

FAMILY
WORSHIP

SUMMER

SERIES

the gospel and the next generation

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Week 1 - July 1-7, 2018

Sermon: PLANTED IN THE GOSPEL
Pastor Dr. Eric Mason - 2 Peter 1:1-9

This guide is a tool to help you lead your family into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your family in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There will be aspects you do not use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool, not a rigid family task list.

READ

Read 2 Peter 2:1-9

Peter addresses his second epistle to those with like precious faith, evidently the same recipients to whom he wrote his first epistle (3:1; cf. 1Pe 1:1). His benediction of grace and peace is bestowed in connection with the knowledge of God and Jesus, hinting at one of the main themes of this epistle. Reference is then made to God's divine power as the source of all things that pertain to life and godliness, including precious promises by which those who have escaped worldly lusts may now be partakers of the divine nature (1-4).

In view of such blessings, Peter exhorts his readers to diligently abound in graces that will render them fruitful in the knowledge of Christ. Failure to do so would be indicative of grave spiritual malady, while diligence in doing so will ensure their calling and election, resulting in an abundant entrance into the heavenly kingdom of Jesus Christ (5-9).

Questions:

- Who is the author of this book?
- How does Peter describe himself?
- Who is Peter writing to?
- What does Peter tell us that we need to do in verse 5?
- What happens in our lives if we have these qualities?

Bottom Line: *We have God's directions to follow Him. They are very simple and clear. We just need to do it!*

MEMORIZE

Adults

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, - 2 Peter 1:3a ESV

Kids

Jesus has the power of God. His power has given us everything we need to live and to serve God. - 2 Peter 1:3a ICB

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- How many of you know what a GPS is?
- GPS's are navigation systems that people use for directions. They are great pieces of equipment to have, especially when you are in a new place or you do not know where you are going. But they are only as good as the information put into them. All GPS's are programmed by human beings. That means that people put the information into the GPS system. Sometimes they get it wrong. Sometimes they put the wrong information

- into the program and it leads people to turn and go the wrong way. There are stories of people driving into lakes and onto railroad tracks because they are just following the instructions of their GPS system and it got them into trouble.
- GPS Game: Tell the kids to stand up and follow your directions:
 - Turn right
 - Stand on one foot
 - Put the foot down
 - Turn right again
 - Jump up and down
 - Stop Jumping
 - Turn right again
 - Touch your toes
 - Straighten up
 - Turn right again
- Peter in his second book is going to give us clear directions of how we need to follow God. Peter knows that any one who knows Jesus as their Savior needs to follow the right directions and grow as a Christian. They cannot be lazy! They need to grow in the Word of God and follow it's directions to grow.

Children

- Re-read 2 Peter 5-7.
- **OBJECT LESSON:**
 - Materials Needed: a glass jar, a sharpie marker, six ping pong balls, one bag of rice
 - In verse five Peter begins by telling us to supplement our faith. That means our faith in Jesus comes first. Everything we do comes after our faith in Jesus.” Place the glass jar on a table where all the children can see it. “This glass jar will be representing our faith in Jesus today.
 - After Peter stated that our faith comes first. He made a list of good things for us to do and be after we have put our faith in Jesus’ work on the cross.
 - Have the children write each thing we are to supplement our faith with on a ping pong ball talking about each one as the drop the ball in the glass jar.
 - virtue
 - knowledge
 - self-control

- steadfastness
 - godliness
 - brotherly affection
- What is the last good thing in Peter's list? Love. Love is special because love should be a part of every good thing we do in our life. We should grow in knowledge because we love God. We should have self-control over our words and actions because we love others. We should be steadfast out of our love for God and others. Turn to 1 Corinthians 16:14. Read this verse aloud. All that we do should be done in love.
 - Choose a child to come up and take the bag of rice. The child will pour the rice into the glass jar covering the ping pong balls. This rice represents love in your life. It covers all of the good deeds you do in your life. Yet even love is held together by your faith in Jesus' dying on the cross of your behalf.
 - **APPLICATION:**
 - Read aloud 2 Peter 1:5-8 one more time. Why does God want us to live out this list of good things in our life? Take answers from the children. We live out these good things as a demonstration of our faith in Christ. These good things are fruit in our Christian life. They show that we have life within us that wants to live for God.
 - What comes first before we can live any of these good things? What is the foundation? What holds all of these good things together?
 - Our faith in Jesus Christ dying on the cross on our behalf to save us from our sins by taking the punishment of God's wrath for us. The Christian life begins with faith and then has love poured all over it!

Students

Icebreaker Questions to Stimulate Discussion:

- What did you want to be when you grew up?
- What are your current dreams for the future? What kind of person do you want to be? How do you want your life to be remembered by others?
- What are some of the qualities you admire in others? Other youth? Parents? Adults? Leaders? Famous people?
- If you had a magic lamp with a genie and he could grant you three personal qualities, what would you wish for?

- In 2 Peter 1 Chapter 1, Peter talks about our growth as Christians. This growth begins with faith and culminates in love. We are spiritually born again through saving faith in Christ. But to live life forever as a baby would be a tragedy. Peter says that if we fail to grow, it is akin to being nearsighted and blind and forgetting that our sins have been forgiven.
- This list of qualities are things that are added to our godly character as we grow in Christ. Each new quality does not replace the one before it, but adds to it. These are not things that we possess then give up, as a child outgrows old clothes. These qualities are not marks on a growth chart, but things that we hold inside our hearts and that we carry forward with us as we continue to mature in Christ.
- Here's the list:
 - faith
 - goodness
 - knowledge
 - self-control
 - perseverance
 - godliness
 - brotherly kindness
 - love

Questions for discussion:

- How do you define each quality/ characteristic?
- How does each character quality relate to the one before it?
- Why is each quality important to living a godly life as a youth?
- For each of these qualities, what would the effect be if a Christian youth was missing that quality in his or her life?
- What are some of the possible ways that each quality would be expressed in the way a youth lives his or her life? Are these qualities something we possess or something that we do?
- For each quality, what are some things youth can do or practice the make that quality part of who they personally are?
- As we grow in Christ, there is always a combined effort with God, to live the Christian life. We have to make decisions and choose to act, but God empowers us, guides us, and provides for us. What are the things that God does for us according to this passage?
 - Gave us faith through Christ (2 Peter 1:1)

- Grace, Peace and Knowledge of God and Christ (2 Peter 1:2)
- Everything we need for life and godliness (through his divine power) (2 Peter 1:3)
- Called us (2 Peter 1:3)
- Knowledge of God (2 Peter 1:3)
- An example – God’s Glory and Goodness (2 Peter 1:3)
- Precious Promises (2 Peter 1:4)
- What are some of the promises of God that might help youth to grow in each of these qualities?
- How do the actions of God listed in this passage apply to each of these qualities that we grow into as Christians? How do they help us to live life as a youth to reflect these character traits?
- Why has God given us all these things?
 - To participate in the divine nature (becoming Christlike) (2 Peter 1:4)
 - To Escape the corruption of the world caused by evil desires (2 Peter 1:4)
 - To be effective and productive in our walk (2 Peter 1:8)
 - To reinforce our faith (2 Peter 1:10) so that we are secure in faith – know that have been saved.
 - So that we will not fail (2 Peter 1:10)
 - To be richly welcomed into heaven (2 Peter 1:11)

Application:

- What are some ways you can practice these as a youth?
- When you look at this list of qualities, which ones do you possess and practice most? Which are most lacking in your life? Which do you find most difficult?
- What are some ways you can express these qualities this week as you encounter others at school, at home, or in church?
- How do these qualities prevent us from being in effective and unproductive?
- How can those in the youth group support each other and encourage one another toward growth in these areas?
- What can the youth ministry and parents do to help you to grow?
- If you were to have all these godly qualities in increasing measure, how would it effect your life, your testimony, your actions?
- What are the benefits of pursuing godliness?

SING

Jesus, Thank You

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHp8eThl2qk>)

VERSE 1

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend
The agonies of Calvary
You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me

CHORUS

Your blood has washed away my sin Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table Jesus, thank You

VERSE 2

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near
Your enemy You've made Your friend
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end

BRIDGE

Lover of my soul
I want to live for You

Scripture Memory

Adults

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, - 2 Peter 1:3a ESV

Kids

Jesus has the power of God. His power has given us everything we need to live and to serve God. - 2 Peter 1:3a ICB

Notes

Week 2 - July 8-14, 2018

Sermon: THE GOSPEL AND THE NEXT GENERATION

Pastor Dr. David Platt - Psalm 78

This guide is a tool to help you lead your family into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your family in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There will be aspects you do not use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool, not a rigid family task list.

READ

Read Psalm 78

This psalm was written by Asaph, who was a music leader in the service of King David (1 Chronicles 16:4-5). It is a long psalm (72 verses), which details the history of Israel beginning with Jacob and his sons in Egypt, through the time of King David (v. 5-72). In one sense it is a depressing psalm as Israel's disobedience is continually brought to the forefront, serving as a reminder of our own stubborn hearts. However, in a greater sense the psalm is one of hope as it is a constant reminder of the gracious longsuffering and mercy of God.

