



Rejoicing in God's Good Design

Scope & Sequence

The *Rejoicing in God's Good Design* study helps students understand and rejoice in God's good design in creating men and women fully equal in His image, yet with different roles. Because male-female differences are rooted in God's created design, the only way people can understand who we are as men and women is to come to terms with the Creator and what He tells us about ourselves in Scripture. Students will be encouraged to value the members of the opposite gender as they learn how God has uniquely designed each gender to fulfill distinct callings.

It is our prayer that God uses this material to give the next generation a vision for becoming mature Christian men and women as they navigate their way to maturity amid the gender confusion and distorted messages they are receiving from the world. The study includes PowerPoint® presentations to help engage students during teaching times. Through the use of Student Journals, youth are encouraged to study the topic further and apply truths learned to their own lives both in the classroom and at home.

Lesson 1: Acknowledging the Creator

Proverbs 3:5-6

To understand anything correctly, we must first come to terms with the Creator.

- ▶ The five opening words of the Bible provide a biblical worldview of God and His creation. Without knowing God as the Creator, we cannot know anything truly or understand oneself. Denying God leads to confusion of all sorts (including gender confusion).

Scripture: Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:18-25; Romans 11:36; Colossians 2:3

Lesson 2: Acknowledging Our Created-ness

Romans 9:20-21a

We are creatures and not gods.

- ▶ There are great distinctions between the Creator and the creature. Human beings are not autonomous but created by God. People must submit to God by embracing and accepting who God has made them to be and how He has created them.

Scripture: Jeremiah 13:23; Acts 14:8-18; Acts 17:25; Romans 9:20-21a; Hebrews 4:13

Lesson 3: The Design of the Creator: Man Created Male and Female

Genesis 1:27

God designed man as male and female, and this is very good.

- ▶ Within God's good design, man was created as male and female in the image of God—distinct from animals. Beyond the obvious physical differences, there are God-given differences between men and women that go to the core of people. It is "very good" that God created man as male and female with these differences.

Scripture: Genesis 1:24-28, 31a

Lesson 4: Male Headship in Creation

1 Timothy 2:13

God created men to have a unique role of responsibility and authority in the world.

- ▶ Though both genders are created as equal in the image of God, men are given a unique role of responsibility and authority at creation. Man's unique role is shown in the order of creation, his right to name the animals, and God's naming of the human race as "man." Adam's position of headship—his role of authority and responsibility—is the pattern for male-female relationships.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:5-9, 15-17, 23; Genesis 3:20; Genesis 5:1-2; 1 Timothy 2:12-13

Lesson 5: Female Submission in Creation

1 Corinthians 11:8-9

God created women for a complementary role of submission in relation to men.

- ▶ In Genesis 2, it is shown that it was not good for Adam to be alone. God's creation was not flawed but rather incomplete until God gave woman in the role of "helper." Woman was a fit helper and companion because she was made "from man"—an additional evidence of male headship. Being a helper is not a sign of inferiority, as God Himself is referred to as our Helper.

Scripture: Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:18-23; Psalm 10:14; Psalm 54:4; Psalm 118:7; 1 Corinthians 11:7-8, 10a

Lesson 6: The Equality of Men and Women

Galatians 3:28

Men and women are equal in dignity, value, and worth.

- ▶ Although men and women were given different roles at creation, they were created with a fundamental equality (equal in substance). Both men and women were created in the image of God, equal in personhood, dignity, importance, worth, and dependence on God. The relationship between male and females also mirror the relationship between the Father and the Son in their equality of person and in the woman's subordination of role.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:21-23; John 8:28-29; John 12:49; 1 Corinthians 11:8-9, 11-12; Galatians 3:28-29; 1 Timothy 2:13; 1 Peter 3:7

Lesson 7: The Fall and Gender

Genesis 3:6

In rejecting the word and design of their Creator, Adam and Eve fell into sin and brought disharmony to men and women.

- ▶ Even though Adam was created to be the head, Satan approached Eve with his temptation. In giving in to the temptation, Eve rejected God's authority, her place as creature, as well as the authority and place of her husband. In allowing his wife to be deceived and following her into sin, Adam rejected God's authority and the role of headship God had given him. As a result of rejecting the Creator's design, discord, blame, and resentment entered human relationships.

