



Family

Roles & Responsibilities

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Quarter 3 & 4- 2017

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Aim of the Workbook

This workbook seeks **to help us understand what our responsibility and role is in our families**. This is not an exhaustive study but rather an attempt to define, describe, and explain these roles so application can be made. One of the challenges we face is an attempt by Satan to attack God's foundational principles and roles that are key to the home. (Genesis 2-3) This is why we must evaluate God's plan with the utmost care and caution to ensure man's wisdom, philosophy, or opinion has not become our practice, thinking, or model for the family.

Another aim of this workbook is **to motivate families to create an environment where loving God and going to Heaven is the greatest priority**. By extension, we will seek to greatly edify the church and world that we live in. If we have the biggest house but our home is lacking hope, faith and love, was it worth it? How will it help us if we gain everything but lose our souls? (Mk. 8:36-37)

A third aim of this workbook is **to prepare the next generation to know and serve God Almighty**. Our faith should be surveyed and practiced so often that we can't help but tell the next generation because our faith is who we are and what guides us. Notice the words of Psalm 48:12-14, "Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers, consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever." (ESV)

May God guide you through this study, and may we have open hearts to His Word so that we may grow in His grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18) and our families may bring great glory to our Heavenly Father.

Course Goals

- To teach the truth of God's word in boldness, simplicity and love.
- To have a Bible class that is filled with class participation and student-centred discussion, application, and open-ended questions.
- To have a Bible class that can be modified and taken into the home so that spouses, children, and other family members can learn as the class proceeds or after the class concludes.
- To gain a basic understanding of family roles and responsibilities by tiered instruction.
- To use this class as an evangelistic opportunity to invite the community and family members to share in this study.

Introduction- Why The Family?

Memory Verse: Genesis 6:8 (NKJV)

Devotional Song: Thank You Lord For Homes

1. Who would you describe as the world's most successful family? (1 Peter 3:20) Why?
2. We find a description of a family in Hebrews 11:7 that give us some reasons families were created. What are they?
3. What was the world like in Noah's day? What were people in the world thinking about? (Genesis 6:5, Matthew 25:26, 24:36-39) What role did unwise marriages play? (Gen.6:1-2)
4. Who was the leader of Noah's family? What effect did it have on his wife, children, and in-laws? (Compare this with Eli- 1 Samuel 2:22-25)
5. While we are not told much about Noah's wife, what are some things that had to have been true of her (necessary inference)?
6. What two main things did God tell Noah to do? (Gen 6:3, 2 Peter 2:5)
 - a. Does God ask us to believe & do things the world does NOT accept?
 - b. Are numerical results ever truly representative of spiritual success?
7. Does a family have to be perfect to find grace in God's eyes? How can we be families of faith?
 - a. Genesis 6:8, 22
 - b. Genesis 7:16, 8:1
 - c. Genesis 8:15-18
 - d. Genesis 9:6

For Family Study:

- From Question 2- Discuss as a family the importance of being saved and how you are preparing for judgment.
- From Question 3- Compare Noah's world to the world we live in today? What does this mean?
- From Question 6- Discuss some things God tells us to say or do that are hard and where we get the strength to say or do them.
- Sing the devotional song together noticing the importance of each part of the family.

Lesson 1- What Is The Family?

Memory Verse: Psalm 127:1

Devotional Song: God Give Us Christian Homes

1. What does the word family mean in our society? Who created the home and family? (Gen. 2:18, 20-23; 1:28, 4:11, Mt. 19:3-9, Mark 10:9, 1 Tim. 5:14)
2. How long will God's plan for families continue? (Gen 2:24, Mt. 19:4-5, Eph 5:31) Why can we not alter it based on culture or emotions?
3. Who is the leader of the family? (Proverbs 14:12, 16:25, 1 Cor. 11:3) Following His example requires us to do the following things. Name some ways based on the scriptures below:
 - a. Love- Eph 5:25,28-29, 1 Tim 1:5
 - b. Serve- Eph. 5:25
 - c. Plan- Eph. 5:27
 - d. Empower- Luke 9:1-6
 - e. Seek Counsel- Prov. 15:22
 - f. Shepherd- Psalm 23, Ezekiel 34:2-6
4. What is the primary focus of the family? (Genesis 18:19)
5. How important is it to have both the mother and father, grandparents, and others in place and doing their part? (Proverbs 1:8-9, Eph 6:4, Titus 2:1-8)
6. How can local churches strengthen the family? (Matthew 19:6)(Ephesians 5:22-6:4).
7. What are our responsibilities to the following groups when families are not what they should be or need encouragement?
 - a. To our spouse?
 - b. To our children/grandchildren?
 - c. To our parents/grandparents?
 - d. To children in the local church?
 - e. To children in the community?