Before the sweeping overview of Israel's disobedience and God's repeated mercy to His people, the first eight verses explain what the psalm was intended to accomplish. God's intention was for the glory of His longsuffering, mercy and power to be passed down to the generation to come. Just as the previous generation declared the glorious deeds and marvelous works of God to the current generation, so now Asaph impresses upon the people the responsibility they now have to pass this on to the generation that is to come so they too will learn of God's great power and

praiseworthy deeds. This was God's sovereign plan for preserving the accounts of His glorious and wondrous deeds throughout Israel's history; they were to be preserved as fathers passed them on to their children. And in doing so the succeeding generations (even those yet to be born) would have knowledge of God, confidence in God, and live in obedience to God by keeping His commandments (v. 6-8), all to His glory!

Questions:

- According to verses 5-6, what is God's aim and ultimate purpose for instructing the next generation?
- How can your family pass on the gospel to children and students in non-Christian families?
- What are some ways your family can pass on God's Word to children and students within our faith family?

Bottom Line: *Physical and spiritual parents (i.e., the church) have the privilege of working together to pass on the glorious works of God to the next generation.*

MEMORIZE

Adults

He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, - Psalms 78:5-6 ESV

Kids

The Lord made an agreement with Jacob. He gave the teachings to Israel. And he commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children. Then their children would know them, even their children not yet born. And they would tell their children. - Psalms 78:5-6 ICB

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical

truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Preschoolers love repetition. They love to hear their favorite storybooks read over and over to them. They love to sing their favorite songs over and over again.
- Keeping that thought in mind, have your children repeat or sing the words to this simple song. You sing or say a line, then have them repeat each line back to you until it is complete.

My God is So Great ([https://vimeo.com/](https://vimeo.com/28175264)

[28175264](https://vimeo.com/28175264))

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!

There's nothing my God cannot do!

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!

There's nothing my God cannot do!

The mountains are his, the rivers are his,

The stars are His handiwork, too.

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!

There's nothing my God cannot do, for you!

- Now, have them repeat or sing each line of this popular song.

Jesus Loves Me ([https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSaWPYb6_6k)

[watch?v=QSaWPYb6_6k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSaWPYb6_6k))

Yes Jesus loves me for the Bible tells me so

Jesus loves me this I know

For the Bible tells me so

Little ones to him belong

They are weak but he is strong

Yes Jesus loves me

Oh, yes Jesus loves me

Yes Jesus loves me for the Bible tells me so

- Read Psalm 78:2-7 with your preschooler.
- Tell your child that Asaph, who wrote the Psalm, was a music leader. He wanted the people to remember who God was and

- how much God loved them. He wanted people to remember to tell their children how mighty and loving God is.
- Explain to your preschooler that just like Jacob in the Bible, who taught his children about God, it's your job as their parents to do the same thing. That's why we learn about the stories from God's word, the Bible. The Bible teaches us who God is. It teaches us about God as the One who created everything. We learn about God's mercy and love for His people through the Bible. We see that even when the people of Israel were not obedient and following God's laws and were punished, God still showed them kindness and mercy. We learn that we need God.
- Tell your children that when you teach them how much God loves them and wants them to follow His plan for them, then when they grow up and have children of their own, they will tell their children too. You see, once you know God, then you will want to tell others about the stories of the Bible and God's love and mercy, too."
- Question: Do we know God better when we hear stories from the Bible? Yes, we do. Is it Mom and Dad's job to teach you about God? Yes, the Bible tells us to. Is it your job, too? Yes, God wants all of His people to share who He is with others.
- Conclude by singing or repeating the songs of worship and praise together once again.

Children

- Re-read Psalm 78: 5-7.
- **OBJECT LESSON:**
 - Give everyone in the family an empty, regular sized drinking cup. Then fill a large pitcher of water – mom or dad will hold onto this. Also, set out an assortment of empty cups on the kitchen counter.
 - Ask each child how much water is currently in their cup. None.
 - Explain that you have a full pitcher of water, and that the water represents the knowledge of the Lord as known through the Word.
 - Ask: Based on Psalm78:1-8, what does the Lord command us to do with the knowledge of the greatness of God? Teach it to the next generation.

- Fill each child's cup with water from the pitcher and explain that God has called you as parents to teach them the truths of the Word.
- Explain that the result is that God get's more glory as more and more worshipers are raised up who know His greatness and come to trust in His salvation.
- **APPLICATION:**
 - Brainstorm ways that God might be able to use you as a family to teach the Word to the next generation inside the church and outside the church.
 - Have each child pour the water from their cup into an empty cup on the counter. This represents opportunities to teach the Word to others. When a child's cup becomes empty, immediately fill it with water from the large pitcher. Explain that as a family you want to constantly be studying the Word, talking about the Word, and hiding it in your hearts through memorization so that you are ready to give it away to others.
 - Pray as a family for more hunger to know the Word and for opportunities to pass it to others. The joyful result is God getting the glory that He alone deserves.

Students

- Begin your time together by playing the classic game "telephone". Start off whispering a complicated story to the first family member. Come up with stories that have lots of details, especially involving people and places. The more detailed the story is, the more likely the message will be changed as it makes it's way through the telephone line. Listen carefully as the second person whispers the story to the third. The story is then repeated in whispers by the rest of your family members until the last person in line has heard it. (Note: It's ok if the story needs to go around the circle more than once.) The final player in the telephone line will repeat the story to everyone as they heard it. The more garbled the message, the funnier this game becomes. Have Fun!
- As a family read Psalms 78:5-8.
- Use the following activity to illustrate the importance of knowing and sharing the things you desire to pass on to the next generation.

- Parents, share some stories that have been passed down to you from your family, i.e. funny memories, family mysteries, success and failures that shaped the course of you family, etc.
- Discuss the stories your children will want to tell their grandchildren if they were here today.
- What will those grandkids know about your faith? What stories about your relationship with Christ could you tell? Do you think they will be wowed by “our” God stories? Discuss.
- Discuss as a family the stories you desire them to know, believe, remember, build upon and retell to their children.
- Pray and thank the Lord for allowing you to be a part in His story. Ask the Spirit to guide you as you continue to walk in your faith journey. Pray for boldness to live out your life and ministry well to the glory of Christ’s name.

SING

Jesus, Thank You

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHp8eThI2qk>)

VERSE 1

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend
 The agonies of Calvary
 You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son
 Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me

CHORUS

Your blood has washed away my sin Jesus, thank You
 The Father’s wrath completely satisfied Jesus, thank You
 Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table Jesus, thank You

VERSE 2

By Your perfect sacrifice I’ve been brought near
 Your enemy You’ve made Your friend
 Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace
 Your mercy and Your kindness know no end

BRIDGE

Lover of my soul
 I want to live for You

Scripture Memory

Adults

He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, - Psalms 78:5-6 ESV

Kids

The Lord made an agreement with Jacob. He gave the teachings to Israel. And he commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children. Then their children would know them, even their children not yet born. And they would tell their children. - Psalms 78:5-6 ICB

Notes

Week 3 - July 15-21, 2018

Sermon: BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD (PT. 1)

Pastor Dr. David Platt - Gen. 1-3

This guide is a tool to help you lead your family into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your family in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There will be aspects you do not use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool, not a rigid family task list.

READ

This week we are studying the topic of biblical manhood—what is God's design for men? In order to do this, we need to start at the beginning. We need to see what God create me to be, what went wrong in the Fall, and what God has done to make things right in Christ.

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3, focusing on Genesis 1:26-28. In these verses we see God's original plan for people. God created all human beings, male and female, in His image. This means that as human beings, we are meant to reflect the glory of God. More than that, we are created to represent God. God placed people on the earth to rule over the earth as kings and queens on the earth. God is the Ultimate King, but he has given us the authority to rule over this planet under His authority.

God's first command was, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over...every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen. 1:28) Here we see the purpose for the human family. The family exists to advance the Kingdom of God.

That is why your family exists – to advance the dominion (rule and reign) of God throughout the earth.

Read Genesis 2:4-25. This passage helps us look at God’s plan for human beings from another angle. In Genesis 1:26-28, we saw that both men and women are created in God’s image and are equal in God’s sight. In Genesis 2, we see that although they are equal they have different roles and responsibilities.

Notice that God creates Adam, or “the man,” in Genesis 2:7 and then gives him a command in Genesis 2:15-17. God tells Adam to “work” the garden and to “keep” it. God then tells Adam not to eat from the tree in the midst of the garden. The garden is a kind of sanctuary or temple where God’s presence dwells. God commands Adam to take care of it and not to let sin enter into the sanctuary.

It is extremely important to notice that God commanded all of this before He ever created the woman. These things are Adam’s responsibility. Therefore, men, it is your responsibility to ensure that your family is fulfilling God’s purposes and it is your responsibility to protect your family from sin.

But Adam realized he couldn’t fulfill this mission on his own. He needed a helper, so God made the woman to be “a helper fit for him. (2:18) The word “helper” does not belittle the woman in any way. In fact, this same word is often used to refer to God as a helper in the Old Testament.

