



LIFE·PAC®

Family and Consumer Science

Student Book

Unit 10



Alpha Omega Publications®

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 10 RELATIONSHIPS

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RELATIONSHIPS

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.
John 15:12

Noah Webster's *1828 American Dictionary of the English Language* defines relationship as *the state of being related by kindred, affinity, or other alliance*. Realizing the importance of building strong relationships within the family, extended family, friends, teachers, co-workers, and especially the church is vital to preparation for your future life and to your spiritual maturity.

Common courtesy can provide a bridge between you and your parents, your siblings, your friends, your teachers, and your co-workers. Have you considered how you can make your relationships better with these important people in your world? Your relationship with God will have a direct influence on your relationship with others. How you treat others will influence how others treat you. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." All relationships involve a "give and take" policy—or should we say "give and receive." "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). This LIFEPAC® will help you learn principles that will build stronger relationships with the people in your life.

It is also important to learn the common courtesies involved in relationships with people outside your inner circle: those mild acquaintances, and those brief encounters. We are constantly on stage to those around us. Like it or not, it is our choice whether our example is positive or negative. This LIFEPAC will teach you how to behave at social events.

One of life's most important questions is "whom will I marry?" Learning what attributes and character qualities you want in your future mate will help you decide whom you should date as well as whom you should marry. This LIFEPAC will also serve as a guide in choosing a mate and will teach you valuable principles concerning marriage.

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. You should be able to:

1. Define *relationship* through a two-generational word study.
2. Gain an understanding of the roles communication, organization, and cooperation play in your relationship with your parents.
3. Learn steps to take in settling differences.
4. Identify ways to help ease the burdens on the family due to single-parent situations or both parents working.
5. Gain an understanding in your relationship with your sibling(s).
6. Identify the important relational aspects between you and your grandparent(s).
7. Learn how to interact with your peers and how to form friendships.

8. Identify the characteristics that denote true friendship.
9. Identify the proper roles and qualities of a proper teacher-student relationship.
10. Gain an understanding of your relationship with your boss, supervisors, and co-workers.
11. Gain an understanding of the relationship between the church and the family and the responsibilities each has to the other.
12. Gain an understanding of etiquette and behavior that affects your relationships with others at public performances, sports events, and parties.
13. Identify the qualities you would want in your future mate.
14. Study the pros and cons of going out with just one person.
15. Learn the proper way to break up and gain insight on sexuality.
16. Study the aspects that may make a marriage a success.
17. Learn what God says about divorce and how you can deal with a divorce in your personal family.
18. Acknowledge the importance of involving your parents and God in your choice of a spouse.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFE PAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given in the glossary.



I. AT HOME

...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15b

The home must be Christ-centered. The family was the first social structure that God produced. The family consists of husband, wife, and one or more children. The husband is the authority, the head of the family, and is responsible for its well-being. The husband is the spiritual leader within the family and is responsible for the family's training in the Bible. He is to "bring (his children) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," (Ephesians 6:4). He takes note of his children's feelings and abilities. He demonstrates a delicate balance between firmness and affection.

The wife willingly takes a place of submission to her mate. She is to be a "helpmeet," (Gen.2:18). She is to be the one who "does him good and not evil (harm), all the days of her life" (Proverbs 31:12). Although many women find it necessary to work out of the home to help make financial ends meet, the wife's main responsibility centers around the home and the children. A mother shares the responsibility for training the children.



The children are submissive to parental authority. “Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right,” (Ephesians 6:1). They, too, have responsibilities within the home such as washing dishes, cleaning the bedroom, etc. These are the formative years and the training ground for life. The home is the primary educational source with the parents as teachers. It is here that they develop understanding for the principles and practices set down in God’s Word. It is here they learn self-government. It is here that they learn proper manners and habits that will fit them for usefulness in the future.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives to learn what you should be able to do when you have completed this section.

1. Define *relationship* through a two-generational word study.
2. Gain an understanding of the roles communication, organization and cooperation play in your relationship with your parents.
3. Learn steps to take in settling differences.
4. Identify ways to help ease the burdens on the family due to single-parent situations or both parents working.
5. Gain an understanding in your relationship with your siblings.
6. Identify the important relational aspects between you and your grandparent(s).

PARENTS

If your parents don’t seem to understand you and what is happening in your life, perhaps you need to take the time to sit down and tell them. Communicate! Take notice of what is happening in their lives as well. If they seem uninterested or unreasonable at times, they are probably preoccupied with their own troubles, or they don’t have enough information about a situation, or don’t understand it well enough to make a decision. If you feel your parents have been unfair or that you have been misunderstood, the best solution to the problem is to sit down and talk about it.

