

Lessons from
YWYM's Groups.
Glimpses book 3



- Topic 1: Husband and wife attending different church** Page 3
- Topic 2: How do you get back to life and yourself after coming out of several years of relationship with children?** Page 8
- Topic 3: How do we balance the duties of being mother and a wife, coupled with our own projects/personal tasks (some might class this a job work)?** Page 10
- Topic 4: How to effectively communicate in love to each member of my family as a wife, and as a mother, so that my kids and husband feels loved.** Page 12
- Topic 5: How to prevent resentment that can take seed, when the roles are shifted, when the wife becomes the breadwinner but the same traditional roles are also expected of that woman.** Page 15
- Topic 6: Raising godly seeds irrespective of our financial, social or economy circumstances in a world that is gradually turning away from the cross. And how do we find balance?** Page 16
- Topic 7: Stay at home mums and of what benefit they can be to raising godly seed, especially if your first generation didn't do this and how can we also help to build our finance with the little time we have in between, are there any internet-based jobs that involves us start-ups, I am open to ideas and real-life experiences.** Page 18
- Topic 8 What to do if I know that my husband is dating someone else.** Page 20

NOTICE

Please note that there might be grammar and typing error in this document. We have tried to preserve it as much as possible in its original format. While effort was made to remove many things, please read this bearing in mind that it is not a book.

TOPIC 1

HUSBAND AND WIFE ATTENDING DIFFERENT CHURCH

Contributor 1: Hmm. That's true. I have this issue with churches too. Am really concerned about the dynamics of certain churches and what is being taught or what holds as solid truth among them (even though it contradicts the gospel). I can quite easily ignore that because I know the truth, but I am concerned about the information that my children would pick and call truth. Is this a solid reason to leave such a church?

Contributor 2: There is a saying that "if you see a perfect church, once you join, it becomes imperfect" I think the issue is not with the church except we can proof in our heart that the foundation of the Church is not Christ or the doctrines of the new covenant is not clear. Just recently I had to change church because I felt that the doctrines are not what I want my children to learn or practise. Even if it might not affect me, because I can't be forced to do what I don't believe in, but I had to, after speaking with some believers whom I felt could direct me, just in case I was missing it. I decided I didn't want to live in deception in which we are answerable to Jesus only. My principle is, if it is not Christ, I'm seeing then I need to question what it is.

Contributor 1: I see your point. I was told this time and time again there is no such thing as a perfect church, everywhere is the same. But I disagreed with this notion and stepped out. I feel like there is a proper way to do things and I found there are churches that do things proper way. I agree not everyone in church is a saint. Every church will have their issues. But I feel there are fundamental principles/doctrine/practices or belief that are just improper. It just doesn't sit right with me. And this idea of no church is perfect, makes people sit down and tolerate abuse against the gospel that should not be tolerated. Don't get me wrong sis, I totally understand where you're coming from. I am just expressing my experience. Just because a church preaches Christ or pray in the name of Jesus doesn't necessarily mean it is proper. I've spent a large amount of my walk in Christ undoing the wrong things I've been taught in churches that should have been building me. If I was grounded in a Gospel church, I believe I would definitely have been much further in my walk with God by now. Till this day I am still undoing and this is the fear I have for my children. I don't want them to spend a large majority of their adult life undoing or unlearning false doctrines.

Contributor 2: For me, I think the issue should be submission to those who are overseeing the church and if you feel there is something to change, speak to them but first make sure you are doing it in love and not out of anger at their imperfection to meet the right standard you

want. Also, for those who wish to stay, let your life be Christ-like for all to see and change by looking or observing your life and family. So that the little light in you will outshine the darkness in the church.

The older wives' input: As the church advances and people advances too, the matter of family oneness seems to be under threat, and sometimes, this affect where christian couples fellowship. The God who made marriage, intended couples to be in union with each other and that include the place of fellowship.

Why is fellowshipping with your husband in the same church needful?

It fosters unity: God created marriage for two to become one, and this oneness include where they fellowship. Therefore, it's imperative for husband and wife to attend the same church for the sake of unity, which is the essence of marriage Gen.2:23:24.

Examples of Biblical couples

- a. **Elkanah and his family:** 1Sam.1:21 tells us how Elkanah and his family, though polygamous, embarked on yearly pilgrimage to Shiloh. As we read this chapter, we can infer that the individual family's needs/motive and expectations for the pilgrimage differ, but some individual experience (like Hannah) of an encounter with God became a blessing for the family.
- b. **Aquila and Priscilla:** Also, we see Aquila and Priscilla in Acts 18:26, 1Cor.16:19.

Couples attending separate church will engender division in their homes, which is very unhealthy, especially for the children, who might easily get confused and off-balance Eph 4:14.