For Family Study:

- From Question 3- Use the example of Christ to illustrate your family relationships and state specific expectations for each person.
- From Question 6- Discuss which of the areas are problem or success areas for your family and what you can do to improve or continue.

Lesson 2- A Man vs. A Godly Man

Memory Verse- 1 Kings 2:2

Devotional Song- Rise Up O Men Of God

1. From Genesis 2:7 what we do we learn man is? Why is it so important to distinguish between a man and a Godly man? (1 Samuel 13:14)
2. What is the summary Solomon gives as the "whole duty of man"? (Eccl 12:13-14) Why is it important to start as a young man or as soon as possible? (12:1-8)
3. We also see from Genesis that man was created first. What does this imply about a man's leadership responsibility? (1 Cor. 11:3, Eph. 5:23,) Why is it important to understand that God's order for leadership was established before sin entered the world? (1 Timothy 2:8-13)
4. Despite the call by God for men to be spiritual leaders, it seems it is often the opposite with women taking the lead. In his book, Murrow shares these shocking figures below. Why is this the case? What can be done to remedy it?
 - At least one-fifth of married women regularly worship without their husbands
 - The majority of men attend worship services and nothing more
 - Men 18-29 are the LEAST LIKELY demographic group to be part of the church
5. Which is more important: masculinity or manhood? Is it important for men to be masculine? (1 Cor. 11:3,14-15, 16:13) Can you think of some stereotypes on TV or in the media that influence this? Who do men learn to be men from?
6. What are some of the most important qualities a man can have? (1 Timothy 4:12)
7. What are some aspirations a man should have? Why? (Hint: What were some things Jesus was?)
8. In the book of Ruth, we meet a man named Boaz who was a man of God. How did he...How can we...
 - Put God first? (2:4, 2:12, 3:13)
 - Act Kindly? (2:8,13, 3:10,4:5,11)
 - Provide? (2:8-9a, 2:9b, 15, 3:11)

For Family Study:

- From Question 4- Discuss this as it relates to your family, and lay out your plan to break the cycle.
- From Question 7- Ask your children what they aspire to be.
- From Question 8- Discuss practically how we can be a modern-day Boaz. (Make sure you explain who he was. i.e. Line of David)

Lesson 3- A Woman vs. A Godly Woman

Main Verse- Proverbs 31:30

Devotional Song- For Such A Time As This

1. According to Genesis 1:27, whose image is woman made in? Why is it so important to know and trust in this fact? Why could God's plan have never been to just create man? (Gen 1:26)

2. Genesis chapter two goes back to Day 6 of creation and gives us more detail. In verses 18 and 20, woman is described by God. Look at multiple Bible translations and share the description of woman and what this means. (See Deut 33:26)

3. Thought question- Compare and contrast the way both Adam and Eve were created. Does this foreshadow anything important later? (1 Cor. 11:9, Rev 21:2)

4. Which is more important: being feminine or womanhood? Is it important for women to be feminine? (1 Cor. 11:3,14-15, 16:13) Can you think of some stereotypes on TV or in the media that influence this? Who do women learn to be women from?

5. Why is the Godly (virtuous) woman so precious? (Prov. 31:10)

- How trustworthy is she? v11-12, Genesis 39
- How hardworking is she? v13-19,22,24
- What type of clothes does she wear? v17,22,30
- How hospitable is she? v20
- How well does she care for her family? v21-23, 27-28
- What does she do with her speech? v25-26

5. What are some specific aspirations a woman should have? Why? (Hint: What were some things Jesus was?)

For Family Study:

- From Question 4- This is a fantastic opportunity to discuss with your children who they see as a role model for women.
- From Question 5- Remember to share with them that no woman is perfect but should aspire to be what God created her to be.

