

No. 30 How to Improve Family Communication

PLEASE NOTE: Give practical, Scriptural suggestions for improving communication. Encourage all family members to be patient and to communicate openly, even when difficulties arise. If you wish, you may use the artwork provided to illustrate points where indicated

GOOD COMMUNICATION—A CHALLENGE FOR FAMILIES (3 min.)

Open, respectful, and loving communication is essential for family happiness (Pr 15:22)

Families face challenges that can hinder good communication [Image 1]

These include busy schedules, distracting electronic devices, and imperfect personalities
By applying Bible counsel, family members can improve communication and strengthen family bonds (Pr 24:3)

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HUSBANDS AND WIVES (12 min.)

Husbands and wives often have different communication styles (w13 5/15 ¶4-5; g16.3 10)

Husbands, listen empathetically and consider your wife's emotional needs [Read 1 Peter 3:7] (Col 3:19) [Image 2]

Elkanah discerned Hannah's emotional distress and comforted her (1Sa 1:4-8; Pr 25:11)

Wives, express your needs and feelings openly but respectfully to your husband [Read Proverbs 31:26] (Pr 14:1)

Rebekah expressed her strong feelings to Isaac, moving him to act in response (Ge 27:46; 28:1, 2)

Meaningful, heartfelt communication takes time

Do you and your mate regularly set aside time to talk together?

When problems arise, showing humility helps keep communication flowing (1Pe 3:8; w13 5/15 17-18 ¶13-15)

Be quick to apologize and quick to forgive (Col 3:12, 13)

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN (10 min.)

Parents, be approachable and listen patiently to your children [Read James 1:19] (w13 5/15 21-22 ¶7-8, 11) [Image 3]

Do not minimize your children's problems or overreact to their comments (Col 3:21)

Teenagers may be more inclined to open up in relaxed, informal settings (Pr 20:5)

Make good communication a priority despite busy schedules and distracting electronic devices (Eph 5:15, 16; w13 5/15 20 ¶5)

Children, your parents want what is best for you and you are wise to listen to them (Pr 1:5; w13 5/15 22 ¶14)

Although you may feel misunderstood at times, be willing to share your thoughts and feelings

If you listen to your parents and speak to them respectfully, they are more likely to listen to you in return (Pr 10:19; Eph 4:31)

WORSHIPPING JEHOVAH PROMOTES GOOD FAMILY COMMUNICATION (5 min.)

When family members worship Jehovah together, they naturally draw closer to one another (De 6:6, 7)

Make family worship a part of your weekly routine [Image 4]

Regularly attend Christian meetings together as a family

In addition to spiritual activities, share in wholesome recreation together (Ec 3:1, 12, 13)

Even if not all family members worship Jehovah, family communication will benefit from the efforts of those who apply Bible principles

Keep working to improve family communication despite the challenges

Jehovah will guide and bless your efforts (Ps 32:8)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.
Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55,
166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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