Scripture: Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 3:1-13

Lesson 8: The Continuing Rebellion Against God's Design— Male Rejection or Abuse of Headship**The curse of God has left men prone to rejecting or abusing their God-given headship.**

Genesis 3:16b

- ▶ God's original design was distorted in the Fall. As a result of sin, God's curse focused on the primary roles of man and woman. Pain and frustration now result from man's work, woman's relationship with man, and children. A sinful man tends to misuse or neglect his role of authority and responsibility.

Scripture: Genesis 3:14-19; 1 Samuel 2:34-36; Luke 22:25-26; Acts 12:21-22; Philippians 2:4

Lesson 9: The Continuing Rebellion Against God's Design—Female Rejection of Submission**The curse of God has left women prone to resisting appropriate male authority.**

Genesis 3:16b

- ▶ As a result of the fall, woman tends to resist her role, and desires to conquer and control her husband. Recently, the feminist movement has reflected Eve's desire for control, rooted in believing the lies of the enemy and in rebellion against God's authority and the wisdom of His design. Sinful people who have redefined truth according to personal feelings can renew their minds by submitting to the unchanging standard of the truth of God's Word.

Scripture: Genesis 3:16b; Genesis 4:7; Romans 1:22, 24a; Romans 12:2; Philippians 2:5-11

Lesson 10: The Continuing Rebellion Against God's Design—Homosexuality

Romans 1:28

Homosexuality is a serious distortion of God's good design.

(NOTE: This lesson contains a Parent Preview letter to prepare parents to discuss the topic with their students.)

- ▶ Sometimes man's rebellion against his Creator brings about a distortion in gender identity and desire. God created sexual relations to be only between a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage. Homosexuality in both action and desire is condemned. At the heart of homosexuality is rebellion against the Creator and idolatry— an allegiance to self and personal desires. Christians must speak the truth in love and support those struggling with homosexual desires, pointing them to the Lord who gives strength to fight sin and to walk in His ways.

Scripture: Genesis 13:13; Genesis 19:1-11, 24-25; Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; Mark 7:21-23; Romans 1:18-28

Lesson 11: Embracing Masculinity and Femininity

1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Peter 3:4

Masculinity and femininity are cultivated by embracing God's design.

- ▶ The first step toward recovering God's good design is to entrust oneself fully to Jesus. Men must cultivate strength to embrace the mature masculinity of leading, providing, and protecting with an attitude of kindness. Women must cultivate a gentle and quiet spirit to embrace the mature femininity of receiving, supporting, and assisting leadership.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 4:9; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Peter 3:1-6

Lesson 12: A Role Model of Masculinity—Paul

Philippians 3:17

Paul is a great role model of masculinity.

- ▶ The Bible shows many different models of masculinity, as there is no one expression of masculinity. Paul's masculinity was not only characterized by a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for, and protect, but also zeal, self-discipline, and courage.

Scripture: Romans 12:11; 1 Corinthians 9:18-27; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10; 2 Corinthians 11:24-26; 2 Timothy 1:17

Lesson 13: The Role Model of Masculinity—Jesus

John 10:27

Jesus is the perfect role model of masculinity.

- ▶ Jesus is the one perfect role model of manhood— both tough and tender. He lived a life of sacrificial love, not to please Himself but to do the work God had given Him. Jesus lovingly and unselfishly exercised His headship and authority to lead, provide for, and protect His people.

Scripture: Matthew 23:15-17, 23-28; Mark 10:13-16; John 2:13-17; John 4:31-34; John 10:27; John 11:17-45

Lesson 14: What Masculinity Is Not

Titus 2:7-8

Mature masculinity involves neither people-pleasing nor abrasively domineering, but involves the pursuit of godly character.

- ▶ Paul's picture of manliness in Titus 2 is one of dignity, self-control, seriousness, soundness, maturity, and honor. Manliness is not about being: an arrogant, self-absorbed rebel; domineering and abrasive; crude, rude and obnoxious; or a cowardly people-pleasing "Mr. Nice Guy." Mature masculinity is the pursuit of a godly character.

Scripture: Proverbs 11:17; Proverbs 16:5, 18, 32; Proverbs 19:11, 29; Proverbs 21:24; Proverbs 22:24-25; Proverbs 25:15; Galatians 1:10; Ephesians 5:3-4; Ephesians 6:5-6; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-5; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; Titus 2:2, 6-8

Lesson 15: A Role Model of Femininity—Ruth

Ruth 1:16

Ruth is great biblical role model of femininity.