Lesson 4- Marriage: The 2nd Greatest Decision

Main Verse- Proverbs 18:22

Devotional Song- A Common Love

1. Why is it so important to carefully choose a mate? (Matthew 19:3,8) What other processes are used in our society for choosing the person you will marry? (See Proverbs 5 and 1 Samuel 25)
2. How does seeing your {future} spouse as a "gift from God" change your perspective? (Proverbs 18:22, 19:14)
3. Is there such a thing as a wise or an unwise marriage? Why is wisdom so much more valuable than feelings when making the decision to marry? (Proverbs 24:3-4, 15:16-17, 14:1, 19:21,23)
4. Look at the search process Abraham used to find a wife for his son Isaac. (Genesis 24) How can we apply this process?
 - Abraham was concerned about who his son would marry. (v2)
 - Abraham was not motivated by financial gain. (v3)
 - Abraham/Isaac/Servant trusted in God. (v7, 12, 63)
 - Abraham said that a wife might not be found. (v8, 1 Cor. 7:17, Mt 19:10)
 - Prayer and worship were a part. (v12, v26-27, 52, James 4:2)
 - The criteria was a Godly character. (v18,20,65)
5. What is a God approved marriage? (Mal 2:14, Mt 19:6) Who are eligible to marry according to God's word? (Gen. 2:24, Rom. 7:2,3 Mt. 19:9)
6. Marriage is a perfect union created by God with each mate fulfilling their roles. (Genesis 1:28,2:18, 1 Peter 3:5-7) What is the ultimate aim of this relationship? (Eccl 4:9-10, Acts 18:24-28, Rom 16:3-4)
7. The Proverb writer describes marriage as intoxicating love, joyful, fulfilling, and filled with delight. Paul compares the love and respect of marriage to Jesus and His bride the Church. (Prov 5, Eph 5) Is it worth it? Will it be worth waiting for?

For Family Study:

- From Question 3- Use the steps below as a plan with your children or for yourself to prepare proactively to find a mate.
 1. List the qualities you seek.
 2. Pray specifically for them.
 3. Be someone a good mate would want to marry.
 4. Embrace singleness as you wait on the Lord.
 5. Learn from Godly couples.
- From Question 4- Since we marry who we date, discuss expectations for future spouses and present relationships. Also, challenge yourself as a spouse by your children's expectations.

Lesson 5- What Is My Role As A Husband?

Memory Verse- Ephesians 5:25

Devotional Song- He Loved Me So

1. Headship is the God-given role of the husband to take the primary responsibility for leadership, protection, and provision in the home. Who does he learn this from? (Eph 5:25-33)
2. Many in the world who hold positions of authority take advantage of it. What is the character and motivation of earthly ("gentile") leaders (Matt 20:25-28) compared to Jesus, the head of the Church?
3. Love is a word used nine times in Ephesians 5. List ways that a husband's love generates respect from his wife? (Eph 5:33) What are some other things that cause a wife to respect her husband? (1 Peter 3:6)
4. Submission can be a (very) unpopular term today, especially in the context of the marriage relationship. Is submission ever the role of a husband? (Eph 5:21, 1 Peter 3:7, Mt 26:39, John 6:38)
5. Read 1 Peter 3:7 using multiple translations if possible and answer the following questions which relate to the role of a husband. (*Recommended- NKJV, NASB, ESV, HCSB*)
 - What are some things that may hinder being able to "live with your wives" and thus not be able to experience necessary verbal, emotional, intellectual and physical intimacy? (1 Cor. 7:5)
 - To dwell with our wives "in an understanding way," what must husbands do? (See Col 3:19)
 - The word vessel used in verse 7 is also used in 2 Cor. 4:7 implying that the woman will, in general, have the weaker body. Does this affect the way we honour them? (Eph 5)
 - What two big reasons does Peter give for treating our wives as we should? (1 Peter 3:7d)
6. Why might communication be a struggle for husbands in marriage? What are some things we see from Eph 4:15,25,29,32 that men will need to learn to say? See Proverbs 31:28-29
7. While the wife can offer and contribute so much spiritually, the husband should be the religious leader of his home. (Joshua 24:15) What are some ways a husband must lead spiritually and personally? What happens if he doesn't?

For Family Study:

- From Question 3- Discuss love and if it is being shown in our family?
- From Question 5- Stress that, despite what culture says, men and women are equal in the sight of God but are created differently (NBA and WNBA) and have different God-given roles.
- From Question 6- For discussion: "Is our family good at sharing God's word? Saying I'm sorry?"