Reasons why wives fellowship in a separate church from their husbands

i. Personal preferences

In as much as I understand that husband and wife may have different preferences, in terms of the style of preaching or worship/music, church structure and vision, none of these are important enough to fragment the marriage covenant of togetherness, as instituted by God.

Personal preferences should be set aside and the unity of faith and oneness in Christ's doctrine Eph.4:13-15 for the family should be prioritized Isaiah .28:10, Prov 27:17.

In conclusion, as long as the churches in question are Bible-based, I feel there has to be mutual consideration, compromise and understanding between couples to resolve all differences and put Christ and the family's spiritual well-being first and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

ii. Where the church is unsound in doctrine

Sometimes, the effect of wives going to separate church from their husbands may not be visible on our marriage until later on. The enemy of marriage is so subtle, and we must be on

guard. Couples fellowshipping in different church is one of his tactics to bring down marriages, and he seems to be succeeding.

Some of the sincere reasons why wives fellowship in different church from their husbands are actually resolvable. For example, a wife may not want to attend the same church as her husband because what they are preaching is contrary to the Word of God, and the husband in question is not spiritually strong nor take time to study the Word of God in order to discern whether or not what they are preaching is sound doctrine, but nonetheless, he likes the church anyway.

We must be honest, that the church is failing, failing in teaching and promoting sound doctrine, but as christian wives, we must know what our own response should be to situations like this.

I do understand the plight and experience of many wives in the church of today.

One of the major problems in church is "SELF". But when God help us to deal with the same and focus on Christ, many issues will be well resolved.

Hannah was a wife in Shiloh. She faced both verbal and emotional abuse from the pastor (Eli and even her husband's concubine), but we see the way she handled it.

If we are going to live out the Word of God, we will overcome all the injustice in the church.

And more so, church needs the help and the contribution of those whose lives are been helped who may help to contribute to what church ought to be, but this will take patience and a dying to self.

One thing I want you to know is that some of your husbands may not react to your view, but deep down they are longing for you to support their leadership.

I remember years ago as a young wife, I married a pastor, and honestly, I do not see any difference in me and every other person.

My husband was to go to another town to build up a new branch of our local church. I stayed in our mother church, not because I rebelled against him, but I did not know I ought to follow him, and I had a course that I was doing at the mother church. A minister approached me and talked with me that I should follow my husband to the church and gather the women and so on. To be honest, I myself was just growing, so gathering women was not a real deal, but I made up my mind to go according to the counsel given to me. After finishing the course that I was doing in my mother church, I got dressed the following Sunday and entered the car, and my husband was so happy to see me come with him. He then told me that many people in church has been asking why did I not come with him. He did not tell me this until that day that I decided to go with him. He was really happy.

That journey with him to this new church that day began my personal growth and my love for women ministry today.

Sometimes, if not most times, wives do not know the place of privilege God puts them in their husband's lives. And this is the effect of the fall in the Garden of Eden. Like my daughter told me some years ago, that the rib is the protection for the heart, and you know how important the heart is to the body.

The woman was taken out of the man's rib, and for every man there is a vacuum. As a wife, you are not a mistake or misfit in the life of your husband. You have a need to protect your husband both spiritually and physically, and these protections affect your relationship with your husband when you leave him to go to a separate church.

I said all these to address the matter of when a husband goes to a church where the doctrine and the teaching is not Biblical. In such a situation, I will counsel the woman to follow her husband to his church for the following reasons:

1. To show him what a wife who truly understand the Word of God does, remember, the faith of the husband is not as strong as that of the wife.
2. To stand as a shield for him and to be a hedge for him. So, such a wife goes with her husband to his church, not just for herself, but now as a ministry, because a church where things that are not in line with God's Word is taught, can actually push your husband to do what is wrong against himself and your matrimony and even against God, and for that you as the wife is indebted.
3. Go with him to hear the teachings your husband is hearing, so that you can know how to help your husband at home as the Lord helps you.

Now, since you know you go there as a ministry, you will now look for how you will be edified too.

~ This might mean, looking for a mature christian to disciple you, this will help with your personal edification.

~ This might mean seeking other means to grow your faith, like spending extra time to understand the scripture on various matters.

~ You will spend time in your personal quiet time.

~ You will read books, listen to messages, podcast, just to make sure you are well fed so that you continue to grow.

And our generation is so blessed with opportunity to grow our faith, even outside the church walls. And as God sees your attitude, could it be that He may through your life win your husband fully to Himself and grow him in the faith?

Women have lost their husbands to strange women in the church, some husbands have gone astray in the faith because their wives were not there to hear what their husbands were hearing

so that they can receive wisdom from the Lord as to what to do in order to help their husbands. 1 Peter 3 come to mind. Also, if you go with your husband to a church that preaches what is contrary to the Word of God, pray for the church, and pray the Lord to lead you and your husband to a place where you will both learn and grow together.

