



# Maintaining Family Life and Relationships

by Mary Diachenko

**Panel:** Angela Frederick, Esther Talbert, Jeanne Vincent

*Let Your work appear to Your servants  
And Your majesty to their children.  
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us;  
And confirm for us the work of our hands;  
Yes, confirm the work of our hands.  
Psalm 90:16-17*

# I. Introduction: Families Were God's Idea From the Beginning

*God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it."*

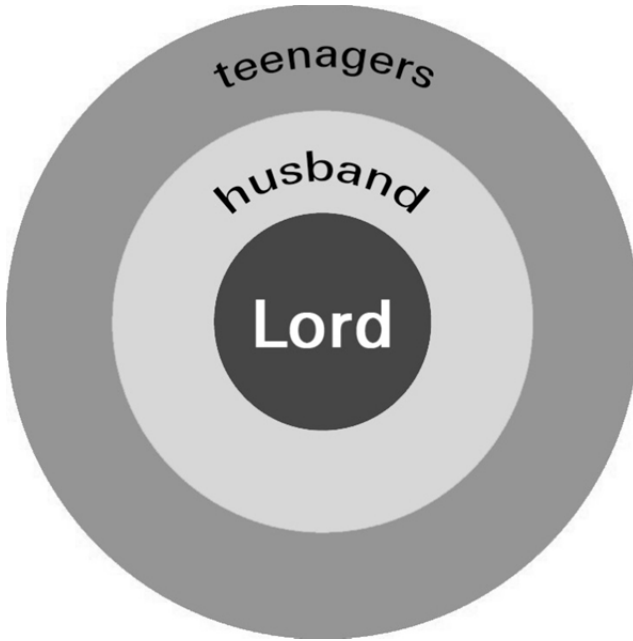
Genesis 1:27-28a

God provided fathers and mothers to instruct children by their word and example in the confines of a home.




## II. The Most Important Thing

My relationship with my . . .



### III. Relationships of Mothers to Sons




Respect them as you  
would any adult

Listen closely.

Keep their confidences  
(except from Dad)

Be there for them.

## IV. Relationships of Mothers to Daughters



Respect them as you  
would any adult

Listen closely.

Keep their confidences  
(except from Dad)

Be there for them.

## V. Keeping Family Together During these Busy Teen Years

### A. Ministering as a family to ourselves and to others

#### 1. Good works to others

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Ephesians 2:10

#### 2. Good works to each other . . . sibling unity versus sibling rivalry

God made their siblings  
and He cares for them.

3. Good works to parents

**B. Family Togetherness**

1. Family tradition

2. Every day / special family times

## VI. Difficult Situations

*“Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You.”*  
Jeremiah 32:17