

MARRIAGE & FAMILY CLASS

LESSON 1 - CHOOSING A MATE

4-13-80

THE FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES, INSPIRED BY JULIA FENDERSON, DECIDED TO UNDERTAKE A ONE YEAR COURSE OF STUDY IN "MARRIAGE AND FAMILY". WE WERE EXCITED TO TAKE THIS PROJECT ON, BECAUSE WE FEEL THAT THE FAMILY IN THIS COUNTRY NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED; DIVORCE IS HIGH, MANY CHILDREN ARE BEING RAISED BY ONE PARENT, ETC. WE USED "GOVERNMENT ON A NEIGHBORING PLANET", PAPER 72, PAGE 812, AS AN EXAMPLE FOR OUR MARRIAGE PROGRAM. WE HELD OUR FIRST MEETING AT JULIA'S HOUSE, SHE IS ALSO OUR GROUP LEADER, AND 24 PEOPLE ATTENDED. OTHERS WHO WANTED TO COME COULD NOT, BECAUSE WE DIDN'T EXPECT SUCH A LARGE TURN-OUT. EVERYONE WAS INVITED, REGARDLESS OF THEIR PERSONAL LIFE SITUATION, E.G. SINGLE, MARRIED, PARENT, ETC. WE BEGAN OUR FIRST SESSION WITH A PRAYER.

THE GROUP READ SELECTED PASSAGES FROM THE URANTIA BOOK; THE SYLLABUS WAS PREPARED BY JULIA. SEE ENCLOSED HANDOUT FOR THE LIST OF READINGS. WE THEN HAD A CLASS DISCUSSION ON THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INFATUATION AND LOVE. WE DEFINED INFATUATION AS THE FOLLOWING: 1. BEING "IN LOVE" WITH LOVE 2. EMPHASIS ON SELF 3. INVOLVING MORE DREAMING THAN REALITY 4. STATIC 5. TEMPORARY 6. UNCOMPROMISING 7. PHYSICAL 8. EMOTIONAL. LOVE WAS DEFINED AS: 1. EMPHASIS ON THE OTHER PERSON (SELFLESS) 2. REAL 3. GROWING 4. CARING 5. COMPROMISING 6. SPIRITUAL 7. UNDERSTANDING 8. RESPECT 9. RESPONSIBLE 10. AFFECTION 11. CONSIDERATION 12. FORGIVING 13. TRUST 14. TRUTHFULNESS 15. LOYALTY 16. COMMITMENT 17. FEELING.

ASSIGNMENTS WERE THEN GIVEN OUT TO PEOPLE AS FOLLOWS:

1. ANDON AND FONTA - ROXY AND BRUCE
2. ADAM AND EVE - JIM AND DONNA

3. ADAMSON AND RATTA - MICHAEL LONG
4. MARY AND JOSEPH - JONATHON
5. MIRIAM AND JACOB - WARREN
6. REBECCA AND JESUS - ROSELYN
7. RUTH AND DAVID - HARLEY

WE WERE ASKED TO STUDY THESE LOVE STORIES IN THE URANTIA BOOK, AND PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO HOW THESE COUPLES MET, WAS THE MALE OR FEMALE DOMINANT IN THE PURSUIT, HOW LONG DID THEY KNOW EACH OTHER BEFORE MARRIAGE, GENETIC FACTORS, THE EXTENT OF THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THEM, AND WAS THEIR UNION A SUCCESS. EACH PERSON PREPARING AN ASSIGNMENT WILL WRITE IT UP, AND WE WILL DISTRIBUTE THEM AT THE NEXT CLASS.

OUR GROUP NEXT DISCUSSED "WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A MATE?". FIRST WE TALKED ABOUT THE FACT THAT HISTORICALLY, THIS QUESTION NEVER AROSE, BECAUSE YOUR MATE WAS SELECTED FOR YOU BY FAMILY, MARRIAGE BROKERS, ASTROLOGERS, ETC. TODAY, MATE SELECTION TAKES PLACE BY COMPUTERS MATCHMAKERS, PARENTS, FRIENDS, BUT, MOST IMPORTANTLY, SELF-CHOICE, A FREE WILL SELECTION SYSTEM. YOU SELECT THE BEST TRAITS OF YOURSELF TO COMPLEMENT THE TRAITS OF THE OTHER PERSON. COMMON TRAITS THAT PEOPLE BASE MATE SELECTION ON ARE: LOOKS, MONEY, MIND, SENSE OF HUMOR, TEMPERMENT, RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINT, HERITAGE, MATURITY, SEXUAL COMPATABILITY, LIFESTYLE COMPATABILITY, COMMON INTERESTS AND VALUES. WITH THE URANTIA BOOK HOWEVER, YOUR VALUES CHANGE, AND SO DO THE TRAITS YOU LOOK FOR IN A LIFE PARTNER. SOME ARE: EQUAL CAPACITY FOR SPIRITUAL RECEPTIVITY, DESIRE FOR GROWTH, EVOLUTION, COMMON SERVICE GOAL IN THE WORLD, COMMON INTERESTS AND GOALS, CAPABILITY AND DESIRE FOR CHILDREN, STABILITY, RELIABILITY, TRUSTWORTHINESS, LASTING RELATIONSHIP, SHARING RESPONSIBILITY, TOLERANCE, PERSONAL TRAITS.



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WE WERE GIVEN BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND HANDOUTS BY JULIA, AND OUR FIRST CLASS ENDED. WE THAN HELD A REMEMBERANCE SUPPER, AND TALKED INFORMALLY FOR A FEW HOURS.

OUR NEXT CLASS TOPIC WILL BE: BIRTH AND BONDING, ON 5-4-80.