Topic 2

How do you get back to life and yourself after coming out of several years of relationship with children?

Response 1

This particular question to me is difficult to answer unless one is in the shoes of the person that asked the question, and any advice I give will probably be based on my past relationship, though it does not involved children but the breakup brought so much questions, heartaches, disappointments and so on. This was the person I thought we would get married and I did everything a good woman would but all was in vain. And because sex was involved, I believe that is what really pained me more because I felt used and though I promised God I would not lose my virginity till I get married and there I was I lost it to someone that would end up abandoning me. (This is before I started having a relationship with God). But then, what drove me to that guy at the time was the fact that I had no father figure in my life, I was not brought up in a family home, I lived from one family to another and when I finally started leaving by myself I was still living a confused life and my partner at the that was who I felt to be my comforter, the father figure and the love of my life at the time, So instead of me seeking Christ and having that deeper relationship with God, I turned my focus on a man that I thought was my everything. But one thing I do know is that God has a plan for all of us, And His plan shall surely come to past in ourselves, it might take longer based on certain decisions we had made but God's will is the best.

And to answer the above question, if it helps or make sense. Is that in All things give thanks to God, you might fall when you depend on man and even family and friends but if you put everything aside and put your trust and hope in God, God will arise on your behalf and get you back to where you are meant to be. Before, I use to feel so ashamed and disappointed in myself and feel sorry for myself at times, but when I began to have that relationship with Christ, the peace of God was there and still there with me and even when the thoughts of everything comes to me now, I just use that opportunity to praise God and thank Him for my life and for why He had saved me. Now I am married with 3 Children to the glory of God and when I looked back at my past all I can say is praise God. God knows and sees everything.

So, in your situation, I would suggest seek God first, look after yourself and your children, if the man is your husband, God will bring Him back, if he is not, God will surely bring your husband and in due time everything will begin to fall into places for your good. I don't really have Bible scriptures but Ruth and Tamar came into my mind while typing this.

I believe there is nothing too difficult for God, even at the marriage feast in John 2, when all the wine was finished, the Lord Jesus still stepped in, even though it was not His time yet. I believe it's not too late to call upon the name of the Lord to come into any difficult situations, we might encounter at any point in time. First, you must forgive and let go, it's time to walk out your relationship with your true love, who has promised He will never leave you nor forsake you. You must seek out those who are on the right path and become more deliberate about how to take the next steps. I'm sure you are a believer who is wondering why this should have happened to you? Please try not to blame yourself, for the Lord knows, but He's waiting for you to cast all your burdens upon Him. Don't live any out.

Response 2

True sis. That was your past, and the honest truth is that we all have a past, but no matter how worst our past was, they no longer define who we are now in Christ.

Response 3

I am reading and listening. That is a very difficult situation and like sis Lara said unless you're in it, it's very difficult to say. But in all things, there's a way out with God. God is the answer to all things. I know sometimes we just want to hear a quick fix, but God's timing is the best. He takes His time to renew and fix and even when we don't see it straight away, in the long run we'll discover that He was working it all out for our good. I pray that God will give women in this situation strength to endure in Jesus name. Amen.

Response 4

I am looking at this particular situation and I know it can be very sad. If this is a relationship that is not a marriage, even though it hurts, but it is better such relationship is let go, so that one can become that new creation that sis Lara spoke of. There is the need to be born again, and if one was born again before and maybe backslide, this broken relationship is a way to go back to God. I am very mindful that there is already emotional attachment, and there are children in the relationship. It might take time to get back to life again, recovery is possible, and it should start by going back to Christ, He gives beauty for our ashes. So, the first thing is to get into a relationship with Jesus. Get an older Christian to walk the way with you. You may be surprised how much God still has in store for your life.

And because the relationship has children, and particularly if they are girls, you want to make sure that you get a good ground in your personal walk with God. As you get your feet rooted in Christ, you will be able to help your children too. As situation like this usually affect the children. Then, after sorting your walk with God, get into a solid Christian community, find a Bible study group to grow.

Topic 3

How do we balance the duties of being a mother and a wife, coupled with our own projects/personal tasks (some might class this a job work)?

Contribution 1: I was reflecting on our discussion, the role of the woman in the home.

Titus 2:4 shows what the younger women should be taught.

- they are to love their husbands.
- they are to love their children.

Eph5 :22-24 shows the role of the woman in the home.

- she is to submit to her own husbands in everything, it is so easy for women to submit to pastors but not their own husbands, but we must be different.