Lesson 6- What Is My Role As A Wife?

Memory Verse- Proverbs 31:10

Devotional Song- Have Thine Own Way, Lord

1. Submission is the God-given responsibility of a wife to respect and support her husband's leadership and to help carry it through. (Gen 3:16) Who does she learn this from and give some examples? (Phil 2:5-8, Luke 22:27, Titus 2:3-4)
2. Can submission be a frightening word in general? Why do the words "as unto the Lord" (KJV) help calm fears? (Eph. 5:22) Describe how wonderful a life in submission to Christ is.
3. What are the limitations of a wife's submission? (Col. 3:18, Acts 5:29) How important is it to stand up for what is right in a respectful manner, even when it means disagreeing with your husband? (1 Samuel 25)
4. According to Titus 2:4, what is the wife's primary responsibility? (KJV "keepers at home") Does this mean she cannot work outside the home? (think of virtuous woman, Priscilla, Lydia, etc.)
5. What is the goal of every marriage? How is this seen in the instructions to wives in 1 Peter 3:1-2? How does this work in reverse with husbands? (Think back to Eph. 5)
6. How long does inner beauty last compared to outward? (1 Peter 3:3-5) Why are some of these qualities so desperately needed to help husbands spiritually? Should Godly women be concerned at all about outward beauty? Why? (Esther 2:7, Song Of Sol. 4, 1 Timothy 2:9-10)
7. Why is it important for a Godly woman to not be afraid? (1 Peter 3:6, Prov 31:17,21)

For Family Study:

- From Question 2- Discuss as a family how each person feels about subjection and how it relates to our relationship with God.
- From Question 5- Discuss how you are each actively seeking to accomplish this goal.
- From Question 6- Practically, how does this affect day to day life? Routines? Dress?

Lesson 7- In-Laws: Loyalty And Love

Memory Verse- Ruth 1:16

Devotional Song- Let The Beauty Of Jesus

1. What does the word *in-law* mean to you? It has been said that the relationship between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law is the most fragile of all human relationships. Agree or disagree? Why?
2. Read about the choices of Esau (Genesis 26:34-35, 28:6-9) and Jacob in regard to choosing a mate. (Genesis 28:1-5, 29:1-14) What are some proactive steps that can be taken to prevent issues with in-laws? What is the best choice we can make to prepare for any issue? (Genesis 28:10-22)
3. What did Jacob do when he was misled and treated unfairly? How do you think you would respond in a comparable situation? (Genesis 25:15-28)
4. When Jacob lost favour with his father-in-law Laban, both he and Laban made some mistakes. What are some lessons we can learn from this account in Genesis 30:25-54 and Genesis 31?
5. Honouring one's parents is a responsibility given by God. (Ephesians 6:2-3, Exodus 20:12) How might a poor relationship with your in-laws prevent you or your spouse from doing this?
5. Is there ever a time you must disagree or stand against your in-laws? (Luke 12:49-53, 14:26) What can you do to prepare for this great test in your life/marriage? (Eccl 4:12, Genesis 2:24)
6. Ruth may be the greatest example in the Bible of how to treat your in-laws. Answer the following questions after reading how Ruth behaved toward her mother-in-law Naomi.
 - You must be willing- Are open to both giving and receiving love? (Ruth 1:16).
 - You must do hard things- What can you give sacrificially for them? (Ruth 2:2).
 - You must be respectful- Specifically, how can you show kindness? (Ruth 2:11).
 - You must listen- When possible, follow their wisdom. (Ruth 3:6, Exodus 18:24)
 - You must be inclusive. How well do you include your in-laws? (Ruth 4:17)

For Family Study:

- From Question 2- Discuss the effects of choosing a mate on you, your parents, and children.
- From Question 3- Share what you plan to do when treated unfairly. Ex: Need A School Plan
- From Question 6- Explain as a family your plan to do each of these and when.

Lesson 8- What Is My Role As A Child?

Memory Verse- 1 Kings 2:1-3

Devotional Song- Make Me A Servant

1. Where do we, for the very first time, learn the attributes of God? What does it say about the value of parents that even our heavenly Father chose earthly parents for His Son?

