

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

(C.R.S)

FAMILY

A *family* is a group of people who are closely related by blood and marriage. Example of families in the Bible are: family of Adam and Eve, the family of Isaac and Rebecca, the family of Abraham and Sarah etc. The family Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are closely related by blood. Each of us comes from a nuclear family, either polygamous, nuclear or monogamous family.

A family can be formed through marriage. This brings about two methods of becoming a family member which include:

- i. Membership by affinity
- ii. Membership by consanguinity

Affinity: Where a woman is married into a family, she is a member of that family by affinity and the husband is a member of her own family by affinity. This gives the names, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, daughter-in-law etc.

Consanguinity: When a person is born into the same family, he is a member of the family by consanguinity, example, your parents and your sibling.

Types of family

There are two types of family

1. Nuclear family and
2. Extended family

Nuclear family

This is a family that is made up of father, mother and children for example, in the family – Isaac married Rebecca and they gave birth to Esau and Jacob.

Types of nuclear family:

1. Monogamous nuclear family
2. Polygamous nuclear family

Monogamous Nuclear family: This types of nuclear family is made up of father, mother and children (that is man with only one woman, wife).

Polygamous Nuclear family: This is when one man marries two or more wives and they live together. This type of nuclear family has more family member than monogamous nuclear family. For example, Jacob married Rebecca and Leah.

Extended Family: is made up of two or more nuclear families as the offspring of one grandparents. They are related by blood.

Roles of members of the family

A nuclear family is made up of father, mother and children and each members of the family performs separate roles for the aim of the family to be achieve.

Roles of a father in a family:

1. Fathers should love wives and not to fight them.
2. Fathers should love their children.
3. Fathers should provide the children's needs, e.g. school fees, clothing etc.
4. Fathers should always encourage his children.
5. Fathers should use cane to correct the children when necessary.
6. Fathers should provide shelter for his family.

Roles of a mother in a family:

1. Mothers should love their husbands.
2. Mothers should always show love to the children.
3. Mothers should always ensure that the house is clean.
4. Mothers should always prepare food for the family.
5. Mothers should always encourage her children.
6. Mothers should be a role model to her children.

Roles of children in the family:

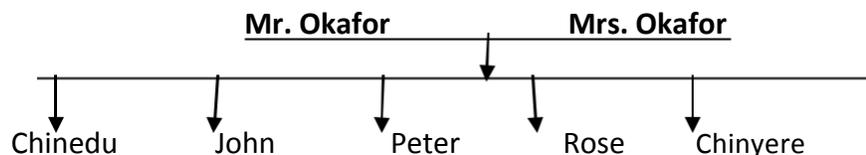
1. Children should love their parents.
2. Children should always obey their parents.
3. Children should at all times do the house chores.
4. It is the duty of the children to help their mother in the kitchen especially the female ones.
5. The elder ones in the family should always be a role model to the younger ones

THE FAMILY TREE

A family tree is a chart or diagram representing family relationship in a conventional tree structure.

Monogamous nuclear family tree

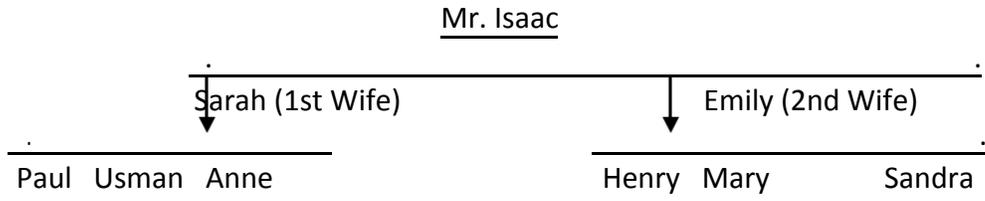
This is the popular nuclear family which people know. It is made up of father, mother and children.



The family tree above illustrates Mr. Okafor's Nuclear Family.

Polygamous nuclear family tree

This is a family tree that showed one man who married more than one wife. This kind of family tree has more family members than the nuclear family tree. Illustration below:



Extended family tree

This is a family tree that is made up of two or more nuclear families. In this family tree, we can have grand-parents and many generations. It is in extended family that we have nuclear uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, grandfather, grandmother, great grand fathers or mothers, son-in-law, daughter-in-law etc.

ATTRIBUTE OF GOOD FAMILY NAME

Good family names mean worthy and reputable family. That is, a family that has integrity, whether with or without much wealth or riches. A good name is better than wealth. (Proverb 22 vs 1 and Ecclesiastes 7:1).

Some of the attributes of good family are as follows:

1. The husband should love his wife and show it openly.
2. Husband and wife must know how to settle their differences without exposing themselves in the public.
3. Their children should be well mannered and disciplined.
4. The children must be obedience to their parents.
5. They should also show respect to elders in their community.
6. They must be generous especially to the poor and needy among them.
7. They must be God fearing people.
8. They must be peaceful in the society.

Factors that Aids in Choosing Friends at School.

The school is one of the place a child meets and mixes up with other children as friends.

Factors necessary to be considered before choosing a friends

1. Age: A child may decide to choose his age or two years above his age. For instance, a child of 12 old, may decides to choose a friend who is 10 years or 11 years.
2. Ethnicity: people from the same ethnic group love to associate with themselves especially when they found themselves outside their own.
3. Religion: the type of religion one belong influence the life style of the person. A Muslim student cannot choose a Christian student because, their religion practice is not the same.
4. Family background: people love to identify with people of average and high social class instead of the lower (poor) social class.
5. Other factors like height, intelligence, kindness, compassion and others can effect ones choose for a friend.

Consequences of Choosing Bad friends

We have to be very careful in choosing friends. Some friends are genuine while others are not. Good friends are helpful and give encouragement while bad friends can lead into stealing, smoking, lying etc. which finally leads to destruction.

Following are consequences of bad friends

1. Stealing: When you choose a bad friend, he can lead you into stealing and if you cannot change him to stop it, then you will become a victim of that until you are good into anti-robbery which may lead you to jail or death.
2. Smoking: Some people smoke because their friends lure them into smoking and today some are addicted to smoking not only cigarettes but hard drugs like cocaine, heroin, marijuana etc.
3. Homosexuality: This is a sexual act existing between people of the same sex. It is common among youth and students see their fellow male as a female and have sex with him. Therefore, a bad friend can lead to such an attitude of homosexuality.
4. Prostitution: Some of the prostitutes, ladies, started from schools due to the influence of bad friends. It can make one contract sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS etc.
5. Cultist: This is found among students in the higher institutions. A bad friend can lead to a member of a particular cultism.
6. Examination malpractices: When you are not intelligent and associating with a friend who is always indulged in examination malpractice, he will definitely teach you how to do it.