

Overview of Class. Fundamental Problems of Parenting Today  
*Answer Key*

I. Overview of the class.

A. What is FAMILY Club?

1. The Acronym **FAMILY**

**F**athers  
**A**nd  
**M**others  
Involved in  
**L**oving  
**Y**outh

2. The goal of FAMILY Club is to train parents on how to raise their children.

- a. The focus here is on **parents**. You are the ones who are expected to change as a result of taking this class.
- b. The changes in your children should be a result of the changes that take place in your thinking and behavior.
- c. The majority of behavior problems in children are **parenting** problems.
- d. Everything that you do in raising your children must be done out of love for them, even spanking them. Proverbs 13:24 "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him."

B. Review of the syllabus.

1. Meetings

- a. The class meets for 13 weeks from 9/18/05 through 12/11/05.
- b. We will start promptly at 9 am.
- c. Please sit in the first 8 rows in the center section.
- d. We will not be having coffee/donuts as other classes might.

2. Textbooks

- a. "Shepherding a Child's Heart" by Tedd Tripp. \$13.00
- b. "The Heart of Anger" by Lou Priolo (handouts, see bookstore)
- c. "The Duties of Parents" by J.C. Ryle. \$3.00
- d. "Shepherding a Child's Heart" is available in class today and from our bookstore. The remaining texts are available in the bookstore. Please only purchase one per couple for today.

C. Requirements if taking the class for credit.

1. Attend 10 of 13 classes.
2. Complete 10 of 12 homework assignments (reading & exercise).
3. Mark on the sign in sheet by week 3 if you plan to take it for credit.

D. Attendance and Handouts

1. Attendance for each class will be taken by signing in on the back table.
2. Handouts and homework for each class will also be located on the back table. Please pick one up as you arrive.
3. The handouts and homework for each class will be made available via the internet ([www.calvary-bible.org](http://www.calvary-bible.org)).

## II. Fundamental Problems of Parenting Today

- A. Parents must recognize that both they and their children have sinful natures and behave out of their hearts.
  - 1. We live in a culture that says that children are born morally neutral or morally **good**. As long as we leave them alone and don't interfere they will grow up to be good. The culture believes that if we intervene we will mess them up and cause problems for them.
  - 2. The Bible says that they are born in sin and have a tendency to sin. Psalm 51:1-5, Galatians 5:19-21. They need intervention. They are headed in the wrong direction. They need to be stopped and **corrected**.
- B. Parents must develop the **determination** to make their children obey them the first time. Ephesians 6:1.
  - 1. You must stand for something in your home. There should be some behaviors that you will not tolerate. There are battles that you must **win**.
  - 2. When we don't train them to obey the first time we train them to our anger level, not to the right behavior.
  - 3. Parents provoke their children to anger by being inconsistent if they are not disciplined the first time they rebel. We sin and violate Ephesians 6:4.
- C. Parents must see themselves as **authority** figures over children.
  - 1. God has given parents (limited, not absolute) authority over children.
  - 2. We are not their peers. They are not equal to us in position and should not be treated as such. Titles such as mom, dad, Mr., and aunt make that clear.
  - 3. Illustration: Fear when misbehaving.
- D. Parents have made the children the **center** of the family rather than welcome members of an already existing family.
  - 1. The family agenda must be determined primarily by God's goals and secondarily by yours as you implement God's goals. It is not determined by the children's (often sinful) desires. Genesis 2:24. Children do not know what is good for them. You do, especially as you study God's Word.
  - 2. The family agenda is not something that is negotiated with them. It is something that you decide and tell them.
- E. Parents must train their children to be God-oriented, parent-oriented and others-oriented.
  - 1. Children are naturally **selfish**. They see themselves as the center of the universe.
  - 2. God expects them to put others first. Philippians 2:1-11.
  - 3. We spend too much time being concerned with self-esteem when the real problem according to the God's Word is pride. The Bible always assumes that we think too highly of ourselves. Ephesians 5:28-29, James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6.
  - 4. Illustration to show why pride is the real problem, not self-esteem.
- F. Parents must spend time teaching, training and **communicating** with their children. Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:1-4.

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*Student Worksheet*

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