2. Why does a person's salvation depend largely on the willingness to obey Ephesians 6:1? (see also 2 Timothy 3:2) What are some reasons a child is judged so harshly for misconduct towards parents? (Exodus 21:15, Lev 20:9, Deut 21:18-21)

3. Describe in detail some modern consequences of disobedience to parents by children in the home? Young adults? Adult children? (See Proverbs 10:1, 27:11, 28:7, 29:3, 30:17 and Hosea 14:9)

4. In Mark 7:9-13, it had become a cultural norm (for the Pharisees) to mistreat parents. Is it a cultural norm today to mistreat parents? What did Jesus have to say about this responsibility?

5. Miriam Webster defines the Sandwich Generation as "a generation of people who are caring for their aging parents while supporting their own children" ("Sandwich"). What are the challenges of this group? Why are the qualities below essentials for fulfilling this great privilege?

- Faithfulness To God- Psalm 37:25
- Extra Respect- Proverbs 23:22
- Sacrificial Love- Acts 2:45
- Setting The Example/Giving Our Children Opportunities To Help- 1 Timothy 5:4

6. Why is a person worse than an unbeliever for not providing for their own? (1 Timothy 5:1-2,8)

7. Read the following quote concerning emotional support for parents:

"At a time when millions of elderly adults are living alone, consigned to nursing homes and hospitals, cared for by professionals rather than family members, Christians have the opportunity to display special honor" (Challies). What type of special honour is this? Is this a problem area? (Psalm 71:9)

For Family Study:

- From Question 2- Discuss as a family the connection between obedience to parents and God.
- From Question 5- Discuss and plan opportunities for your children to help older family/friends.
 - Nursing home visits and the importance of emotional support.
 - Helping around the house and insistence on helping.
 - Sitting and talking and the importance of those conversations.
 - Driving them places, helping them with bills, computer tutor (older children)

Lesson 9- Choosing To Become A Parent

Memory Verse- Psalm 127:3

Devotional Song- Do All In The Name Of The Lord

1. Why would you say the average person decides to have a child? A greater question might be why did God create us? (Jeremiah 31:3, 1 John 4:8, Matthew 22:34-40, Eph. 2:10) How does this influence our decision to have children?

2. Is it a requirement by God to have or raise physical children? (James 1:27, Psalm 68:5, Job 29:12, Psalm 10:14) What about spiritual children? (1 Timothy 5:1, Proverbs 27:10, Psalm 71:17-18)

For Perspective

- An estimated 24.7 million children (33%) live absent their biological father.
- Of students in grades 1 through 12, 39 percent (17.7 million) live in homes absent their biological fathers.
- According to 72.2 % of the U.S. population, fatherlessness is the most significant family or social problem facing America. ("National")

3. Read Psalm 127. Describe in detail the blessing of children.

4. What can we learn from Hannah (1:1-2:21) who was not able to have children for a time?

5. Trusting that God's plans for us are perfect can guide us through no matter what. For some who are not able to have biological children or are still trying, what are some comforts from God's Word? (Luke 23:29, Isa. 54:1-3, Genesis 25:21, Psalm 34:15)

6. Adoption is another wonderful, scriptural manner of having children. What does it also represent spiritually? (Esther 2:7, 2 Corinthians 6:18, Galatians 4:4-6, Romans 8:15-16, 9:4)

7. Below are listed some considerations to use for when choosing to have a child. Carefully consider and discuss how you would prioritise them. (Proverbs 3:5-6, 11:14, 21:5)

- Your Wishes As A Couple
- Age and Health
- Finances
- Stability of Your Marriage
- The Question of Attention

For Family Study:

- From Question 2- Discuss as a family how each person can reach out to someone who is lacking family, attention, or support.
- From Question 5- Plan as a family some specific ways to increase your trust in God.
 - Prayer times, studies about trust, conversations about things that happened during the day, worship in song, attend gospel meetings or group bible studies, etc.

Lesson 10- What Is My Role As A Father?