God gave the man and woman great intimacy and happiness with each other in the garden (2:24-25). But it did not last forever.
Read

Genesis 3. Here we see the invasion of sin and death into the world, and one of the primary reasons sin was able to enter the world was because Adam failed in his responsibility as a biblical man. Notice that rather than leading his wife into godliness, Adam follows his wife into sin. Rather than exercising dominion over the serpent, he allows the serpent to tempt him and his wife. Simply put, he does not guard the purity of his family or the garden that God has entrusted to him, and his failure as a biblical man is why

we are in the mess we are in today. Biblical manhood is serious business.

But even in Genesis 3 there is hope. One day, God will send a deliverer, the offspring of the woman, who will crush the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15).

Paul tells us in Romans 5:12-21 that Jesus Christ is the Second Adam. He has done what the First Adam failed to do. He has perfectly obeyed the will of God, and those of us who trust in Him are righteous before God. The Second Adam is building and protecting His temple, and He is advancing His kingdom to the ends of the earth. And we can all be a part of that.

Questions:

- Have you trusted in the Second Adam, the only perfect Man, Jesus Christ, for your salvation?
- Men, how will you lovingly lead your family to advance the Kingdom of Christ? Where have you been negligent? Where do you need to repent? Take some time in focused prayer and then discuss these issues with your family. Confess your negligence to God and accept His forgiveness. Remember that your standing before Him is not based on the fact that you are a good man, but is based on Christ the perfect Man. Then ask Him for grace to be more like Christ.
- Wives, how will you encourage your husband to lead your family? Remember there is only one perfect Husband (Ephesians 5:23ff.). How will you graciously encourage your husband and submit to his leadership as you are called to do?
- Children, how will you actively encourage your father as he leads your family?
- Young men, what has this study taught you about the kind of man God wants you to be?
- Young ladies, what has this study taught you about the kind of man God wants you to marry?
- All, your family exists to advance the Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth, or as we often say it around here, to make disciples of all nations. How will you make this central to your family life?

Bottom Line: Men are called to lovingly lead their families to advance the Kingdom of Christ.

SING

This weeks song is **O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer**.

- **Themes:** God, Gospel, Justification & Forgiveness, Jesus Christ, Resurrection, Triumph of Christ, The Christian Life, Assurance, Confession, Dependence on God, Desire for God/Christ, Faith, Love for God/Christ, Suffering/ Grief, Victory in Christ
- **Scripture References:** Psalm 19:1; Psalm 71:19;

MEMORIZE

Adults

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. - 1 Peter 3:7 ESV

Kids

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives in an understanding way. You should show respect to them. They are weaker than you. But God gives them the same blessing that he gives you—the grace that gives true life. Do this so that nothing will stop your prayers. - 1 Peter 3:7 ICB

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin grab one of your preschooler's puzzles. A small floor puzzle with big pieces would be best.
- Read Genesis 1 focusing on Genesis 1:26-28 with your preschooler.
- Now each family member needs to get a piece of the puzzle. Let everyone look at his or her individual piece. Then, as you assemble the puzzle, talk about how with just our one piece of puzzle we can't see what the whole puzzle will look like when put together. We can only see bits and pieces of what the picture might be with our piece but as each of us begins to assemble the puzzle we see the bigger picture. This puzzle is like God's creation and His plan for each of our lives.
- Tell your preschooler: By God's perfect design the first family began when He created the first man, Adam, and the first Eve. They became the very first Dad and Mom in God's creation.
- God's perfect plan for a family is for a child to have moms and dads who take care of their children. Parents are supposed to teach children how to love God and live a life that pleases Him. God knows every need we have and cares for us.
- God has created each man, woman, boy and girl to have a relationship with Him. He desires to be our Father. We are all an important piece of God's creation.
- Questions: What did God create in the Bible passage we read today? God made man. That means God created all people: moms, dads, children and families. God made you and God made me He tells us, as your Mom and Dad, that we are to teach you all about Him and His love for us. He wants us, your parents, to teach you about Him and for us to teach you how to obey His plan.
- Conclude by rereading Genesis 1:26-28, praying with your child, and thanking God for His perfect plan for creation.

Children

- Read Genesis 1-3. Depending on the age of your child(ren), you may want to use a children's Bible.
- Show your child a picture of a male lion. Ask him/her what they know about a lion (it growls, is big, lives in Africa, etc). Tell your child that by learning a little about lions, we can also learn about God's plan for a family.

- Ask your child if they know that lions live in a family? A lion family is called a pride. God has made the male (or dad) lion to have a special role in his family. Ask, “What do you think might be the main job of the male (or dad) lion? Actually, the daddy lion’s job is to protect the family from other male lions. Other lions want to come in and take over his family and be the new leader. And when this happens, the new guy will sometimes even kill the male cubs. So it’s very important that the daddy lion stays near the family to watch and protect them.
- Just as God has a plan for the lion and his family, God has a very special plan for your family. Who do you think the leader of a family should be, the mom or the dad? Why? • God has chosen for the man to be the leader of the family. He should protect his family just like the lion. From what kind of things does a dad protect his family
- Remember the lions? Other lions want to take control of the lion family, right? Well, the Bible (in Peter 5:8) describes Satan as a “roaring lion”. Satan wants to control your family and all other families so they will not follow God. Satan can only do this by tempting you or other members of your family to follow his ways and not God’s ways. That’s one reason a dad is so important to a family. The dad leads the family to follow God and the Bible, and this helps protect them from sin.
- Did Adam protect Eve, his wife, from the serpent in the garden? Did he try to stop Eve so she would not sin? No, we read that Adam did not try to keep Eve from eating the forbidden fruit. Instead, Adam joined Eve in her sin. So he was not doing the job God had given him.
- Lastly, a dad is required by God to lead his family to learn and follow God’s Word, which will help the family join God in His plan for His kingdom. How can you help your family obey God’s plan by following your dad? You can trust your dad’s rules and obey them. You can also pray for your dad.
- Take time to pray for you dad to make good choices as he follows Christ and leads your family.

Students

- First, we realize that everyone does not have a mom and dad present in the home. Though this is the Biblical picture God intended, we want to be thoughtful of those not in the ideal situation as we approach these next few weeks. The following ideas will include suggestions for those who may find themselves in the position of being the only parent in the home. After reading through the general guide individually and as a couple (if possible), the following may help all family members to see how all their roles within the family are critical in making disciples of all nations.
- As a family read Genesis 2:5-7 and Genesis 2:15-17 aloud. This may be a great opportunity to encourage younger siblings to be a constructive vocal part.
- Ask the questions:
 - What was the role God gave Adam in the creation process? Answers may vary from tending the garden to name the animals.
 - What was Adam supposed to encourage in the garden through his work? The goal is to point to the emphasis on Adam's responsibility to encourage the growth of what God had created; that Adam was encouraging the growth of God's kingdom.
 - What was Adam supposed to keep out of the garden? Answers may vary from "weeds" to "serpents". After letting students answer, ask them, "What would Adam be letting into the garden by eating the fruit from the tree of knowledge?" We are leading toward the point made in the general guide – Adam was to protect the garden and his family from sin entering the picture
- Activity:
 - Before the lesson begins construct a simple obstacle course. On one end of the course place an item that must be carried to the other side (ex: an egg on a spoon). At the end of the course place a container for the item to be deposited in. It will be important to keep the path of the course a secret from your students. One idea is to have the course go from one side of the exterior of the house to the other.

- After going through the first section of the lesson together, ask one of your students to volunteer. Blindfold the volunteer and tell them they are to carry the egg in the spoon from one end of this obstacle course to the other without losing it, or harming it. Their father (or head of household) will give them verbal instructions on how to navigate the course.
- Once the student understands the objective, quietly instruct the others in the family to shout out incorrect directions to their blindfolded loved one. The father (or head of household) should keep silent. The student will then try to find his or her way through the course. After a few minutes, stop and allow everyone to express what they saw, or did not see, and how it made them feel.
- Now, allow the student to make their way through the course a second time. You might want to make some quick adjustments to it before they begin. This time allow the father (or head of household) to be the loudest voice heard. The father should use loving encouragement as the student makes their way to the end. He should stand at the end of the course calling the student to himself. After completing the course, ask the blindfolded student to share how it made him or her feel having their father lead, encourage, and cheer them on.
- Questions to ask at the end by the Father (or head of household):
 - How could I better encourage you to impact your world for the Kingdom? Is there anything we do or do not do as a family that you think hinders your efforts? Dads –be ready for honest answers.
 - What is one specific thing you think God has been speaking into your heart to do in order to grow His Kingdom around you? What is one thing He wants you to do to better influence your peers and friends? (You want them not just to identify areas of growth in the family, but in themselves as well.
- What's Next:
 - Help your family members develop a plan to accomplish their "one thing."

- Pray for them. A day or two after your activity slip a note onto their dresser to let them know you have been praying for them in that specific area.
- Ask them At the end of a week ask them how they are doing in their efforts. Remember, our silence is one of the biggest tools the enemy can use in the lives of our children.

