

Week 9 – The Family: A Happy Home

Introduction:

When Hannah (in 1 Samuel 1) found that God heard her pleading prayer for a child, she immediately responded by giving her son to the Lord (v.27-28). Every Christian parent should see children as a gift from God (Psalms 127:3) to be cherished and trained for Him (Ephesians 6:4).

Proverbs is primarily a parent's written-out training guide for their kids. Solomon wrote the book for his son. An appreciation for and application of the parent's role described in the book will bring God's blessing to the home and victory for the Christian's life.

VICTORY PLAN:

#1 - TRUTH TO YOUTH

#2 - KNOW GOD

#3 - GET WISDOM

#4 - DON'T BE A FOOL

#5 - BE & MAKE FRIENDS

#6 - USE WISE WORDS

#7 - BE DILIGENT

#8 - HAVE A GODLY HOME

- Was there a turning point in your life when you recognized how influential your parents have been in helping you to become who you are today?

No government agency, non-profit, or church can create a happy home, but the God who designed the family, certainly can. Lets look into His plan for parents as given to us in the Bible book of Proverbs.

- I. **God Made Parents** — As the case is in the rest of the book, proverbs for parents are general truths which usually produce certain outcomes in their children. They are not promises—but principles. The guiding principles for parenting in Proverbs share both positive and negative results of certain styles of parenting.

Scripture's ideal home is composed of married parents (father and mother) and children. Sometimes difficult circumstances alter who is present in a household. These challenges should never weaken God's instructions for what marriage is to be or what responsible parenting entails.

- A. Glad Dads (& Moms) — Did you know God desires happy homes? What are the qualities that will produce such glee in a family? What brings sadness?

1. Prov 10:1 -
2. Prov 23:15-16, 24-25 -
3. Prov 27:11 -
4. Prov 29:3 -

- B. Good Looking Kids — What behaviors bring the appearance of beautiful accessories to children?

1. Prov 1:8-9 -
2. Prov 4:1,9 -

- C. Great Days Ahead — If children correctly respond to parent's guidance, what might they expect?

1. Prov 3:22-24 -
2. Prov 4:8, 12 -

3. Prov 17:6 -

4. Prov 22:6 -

II. **God Gave a Process** — Parents are responsible to provide for everyday needs of their children. Godly parents who desire godly kids will take the Bible's advice to be examples, give instruction, and make necessary corrections to their children.

A. Examples - How does the godly parent live? (Prov 20:7)

- What brings children protection? (Prov 14:26)

B. Instructions — If children are to obey parents (Ephesians 6:1), parents are to direct their kids. What are parents supposed to say to their children? (Prov 1:8; 6:20)

- In Proverbs 5, a man fell into the trap of the adulteress when he walked right over previous warnings he had been given. What did he do with what he had been taught? (Prov 5:12-13)

- What will the wise son hear? (Prov 13:1)

C. Corrections — Loving discipline in the home is based upon the example of God. How does God address our sin and weaknesses? (Prov 3:11-12)

- What are the contrasts of Proverbs 13:24?

- While no parent can change the heart of their child, what facts will biblical discipline awaken the child to? (Prov 22:15)

- Why should discipline be consistent? (Prov 19:18; 23:13-14 -Note: Hebrews 12:11)

- What should parents who lovingly discipline their children anticipate? (Prov 29:15, 17)

Discipline has to do with correcting character faults in a child while there is still time to do it . . . If you want to enjoy your children all your life, start by lovingly disciplining them early. - Warren Wiersbe

III. **God Shares Prospects** — Solomon shares a variety of results that can be attributed to the relationship between parents and children. Ultimately, every child has a free-will (Prov 19:26; 20:20; 30:11–12,17; 28:24). If a child were to make destructive choices it should be in spite of their parents, not because of them.

- A. How can the parent/child relationship be a TRUST?

- B. How can the parent/child relationship be a CHOICE?

- C. How can the parent/child relationship be a TRUTH?

Conclusion: God blesses the home that seeks to honor Him. Every member of the local church should stand with, pray for, encourage, and support godly homes.