Frankness and communication are vital to family harmony. Have a family meeting. Talking about any problem remains the best way to solve or at least diminish it. There is nothing so awful that it can’t be shared with those who love and care about you. People are more inclined to listen if you approach them at a time when they are not occupied with something else. Choose your time wisely. You may have to express a need to talk with your parents and make an appointment to sit at the table and discuss what is on your mind.



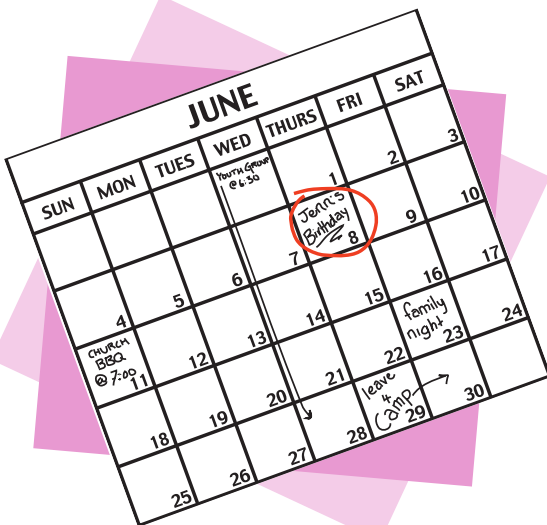
Choose your words carefully. Always begin your comments with “I” rather than “You.” This avoids putting the other person on the defensive. Express your feelings as well. For example, “I am angry that I cannot go to the party Friday night. I don’t understand. Sally’s parents will be home. I don’t feel trusted.” When someone else understands your thoughts and feelings, it may change the way they view the situation and even sometimes might affect the outcome. Perhaps your parents had plans for that night and were counting on you to babysit a younger sibling. Once they see the importance of your party, they may offer to hire a babysitter.

Steps to take in settling differences.

1. Prayer.
2. Find out how each person involved feels.
3. Lay out the facts.
4. Work on a solution.
5. Ask for forgiveness when necessary.
6. Prayer.



However, be aware that the outcome of any talk may not be to your complete satisfaction. Show your maturity by accepting your parents’ decision. This will please them and perhaps even surprise them.



Have you ever thought that your organizational skills could help keep an atmosphere of peace in your home? If you want to reduce conflict with your family, a little advance planning does help. Your parents might be more receptive to your needs if you let them know what they are in advance. Driving you to the store to get materials for a special project that is due the next day usually creates conflict of schedules. Plan ahead. Give a few day’s advance notice. You may need to keep a family calendar of events and discuss schedules together to allow for that smooth-running household.

Cooperation is a key element in a happy home. Balance phone and computer time with other family members. Remember, if you are on the computer for several hours, someone else in the family may need to use the phone while you are surfing the Internet. You may have to occasionally negotiate for television, VCR, or stereo time. Respecting another’s desire to be alone, whether it’s for homework, writing in a journal, quiet reflection, or an uninterrupted shower, is an integral part of family life and a sign of maturity.



Use of the family car is probably the biggest privilege and responsibility a teen can have. Take this responsibility seriously or you may lose it. This privilege indicates your parents' trust in you.



Realize that a car is an expensive possession, costly both to buy and to maintain. Extra insurance fees are charged because of your use of the car. There are also increased maintenance and gas costs. Be considerate and either use some of your own money to cover some of these

expenses, or you can also trade services such as washing and waxing the car, providing transportation for younger siblings, or running errands for your parents in exchange for a certain number of gallons of gasoline.

You will be excited and feel very independent when you first begin driving, but remember the family car still belongs to your parents and they have first right to it. Things to remember that will make your parents happy are: ask to use the car in advance so your parents can plan accordingly, never take the car without permission, obey the law, clean out the car after using it, and accept "no" gracefully.

There was a time when almost every family was headed by two adults who were married to each other. The husband and father worked outside the home, and the wife and mother stayed home to raise their children. Some families are still like that, but many others are not. You may be living with a single parent, a parent and a stepparent, a relative, or dividing your time between parents. Because of these living arrangements, you may have to take responsibility for yourself and help out running the household.

If both your parents work, you may find that you have a lot of time alone. Don't despair or feel sorry for yourself. Use this time to develop a hobby, get ahead on homework, work on the computer, or listen to your favorite music a little louder than you could if someone else was home.