1 Peter 3:1-6 also ask the wife to submit.

Prov 14:1 tells us that we are the builders of our homes, this include building relationship with God, with our husbands, and our children, and bridging the gap between our children and our husbands.

- We are to be intercessors for our homes, we must constantly be praying for our husbands and children.
- It is our role to make sure the emotional health of those in our homes are good.

Prov1:8 also shows that:

- We are to give godly instructions to our children.
- We are to be godly counsellors to our husbands and children
- We are to take care of their personal hygiene, physical need and appearances.

In a nutshell, we are made to be their helper.

Contributor 2: Look at the role of the Holy Spirit, and let us trust God to help us by His Spirit to be exactly that in our homes.

John 14:16 from the amplified says “and *I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever*”

For me, this reveals my role as a helper to my husband. I am to be his:

1. Comforter (Rebecca was a source of Comfort to Isaac.) Get 24:67
2. Counselor (Sarah counselled her husband wrongly). Get 16:1-3
3. Helper (Acsah helped her husband to secure springs of water from her father). Judges 1:14
4. Intercessor (Abigail interceded for Nabal) 1Sam 25.
5. Advocate
6. Strengthenener (Even Jezebel strengthened her husband). 1kings 21:5-7)
7. Standby (Esther stood by when her husband unknowingly signed off her people, she did not leave her husband but stood by and in the long run she was an instrument to change this man.

I am to nourish those in my home physically and spiritually.

The cooking and cleaning of my home is my duty, but my husband can help in carrying out cooking or cleaning, we are to help each other, and since I am valuable to him, and he knows I am a weaker vessel, he is to look at how to relieve me of some responsibilities.

Conclusion: I want us to look back to the first wife. When we went through the vlog, we remember that she was brought in to "help" her husband (Adam). So, all she will do must be from the point of helping her husband. So, motherhood, wifeness, my personal projects or tasks are all my way of helping my husband. In this case, helping him must begin in the place of prayer. We must start our day in the place of prayer committing our day into His hands.

Also, we need to know what our husbands will like carried out for them, and we can then seek how God helps us.

You can:

- ~ Highlight what to do with your children.
- ~ Highlight what to do with your husband.
- ~ Highlight what you need to do.

Do those that are priority to your husband, yourself and your children. I have found to do list or personal diaries very helpful. Also, learn to discern what God intends for you to do in each Season, with that, you will be able to say no to outside responsibilities that are not the will of God for you at that season.

Topic 4

How to effectively communicate in love to each member of my family as a wife, and as a mother, so that my kids and husband feels loved.

Contribution 1: In attempt to answer this question, I think it is important to understand that respect is necessary. To show respect to our kids and husband is one of the key means by which they can feel loved - in my opinion. I once understood the false impression that respect is reciprocal, something that had to be earned. And also reserved for someone of a high rank. We've heard it being said 'respect adults, respect parents, respect teachers' if we are not careful, we would almost assume that the child / children are the ones that should be doing the 'respecting' - failing to realise that they too are deserving of respect. I think we can show respect in this manner by allowing our children and even our husbands to express their views and opinions without fear of rebuke and reproach. The home should be a safe place for everyone to truly be themselves. Be able to be honest and still be accepted for it, obviously giving room for correction and explanations but where two view really oppose each other allow the Holy Spirit to do His job... Me personally, I would rather my child disagree with me openly than quietly in her heart while she openly pretends...

Contribution 2: The sad thing most of the time is that your background and your growing up can affect your life and home and this is where the Word of God come in, if we know His Word and meditate and reflect on it and apply it to our daily lives, then things will be great in our homes both with children and husband. Someone like myself and you, we know we had a rough growing up and I'm sure we decided to do things better in our homes and show the love we never received to others. Sadly, not everyone will follow this, I have lived with someone in the past and she made my life miserable simply because her own mother mistreated her when she was younger and at those times, I used to think that should have made her show the love she wanted to others instead of now following her mother's step. And this person is a Christian, attended every church programme but now I understand that she did not allow the Holy Spirit to live in her heart neither direct her, and looking back now, I remember she had no respect for her husband therefore why should she respect me? Now does that mean I should now treat my children or others around me the same as she treated me? Of course not. But this does not mean I am perfect or better than her but I thank God for the direction of the Holy Spirit and for helping me to listen even though I am still leaning each day.

Contribution 4: When I first saw this question, I thought to myself that it's simple, just obey your husband and that will reflect on your children and that's all but it's way deeper and I found my answers would be so long but I will try my best to cut it short by just giving verses and a little word with it. the 3 verses I have for children regarding this question are: Psalm 127:3, Children are gifts from God and if you believe the Word of God, so then you should cherish your children how you would cherish and look after an expensive gift. However, remember these children are worth way more than that, therefore have the fear of God and respect God and ask Him to help you cherish the rewards (gifts/ children He has given you). However, this does not mean you should spoil them, especially in the society we live in nowadays, the Bible says we are in this world but we are not of the world, so therefore it's not everything the world ask you to do or follow you should jump into, does it comply with the Word of God? So, there may be a time where you have to discipline your children not out of hate but you want them to follow the way of Christ and growing up making the right decisions and doing the right thing. The second verse is Colossians 3:20 and the 3rd verse is 2 Timothy 3:14.