Memory Verse- Eph. 6:4

Devotional Song- Train Your Children

1. Who is the greatest example of what a father should be? What are some qualities of our Heavenly Father that are essential to being a good earthly father? (Psa. 103:13-14, Mt. 7:9-11, Prov. 3:11-12)
2. Training children is the job of both parents, but how must a man specifically take the lead as a father? (Deut. 6:6-7, Eph. 6:4) Why is it so important that both parents are actively working together?
3. How, specifically, are fathers the daughters' first love and sons' first best friend? Why is this so important especially considering our culture's concept of gender roles and sexuality?
4. What must a man have to instruct his family to serve the Lord? (**Gen. 18:19** & 12:7-8, 13:18, 22:9)
 - Thought Question- How does this prepare him to shepherd the local church? (1 Timothy 3:4-5)
5. What are some things we know for certain that, by not doing, will produce rebellious children? (1 Samuel 3:13, Hebrews 12:11, Proverbs 19:18) Can a father over-discipline? (Col 3:21, Eph. 6:4)
6. What are some qualities the following men had that fathers need to avoid?
 - Nabal- 1 Samuel 25:17
 - Saul- 1 Samuel 17:33-36
 - Israel- Genesis 37:3-4
 - Naaman- 2 Kings 5:13-14
7. In Luke 15:11-32, we see a representation of our Heavenly Father as the father of two prodigal sons. What can we learn as fathers from His example?
8. Being a leader requires taking the initiative to plan the direction of your family. Share which of these are most critical, which you come short on, and which you succeed at already.
 - An inventory and routine check of spiritual progress (first principles, virtues, Bible knowledge)
 - Daily attention and assessment of habits, attitudes, and values (time spent, positive/negative attitudes, dress/entertainment)
 - Setting the example and encouraging necessary daily, weekly, monthly practices (daily reading/prayer, worship services, congregational activities, yearly bible readings)
 - Consistently evaluating standards for friends, associations and courtship (1 Cor 15)
 - A self-inventory of affection, praise, criticism and discipline (Is my family emulating me?)

For Family Study:

- From Question 1- Discuss as a family which quality of God as a father you love the most and how specifically you can put that quality into practice tomorrow.
- From Question 4- Discuss with your family the benefits of discipline and why it is done.

Lesson 11- What Is My Role As A Mother?

Memory Verse- 2 Timothy 1:5

Devotional Song- Train Your Children

1. What are some qualities of God that mothers can learn from and use in the home? Use the following scriptures to explain:

- Numbers 11:12 and Deuteronomy 32:18
- Psalm 131:2-3
- Isaiah 42:14
- Isaiah 49:15 and 1 Thes. 2:7
- Isaiah 66:12-13
- Hosea 11:3-4
- Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34

2. How specifically are mothers the sons' first love and daughters' first best friend? Why is this so important especially considering our culture's concept of gender roles and sexuality?

3. Research has proven that the first five years of a child's life are critical for development, with the first three being especially vital. ("Child") What difference did early teaching by the mother/grandmother make in the lives of Moses (Hebrews 11:23-24) and Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15)?

4. Think of a woman who has been like a mother to you. Why are "mothers" needed so desperately in the local church? (1 Tim 5:2, Rom. 16:13) What are some specific things they can do?

5. Who are responsible for training young women to be mothers? (Titus 2:3) Look at the attributes they will teach young mothers and discuss why each trait is important (Titus 2:4-5).

6. The phrase "keepers at home" in Titus 2:5 (KJV) is a compound of two Greek words that mean house and watcher. Vincent explains that "the meaning is not stayers at home, but keepers or guardians of the household" (842). How is the mother a guardian or watcher of the home?

7. What role does a father play in the success or failure of the mother's work? (Proverbs 6:20-21, 23:22, 22:15, 31:28)

For Family Study:

- From Question 1- Choose one of the qualities to praise God for.
- From Question 4- Discuss a "mother" from your local church and how to give her the opportunity to help your children.
- From Question 6- Specifically share how you can show appreciation for your mother.

Lesson 12- What Is My Role As A Grandparent?

Memory Verse- Proverbs 17:6

Devotional Song- Living By Faith

1. What key role do grandparents play in the lives of children? (Hebrews 11:21) Specifically, what are some of the blessings we receive from grandparents? (Proverbs 13:22, 20:7, 2 Timothy 1:5)

2. In teaching the next generation what do grandparents have to offer that is special and unique? (Psa.71:17-18, 78:5-7, & 145:4) Why do some children listen to grandparents before parents?