SING

O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

(<https://youtu.be/TpELMk4-3n8>)

VERSE 1

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God, like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom
My highest good and my unending need

VERSE 2

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts
My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night

VERSE 3

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Savior of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died
You rose, the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

Scripture Memory

Adults

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. - 1 Peter 3:7 ESV

Kids

In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives in an understanding way. You should show respect to them. They are weaker than you. But God gives them the same blessing that he gives you—the grace that gives true life. Do this so that nothing will stop your prayers. - 1 Peter 3:7 ICB

Notes

Week 4 - July 22-28, 2018

Sermon: BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD (PT. 2)

Pastor Dr. David Platt - Gen. 1-3

This guide is a tool to help you lead your family into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your family in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There will be aspects you do not use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool, not a rigid family task list.

READ

Read Proverbs 31:10-31.

The book of Proverbs concludes with a poem extolling the attributes of the "excellent wife" (vv. 10, 29), whose worth to her husband surpasses that of great material wealth. The Proverbs 31 woman displays many virtues that remain relevant for women aspiring to be godly wives today. This passage is a poem, therefore, not every verse is to be understood literally. Instead, the writer often uses poetic imagery to teach a general principle. This is extremely important when it comes to the application of this passage. After reading and studying this passage the end goal is not for every Christian wife in the 21st century to mimic each and every activity of the "excellent wife" found in this chapter. Verse 15 is a perfect example. When it says "She rises while it is yet night", this does not mean that a wife must get up out of bed each morning before the sun comes up. Instead, the general principle being taught in this verse is that the excellent wife is not to be lazy but is to work hard in taking good care of her family. Many other general principles are taught in this passage concerning the praiseworthy virtues of an "excellent wife." The Proverbs 31 woman:

- is extremely valuable and hard to find (v.10);
- is a trusted companion v.11);
- is concerned for her husband's well0being (v.12);
- is industrious and hardworking (vv.13,27);
- goes out of her way to secure and prepare food for her family (vv.14,15);
- is not lazy but works hard to take good care of her family (v.15);
- is wise with her financial responsibilities (v.16);
- is active and energetic (vv.17,25);
- is diligent and very skilled in her work (vv.18-19);
- is kind to the poor, reaches out in mercy to the needy (v. 20);
- ensures that she and her children are properly and finely dressed (vv.21-22);
- is prepared for the future and whatever circumstances may come (vv.21,25);
- is married to a respected man (v.23);
- possesses great entrepreneurial skill (v.24);
- displays wisdom in her speech, and kindness in her teaching (v.26);
- oversees and cares for her household (v.27);
- is praised by her children and husband (vv.28-29,31);
- is God-fearing rather than relying on her physical beauty (vv. 28-29,31).

Questions:

- Why is an "excellent wife" as described in Proverbs 31 so difficult to find?
- Verse 30 says "a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." What does it mean to fear the Lord? What does this look like?
- Verse 28 says the children of the excellent wife rise up and call her blessed and her husband praises her. As a family, spend some time now praising God for your mother and/or wife. Share with her a specific way you see God at work in her life.

Bottom Line: A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

SING

This weeks song is **His Mercy Is More.**

- **Themes:** Forgiveness God's Love Mercy Praise Redemption Salvation
- **Scripture References:** Zechariah 5, Haggai 2:13–14, Psalm 103:12, Zechariah 3:9, Micah 7:9, 2 Thessalonians 2:8 Revelation 17:14, Haggai 2:14, Mark 1:40–42, 1 Peter 2:5
- **Article:** <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/our-sins-are-many-his-mercy-is-more>

MEMORIZE

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.- Proverbs 31:10

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

All Ages

- Re-read Proverbs 31:28-30.
- Scripture teaches "a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" (v. 30). Lead your children to think through the list above of the attributes of an "excellent" wife and take note of any of these attributes your family sees present in mom.
- Ultimately, we understand that any good produced in us is the result of the grace of God at work in our lives (Phil. 2:13). This means we can give praise to God for the excellent things we see in mom's life. Thank God together as a family for these things.

- Explain to your children you want the ways in which you bless mom to extend even beyond praying for her and thanking God for her. Ask mom what household chore or activity she would be most blessed by if it were to be done for her. Then, invite mom to relax in whatever way she chooses while the rest of the family carries out that assignment or chore.
- Optional additional questions for students:
 - Based on Proverbs 31, where does a woman find the strength to live out this calling
 - What are some of the most important qualities a “Proverbs 31” woman is called to reflect?
 - As a family, discuss what kinds of things this woman would be doing in the 21st century. What things would be important to her?

SING

His Mercy Is More

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijsjA5Yf8XA>)

VERSE 1

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
 Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum
 Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

CHORUS

Praise the Lord
 His mercy is more
 Stronger than darkness, new every morn
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more **VERSE 2**
What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

VERSE 3

What riches of kindness he lavished on us
 His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
 We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Scripture Memory

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.- Proverbs 31:10

Notes

Week 5 - July 29-August 4, 2018

Sermon: THE GOSPEL IN MARRIAGE

Pastor Dr. Bart Box - Ephesians 5:22-33

This guide is a tool to help you lead your family into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your family in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There will be aspects you do not use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool, not a rigid family task list.

READ

This week we are studying the topic of biblical marriage. Why did God ordain marriage in the first place and what does the Bible say it is supposed to look like? Read Ephesians 5:22-33. This passage is the most complete passage in the entire Bible on God's plan for marriage. What we find as we read this passage is that God did not merely design marriage for our happiness, although that is often a wonderful benefit of marriage. This passage shows us that God's great purpose in marriage is to display the gospel of Jesus Christ. God created marriage between one man and one woman to reflect the union between Christ and His church. God has given husbands and wives specific roles to play as they reflect the gospel in their marriage. God has designed it so that husbands reflect Christ's love for the church as they love their wives, and wives reflect the church's submission to Christ as they respect their husbands. Go back and read Ephesians 5:22B24 again. Notice that wives are to submit to their own husbands as unto the Lord (5:22). Now, obviously this does not mean that wives are to follow their husbands into sin, because then they would not be submitting to the Lord. But it does mean that as a Christian wife, obeying Christ means submitting to your husband. The reason that God

commands wives to submit to husbands is not that husbands are somehow smarter than wives. It is because the husband is the head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church (5:23). The headship/submission relationship between a husband and wife reflects the headship/submission relationship between Christ and the church. Wives who gladly submit to their husbands are helping to paint a glorious picture of the relationship between Christ and His church. Read Ephesians 5:25-33. While God commands wives to submit to their husbands, He commands husbands to love their wives. It is important that we pay attention to the kind of love that is commanded here. While husbands feel love for their wives, biblical love is not primarily about warm emotions. God commands husbands to love their wives “as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” (5:25) A husband’s love must be a sacrificial love. Husbands, you are called to lay down your life for your wife. You are called to die to your own rights, your prerogatives, your comforts, your desires – to live and die for the good of your wife. This is the pattern of our Lord Jesus, who laid aside His heavenly glory, made Himself nothing, gave up the riches of heaven, and took our sin and suffering upon Himself, so that He might give us eternal life. That is the kind of love that the Bible commands you to have for your wife. The reason that Jesus gave Himself up for the church was to make her holy, to beautify her by washing her with water and the Word (5:26-27). In the same way, husbands are to take responsibility for the spiritual beauty of their wives, to see them grow more and more in godliness. This is why husbands need to be able to lead and why wives need to submit – because it is the husband’s responsibility to lead his wife by nourishing and cherishing her and helping her grow in godliness. Paul closes this section by quoting from Genesis 2:24: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife and the two shall become one flesh.” (5:31) He then explains that this “mystery” refers to Christ and the church. In other words, he is saying that human marriage, as amazing as it is, points to something more amazing and more glorious. It points to the gospel. It points us to the “one-flesh” union between Christ and His church. God intends marriage, your marriage, to be a display of something bigger than your marriage. He wants your marriage to be a picture of the gospel. In verse

33, Paul sums up his instructions to couples with two simple commands: love and respect. As husbands love their wives, they reflect Christ's sacrificial love for the church. As wives respect their husbands, they reflect the church's glad submission to Christ. Please note that Paul does not qualify his commands in any way. He does not say, "Husbands, love your wife if she deserves it." He does not say, "Wives, respect your husband if he deserves it." We are simply commanded to make sure we are seeking to display the gospel in our marriages, even if our spouse is not. Remember, marriage is not ultimately about you. It is about Christ and his church. It is about the gospel!

Questions:

- How does marriage reflect the gospel?
- The world tells us that marriage is all about our happiness, and if we are not happy, we are free to divorce. The Bible tells us that marriage is a reflection of Christ's relationship with His church. What does this tell you about God's view of marriage and divorce? For additional insight into this issue, check out Matthew 19:1-9 and 1 Corinthians 7.
- Husbands, how do you need to die to yourself and start loving your wife as Christ loved the church? How have you put your own interests above those of your wife? Spend some time in prayer and confession. Accept the forgiveness of Christ. Confess these failures to your wife and seek God's help to display the sacrificial love of Christ in your marriage.
- Wives, how have you rebelled against Christ by refusing to submit to your husband? Spend some time in prayer and confession. Accept the forgiveness of Christ. Confess these failures to your husband and seek God's help to display the church's glad submission to Christ in your marriage.
- Parents, how will you teach your children to develop these attributes now so they are ready to be biblical husbands and wives when they get married?