Contributor 5: We can never neglect prayer and what I've learned is that with that come humility. To first of all pray is to be humble enough to say I don't know, so I'll ask God. The number of times I have tried to achieve some of these things on my own but failed is countless. I knew I could pray, but I just had this foolish thought that not everything needs prayer. How wrong I really was. When I started praying, I realised how much unnecessary burden I was carrying and now I ensure to pray about the tinniest thing. Secondly, humility in the sense that God might even ask us to do something that requires us to be humble like what sis Deborah said - asking our husbands how we can improve or make our homes more enjoyable. There was a time in my marital life that that would have been a big ask. But not anymore to the glory of God. I believe if we have the heart to serve in our homes we can even be humbled by our children. They can correct us and help us to grow into a better person. It is important to have a horizontal relationship with our children and not a vertical one. That way we can teach them right, and at the same time allow them to impact us positively... For me personally I have promised myself that much.

Conclusion: I am sure whoever asked this question did so out of a heart to serve her family. The desire to make her family feel loved, is that not our heart as women in our homes? We really want everyone in our household to be served in love. We do not want them to be victims of our personal troubles, nor victims of our past upbringing, but I have also noticed that if we do not seek God's help, we can become the trouble or the cause of trouble to one to those we really want to serve. So, we need the help of God. One thing that I will say is start in prayer, tell God you want to show everyone in your home love, and if sometimes you mess things up, tell it to the Lord also.

Another thing is, having a one-on-one time with each child and the husband, asking them how can I better serve you in this house, how would you like me to show more love to you, where do you think I need to work on? These and many questions can be of great help in expressing love to our husbands and children.

Topic 5

How to prevent resentment that can take seed, when the roles are shifted, when the wife becomes the breadwinner but the same traditional roles are also expected of that woman.

Response 1: Someone very close to me has gone/is going through this issue. And she was very resentful and angry. But she needed a change of mindset which basically was live in love and be thankful. She cried severally but when she made up her mind, incredible doors have opened for her! Double Promotion at work. Favour beyond belief! And it has pushed her to go ahead and push boundaries. It's worked for her. However, if all was well with her husband, she wouldn't have strived to excel in her career. Whereas she has the potential. This makes me conclude that indeed all things do work together for good to them that love God and to those called according to His purpose. Just to add that he's been out of work for 7 years. By the way, I posted this question to her and below is her personal response:

i. Constant reminder that the role can change. And then what happens when the husband becomes the original bread winner. Where do you hide your face if you had misbehaved?

-So that helps to prevent resentment.

ii. Then when you have kids, you don't want them to disrespect your spouse.

-Especially female children. You want them to know that ideally a man should fend for the family. Although they know either mummy or daddy can buy this item, but daddy remains primary source. So that way they still respect him and his own self-esteem is not bruised

iii. It's not easy combining home front and career. Which is why you need to carry him along in terms of career goals so he is able to be in gap for you especially with the kids' day to day activities. This way expectations are managed. If he's not aware of what you are doing then he can't help you.

iv. We also got a home help and a lesson teacher. However, I must say this is due to being in a good financial place. The traditional activity is there but not prominent. Just to add that I'm also taking professional exams in all of this. Most importantly I'm grateful my husband is in good health. It is more difficult to handle a sick spouse.

Topic 6

Raising godly seeds irrespective of our financial, social or economy circumstances in a world that is gradually turning away from the cross. And how do we find balance?

To deal with this, I think we should look at:

1. What is actually godly seeds, and how can we go about raising such, despite our financial, social and economy circumstances.
2. What effect could the world have both positively and negatively on our ability to raise such seeds?

Response 1: I am always excited when it is parenting topics, I love the privilege of been a parent, and my desire is to be successful in it, and I am sure that is all our desire too.

What is seed?

Dictionary defines seed as the unit of reproduction of a flowering plant, capable of developing into another such plant.

So, you see, our children are seeds (capable of developing into another such plant, in our case, mother or father). So, if our seeds (children have the capacity of developing into me or daddy), I am really concerned now about what type of plant I am.