3. Think about the special love grandparents have for their grandchildren. (Gen.48:5, 10) What are some ways grandparents can show this love? (Gen 48:7)

4. Some grandparents may be long past the mental and physical prime of life. Yet, God might ask them to make the greatest sacrifice of their entire life then for those they love. What equips and prepares them for this? (See 1 Timothy 3:6, Proverbs 16:31, Isa 46:4, Psalm 37:25, 92:14-15)

5. According to one survey, 72% of grandparents think being a grandparent is the single most...satisfying thing in their life ("Facts"). What are the benefits of grandchildren to grandparents? (Prov. 17:6)

- 6a. We are in a great battle for the souls of young people today, especially the millennial generation who are leaving the Lord in disturbingly high numbers. In sharing about her personal struggles, one young woman gives an important insight into the need for spiritual grandparents:
 - *"It was during this time that I needed older brothers and sisters in Christ to lean on for support and guidance, and I reached out for that as best as I knew how, but it was just not received...I believe others fall through the cracks when they might not have the strength to seek any further at a time like that in their lives (especially during young adulthood)."*
- 6b. What can older men and women do specifically to provide support, encouragement, and guidance to many others like this young woman? Will young people usually ask for help?

For Family Study:

- From Question 1- Discuss as a family how much of an opportunity grandchildren are getting to learn from and be under the influence of a Godly grandparent. What have you learned recently?
- From Question 4- What sacrifices are grandparents currently making in your family? Either as a family or individually write them a letter (it will be special) thanking them.

Lesson 13- Guardrails For The Family

Memory Verse- Eph. 5:15

Devotional Song- The Way of the Cross Leads Home

1. How would you respond if someone were breaking into your house to harm your family? Why is it so critical that steps be taken to safe guard the family spiritually? (1 Peter 5:8, Eph. 6:10-13, Gen 3)
2. Should families have a plan in place (guardrails) to provide extra protection to avoid off-limit areas? (Eph. 5:15-17) Why? What are some specific dangers the family is facing today? (Eph. 6:16)
3. Guardrails For Overworking- Read Matthew 6:19-21
 - **Simplify**- Most parents want to give children a better life. This is admirable. But, if we overwork to do it, are we really giving our kids a “better” life? Why?
 - **Strategize**- Ask yourself some tough questions: Do I take my vacation time? Does my family eat together at night? Do I turn down “unnecessary” overtime? Do I stay late at work consistently?
 - **Sacrifice**- With bosses demanding, bank accounts lacking, and a deep sense of purpose coming from work, it can be hard not to overwork. Have a heart to heart with your spouse and children and decide what sacrifices you can make to choose better things. (Luke 10:38-42)
4. Guardrails For Sexual Temptation- Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20
 - **Simplify**- What is the difference between “flirting” with sexual temptation and "fleeing"? How can we remember to see the soul and not just the body?
 - **Strategize**- Discuss/plan specific guardrails: i.e. Being Alone, Touching, Intimacy Rules, Transparent Social Media, Modesty, The Second Look Rule (don't look again)
 - **Sacrifice**- What are some things we need to give up to create an extra guardrail in our life?
5. Guardrails For Technology- Read Proverbs 4:21-23
 - **Simplify**- Cell phones, tablets, and other devices are helpful but can do great harm also...How?
 - **Strategize**- Discuss/plan specific guardrails: i.e. Passwords, Privacy, Parental Controls, Time
 - **Sacrifice**- It is tempting to enjoy “entertainment” not realizing how deeply Satan is harming our families. What does my family need to give up to be more safe? (Mk. 8:36)
6. Guardrails For Hobbies/Recreation- Read Psalm 16:3-4
 - **Simplify**- Parents, why can you not let your kids dictate how much they play? (Proverbs 23:7)
 - **Strategize**- Eventually, recreation will be a footnote in your story- no matter how much success you have. How can we search out and plan spiritual opportunities to participate in instead?
 - **Sacrifice**- It's hard to give up things we love. But we need to love our family more than sports. In this life, we must do everything possible to get my family to Heaven. While we may not give up sports or hobbies all together, what are some sacrifices that may need to be made?

For Family Study: Discuss each of the guardrails in detail. Explain why each is important and how to incorporate them. Plan and implement unique guardrails for your family.

