



3 It takes wisdom to have a good family, and it takes understanding to make it strong. Proverbs 24:3 (NCV)

Two import truths to know:

■ Families are built by design or by default.

15 GOD, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does he want from marriage? Children of God, that's what. So guard the spirit of marriage within you. Don't cheat on your spouse. Malachi 2:15 (MSG)

■ There is no perfect family.

Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)

Questions to establish a Christ Centered home:

■ Who is most important in my life?

Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ. Philippians 3:8 (MSG)

■ Who do I Love most?

Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters—yes, even one's own self!—can't be my disciple. Luke 14:26 (MSG)

How does Jesus become central.

■ Establish the standard for your life.

...choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

- It is the parent's privilege to lead their children.

Point your kids in the right direction and when they're old they won't be lost. Proverbs 22:6 (MSG)

KEY PARENTING TRUTH:

- You have less control than you think. And you have more influence than you can imagine.

KEY PERSONAL TRUTH:

- Its our responsibility to lead ourselves.

Listen, ...The Lord is our God. He is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength. 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. Deut. 6: 4-7

- Don't allow the standard to become a motto.

Jesus answered him, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" Matthew 22:37 (GW)

- The standard is a personal relationship with Jesus.

■ Make love your priority.

8 The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love.

9 This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him.

10 This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

11 My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. 1 John 4:8-11 (MSG)

■ Build you home with Grace and Mercy.

13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you.

Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

32 Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 (MSG)

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What spoke most to you from the talk on Sunday?
- Did you grow up in a Christ centered family? Talk about what the center of your home was?
- How would you personally define a Christ centered home? Why is a home centered on Christ important to the family structure?
- How did you answer the question: "Who is most important in my life?" and does it reflect "Whom you love most"?
- Why is a standard important for our home? What is your standard? How is that standard shared within the family?
- What is the difference between a standard and a slogan? How do we prevent our standard from becoming a slogan?
- How do you build your home with grace and mercy?
- How do our words, prayers and obedience establish Christ at home?
- In what area do you feel God is asking you to give more attention?

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