Do I really want my children to grow up to be like me in character, conduct, walk with God? Hmm, what I do not have I cannot give. So, I see that to raise a godly seed, I myself must be godly. Actually, tomatoes give birth to tomatoes, potatoes give birth to potatoes, dogs give birth to dogs, lion to lion etc Before dealing with the social, economy etc, I see that "I and my husband" are actually the determinant factor for our children to be godly seeds. I am again seeing the great privilege of the Bible study our sister asked us to do, as last week we got to the SEED of the woman. Hmm... If I quarrel with my husband, neighbours, tell lie both on the phone and elsewhere, if I tell my children to cover up for my misdeed, I am only laying a foundation for ungodly seed.

Response 2: For me, I see more and more that the godly seed, is not first the physical attributes but the life that carries Christ and allows the HolySpirit to breathe life into them, with this everyone around me including my children will automatically carry godly seeds that affect everything. I look at it like a pregnant woman, who will do away with anything or anyone that tries to kill her seed both outside and inside. In essence if I carry godly seed in me, there is a life-

style that supports it that cannot be mistaken. If I can give Christ space in me, my children will not be unfortunate in my hands. So that I am not teaching them what I don't have. But the major issues I sense is that, we like the praise of the outward package rather than the inner life. This for me is more critical to have godly seed. I see also the error of many of us, using facial cleanser to maintain the outward look, rather than crying for that seed to grow in us regardless of time like a pregnant woman, 9 months is most effective but for a life that carries Christ, its everyday no time frame.

"What is godly seed?"

Response 1: A godly seed is the seed, a child that is a proceed of the SEED. That is, a Christ like child, a disciple indeed. But again, to get this, me and my husband are critical. The atmosphere the seed is planted matters, how the seed is tended matters. God gave every child the atmosphere of a home for their planting and growth before going to the world.

A Christian family receives every child uniquely as an individual seed from God, even if they were born as twins, the truth still remains, and the truth is that they are unique. Unfortunately, many Christian homes have allowed the planting of their seeds to be affected by social, economy and political standards. We want to raise children that are politically correct. For example, children are subjected to some particular literature in school, teaching methods and materials that are not suitable for godly upbringing. The child is promoted in their learning at school, and unfortunately, many Christian parents are not aware. I remember when my first child started nursery, we had to be very much involved with her school. We told the teacher, headteacher what we do not agree with, we told them to separate her from some classes, and they did. This became part of what we demand for from classes, and she grew to know that we have a family standard, and in order to maintain her standard, she may have to stand alone, which she has to do several times. Sometimes, it might mean been put aside in a separate room when others are doing Halloween party, disco, magic etc.

Sometimes, on wannabe days, the teacher may ask that pupil should dress to school in the character they want to be, since we do not want our child to be spider man or any other T.V character, but who God created her to be, we encouraged her to dress as queen Esther, she might wear purple dress, and a crown. So, the child grew with all of that, knowing that she is unique and living in an ungodly environment. That is just an example of political, social or economy challenge we have to face in raising godly seed. It is a journey that we are on till they are able to stand fully on their own. Sometimes, it might mean confronting teachers with bullying issues, it might mean going to child's friend's birthday parties to see the standard etc and to affirm one's child. Sometimes, it might mean going to school trip with the child, and getting involve in her school. The key thing is the need to work with one's seed (the child) in any given environment so that the child continues to grow.

Topic 7

Stay at home mums and of what benefit they can be to raising godly seed, especially if your first generation didn't do this and how can we also help to build our finance with the little time we have in between.

Response 1: So, it is you and I that are the only stay at home mothers here. I was talking to a sister few days ago, and I got to know that she and her husband made that decision that she will stay at home, and I was saying the future will tell the impact of that decision. Many of us would like to make that choice but our situation differs. And for those of us who are stay at home mums, we may sometimes feel like, I would have preferred to go to work.

As a stay-at-home mum, I cannot over emphasize the benefits to our children. Our first generation may not have gone this route, and sometimes, the challenge of sisters in this situation is “am I not wasting away life?” And family and friends asking if such a woman is not wasting her life and things like that. But such one must be very secured in the ministry God has committed into her hands (her children). One thing that some get involved in depending on country is child minding or baby-sitting for friends and families, engaging in doing people's hair. I think it is profound that as a woman in the world, one still thinks of the safety of the children and managing funds well, and decide to stay at home. So, that means it is not out of bound for a christian woman to make that choice.

Possible jobs:

Here in the UK, one can do Avon

Freelancing: <https://m.freelancer.com/?>

gclid=EAIaIQobChMI0eHAovGB4gIVL7HtCh0sOg3LEAAYASAAAEgLSHPD_BwE

Writing children stories come to mind too.