Bottom Line: *Marriage is not about you; it is about the gospel of Jesus Christ!*

PRAY

God created marriage to be a display of His glory and His gospel. The one-flesh union between a husband and wife is intended to display the spiritual union between Christ and His church (Eph. 5:22-33). Ever since Fall in Genesis 3, Satan has been working to undermine God's plan for marriage. Satan hates marriage because he hates the gospel. If we are to be a gospel people, we must be a people who are committed to displaying the gospel in our marriages. Husband, examine your life and repent of the ways you are not lovingly leading your wife. Wife, examine your life and repent of the ways you are not gladly submitting to your husband. In the world we live in, most of us have been hurt greatly and have hurt others by the tragedy of divorce in some way or another. Perhaps you have failed in your marriage and you feel a sense of despair. But remember what marriage points you to. It points you to the only perfect love, the love that Christ has for His church. It reminds us that He loves us despite our sin and our failures. Whether you have been married for 60 years or whether you have been divorced 6 times, Christ's perfect love for you is your only hope. Spend some time this week examining your life and your marriage. Be honest with God about your failures. Accept His free forgiveness in Christ, and ask for His grace to live out the gospel in your marriage or your present state of singleness (1 Cor. 7), whichever the case may be.

SING

The title 'Man of Sorrows' comes from Isaiah 53:3, where the prophet Isaiah describes the coming Savior. "He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not." This was not exactly the kind of messiah God's people were expecting. He was not a political military ruler, but rather, He was a man rejected by men. This hymn reminds us of our total depravity, or rather, our total lack of spiritual good and inability to do good before God. Apart from the work of Christ we are nothing. We are a sinful people and, yet He came to save us. His precious blood has provided full atonement. Just think of the day when our glorious King

returns. We will stand in His presence and sing of His glory forever. Hallelujah What a Savior

MEMORIZE

“However, let each one of you love your wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” - Ephesians 5:33

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God’s word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin: set up a few chairs or other objects around the room and create a maze or obstacle course. Find a piece of fabric you can use as a blindfold.
- Read Ephesians 5:22-25.
- Explain that when we are blindfolded and in a maze, we have a hard time knowing where to go and we must have someone who cares for us to guide us. Guide your child through the maze carefully making sure your child follows your directions.
- Explain that God can see our lives and he has a set plan. God has a plan for families too. He guides us through our lives and gives us directions in the Bible. God’s plan is for Mommy and Daddy to love each other in their marriage just as much as we love you. God wants us to love and respect each other just as God says in Ephesians.

Children

- Read Ephesians 5:31.
- Object lesson
 - Supplies: 2 wooden clothespins, one broken apart without the spring, the other intact with “LOVE” and “RESPECT” written on opposite sides

- Show the children the two wooden sides of the broken clothespin and explain that apart they are just two marred pieces of wood. Then show the intact clothespin. Explain that when bound together by Christ (the metal spring) the two parts have a purpose and power they did not have alone. Husbands and wives each have a unique but important role in the union of marriage.
- Read Ephesians 5:32-33.
- Explain that a husband's love for his wife and a wife's grateful acceptance of his care can display the gospel to the world.
- Discuss examples of love and respect. Ask the children about ways they can practice love and respect now in relationships with family and others.

Students

- After reading Ephesians 5:22-33, ask your students if they can define the terms "submit" and "love" that are found in this passage. Follow up with the question, "Are either one of these things easy to do?"
- Refer to a movie or TV show your family has seen that has dealt with war (Glory and We Were Soldiers are great examples though not appropriate for all ages). Ask your students if they see the need for love and submission in this context. Help them understand the need for those in leadership positions to love those they lead, and that those who are under that leadership must submit, even for their own good. Follow up with the question, "What is at stake if those in these leading and submitting roles do not fully commit to love and submission?" They may mention injury, the lives of the soldiers, the mission at hand, or the war itself. Affirm their answers and lead them to understand that the very war is at stake when a leader does not deeply love those they lead and those under that leadership do not submit.
- **Connection:** Ask them if they see any similarities to battle and the Christian life (be sure to give time for them to answer). Ask one of your students to read Ephesians 6:12. Ask them what is at stake in this battle to which Paul refers. Again, the purpose is to lead them to think in terms of the gospel and people's lives. Explain that what God has designed is a picture of what His

- followers should look like through marriage. We, as His Bride, submit to His leadership, as He unconditionally loves us. Ask them what is at stake if a husband does not love his wife the way he should, or if a wife does not submit. They may discuss things like arguments, tension in the home, or even divorce. Be sure to emphasize that all of these things are negative outcomes, but that ultimately a lack of love and submission results in a false picture of God's love and the necessity of our submission to Him. When a person does not understand God's love or see their need to submit to Him, they cannot understand or respond to the gospel. People's very lives depend on Christian marriages being strong and accurate pictures of love and submission.
- End with a time of prayer. Ask your students to pray for you as a father and/or mother to live out a clear and accurate picture of love and submission in your marriage. Then pray for your students that they would have a marriage, if God wills them to be married, where they would clearly communicate the gospel through their relationship with their spouse.

SING

Man of Sorrows (Hallelujah What A Savior)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Uqj40-Ro-U>

VERSE 1

Man of sorrows, what a name
For the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim
Hallelujah What a Savior

VERSE 2

Stand unclean, no one else could
In my place condemned He stood
Now his nearness is my good
Hallelujah What a Savior

CHORUS

Hallelujah, praise to the one
Whose blood has pardoned me
Oh what a Savior, Redeemer and King
Your love has rescued me

VERSE 3

Lifted up was He to die
"It is finished " was His cry
Now in Heaven lifted high
Hallelujah What a Savior

VERSE 4

When He comes, our Glorious King
All his ransomed home to bring
Then anew this song we'll sing
Hallelujah What a Savior
Hallelujah What a Savior

Scripture Memory

"However, let each one of you love your wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." - Ephesians 5:33

Notes

Week 6 - August 5-11, 2018

Sermon: THE CHILD, THE HOME, AND THE CHURCH

Scott Kindig - Eph. 6:1-4, Deut. 6:1-9

This guide is a tool to help you lead your family into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your family in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There will be aspects you do not use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool, not a rigid family task list.

READ

Read Deuteronomy 6.

The book of Deuteronomy begins with the Israelites being reminded of God's revelation to them after they had left Egypt during the exodus. This reminder featured the law (Deuteronomy 4:1-14, especially v. 9), which included the Ten Commandments (Deuteronomy 5:6-21), the Shema ("Hear, O Israel: Our God is the LORD, the LORD alone!"; Deuteronomy 6:4), which was considered the basic confession of faith in Judaism, and the greatest commandment ("You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might"; Deuteronomy 6:5). On the heels of these reminders the Israelites were given the following charge:

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. - Deuteronomy 6:6-9 ESV

Although the far majority of us don't reside in a Jewish culture in which we wear frontlets and write Scripture on the doorposts of our homes, we do see a common thread through Scripture of the responsibility parents have to teach and instruct their children in the Word. This popular passage you just read from Deuteronomy is not an isolated incident. Instead, from Abraham (Genesis 18:19) to Joshua (Joshua 4:6-7) to the Psalms (Psalm 78:4-8) to Proverbs (Proverbs 22:6) and all the way to the New Testament church (Ephesians 6:4), parents are confronted with the great privilege and awesome responsibility they have to bring their children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. As we saw in Deuteronomy 6, instructing our children doesn't always look like a 10 or 15-minute family worship time each evening (however, this isn't a bad idea!). Instead, it also means taking advantage of opportunities and situations to share, show and teach the Word to your children throughout each day. This can occur as you're in the car together on the way to school, doing chores together around the house, outside playing in the yard, and a whole host of other possibilities. All it requires is a little intentionality as you look for opportunities to scatter the Word throughout the day in the lives of your kids.

Questions:

In Deuteronomy 6:6-9, what are the exhortations given for showing and teaching God's Word within the family?

- What are the implications of these commands for parents?
- What are the implications of these commands for children?

Bottom Line: *Parents have the great privilege and responsibility to make disciples by sharing the Word, showing the Word and teaching the Word within their own homes.*

PRAY

As a church we are in the process of appointing new elders to serve this local body. According to Scripture, elders are to lead under the authority of Christ, care for the body of Christ, teach the Word of Christ and model the character of Christ. Today and in the days ahead please be in prayer for our existing and incoming elders. Specifically, pray that these men would model the

character of Christ by faithfully walking in holiness and purity. Ask God to empower these men to wholeheartedly give themselves to studying and teaching God's Word. Also, pray that they would lovingly care for the body of Christ as they seek to protect and nurture those under their care. Overall, pray that these men would be faithful shepherds of the flock for whom they will give an account.

