

CHRIST in my home and in my life

CLASS 4

Studying what the Lord teaches us about sexuality

Introduction

A home is a very special place that is meant to be happy. Christ cares about homes and families, even if all families are not always happy. We learn and experience many important things at home. Each one of us is called to help in building up our homes and making them loving places. Love in homes has to be honest and chaste.



These are the things we will talk about in this fourth lesson:

- Homes are the most important places in the world.
- Our homes are where we learn to be **generous** and loving.
- Each family member must **learn** to help the home be a happy place.
- With God's **help**, even difficulties at home can be healed.
- Love in the home must be **chaste** love.
- Generous **hearts** are thoughtful hearts.

HOMES are important

Homes are the most important places in the world.

Ball parks and theaters are wonderful. Parks are lovely. Malls can be fun and bowling alleys are great.

But places like those are places for special purposes and special times. They can make our lives happier, *if* they are already happy. But the heart and the core of a happy life has to begin in the home. Everybody needs a happy home, because home is where the best things begin. **No place** will make us deeply happy if our homes are not happy.

That is why Christ cares so much about all our homes. He wants all of us to do all we can to make our own homes happier and better places.

Reflection: Thinking about home

People sing songs and tell all kinds of stories about "Home, Sweet Home." What are some of the things that you like most about your home and your family?

What sorts of things could *you* do to make your home a little happier for others who live there?

Many homes have many trials. They are not all as happy as God wants them to be. What sorts of things most make homes unhappy? When we **pray** for our friends, should we also pray that their families and homes may be good and happy?

Homes ARE places of generous love

God wants homes to be safe and happy places. They were meant to be places where, in many kinds of ways, people show each other that they really love each other, and want to love each other even more than they do. For we are only "at home" when we know we are loved. And only when we are loved, do we learn how to live gladly.

In our homes, from the time we are little, we should learn precious things that can never be forgotten. At home we can best learn how important it is to be **generous**, to be kind and caring, and to forgive. At home we can learn how to be patient and thoughtful. There we learn how to love the people closest to us, even when things do not go as well as we wish.

Learning to love people in our own home helps us to become the kind of people who will be able to have friends everywhere, and to be generous and kind to them too. When we learn to have love and peace in our homes, we learn the secrets of how to love and to be at peace with friends outside our homes.

Whether our homes are large or small, in them there are older and younger people, father and mother, sisters and brothers. But each person is important beyond words. And it makes **no difference**, if one is old or young, male or female, big and strong, or very small. Love makes everyone dear and special. In our home we find respect, self-esteem, warmth, and acceptance. We can be ourselves and know that we are loved.

Discussion: Understanding homes

Can you explain some of the reasons why you love your own family and home? How do you know that you are loved by those in your own home?



EACH ONE is called to make the home a happy place

Not all families are happy, but all families are important. Everybody — fathers and mothers, sons and daughters — everyone needs a healthy and good home. There we must know we are loved. There we must learn how to be good and happy people.

Happy homes do not just happen. We have to work at them. Everyone in the home has to try to be **generous** to make homes work well.

No homes are perfect. The closest to a perfect home was the home and the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (read Luke 2:39-40).

But even their home was not just a dream home. They were poor, and did not have all the nice things we have in our homes. Still, it is not money and possessions that make homes happy. Good hearts and generous love make homes happy. So the home of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph was a most happy home, because everyone in it was so filled with love for each other.

**Good hearts
and generous
love make
homes happy.**

But they had **troubles** as well. As Jesus grew up, and when He began to teach the Gospel, and many people believed in Him with all their hearts, even then some of His relatives made fun of Him and refused to believe in Him. But the love and strength of His family were surely a consolation.

Brokenness can be healed in GOD’S LOVE

We often tease, laugh about, and have troubles with people and places we love. Do you sometimes have complaints about your family? Does your family sometimes have reasons to wish you were a bit different?

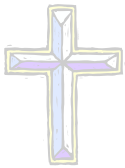
Sometimes we get frustrated with home. We cannot always have our way. Sometimes even people at home do not understand us! Sometimes we do not **understand** them. But we learn in our homes that people can love even when they do not quite understand each other completely.

But homes are shelters for us. They are not just to be shelters from bad weather, but from every bitter and difficult thing.

Despite troubles, with the Father’s help even brokenness can be healed. God is all-powerful, and Jesus came to heal.