If both your parents work, it should be a group effort to keep up with the household chores. Since everyone lives in the house, everyone must contribute to the job of cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation. If everyone participates in doing a few chores, then everyone will have time to relax. Pick some chores you don't mind and volunteer to do them.

Learning to pick up after yourself can have some surprising effects on the mood of your parents and the appearance of the house. Put your dirty clothes and towels in the laundry hamper, wash the dishes you use throughout the day, and pick up messes you make in the family room, kitchen, and bathroom.



It really doesn't take a whole lot of effort to keep a home in harmony. Communication, organization, and cooperation are the key elements. Evaluate what you can do to improve your participation in these areas. If you are working at maintaining harmony in the home, there is definitely going to be a better relationship between you and your parents.



Complete these activities.

1.1 Why might your parents seem to be uninterested or unreasonable at times?

1.2 _____ and _____ are vital to family harmony.

1.3 When talking out problems with others, choose your words carefully. Begin your comments with _____ rather than _____. This avoids putting the other person on the _____.

1.4 How should you begin and end any discussion when trying to settle differences? _____

1.5 How can organizational skills reduce conflict with your parents?

1.6 List two areas in family life where you can demonstrate cooperation.

1.7 Your parents' allowing you to use the family car is a privilege and indicates your parents' _____ in you.

1.8 Because of the various living arrangements in today's homes, such as single-parent, working moms, etc., you may have to _____.



Answer true or false.

1.9 _____ If you approach your problems correctly and communicate your wishes politely, the outcome of any talk can be settled to your complete satisfaction.

1.10 _____ There are positive things you can do if you have time alone in the house each day after school.



Complete the following activities.

1.11 Define *relationship* using the following steps:

a. Define *relationship* using a dictionary, preferably *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*, if available.

b. Underline key words in the definition to provide further vocabulary words. Define the underlined words and key ideas that unfold. You can be as exhaustive as you want.

c. Using the concepts, principles, and meanings derived from your word search, write a definition of *relationship* using your own words.



Adult Check

_____ **Initial**

_____ **Date**



1.12 Demonstrate your maturity and cooperative spirit by volunteering to do one or more chores for your parents that you would not ordinarily do. Examples might be: washing the car, cleaning their bedroom and bathroom, folding and putting away a load of wash, serving them dessert in the family room, serving them breakfast in bed. Take your pick. Your parents will appreciate any effort you make to help out.

Name of parent _____

Activity/chore _____

Amount of time to complete the chore _____

Was your parent surprised? _____ Was your parent pleased? _____

Was this a gratifying experience for you? _____



Adult Check

_____ **Initial**

_____ **Date**

SIBLINGS



Breaking down relationships

Family relations will run much more smoothly if you recognize these differences and love them in spite of their shortcomings. Remember that you too have shortcomings in their sight.

With your siblings, try to avoid jealousy. It is not easy when your sister is beautiful and popular, and your brother is a star athlete. Even your parents may have a tendency to compare you to your siblings. Remember, you are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14), and you are made “in the image of God” (Genesis 1:26). You are an individual with the right talents and abilities that God plans to use in a special way (1 Corinthians 12:4-11), which is a Principle of Individuality. You may be surprised to find out that your siblings are jealous of some aspect of your life that they do not possess. If you can realize or develop your own assets, you will not be threatened by anyone else.

Living with other people does require compromise. Sharing a bathroom can put a strain on siblings. No one likes to pick up another person’s wet towels, clean the ring around the bathtub, or find a toothpaste tube that has been squeezed into an unknown shape. The problem of someone monopolizing the bathroom for several hours can be infuriating. You may have to set a schedule for bath times and cleanup to keep peace in the family. Whatever the case, it is to one’s advantage to always leave the bathroom tidy.

Have you ever borrowed something from someone and forgot to return it? Does this make you a thief or a forgetful person? Remember this when you get frustrated that your brother or sister has borrowed from you and has not yet returned the borrowed item. We are all human and make mistakes. The key to borrowing from family or friends is to ask permission first. Return the item promptly in the same condition as when it was loaned to you. If you break anything while using it, the responsibility for repair or replacement is yours. Always treat someone else’s things as you want them to treat yours.

Respect the privacy of your siblings. Diaries, journals, and letters are personal and should not be opened or read without the owner’s permission. Do not listen in on telephone conversations either. If you feel tempted to intrude upon your siblings’ personal possessions, reverse the situation. How would you feel about them reading your private thoughts or listening to your private conversations? Remember, a closed door is a request for privacy. If you must enter a closed room, knock and wait for permission to enter.