SING

Our family worship song for this week is called "This is Love" by Josh Poore and David Leonard. The lyrics to this song remind us of God's unfailing and undeserved love for us. In 1 John 4 we learn that God is perfect love. He made this love manifest among us by sending his Son into the world, so that we might live through him. John 15:13 says, "Greater love has none than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends." We believe God sent his only Son as a propitiation for our sins, so that through Christ we are made right with God. This is nothing that we have done. As you sing together as a family, remember that there is no height, or depth in all creation that will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39)

MEMORIZE

Adults

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. - Deuteronomy 6:6-7 ESV

Kids

Always remember these commands I give you today. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and walk along the road. Talk about them when you lie down and when you get up. - Deuteronomy 6:6-7 ICB

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin gather the following items for a "Ball/Coin Toss Game" that you will play: a small ball or coin and a small cup or bucket.
- Read Deuteronomy 6:5-7 with your preschooler.
- Tell your child that you are going to teach them how to play a game.
- Ball/Coin Toss Game
 - Put the cup on the floor and have your child stand above the cup while holding the coin.
 - Explain to your child that the object of the game is for them to drop the coin into the cup 5 times. If they can successfully ring the cup 5 times in a row, then they win the game.
 - Start by having them stand directly over the cup and drop in the coin. Next, tell them to take 1 giant step back and toss the coin into the cup. Repeat this for 4 more times, having the child step back each time making it more difficult to ring the cup.
- Praise your child for participating in the game and following your directions.
- Ask: When I told you that if you could ring the cup 5 times in a row, you would win the game, did you think that you could do it? It was hard to do, right? Can we do everything right all of the time? No, we can't always do everything right. That's why we need God.
- In the Bible verse that we read, God is telling us that we should love Him with all of our heart. He tells us, as your Mom and Dad, that we are to teach you all about Him and his love for us. He wants us, your parents, to teach you about his laws, and for us to teach you how to obey His plan. Just like we taught you how

to play the game, he wants us to teach you how to follow his plan. He loves us so much, just like we love you so much!

- Question: Can we always do everything perfectly? No, that's why we need God! God knew this and sent Jesus, our Savior. Is it our job as your parents to show and teach you about God? Yes, because we love you, and God gave you to us.
- Conclude by praying with your child, and thanking God that He gave you this child. Ask God to show you, in your everyday life, more opportunities to share, show and teach you and your family about His glory. Pray, that you will be a living example of Christ for your family.

Children

- Re-read Deuteronomy 6:6-7.
- Walk through the following object lesson designed to help teach your children that sharing, showing and teaching the Word are important and necessary.
- Supplies needed
 - A recipe card for a home-made treat they enjoy: cookies, muffins, etc.
 - A plate of that homemade treat, hidden from view not visible
- Hold the recipe card in your hand but don't let the children look close enough at it to be able to read it. Ask them if they are excited about the card. Most likely they will be curious and will want to know what is written on the card but will not be that excited about it.
- Bring out one of the goodies for yourself. Offer to share a tiny sample of the homemade item with each child. Ask if they are excited to get to taste the item. Of course, tasting a goodie is much more exciting than getting a piece of paper.
- Show the children a whole plate of the homemade treat. Sharing a tiny bit was good, but showing there is much more available to them is better.
- Offer to teach the children to make the treat together as a family so they will know how to make the treat for themselves. Then they will be able to share the treat with others and show and teach them how to make it as well.
- Strategize as a family on what doors are open to you to show, share, and teach the Word. Pray that God would continue to

- open these doors and empower you to be obedient as opportunities arise.

Students

- Re-read Deuteronomy 6:4-7.
- Parents, spend a few minutes thinking with your family about how you have been entrusted by God to help change generations and generations to come.
- Share with your family some of the moments when they made you the most proud or brought the most joy to you as a parent.
- Deuteronomy 6:5 says we are to love the Lord with all of our selves. How would it look different if our family was only expose to a little bit of God? Ask your kids to give you scenarios of their life in both situations.
- What are some of the things that distract you from loving God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength?
- Read Deuteronomy 6:7-9. Parent: As a family member is reading this passage, create a headband out of tape, rubber bands or some other elastic material. Fix a compact bible to the front of headband so that you are looking through the bible at your children. Continue teaching and sharing about this passage as though nothing is different.
- After a few minutes pose the question, “How can we as a family put the Word at the front of our minds on a regular basis?”
- What are some different (and more practical) ways to learn and remember God’s Word?
- Close in a prayer. Ask the Lord to help your family lift high the name and Word of the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit to allow the Word to saturate your lives in such a way that the next generations will know and follow after Christ. Thank the Lord for allowing you to access the gospel and for giving you His Word.

- open these doors and empower you to be obedient as opportunities arise.

SING

This Is Love

(<http://gracechurchsongs.com/track/this-is-love>)

VERSE 1

Greater love has none than this
That a man lay down his life
And we believe You sent Your only Son to die

VERSE 2

On the cross he paid our debts
As the final sacrifice
And we believe he's risen and remains alive

CHORUS

This is love, this is love
Not that we loved you
But that you loved us
You are love, perfect love
You sent your Son to rescue us
Now we abide in your great love

VERSE 3

Now we boast in Jesus' blood
Not in what our hands have done
We believe by grace through faith in Christ alone

BRIDGE

No height, no depth
Can separate us from this love
In Christ whose death
And resurrection saves us

Scripture Memory

Adults

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. -

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 ESV

Kids

Always remember these commands I give you today. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and walk along the road. Talk about them when you lie down and when you get up. - Deuteronomy 6:6-7 ICB

Notes

Week 7 - August 12-18, 2018

Sermon: SINGLENES AND THE NEXT GENERATION

Dr. David Platt - 1 Corinthians 7

This guide is a tool to help you lead your family into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your family in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There will be aspects you do not use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool, not a rigid family task list.

READ

This week we are studying the topic of biblical singleness. What is God's special purpose for single people?

Read First Corinthians 7:6-40.

In this passage, Paul tells us that singleness is a gift from God (v. 6). Not everyone has this gift, but God has clearly given some people this gift so they can serve Him in unique ways. God calls most people to get married, but He plans for some people to remain single so they can devote themselves to making disciples in special ways that married people cannot.

A single person is able to serve God unreservedly, without worrying about how his or her decisions will affect his or her spouse (vv.32-34). This is why Paul was able to have such a fruitful missionary ministry. He was able to literally go all over the world, preaching the gospel everywhere he went, and not worry about any negative consequences for his family.

This does not mean that single people are better Christians than married people or that married people are better than single

people. It simply means that we are all called to honor Christ and advance His kingdom in different ways.

Questions:

- Sometimes in the church, we tend to focus on families and not as much on single people. What are some ways you as a family can minister to the single people in our church?
- What are some reasons God might call someone to remain single?
- How is God calling you to make disciples of all nations at this point in your life?

Bottom Line: *God calls some people to remain single so that they can devote themselves to making disciples of all nations in a unique way.*

SING

The title 'Man of Sorrows' comes from Isaiah 53:3, where the prophet Isaiah describes the coming Savior. "He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not." This was not exactly the kind of messiah God's people were expecting. He was not a political military ruler, but rather, He was a man rejected by men. This hymn reminds us of our total depravity, or rather, our total lack of spiritual good and inability to do good before God. Apart from the work of Christ we are nothing. We are a sinful people and, yet He came to save us. His precious blood has provided full atonement. Just think of the day when our glorious King returns. We will stand in His presence and sing of His glory forever. Hallelujah What a Savior

MEMORIZE

"I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But

the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife.” - 1 Corinthians 7:32-33

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God’s word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Read 1 Corinthians 7:7b.
- Explain to your preschooler that God created them to be unique. Unique means they are not exactly like anybody else; they are special. God created each person to be different or special in his own way.
- Point out features or traits that are different or unique about each member of your family: e.g. light hair, dark hair; tall, short. For example, ask your preschooler, “What color eyes does Mommy have? What color eyes do you have?”
- Just as God created each one of us to look different, He also gave us different abilities or special things about us that not everyone can do. Some people are really good at baking cakes. Some people can run very fast. Some people have really beautiful singing voices.
- God also calls some people to get married. He wanted us to be your Mommy and Daddy. However, God doesn’t call everyone to be a husband and wife or Mommy and Daddy. God wants some people to stay single and not get married.
- Sometimes, God asks people to stay single so they can tell people all over this world about His love in their own special way. God created each one of us. His plan for us is always perfect and right.
- Re-read 1 Corinthians 7:7b with your child.
- Conclude by praying with your child and thanking God that He created each of us special and unique.