- ▶ Ruth portrayed a biblical role model of femininity as she embraced the role of a helper showing loyalty, devotion, compassion, sacrificial service, commitment, and glad submission. Male leadership was willingly received as Ruth embraced her roles of wife and mother. Ruth, in patiently waiting for the unfolding of God's providence in her life, displayed humble, trusting submission.

Scripture: Ruth 1:16-17; Ruth 2:7-12, 14-16; Ruth 3:1-4, 9b; Ruth 4:16-17

Lesson 16: More Role Models of Femininity—Mary, Sarah, Lois

Luke 1:38b

The Bible presents many admirable women, like Mary, Sarah, and Lois, to serve as role models of femininity.

- ▶ Traits of biblical femininity were embodied by many different women in the Bible. Mary, the mother of Jesus, yielded herself to the Lord, embracing His plan for her life in spite of possible hardship and suffering, becoming a model of submission to God. Sarah demonstrated a gentle, quiet spirit and fearless submission to her husband, becoming a model of quiet reliance on God. Anna displayed single-minded devotion to the Lord. Lois and Eunice faithfully taught Timothy and became role models of spiritual nurturing.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:36-38; 2 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 Peter 3:4-6

Lesson 17: What Femininity Is Not

Proverbs 31:30

Femininity is not a dishonorable calling of passivity and weakness, but an honorable calling of God-honoring activity and strength.

- ▶ Biblical femininity, flowing out of a heart that honors the Lord, is not an expression of frailty and weakness. True beauty is the internal and lasting beauty of fearing God. Feminine strength is a fearless inner strength resulting from trusting God. A truly feminine woman is: trustworthy—not manipulative or deceptive; hard-working—not lazy or unproductive; generous and kind—not selfish; one who takes care of her family and is not merely concerned with herself.

Key Verse: Proverbs 31:10-31

Lesson 18: Sexual Purity

Matthew 5:8

Sexual impurity is a serious and destructive sin that should be avoided at all costs.

(NOTE: This lesson contains a Parent Preview letter to prepare parents to discuss the topic with their students.)

- ▶ God delights in healthy, legitimate sexual expressions of love—these desires are God-given and protected by boundaries. Outside of marriage, sexual relations and lustful thoughts are forbidden, immoral, and destructive. True sexual purity and modesty is not just a matter of actions or dress, but of thoughts, desires, and a mindset that has the heart of Christ as its standard. The pure in heart, who desire to please and honor God and draw attention away from self, will see God. He alone can satisfy one's desires.

Scripture: Genesis 2:24; Job 31:1-4; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 36:7-9; Proverbs 4:25-26; Matthew 5:8, 27-30; Matthew 23:25-28; 1 Corinthians 6:16-18; 1 Timothy 2:9-10; Hebrews 13:4

Lesson 19: Honoring and Respecting the Other Gender

Romans 12:10

Men and women are to honor and respect the opposite gender.

- ▶ The Bible commends a kind of brother-sister relationship among young people in the church. Paul advises young men and women to stand guard over each other's purity as they treat each other with honor, loyalty, and affection.

Scripture: Romans 12:10; Ephesians 5:33b; 1 Timothy 5:1-2; Hebrews 13:18; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 Peter 3:7

Lesson 20: Singleness

1 Corinthians 7:7-8

Singleness is a gift from God and should be wisely used for the glory of God.

- ▶ Both marriage and singleness are good gifts from God. Those in either situation should trust God's wisdom in assigning His gifts as they pursue contentment, purity, and thankfulness. Paul recognizes the special gift of singleness as a period not to be wasted in irresponsibility or selfishness. Singles are to devote large amounts of time to the pursuit of godliness, good works, character development, spiritual disciplines, and ministry.

Scripture: Isaiah 54:5; 1 Corinthians 7:6-9, 27-36; Ecclesiastes 12:1

Lesson 21: Marriage

Proverbs 18:22

Young men and women who want to be married should pursue this with great wisdom, discretion, patience, and faith in God.

- ▶ Marriage is a life long commitment to be entered into with carefulness, counsel, and prayer. Couples are commanded to remain faithful to their life long covenant vows regardless of the character of the spouse. Men should take the initiative in seeking a wife, developing courage and strength, and laying the groundwork for leadership in marriage. Women should wait upon the Lord in matters of the heart and make themselves attractive in character, spirit, and action.

