive in heaven!) Jesus did what He was supposed to do, didn't He?

And we need to do what we're supposed to do, too. So when we don't feel like doing what we are supposed to do or we feel like doing something we are not supposed to do, those are bad feelings and we shouldn't pay any attention to those bad feelings, should we? And we don't have to do what we feel like doing. Instead we can choose what we will do. First, we should just choose not do the wrong thing. And then we should choose to do the right thing instead, shouldn't we? And when we obey our parents, we are obeying God, because God told us to obey our parents.

***Free Will and Free Won't** -- Something that distinguishes us from the animals is our ability to choose to do or not to do something apart from our feelings. Addictions or being erroneously taught that we don't have this ability can impede or even take away our capacity of "free will and free won't" at times. So it is especially important to keep in mind that we have this ability and to exercise and strengthen it.

Also, not only should we not do bad things, we shouldn't even think about bad things. If we think about bad things, it makes it easier to do the bad things. And then thinking about and doing bad things would become a bad habit; and it would become easier and easier to think about bad things or even to do those bad things. And bad habits can be hard to break, can't they? Instead, we should think about good things, and we should do good things. This will make good habits for us, and soon it will be easier and easier to think about and to do good things.

***Orientations and Addictions** -- Just because we feel like doing something doesn't make it right. This is common sense. A clear case would be an alcoholic's or drug addict's addiction. Upbringing, abuse, and bad choices can all incline us to self- destructive and other destructive behavior. We all have different temptations, but it should be noted that since sex is so powerful, problems in this area can be particularly difficult. This can be especially true if previous abuse is involved.

Sometimes, though, we might still do bad things, and then we need to ask God to forgive us and ask Him to help us to do good things instead. And we can ask God to help us to feel like doing the good things, too, and not to feel like doing the bad things. And that's a way that we can love God and love each other. And no matter how we feel, we should love each other and love and obey God, shouldn't we?

***God Forgives** -- We all sin, but God is in the business of forgiving and restoring. In fact, God loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins, but Jesus rose from the dead on the third day (and was seen alive by many!), and all of this was in fulfillment of prophecy. One day the Lord Jesus is coming again to set up His Kingdom (again, in fulfillment of prophecy). And right now He is at the right hand of the Father and is the High Priest and Intercessor for His followers. We become forgiven and part of God's family by trusting in Jesus as our Savior and Lord. He then gives us the Holy Spirit Who helps us follow His way. Have you trusted in the Lord Jesus? If you have, then you are part of God's family, and family means being with family. So then you need to get connected with a good Bible believing church, an extension of God's family. Also, praying and reading God's word is a way of relating to our heavenly Father.

So what did we talk about today? First we talked about how God had made everything, didn't we? And then we said that God had even made marriage, which is when a man and a woman get married. And God said that marriage is good. Marriage was part of God's plan when He first made the whole world; and it still is God's plan, isn't it? And we also talked about how we all need to obey the Lord God and do what He says, even if we feel like doing something else. And that's a way we can show our love for God, by doing what He says. And we talked about how the Lord Jesus died for our sins on the cross, and that He rose from the dead three days later, and that made a way where we could someday be with God in heaven if we trust Jesus to forgive our sins. And we also talked about being part of God's family, about being a child of God. And what is the way to become part of God's family? Yes, Jesus is the way! There is no other way!

***No Other Way** -- Again Lady Gaga got it wrong when she said "there ain't no other way." There is another way, Jesus, Who is the way, the only way to God. Yes, in the case of coming to God, "there ain't no other way" than Jesus. And leaving people in their sin-sick state without Jesus isn't loving.

And someday the Lord Jesus will come back, and if we have trusted Him to forgive our sins, we will be with Him! And when Jesus comes back, that is when He will fix the unhappy and bad parts of the world, the parts that sort of got broken when Adam and Eve first sinned. Then things will be all fixed and happy again! Won't that be wonderful?!

***On the Right Side of History** -- We should do what's right, even if it's not popular. But we need to remember that history is "His Story". So to be on the right side of history, we need to be on God's side.

God loves us so very much. And we should love God, shouldn't we? And we should obey God and do what He tells us to do in the Bible.

Other Resources

NOTE: The following articles and books were used by Paul, so they are also the Bibliography for the children's text and "Points for Parents". All online resources were last accessed July 11, 2015

Free Online Articles:

Same-Sex Marriages Challenges and Responses, by Greg Koukl
<http://www.str.org/Media/Default/Publications/June%202004-2.pdf>

What You Need to Know About Marriage
<http://www.heritage.org/marriage/download.html>

Books:

Correct, Not Politically Correct: How Same-Sex Marriage Hurts Everyone, by Frank Turek

Same-Sex Marriage: A Thoughtful Approach to God's Design for Marriage, by Sean McDowell and John Stonestreet

Online Apologetics Resources:

These apologetics ministries include Calvinist (Stand to Reason) and non-Calvinist (Frank Turek), young earth (Creation Ministries) and old earth (Reasonable Faith), but all of them have some good resources on marriage.

Creation Ministries:
creation.com

Cross Examined - Frank Turek:
crossexamined.org

Josh McDowell Ministry:
josh.org

Reasonable Faith:
reasonablefaith.org

Sean McDowell:
seanmcdowell.org

Stand to Reason - Greg Koukl:
str.org

Family Resource:

Focus on the Family:
focusonthefamily.com

Cultural Resource:

American Family Association:
afa.net

Legal Resource:

Alliance Defending Freedom:
alliancedefendingfreedom.org