

Theme
A

**RE Knowledge
Organiser:
Relationships
and Family
Term 1a Y11**



- **The nature of the family**
- **Purpose of the family**
- **Roles of men and women in the family**
- **Gender equality**
- **Roles of men and women in the Church**



The nature of the family

The term 'nature of the family' means what a family is like (who is in it). Family life has changed over the years and there has been a rise in extended families in the U.K. This is because today many young people cannot afford to buy a house so live with parents for longer. Family has also changed because now same sex couples can get married and have children. Society is also less religious so no longer worry about things such as living together before they are married, or getting divorced.

The family is seen as important because it is believed to be the best place to raise children as it provides stability and protection. It is where you should learn good behaviour and good morals. It should also teach you practical skills ready for when you are an adult.

Christian View - Christians want their children to grow up with values from the Bible, for example compassion, loyalty, loving God. They may believe that God wants them to have children once they are married and that it is their responsibility to raise them well. There are many examples of polygamy in the Bible and in the past some Mormons used this as an argument to justify this practice in their religion. However, it is now only 1 small group in USA who still does this. Polygamy is not accepted by most Christians with the Pope saying it is an 'offence against marriage.'



KEY PERSON
Mary
Mother
of
Jesus

BIBLE BITZ

'Honour your father and mother' – 10 Commandments
'Go forth and multiply'
'Impart these rules onto your children'

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

Family - a group of people who are related by blood or marriage.

Nuclear family - a couple and their children.

Extended family - extends beyond the parents to include grandparents as well.

Polygamy - having more than one wife at the same time.

Reconstituted - when parent and children from one family join with parent and children from another family



Raising children in faith families

Christian parents believe that following Christian values and traditions will help the children to have happy and fulfilled lives. They want to share their **traditions** with their children and as parents have the **right** to raise them as they want. They will also hope their children will go to Heaven and as some believe only those who follow Jesus can go to **heaven** they believe they need to raise them as Christians to stop them from going to hell. They also think it is a **duty** to educate children about their religious faith with some even sending them to a religious school where their values are repeated. Most Christian parents do not indoctrinate their children but share their religion with them when they are young in the hope that they will continue to follow it when they are older. Children also have a duty to respect and obey their parents so it is a two way relationship. However, most Christian parents accept that when they are old enough they will make their own choices.

Richard Dawkins is a famous atheist who disagrees with this view. He said raising a child in a religious family is like child abuse. However, many feel that this belittles how awful child abuse really is, and accept that in all families children have to do things that their parents want to at times.



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Key person
Richard
Dawkins

Bible Bitz

'Honour your Father and Mother'- 10 Commandments
'Impart these rules onto your children' - OT
'Spread my word to all mankind' - Jesus
'No one comes to the Father except through me' - Jesus

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

Faith family - a person is nurtured in their faith from infancy to their adult life.

Indoctrinate - repeat an idea or belief to someone in order to persuade them to accept it (brain wash)

Traditions - passing something on from one generation to the next.

Christian values - living by the rules Jesus set (love, hope, charity, justice etc)



Roles of men and women in the family

Some traditional Christians believe that men are the head of the household and that they should have the role of making the major decisions in the family. Their responsibility is to provide for the family which was important back when jobs were more physical and needed muscle. This is because God made Adam first to be dominant and Eve second to be his helper. This may then believe that the woman's role is to stay at home and cook, clean and care for the children while the man goes to work. They would see the Virgin Mary as a good role model, and think women are naturally more nurturing and caring.

Most Christians today would not agree with this they believe that men and women are equal and both have responsibility in the family. They believe people are created equally by God and that men are not superior. If family life is about love then it should be an equal partnership where duties are shared not where one dominates the other. They would argue the Bible is misquoted and misunderstood. Also, society has changed so most households now need two wages to pay the bills.



Key person
St. Paul

Bible Bitz

There is neither Jew nor non-Jew, male or female, you are all one in Christ - St Paul

Women stay silent in church – St Paul

Wives submit to your husbands - St. Paul

Adam and Eve were made from the same substance - Genesis

Adam was made first, Eve made second as a helper – Genesis

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

Role – the expected behaviour of a person in a specific situation.

Superior – higher in status or importance.

Dominant – having power or influence over others.

Submit- give in to a decision made by others

Partnership – working together in cooperation.

"Gender equality is not a woman's issue, it is a human issue. It affects us all."

Gender equality

Gender equality means that men and women should be given the same rights and opportunities as each other. Most people would agree with this and there have been several laws passed in the U.K. to ensure that gender discrimination does not happen. Despite the passing of laws people are still discriminated against. This can mean women are given fewer opportunities than men like not getting promotion at work. Some Christians would fight against gender equality because they believe God made all people equal in the image of God. Also there are numerous accounts of Jesus treating women with respect and welcoming them as followers (story Mary and Martha). Lso Jesus appeared to Mary first after his resurrection and told her to spread the word, showing women should be given important jobs.

Other Christians do not believe that men and women are equal. They believe that women should stay at home and look after the home and children . They argue that women are made to produce children and so cannot do some of the things men do. This view may come from the way that they interpret the Bible literally.



**KEY
Person
Emmeline
Pankhurst**

BIBLE BITZ

"There is neither Jew nor non Jew, male or female, you are all one in Christ" St. Paul

"God does not have favourites"

Genesis 1 – Adam and Eve were made at the same time from the same substance (equality!)

Genesis 2 - Adam was made first, Eve was made second from his rib to be his helper (men are dominant!)

"Wives submit to your husband"- St. Paul

Story of Mary and Martha

Jesus picked only male disciples

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

Gender equality – giving people the same rights and opportunities irrespective of whether they are male or female.

Biological determinism – human behavior is fixed by our genes.

Sexual stereotyping – having a fixed idea or image about how men or women will behave.

Prejudice – judging people before you know the facts.

Roles of men and women in the Church

There is still an on-going debate about the role of women in the Church.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN

CATHOLICS do not allow women priests because they believe that the hierarchy of the Church reflects Jesus and his disciples who were all male. In the Old Testament women were seen as the property of men. Some passages in the Bible suggest that women should not take lead roles in the Church and it goes against tradition. It also says that man should be the head of the household and that women's roles should be limited. They would argue Adam was made first whereas Eve was made from his ribs and was a helper and some say a temptress.

ARGUMENTS FOR THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN

Other Christians believe that women should have equal roles in the Church including being an ordained minister. They believe this because Jesus was revolutionary in his treatment of women at that time. Men and women were created equally in the image of God therefore should be treated equally by the Church. The first people Jesus appeared to were women which shows the importance of women and their value in spreading the Good News of the faith. St. Paul taught that men and women were equal to each other in the eyes of Christ. The C of E Church and Methodists do ordain women as ministers.



Woman vicar C of E



Male priest Catholic

BIBLE BITZ

"It is not good for man to be alone, I will make a helper for him."

"Women, stay silent in church"

"God does not show favouritism."

"There is no difference either Jew or non-Jew, male nor female we are all one in Christ."

Jesus appeared to women first after his resurrection and told them to spread the word (Great Commission)

My Reasoned Opinion is..

KEY WORDS

Ordained - becoming a minister in the Church through a special ceremony.

Ministers - priests and vicars and other Church leaders.

Equality - giving people the same opportunities.

Disciples - follower