Response 2: I was a stay-at-home mum for about 4 years but I was in the world then that is why I didn't think I have much to say, but I stayed at home because I realised, I was working and basically giving my wages to the childminder so I decided I might as well stay at home. during the time I was home, because I know how to do hair so what I decided to do was to be doing people's hair at home, thought the money was not much but I had peace of mind that my child is safe with me and I had a bit of income coming in I work part time now and still do hair once in a while. And I recently joined this company called Longrich, But I think it's a good business to also part take as a stay-at-home mum. I joined in hoping that it would benefit my family back and some sort of saving for the future. I believe there's a lot for stay-at-home

mum out there to do and still have time for God and their family. But all honestly staying at home is also a job on its own. May God continue to strengthen us all in Jesus name

question

What do you do when your child thinks and says you are overprotective and prying into their affairs online?

Answer: What I tell mine is that you are too precious to me, and there is someone seeking to get you, and your young eyes may not see, that is why I protect you. This is why we must first discuss these things, create boundaries, and what happens when boundaries are broken. Boys need dad to be involved, girls need mum to be involved. And both parents need to make concrete decisions. I call family meetings regularly in order to update each other.

Response 2: Thank you. It is true. If I may share. One time my girl and I were discussing about boredom and I was telling her how good it is to be bored. I made her understand that every time she is bored, it is God's way of saying come talk to me and let's do some fun things together. And I introduced her to the psalmist and poet 'David' in the Bible. I told her that David spoke to God whenever he was bored and that's how God inspired him to write all those beautiful songs and poems in the Bible. She found it fascinating and now whenever she says she is bored she goes 'oh I remember, that means it's time to be creative with God' and she has come out with some of the most amazing stories out of boredom. I find them so hilarious.

Response: if God can help us with our children, O, the future is great. God has some generals in making. I identify with sister's testimony. Children are flexible, we are the ones that can set the path for them, and for those of us with toddlers, what a great opportunity to tune their taste, boredom is a great opportunity to explore. My girls started writing Christian songs, articles, stories before they were ten, today, one of them has two of her writings in the British library. All these came as they used boredom moment for creativity. So, please continue to allow your child to engage her imaginations.

To be honest, we will not forever sit and be listening to the children's stories and what have you. What you can do is to also become creative alongside your child.

E.g ask her to write down her stories so she can read it to the family at dinner time.

Record it somewhere so we can share with grandma and grandad and even with me too.

Ask the older one to go and sit the little one down and tell the story, in doing this, you are also preparing her for taking responsibility.

You can buy a big book or a collection of different writing books and ask your child to write the collection of her stories or imagination, so that you can make a scrapbook or something like that.

Sometimes, ask the child to go and act out what she imagines with her little one or even by herself, and you will still like to hear her or see what she is making up.

Topic 8

What to do if I know that my husband is dating someone else.

The matter of infidelity is becoming a common matter, even in Christian homes, and we often shy away from these things. How should a Christian woman respond to a husband who is not faithful to the marriage vow?

Have you experienced this before? Have you work with someone who experienced this? Is there wisdom we can learn? These scriptures came to mind: *The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.* Proverbs 14:1 NIVUK

Where there is knowledge, the rooms are furnished with valuable, beautiful things. Proverbs 24:4 GNT

Contributions

Contribution 1: Yes, I agree with sis K that it's a bit difficult. What you can do will depend on how you know your husband will react. Because I believe in this situation, although one is probably angry or want to get to the bottom of things, at the same time, you want peace to reign and you want your husband's attention on you and away from the other woman. I just want to emphasize the importance of praying for your spouse and not giving up. It took years but prayer worked! His prayers for me changed me.

For me, and this is if it was me, years ago. I would have dug up some information found out who this woman is and once I got all the proves, I would confront him. The reason why I said proves first is because I know my husband would deny it which will make me even more angry and what would happen will not be good at all. But thank God for Jesus.

But Me now, I would take it to the Lord in prayers. And I'm sorry if this sound somehow but my first prayer will be the person, he's chatting should even be a woman and not a man, because now a days I've seen stories of married man of 5 to 10 and some with children coming out, claiming they're gay. This is a whole subject on its own. It's very disheartening and can be very stressful, and can even lead to depression. Please, our men all around the world need prayers, as I am typing right now, I feel deeply that we need to pray for them. May God have mercy on us all.

The Bible says, what can the righteous do, if the foundation be destroyed, we can conclude, we pray and pray and pray again and again for the Master Designer to bring His design to pass in my husband and my home. First of all, it is not what you did or didn't do, if the Lord does not watch a city, we watch in vain.