Lesson 14- Bringing Back Members Of Our Family

Memory Verse- Galatians 6:1

Devotional Song- Jesus is Tenderly Calling

1. Despite spending many years training and preparing our children, we must keep in mind that they will make their own decisions. Why is it necessary that we let them choose, make their own mistakes, and allow them to live with the consequences? (Luke 15:11-32)
2. How does seeing a different picture of God as a shepherd seeking the one lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7) affect our mentality toward our children as well? Why is hope so critical a mindset?
3. For some family members, guilt creates a great burden over the lost state of a family member. How does each of the following help deal with this:
 - Understanding Individual Accountability- Ezekiel 18:20
 - Prayer- James 5:13-14
 - Repentance- Matthew 5:23-24
 - Confession - James 5:16
 - Correction- Matthew 7:1-4
4. For some there is not a sense of urgency towards family members. Why? How do we develop a compassionate heart like Jesus? (Matthew 9:36, Luke 15:20) How should this manifest itself in our words? (Eph. 4:15, 1 Peter 3:15, John 1:14, Col. 1:6)
5. Why must we first be a good listener to reach out to a loved one? (James 1:19) Is there biblical precedent in trying to understand, before seeking to be understood? (Proverbs 16:32, 17:27, 19:11)
6. Is there any reason to be ashamed of the Gospel? (Rom 1:16) Why is it important to remember the power is not in you; the power is in the Word of God? (Heb. 4:12-13, 1 Cor. 3) Why is it important to have the courage to ask them for a response?
7. Teaching family members or friends who are living in immorality, deceived by false teaching, or simply will not endure sound teaching can be difficult. How do the words of Jesus, Paul and James give us proper perspective and comfort? (Matthew 10:26-39, 2 Timothy 4:1-8, James 5:19-20)
8. Why do we need to be ready to reaffirm our love for the one who repents and is forgiven? (2 Cor 2:5-11) What are some principles we should keep in mind when doing so? (1 Cor. 8:9, Rom. 16:19, Mt. 10:16)

For Family Study:

- From Question 2- Identify a family member you can pray for, and share the truth with.
- From Question 7- Conflict because of the truth is still hard. How can we ready ourselves?

Lesson 15- The Value Of Family Worship

Memory Verse – Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Devotional Song- O Worship the King

1. What is worship? Who is the beneficiary of our worship? (Rom.15:6, Eph. 5:19, 1 Cor 14:15)
2. Did you grow up worshipping regularly as a family in your home in addition to normal meetings of the local church? When we think of worship are we more likely to think of a “church building” or a home?
3. Taking a deep look at Deuteronomy 6, we see a teaching principle that transcends time.
 - V5- In order to teach our families, what must we (parents) first do? Does teaching begin with modelling?
 - V6- How will we keep these things on our hearts?
 - V7a- To diligently teach our children, how often does that mean we will be teaching/worshipping?
 - V7b- Discussions about God’s word in the home happen because of what? Who facilitates?
 - V7c- What can we teach as we travel places like work or school? Should we plan this?
 - V7d- Developing a routine at bedtime eliminates a lot of issues. Describe a good bedtime devotional.
 - Example: A Bible lesson, songs, memory verse, prayers
 - V7e- With school, work and church responsibilities, can mornings can be hectic? How does a brief time of devotion in the morning set the tone for the day? (Mark 1:20-35)
 - V8- Phylacteries are small leather boxes that contain God’s Word that were strapped on the wrist and forehead. While figurative, this command is meant to guide our hands and thoughts. Why?
 - V9- Putting the word of God on the doorposts and gates was a declaration. There was no doubt that the family who lived in that house served the Lord. It required accountability. What are some public declarations we make in the 21st century?
4. What are some excuses that families make for not having home worship? Compare these excuses to Moses when God called him to go to Pharaoh? What response did God have for him? (Exodus 3-4)
5. Why is it also important to use family worship as a time of training? As a time of togetherness? As a time of commitment? Have you taken steps necessary to ensure regular family worship (Josh. 24:15)

For Family Study:

- From Question 3- Discuss which of these you are most excited about and why?
- From Question 5- Go ahead and set daily time(s) for worship specifically for your family.

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Additional Credit: (Some ideas came from the thoughts of these godly men.)

- David Hartsell- Introduction- "The World's Most Successful Family."
- David Maxson- Lesson 4- "The Thing Has Come From the LORD."
- Phillip Shumake- Lesson 8- "The Sandwich Generation."
- Marty Broadwell- Lesson 10- "Parenting: Rearing Godly Children"
- Edwin Crozier- Lesson 14- "Parenting The Prodigal"