Sexuality, FAMILY, and the home.

Homes are places that last, and where big things happen. They are places into which we are born, and in which we grow up. They are places in which we become the kind of people we will be our whole lives long.



So love in homes has to be **honest** love. At home we are too close to each other to deceive each other. Love has to be honest. Love has to do the things it really should do, even if we do not feel like it.

So love in the home has to be “chaste love.” That is, it must be a home of truthful and honest love, where everyone really cares about everyone else, and not each for himself or herself only. **Love** in a home has to be aimed at making the house happy, over all the days, and all the years — and not just having fun for a minute. It is not a place for hurting others or not treating them fairly.

Purity is important for the home. In the home, each loves the other in special ways, knowing how wrong it would be to use the other selfishly, to please oneself, rather than to make the home a healthy and happy place. At home we get our first beginnings at understanding why there is sex. Sex is something big and important, like homes are ; it is not trivial.

It is great that there is both a father and a mother and that each one loves us in a special sort of way. It is good that there is a sister and a brother — different, but each one **special**. It is happy that life is like it is, that out of the generous love of father and mother for each other, God calls children into being. It is good that the adventures of every life begin in generous love, and aim at generous love.

Chastity is so important, because homes are important. And only where there is generous love, chaste love, can there be strong homes.

What homes need is love that lasts, and is generous and truthful. The love between father and mother must be strong, for the home is built on their faithful love.

Even though our families are not perfect, we need them. We need the love of father and mother. We need a place small enough to be our own. Our private, quiet, daily life is happiest in a small, special, caring place like a home. We need the family, the home, the special place where we live at peace with people who really care about us and really love us.

In homes we first learn why purity is important. God made sex, and it is a good thing, but using sex badly is a bad thing. It hurts the precious things the family was created to protect. For it accustoms people to treat sexuality, and to treat people, as something trivial. Actually God made sexual love to go with the enduring love of marriage, and the generous love of having children. These are good things necessary for happy life always.

Bad uses of sex, like premarital sex, accustom people to pursue the pleasures of sex outside faithful and enduring love, in irresponsible ways. And premarital sex causes babies to be born without having the strong love of both a father and mother to guard the child. It is dangerous thing, destroying delicate and priceless things.

Generous, chaste love and homes. When God's commandments require us to be chaste, they do not do so to make life difficult. God wants us to be chaste, because without chastity we cannot have the kind of love that is faithful and generous, and builds homes. Without chastity, we cannot have the deep and comforting love that lasts a whole lifetime. When people use sex casually, they form friendships that are fragile, that break up, and crush their hearts. God wants to protect us from such bitter things.

Thankful and generous HEARTS

Unless we learn to be chaste and generous, we cannot have the kind of love that makes life safe for little children.

Unless we learn to be chaste, homes, the most important places in the world, crumble, and bitter unhappiness grows everywhere.



If we want love to last, and homes to be happy, and children to be safe and strong, then we have to defend chaste love.

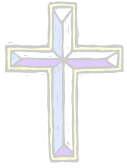
Now chaste love is not really too difficult to live. For **Christ** gives us an example, and makes it possible and easy for people to be chaste, if they are willing to learn from Him. For He is our teacher, example, and giver of chaste love, as He is our teacher, example, and giver of generosity.

But He makes chaste, generous love easy by showing us the ways we can make love grow in our hearts and in our homes. Generous hearts are thankful hearts.

.....Reflection:..Ways of making chaste love easier.....

Let's think of some of the things needed to make homes better:

- ? Why is prayer important in our homes? When are the good times for the family to pray together? What are some of the ways *your* family prays together?
- ? Why is it important for us to give time to our homes? What are some things that pull us away from our homes?
- ? Can we talk seriously with our parents about important things? Can we talk with them about sexuality?
- ? Why is it important to protect the home from things such as television shows that are unchaste and lead people toward the selfishness that destroys homes?



- ? Why, at home, do we have to learn to forgive one another?
How can we learn to do that?
- ? If Christ visited your home, what do you think He would like most of all the good things already in it? What do you think you would most want Him to bring as a gift to your home?

TYING things together

Remember what we studied in this lesson:

1. There is no place more important than home.
2. Generous love begins at home.
3. Each member of the family helps to make home happy.
4. God will be with us in both good and bad times at home.
5. Chaste love is needed in homes.
6. A heart that is generous at home is also grateful.