The ones that do it physically is not different from the one that does it with their eyes. The only difference is one was bold enough to come out of his shell. One thing is clear, the men need

divine help, the original design in Adam was affected as such, Christ came to replace this. (You can ask for the series on the Bible study we just completed for in-depth study). **As women, the tendency to think that it is about us and not Christ has allowed some of us to drive our husband further away, as such different ideas has been invented to solve such problems.**

I agree that we have to be calm but not before it happened, this issue must have been resolved way back in our heart at the cross, so that we are not disappointed if any of the features shows up. I believe there is nothing the Lord cannot resolve but the state of mind to accept help is the issue. Are we willing to help him fight and stand strong? And not think it is because of what you did or didn't do? Are you willing not to judge him, if you hear he has another child outside? Do you love him more than God love him or you can bear to look at him and forgive him the way our Saviour did for you? I think your state of mind must be clear for us to receive both the help we need. If this happens to anyone, please find a trusted mother in the Lord or someone in the Lord your husband listens to and hold hands through. The world has one million ways to save a marriage, but they have missed the point, God originated and He alone can keep it.

The issue for me is not cheating, but willing to stand in the gap for our husbands until God's design come through.... Your own divine mandate cannot be complete until you play your part as HELP. This is the secret, not just to bear children, clean the house and have sex, after that then WHAT? There is a divine mandate for each of us as wives, when you look at your husband, what do you see?

Contribution 2: For me, I see a man God will use to build the wall, the devil knows this, as such he set him up at all point but a woman who knows the tricks of Satan ought to stand strong and fight for him. Note that, your job title to him is "help" not lover. Sex is cheap and everywhere, but you and me have a job, ensuring he keeps focus on Christ and try to fight off distraction as much as you can.

Contribution 3: It takes a relationship with God to accept this truth. I have come to understand this now but there was a time that if someone told me this, I would have thought the person was mad. It's true. The idea of 'love' has really tainted marriages today. For me, I am so grateful to God for my husband because he loved me during the times when I was most difficult to be loved. He prayed for me while I still wallowed in my unbelief. The way he has loved me has taught me what the love of God is and now I am learning how to truly love. So, for me in my relationship, I am the one that is spiritually behind. I am the one that needs the prayers. Not that I don't pray for him also. But if not for my husband I wouldn't have known God.

Contribution 4: Yes, I agree, that is why it is important to pray and leave things to God as well as doing your part, for unless God Himself touches that man, nothing will change, which is why prayer is the key and as the woman / helper, how are you helping your husband during his trials and how are you handling things as well? That's part of what I meant by self-evaluation.

When we find God, we cling unto Him and He will sort the rest. But never give up with prayers. Even our tears are forms of prayers to God, so if you need to cry it out go for it. In the past I have been in the place whereby by my spirit was willing to pray but my body was weak and I would just cry and say as little as: God, I am tired but I'm not giving up. I don't know what to do, please take control

Response: As I relate with women, situation like this is not uncommon, and sometimes, it is so easy to want to help the woman deal with the man, but just as sis L said, the woman in the situation should first evaluate herself. This seems harsh sometimes, but that is a very good place to start. The reason for this is that it helps you to approach the matter with a tender mercy. I have found out that taking responsibility for myself, trying to see where I falter has always helped to see my mistakes, and extend a heart of love and forgiveness to whoever. And I think the reason why one should first look inward is to trust God to help one bridge gaps that were there which the enemy may have used to lure the man into sin. Even though we are not condoning the action of the man for whatever reason, but again, we must see our husbands as God's project in our hands.

And like it was rightly suggested, a woman who realised her husband is cheating on her, having evaluated herself, she should go to the Lord in prayer, both for your husband, the woman and even for yourself.

See this infidelity through the eyes of God wanting to help your husband through you, and thereby make you a help to other women who might find themselves in the same situation.

Confide in a godly woman like it was already said, who can walk the journey with you

How a wife perceives what her husband did to her will really have a great effect on how she will tackle the issue, and how she will handle herself too. Do not fight it alone.

No matter how worse people or pastors' wives or leaders might be out there, there are still some who are trustworthy. If you put your heart to the fact that you need someone to walk the road with you, God is able to send you someone. And if we remember, for those of us who did the God's workmanship study, the trouble of infidelity in marriage is all because of the interrupted design, so, as a woman restored to the original design, you want to work with God to bring restoration to your husband. This might be a long haul, but it is possible. There was these set of ladies from Latin America who travelled to the US for a ladies Conference, and God did a great work of revival in their hearts, they eventually went back home to live out the Gospel that they received, unknown to these ladies, their husbands has been cheating on them, but because the Lord has done a work in their hearts, they were able to forgive, though it hurt, and through that godly action of the ladies, these husbands went to the church and made an open confession, and these men are on fire for the Lord today. There is power in forgiving. These scriptures came to mind: *The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down. Proverbs 14:1 NIVUK*

Homes are built on the foundation of wisdom and understanding. Where there is knowledge, the rooms are furnished with valuable, beautiful things. Proverbs 24:3-4 GNT