Building long-lasting relationships



One last thing that seems to come up many times while growing up with siblings is the “tattletale” issue. Know when to tell and when not to. Don’t “tell” just to get your sibling in trouble or to make yourself look good. Do tell when your brother or sister is doing something that is harmful to themselves or others, is immoral, dangerous, or against the law.

It is important to maintain a close relationship with your brothers and sisters. Friends may come and go, but family is forever. There will come a time when family support and love is the only thing that will help you get through times of trouble or sorrow. Family reunions and holiday get-togethers require a joint family effort to make these events meaningful and memorable. Family has a special bond that must not be broken.



Complete the following activities.

- 1.13 How can you avoid feelings of jealousy toward a sibling? _____

- 1.14 What room seems to be the hardest room to share with a sibling? _____
How can you improve the situation? _____

- 1.15 The key to borrowing from friends and family is to _____

- 1.16 When is it okay to intrude upon your siblings’ personal possessions? _____
- 1.17 The rule for entering a room with a closed door is _____

- 1.18 When is it appropriate to tattle? _____

- 1.19 Family has a special bond that must not be _____



Complete the following activity.

- 1.20 Plan and go on a special outing with a brother or sister.
Name of sibling _____ Age _____ Date _____
Activity _____

Amount of time spent on activity _____

Did your sibling seem to have a good time? _____

How do you know? _____

Did you learn anything from this experience? _____

If so, what? _____



Adult Check

Initial Date



Family Photos

GRANDPARENTS

Grandparents can be a sounding board, a shoulder to cry on, a voice of encouragement, and a source for understanding your parents. After all, who has more experience in life than they? Who knows your parents better than they? It is important to build a close relationship with your grandparents for both their need to be needed and for your need to learn from them. God's Word tells us to heed the words of those who are older than us.

“Elders have the power and the responsibility to bestow on the younger generations their accumulated knowledge and feelings.”¹

The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Titus 2:3-5

It is clear from the following passage of Scripture that Paul was a master teacher for young Timothy.

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

1 Timothy 4:12-13

Christian grandparents can be special counselors with a wealth of knowledge and insight into life based on the Godly wisdom that is absorbed from years of Bible study and prayer. Keep a close relationship with your grandparents by showing them honor and respect. Love them for who they are, even when they begin to change due to the aging process.

The watchwords for successful grandparenting are: patience, support, loving, and caring.

¹ Kornhaber, Arthur, MD, *Grand Parent Power*, Crown Publishers Inc., NY, 1994



Complete the following.

1.21 Why is it important to build a relationship with your grandparents? _____

1.22 Give two Bible references that indicate that the elder shall teach the young. _____

1.23 The watchwords for successful grandparenting are _____ , _____ ,
_____ and _____ .



Complete the following activity.

1.24 Spend a day with your grandparent(s).
Name of grandparent(s) _____
Activity(ies) _____
Did you learn any lessons about life? _____
If yes, what? _____

Did you gain a new respect for your grandparent(s)? _____
If yes, what? _____

Amount of time spent _____ Date _____



Adult Check _____

Initial

Date



Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

SELF TEST 1

Define relationship (answer, 10 points).

1.01 _____

In order, list the six steps to settling differences (each answer, 3 points).

1.02 a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____
f. _____

List two rules to follow when borrowing something from someone (each answer, 5 points).

1.03 a. _____

b. _____

Matching. Decide which situations call for tattling and which do not. Put the letter of the correct answer in the space provided by each situation (each answer, 3 points).

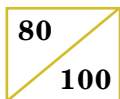
- 1.04 _____ You see your sibling chewing gum in school. a. tattle
- 1.05 _____ You catch your sibling drinking beer. b. do not tattle
- 1.06 _____ You find your sibling taking a candy bar from the store without paying.
- 1.07 _____ You see your sibling driving a car without a driver's license.

Answer true or false (each answer, 5 points).

- 1.08 _____ In settling differences, using sentences beginning with “I” rather than “you” may put the other person on the defense.
- 1.09 _____ Your parents allowing you to use their car demonstrates their trust in you.
- 1.010 _____ The television room is the hardest room to share with your sibling.
- 1.011 _____ You can avoid jealousy of your siblings by developing your own assets.
- 1.012 _____ The only rule for entering a room with a closed door is to knock before you enter.
- 1.013 _____ Building a strong relationship with grandparents helps them as much as it helps you.
- 1.014 _____ Titus 2:3-5 refers to the older women teaching the younger women.

Essay (answer, 15 points).

- 1.015 How can you demonstrate communication, cooperation and organization through the use of the family car?



Score _____

Adult Check _____

Initial _____

Date _____