

BIG IDEA

Provide your child a healthy concept of friendships, marriage, and other relationships in a society that constantly diminishes the value of these connections.



KEY SCRIPTURES

- *We are to love God and love others* (Luke 10:27).
- *We need relationships to help us* (Ecc. 4:9-12).
- *We are to keep peace with each other* (Eph. 4:1-3).
- *We are to serve others* (Phil. 2:3).
- *God gives us marriage* (Gen. 2:24).



KEY QUESTIONS YOUR ELEMENTARY-AGED CHILD IS ASKING

- Why do people get married?
- What's wrong with same-sex marriage?
- How should we treat other people?



AT THIS AGE MOST ELEMENTARY CHILDREN WILL ...

- Befriend children of the opposite gender but prefer peers of the same sex.
- Begin to think more about the future.
- Possibly start showing interest in girl-boy relationships.



DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

- Younger elementary age children are beginning to develop a conscience and to test values. They will be exposed to values that are contrary to what the Bible teaches. Guide your child toward biblical truths as questions about friendships, relationships, and marriage arise.
- Children at this age are developing concepts of love and trust. Help your child understand these concepts not only by teaching biblical principles but also by modeling love and trust for her.
- Children at this age are eager to please and want to be liked by peers and adults. Reinforce the importance of treating other people in ways that will please God.



COACHING TIPS

- Discuss what the Bible says about marriage. Explain that in a healthy marriage, a man and a woman keep the promises they made to God and each other to love and stay committed to each other through good and bad times. Point out that although God's desire is for marriage to last until death, sometimes things happen that cause couples to separate (divorce), but God still loves them.
- Your child will likely hear about or witness relationships that are not in agreement with what the Bible teaches. Lead him to understand what God says about these relationships. Explain that God's plan is always the best plan. Tell your child that although some people choose to live in ways not pleasing to God, He still loves them.
- Help your child learn positive ways to handle conflict in relationships. Be a good example of conflict resolution in the relationships in your own life. Be aware of ways your child handles conflict, and guide her to make changes as needed. Offer praise when you see her solving disagreements in positive ways.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- **DO YOU KNOW WHY MOM AND DAD GOT MARRIED?** Start a conversation about marriage by talking about your marriage. Talk about how you met, your dating experiences, why you decided to get married, and so forth. Address the challenges of marriage and how you and your spouse deal with those challenges. For fun, look at your wedding pictures with your child.
- **WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND?** As your child talks about her friends, ask questions like "How do you know she's your friend?," "How do you show your friend you like him?," or "Is there someone you know who needs a friend?" Use this opportunity to discuss how to treat others in ways that please God.
- **WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF ...?** Lead your child through role-playing exercises dealing with conflict situations she may encounter (or has already encountered). Consider situations she might face at home, school, with friends, and so forth. By anticipating situations and preparing to respond in God-pleasing ways, she will learn techniques she can carry into adulthood.



SAY OR PRAY

- God created marriage with Adam and Eve.
- Marriage is a promise between a man and a woman to love and stay committed to one another through good and bad times.
- God wants us to love Him and other people.
- God wants us to have good and appropriate relationships with other people.