Scripture: Psalm 37:4; Proverbs 12:4; Proverbs 15:22; Proverbs 18:22; Proverbs 19:14; Matthew 19:3-10; Luke 14:28-29; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 6:1-3; James 1:5

Lesson 22: Gender in the Family—Male Headship in the Home

Ephesians 5:23

Men have a unique and God-given role of headship in the home over their wives and children.

- ▶ God designed men and women to have specific roles in the home, church, and work. As Christ heads His church, husbands are given the role of headship and loving authority in the home. Wives support them with joyful submission and obedience. As the head of the home, husbands are to shoulder the responsibility of providing for, protecting, and leading his children.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-33; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:7

Lesson 23: Gender in the Family—Female Submission in the Home

Ephesians 5:22

Women have a calling from God to gladly submit to and honor their husbands in the home.

- ▶ All people are under the authority of the Creator but God has placed some over others. Submission to authorities is for one's good, the good of others, and God's glory. In reflection of her submission to Christ, a wife is given a role of submitting to and supporting her husband. This submission, made possible through dependence on Jesus, is show with respect; purity; submissive words and actions; awareness of imperfections; and fearless faith in God.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-24; Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:17a; James 4:7; 1 Peter 2:13-14; 1 Peter 3:1-7

Lesson 24: Gender in the Church

1 Timothy 3:2-3

Although certain roles of headship and authority are restricted to men, there is much fulfilling work to be done by both men and women in the church.

- ▶ The church is under Christ's authority first and foremost, which is mediated through the apostles and the Word and overseen by Church appointed leaders. Although their authority is not absolute, God uses leaders to protect His Bride. The headship roles of elder and overseer are restricted to men but many fulfilling roles in the Church can be filled by women.

Scripture: Matthew 16:18-19; 1 Corinthians 14:33b-35; 2 Corinthians 13:10; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Timothy 2:1-15; Hebrews 13:17

Lesson 25: The Value of Homemaking and Motherhood in the World

Titus 2:4-5

Being a wife, a homemaker, and a mother is challenging and fulfilling occupation for women, and is extremely valuable to the world.

- ▶ Rejection or ignorance of biblical roles in the home has resulted in great confusion and pain. Paul commends childbearing to wives as important work to embrace, and God has uniquely designed all women to nurture and cultivate the next generation. As wives and mothers, women have tremendous influence for either good or evil. Thus, older women are to train younger women in self-control, purity, kindness, love, diligence, and submission in the home.

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 21:4-6; 2 Chronicles 22:2-3; 1 Timothy 2:8-15; Titus 2:3-5

Lesson 26: The Value of Work and Male Initiative in the World

Colossians 3:23

All men should be encouraged to work hard and take initiative for the good of others.

- ▶ Even though he was created for work, man in his sinfulness often resists work. The Bible repeatedly warns against laziness, as the refusal to work brings consequences of hunger and poverty. Paul instructs believers to work heartily and to glorify God in their work.

Scripture: Genesis 2:15; 2 Chronicles 22:2-3; Proverbs 6:6-9; Proverbs 12:11, 14, 24, 27; Proverbs 13:4; Proverbs 14:23; Proverbs 16:26; Proverbs 19:15; Proverbs 20:13; Proverbs 22:13; Proverbs 28:19; Ecclesiastes 10:18; Colossians 3:23; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12; Titus 2:3-5

Lesson 27: Not Prolonging Adolescence

1 Timothy 4:12

All young men and women should accept God's calling to maturity and responsibility early, and not prolong adolescence and immaturity.

- ▶ Becoming a young man or woman means leaving behind childish things such as irresponsibility, laziness, and self-centeredness. Sins of youth are serious and destructive, and all are held responsible for their sins. Young men and women should set an example for believers of all ages in pursuing godly maturity and responsibility.

Scripture: Leviticus 10:1-3; 2 Kings 2:23-24; Psalm 119:9; Proverbs 22:13; Ecclesiastes 12:1; 1 Corinthians 13:11; 1 Corinthians 14:20; 1 Timothy 2:22; 1 Timothy 4:12

Lesson 28: Rejoicing in or Rejecting God's Good Design

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Young men should rejoice in God's good design and train themselves for mature masculinity, and young women should likewise rejoice and train themselves for mature femininity.

- ▶ Sinful hearts are an obstacle to embracing God's good design for men and women. Obstacles abound in the culture that discourage Christians from embracing God's good design. Given the obstacles, mature masculinity and mature femininity will not come automatically and intentional steps must be taken by individuals to embrace their specific roles and callings.

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:7-8; Titus 3:3-7