Children

- Begin by gathering your family members outside.
- Have an adult family member run around the yard. He or she can jump over bushes, run around trees, go under sliding boards – whatever he or she is physically able to do as fast as possible.
- Have another family member link arms with the first family member. Run the same route again linked together. There is no communication between the two members about the route or what will be done.
- Ask your child(ren) if the second run was harder or easier than the first one and why. (Possible comments: second run was more awkward or slower; it was harder to coordinate jumping together; we sometimes seem to be going in different directions; it was more confusing; made it necessary for the main runner to adjust pace or activities for the others who might be slower or smaller.
- Continue adding more family members and running the route until all have been added to the group.
- Discuss how some activities, like running or jumping, can be done most effectively alone. Although you can run linked with another person, it is not easy. Adding each additional person makes running slower and more complicated.
- Tell your child(ren) that God calls people to make disciples of all nations and equips them to do this. Sometimes going to the nations involves unique tasks that are difficult to do with a spouse or family: traveling frequently, treating infectious disease, living in a remote area, facing violent opposition, or being undercover. These tasks could be done by someone who was married or had a family, but it would be much harder and probably take a lot longer. Sometimes God calls people to remain single because it is the best way for them to be equipped to reach the nations

Students

- Read 1 Corinthians 7:7b.
- Tell your family the story of your courtship, engagement and wedding ceremony. Tell them about the funny things you remember from that day. Share about how you looked forward to

- getting married. Also, share with them the wonderful things that have taken place in your lives because you got married.
- Now, tell your children about different marital customs from around the world. Inform them that some cultures choose spouses by the practice of arranged marriages where the parents pick the spouses of their children by making contracts with the parents of the potential spouse. Ask them if they think that is a better idea than how our culture does it? Also ask if they would trust you to pick well for them? Ask why they might be scared about it?
- Re-read 1 Corinthians 7:6-7, and ask your family what Paul means in wishing that all were like he was? After they share their thoughts, if no one gets the right answer, share with them that Paul was single. He even refers to his singleness as a gift. Ask them if they would like that special gift? Ask why they think Paul liked that gift so much that he wished others would have it. Carefully share that singleness and celibacy are gifts to some people that allow them to fully pursue the advancement of the Kingdom without the constraints of leading a family. Point out that some people are single for a season, and some, like Paul, are single for the duration of their life. When you are single, you should use the gift of being single to fully focus your life on your walk with God and your influence for Him. If God chooses to call you to remain single, do that for your lifetime. If God chooses to provide a spouse for you, raise a family that advances the gospel.
- Pray for God's guidance in your family through all the big decisions that lay in their future.

SING

In Christ Alone

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNRFuml2ch0>)

VERSE 1

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Verse 4

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man

Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Scripture Memory

“However, let each one of you love your wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” - Ephesians 5:33

Notes

Week 8 - August 19-25, 2018

Sermon: THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD

Dr. David Platt - Matthew 6:9

This guide is a tool to help you lead your family into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your family in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There will be aspects you do not use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool, not a rigid family task list.

READ

This week as we continue the sermon series entitled "The Gospel and the Next Generation", we shift our focus to the fatherhood of God. There are two main reasons why this topic has been included in this series. First, Scripture alludes to the fact that the task of every human father is to be for his children an image of the Father in heaven. Every earthly father should strive to live in such a way that his children are able to see what God the Father is like. Secondly, this topic is particularly significant to those who have been raised without a father present in the home or without a Christian father. God offers Himself as Father - the perfect Father - to anyone who will accept the gift of adoption by trusting in Christ. We are His children, and He has lavished His love on us.

Read 1 John 3:1-3. Within these verses there are five amazing truths we are going to briefly highlight.

1) God is the father of those who have placed their faith in Jesus (v. 1). This is good news! Each of us should be thankful for the earthly father God has graciously given to us, but not even the best earthly father can compare to our heavenly father. He is

2) As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we have been given the privilege of being called children of God (v.1). Wow Think about this. Children of famous celebrities or athletes probably think it's pretty cool to be known as the son or daughter of "so-and-so," but as followers of Christ we have them all beat. We aren't the sons or daughters of some guy that can dunk a basketball or girl that can sing a song, instead we are the sons and daughters of the God of the universe.

3) The love of our heavenly father for us is great (v. 1). Verse one doesn't simply say that God the Father loves us. Instead, it describes the intensity of the Father's love for His children. It says His love for His children is "great". We never have to doubt, even for an instant, God's love for us. In Christ His love is perfect. His love is never ending. His love is unconditional. It is in fact great.

4) Children of God are different from children of the world (v. 1, 3). Since we have experienced the love of God in Christ, we are compelled to live differently than the world. Oftentimes this means that the world will not understand us or agree with us. Just as the world did not know and agree with God our Father, so oftentimes the world will do the same to His children.

5) There is coming a day when we will be like our Heavenly Father (v. 2, 3). All children resemble their father in some respect. Small children in particular seek to imitate their dads. As God's children, we too will be like our Father when Christ returns in the future.

Questions:

- Why is it important to remember that we are God's children?
- What difference should this make in our relationship with God? What difference should this make in our relationship with our own parents?
- How does the fact that God is a loving father impact how you relate to Him?

Bottom Line: *Through Christ, we have the privilege of being called children of God.*

SING

The love of our heavenly Father is astounding, so much so that we aren't even able to fully comprehend it. And better yet, we can't be separated from it. Paul writes in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." This kind of love is deep. Life-changing even. It's because of this kind of love that we are able to love in the first place. It motivates us to show the whole world what it's like. As we worship together, let's celebrate through music by singing 'Adoption' written by Ghost Ship. In this song, Cam paints a beautiful picture of adoption and the love found between a parent and child. It's a love that is permanent and real. It's a wonderful depiction of Christ's love for us. We have been adopted and are no longer strangers, but children of God.

MEMORIZE

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. - 1 John 1:3

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin, locate a family photo that you can share with your child.
- Read 1 John 3:1.

- Explain to your preschooler that God's love for us is huge. He created us and loves us. God created you and gave you an earthly family. We are all part of that family here on earth.
- Show the family portrait to your preschooler. Explain to your child that this is a picture of their earthly family. Tell them that you want to ask some questions about them from the photo. Ask the following questions: Do you know who you are in this photo? What is your name? Are you a son or daughter? Am I your Mom or Dad? Are you a brother or sister?
- God loves us and we are special to Him. But, you are also special to your heavenly Father, who is God. That's why God sent Jesus. He loved us so much that He sent His only Son, from heaven to earth to save us from our sins.
- Ask them if they have the same color eyes as Mom or Dad? How about the same color hair? Sometimes children will often look like their parents. The Bible tells us that we are created in God's image. This means you are His child, too. It means you can become like Him, so that others will see God in you. He wants all of us to know Him and to follow His plans for us. When we do this, then our life here on earth will look more like Him, just like some children look a lot like their earthly Mom and Dad.
- Re-read 1John 3:1 together.
- Pray and thank God for being our Heavenly Father. Thank Father God for loving us so much and for sending Jesus.

Children

- Read I John 3:1-3.
- Ask you child these questions: What is love? How would you describe it? What could you do to show someone else that you love them?
- The greatest demonstration of love is to accept someone just like they are, to care for them, and to even give them a place in your home.
- This is sometimes called adoption – you take someone to be part of your family and actually give them your name.
- Do you know anyone who has been adopted? Was adoption dependent on the child being good or on the love and actions of the parents? It was the parents – the parents did

- whatever was required to adopt the child and bring them home)
- God, our heavenly Father, willingly adopts anyone who will receive salvation.
- We are God's beloved children when we become Christ-followers, and one day we will get to live in God's home (new heaven and new earth) with Him. We will also be made perfect and be without sin just as God is perfect.
- That is amazing, and it really is the story of the gospel, a word which actually means good news. Is adoption into God's family good news to you?
- Family activity: Make an acrostic of the word ADOPTION. Try to use words that describe God's great love or the benefits that come from adoption as children of God. Additional verses that may help you are Romans 8:14E17. Here are some ideas to get you started:
 - A (abundant, abounding, Abba Father)
 - D (daddy, dearly loved)
 - O (offered freely)
 - P (pure, perfect, patient)
 - T (tender, trustworthy)
 - I (inherit eternal life, included in God's family)
 - O (overcome death)
 - N (never ending)
 - To end, pray and thank God for the great blessing of being His dearly loved children.

Students

- Prior to your family worship time, obtain four or five images of people or places that would be viewed as negative by your children. Examples may include foods they do not like, places they would not want to travel to, or even people that might be viewed as enemies (e.g. Osama Bin Laden).
- After reading I John 3:1-3, ask your students to share about different things that they love. Examples may range from family to desserts. Be sure to let your students share fully. You may interject things like past vacations or hobbies that you know they enjoy. Now ask them to define love. Without yet giving them an accurate definition of love, share the pictures you obtained with them and ask them if they could ever love these

- things. Share the items in an order of significance (ex. broccoli would come before Bin Laden). Now read Romans 5:6-11. Ask your students when God began loving us (while we were weak, sinful, and His enemies). Ask them if this changes their definition of love. Understanding that love is a self-sacrificing commitment to care for someone else, ask your students if it surprises them that God loves them in this way (much like it would be for someone to say they loved a terrorist). Read I John 4:7-8. Ask them, “If God has loved us in this way, how does this change how and who we are to love?”
- A great way to begin to see God change your heart about loving others, as He has loved us as a father, is to pray for people who are difficult to love. Ask your students to write down the name of a difficult person to love and place the name where they will see it daily. Encourage them to pray for that person each time they see their name, and to thank God for loving them as a perfect father. Be sure to write the name of a person yourself, students will always be more impacted by what they see you do than what they hear you say.

SING

Adoption

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8MwMML7OK8>)

VERSE 1

We are the cold and starving
 We are the scared and trembling
 We are the desperately lost
 We are the lone and hopeless
 We are the outcast orphans
 We are the ones no one wants
 But a Father is coming for us

CHORUS

You adopted us in
 And you made us your own
 You adopted us in
 And you gave us a home

VERSE 2

We were the long discarded
We were the weak and useless
We needed rescue and help
We were the long forgotten
We were the disregarded
We couldn't care for ourselves
But a Father was coming for us

Verse 3

When I met you, I didn't know you had money
I didn't know you were a King
I was too young
To know you were a rich man
I just knew you loved me
Oh, I knew you loved me
I just know you love me, yeah

Scripture Memory

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. - 1 John 1:3

Notes

Week 9 - August 26-September 1, 2018

Sermon: HOMES BUILT BY THE LORD

Pastor Scott Kinding - Psalm 127 | Luke 2:41-52

This guide is a tool to help you lead your family into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your family in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There will be aspects you do not use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool, not a rigid family task list.

READ

Read Psalm 127.

This Psalm reminds us that in everything we do, we are dependent on God to bless our efforts.

In verse 1 the author, Solomon, talks about building a house. Now, he doesn't just mean building a physical house. He means building a family, or a kingdom (Solomon was the king), or a temple (Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem), or whatever else we try to do. So the point is that no matter what we attempt, we need God's grace in order to succeed.

God is a good and loving God. He takes care of His people. Therefore, His people ("His beloved") can sleep at night (v. 2). They rest easy knowing that God takes care of them.

One of the greatest examples of God's grace in our lives is our family. God is the one who gives children. God creates life, and He gives children to parents as a gift (v. 3O5). This is another reminder that we need God's help and God's grace. Parents

Parents cannot create life on their own. God creates life, and He gives children to parents as a blessing.

This is also a great reminder to parents that we need God's grace in raising our families. We might try to do things right, but we need God to work in the hearts of our children.

Questions:

- What are some specific ways that you need God's grace? How have you seen God help you in the past?
- What words does Solomon use to describe the blessing of children in verses 3-5? Why do you think he chooses these words?
- Parents, how can you treat your children like the blessing they are from God?
- Children, how can you be a blessing to your parents?

Bottom Line: *We are dependent on God's grace in everything we do, especially in our family life.*

PRAY

The faith family of CityViewChurch has an incredible responsibility to pass the faith effectively to the Next Generation. The purpose of our Next Generation Ministry is to create disciple-making strategies that are aimed at the individual, implemented through families and mentors, and supported by the church. As we pray this week for a focused Next Generation Ministry, we invite you to pray intentionally that God would advance His gospel through His people from generation to generation, and from neighborhoods to nations for His Glory and for our good.

SING

The song From the Depths of Woe is an echo of the faithfulness of God we see in Lamentations 3:22-24. The version we sing is adapted from the hymn 'penned by Martin Luther. When writing the song, he had been running for his life for a number of years and sought to portray the truths from Lamentations that show our total reliance and dependence on God – the Sustainer of all things.

The song depicts us as completely sinful with nothing good to give, and only through God's faithfulness and mercy towards us can we achieve anything good. Ultimately, in this song we sing to express our dependence on and gratitude for our strong and loving God.

MEMORIZE

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. - Psalm 127:1

SUGGESTIONS

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Preschool

- Before you begin: gather paper, scissors and glue sticks or staple gun. Cut paper into strips 1" wide by 8" long. You should cut one strip for each member of your family and one strip for God.
- Read Psalm 127:3a.
- Explain to your preschooler that the Bible tells us that children are a gift from God. Ask if they ever think of themselves as a gift? What if you put a great big bow on them or wrapped them up in wrapping paper and ribbons? Would they think of themselves as a gift then? Let them know they are a gift, and God created them and gave them to you.
- Tell your child that you are going to create a craft together to help them understand that it was God who formed your family and that it is only with God's love and help that you will be able to follow God's plan for your lives. You need God.

- Take the strips and allow the children to write the names of their family members on the strips: Mom, Dad, Danny, Sarah, etc. Write the word “God” on one strip.
- Make paper chains with the strips of paper by gluing or stapling the ends of one together and putting the second strip through the first one before gluing. Make sure that you put “God” in the center of your chain, then, Mom, Dad, kids, etc. When you are finished, explain to your child that your chain is very strong now because God is the center of your family chain. Say, “We couldn’t be your parents without God, who created us. God gave you to us as a gift, and He joined us together as a family. God created all people all over the world. He is the boss over all things. We need God as the boss of our family.”
- Re-read Psalm 127:3 together.
- Pray and thank God for the gift of your children and family

Children

- Make a list of difficult tasks such as:
 - Balance a stack of books on your head and walk across the room without dropping the books.
 - Spin in a circle 10 times then walk a straight line without stepping off the line.
 - Run across the room with a ping-pong ball in a spoon without dropping the ball.
- Have fun together trying to complete these tasks. Reread Psalm 127:1. Explain to the children that no matter what the task before us, we are dependent on God’s grace to succeed. God puts families together, and we need His power working in each of our lives to help us build and maintain strong homes. When we face challenges in our family relationships, we need to look to God as our watchman. He is there to protect us and give us the strength to overcome attacks from the enemy.
- Discuss the fact that there are no perfect kids and no perfect parents. Just as God shows us great grace in forgiving our sins, we should show mercy and forgiveness in our families. We need God to help us live together as a family in a way that glorifies Him.
- Read Psalm 127:3-5. Tell your children specific ways in which they have blessed your life.

- Pray together asking God to build your family and guard and protect it. Thank God for the grace He has shown you, and ask Him for help showing grace to each other.

Students

- Re-Read Psalm 127 and then have someone else read Psalm 20:7.
- Ask your family what these passages have to do with the idea of God’s provision. How do they contrast one another?
- Communicate to your family that these Psalms outline two opposing approaches to life. In one, people put their trust and faith in themselves – their houses, their well-being, and their children. They take confidence in what they did not build as well as in the things they believe they brought to the table.
- The opposing view is quite different: seeing God as the builder of the house, the protector, and the giver of children. In the second perspective, we recognize that God as the ultimate provider and constructor.
- Which of these two mind-sets is most seen today? Why?
- Which best describes your normal way of approaching life on a regular basis? Discuss this as a family.
- Why is it so easy to forget that God is the provider of every good thing in our lives?
- Give each family member a brick and a marker. Read Psalm 127:1 again and write words or symbols on your brick that represent the roles of God that we often try to take over. On the other side write down a few words of thanksgiving to God, as the true “builder” and “sustainer” of all good things.
- Close in family prayer communicating the thing you thanked God for on your brick. Ask God to remind us that in everything we do, we are dependent on His provisions and blessings.

Prayer

Lives/Church

Our church prayer highlight for this week centers around the exhortations in Titus 2 given to older men and women in the church. We see older men and women are urged to give their lives to equipping and training younger men and women. Pray that older men at CityView would be diligent to invest their lives and disciple the next generation. Pray that younger men would be

- humble and teachable and willing to be discipled. Pray that older women in our church would strive to find ways to encourage the younger generation to love their families. Finally, pray that younger women at CityView would seek out the wisdom and godly example of our church's older women.

SING

From the Depths of Woe (Psalm 130)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aVWBSmghAs>)

VERSE 1

From the depths of woe I raise to Thee
The voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me
And hear my supplication;
If Thou iniquities dost mark,
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,

O who shall stand before Thee?
(*Who shall stand before Thee?*)
O who shall stand before Thee?
(*Who shall stand before Thee?*)

VERSE 2

To wash away the crimson stain,
Grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas Are all in vain;
In much the best life faileth;
No man can glory in Thy sight,
All must alike confess Thy might,
And live alone by mercy
(*Live alone by mercy*)
And live alone by mercy
(*Live alone by mercy*)

Verse 3

Therefore my trust is in the Lord,
And not in mine own merit;
On Him my soul shall rest, His word
Upholds my fainting spirit;

His promised mercy is my fort,
My comfort and my sweet support;
I wait for it with patience
(*Wait for it with patience*)
I wait for it with patience
(*Wait for it with patience*)

VERSE 4

What though I wait the live-long night,
And til the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in His might;
It doubteth not nor feareth;
Do thus, O ye of Israels seed,
Ye of the Spirit born indeed;

And wait til God appeareth
(*Wait til God appeareth*)
And wait til God appeareth
(*Wait til God appeareth*)

VERSE 5

Though great our sins and sore our woes
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our upmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free

From all their sin and sorrow
(*All their sin and sorrow*)
From all their sin and sorrow
(*All their sin and sorrow*)

Scripture Memory

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. - Psalm 127:1

Notes