

Family 1st



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY



GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

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 Dr. Steven Guy, Dr. Bill Bagents, Frank Foust, Willard Pyles, and other various sources.*



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Appreciating Godly Roles

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. The concept of family values seems old-fashioned and archaic. It is evident that there is a loss of respect for purity, the definition of marriage is changing in our culture, parents are failing, fathers are absent, women are everywhere else but at home, divorce is commonly accepted, grandparents are raising their grandchildren, children/youth are showing less respect, kids move in and out frequently, family members are confused and we need something to change! The home will fall apart without God and the Bible! We must focus on appreciating the God-given roles to the family. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Role of Husbands

- A. Praise your family (**Proverbs 31:23, 28-29**).
- B. Submit to your wife (**Ephesians 5:21**).
- C. Love your family (**Ephesians 5:25-29**).
- D. Don't neglect your wife's needs (**I Corinthians 7:2**).
- E. Provide for your family (**I Corinthians 7:2-5**).
- F. Support your family (**I Timothy 5:8**).
- G. Respect your wife (**I Peter 3:7**).

II. The Role of Wives

- A. Provide for your family (**Proverbs 31:10-31**).
- B. Don't neglect your husband's needs (**I Corinthians 7:2**).
- C. Respect your husband (**I Corinthians 11:3**).
- D. Submit to your husband (**Ephesians 5:22-24**).
- E. Manage your family's affairs (**I Timothy 5:14, Titus 2:5**).
- F. Love your family (**Titus 2:4**).
- G. Encourage your husband (**I Peter 3:1-4**).

III. The Role of Children

- A. Listen to your parents (**Proverbs 1:8-9**).
- B. Support your parents (**Mark 7:6-13**).
- C. Obey your parents (**Ephesians 6:1**).
- D. Honor your parents (**Ephesians 6:2**).
- E. Respect your parents (**Ephesians 6:3-4**).
- F. Follow your parents (**Colossians 3:20**).
- G. Do not neglect your parents (**I Timothy 5:3-16**).

Conclusion: We need godly husbands, wives, and children. Is your house in order? Do you need prayers from the church family? Have you been added to the family of God?



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Building Stronger Marriages

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We have already noticed that the home will fall apart without God and the Bible! In this specific lesson we will focus on building stronger marriages. Couples need to take a good look into the good Book! We need to consider what it means to have a dynamic marriage, because if you are going to live a happy life, and raise a godly family, you need a strong and healthy marriage. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Purpose of Marriage

- A. Marriage is a covenant (**Matthew 19:5-6**).
- B. Marriage is for companionship (**Matthew 19:4, Genesis 1:28**).
- C. Marriage is a commitment (**Genesis 2:18-24, Deuteronomy 6:6-9, 11:19, Joshua 24:15, Proverbs 22:6, Luke 2:52, I Corinthians 7, Ephesians 5:22-32, 6:1-4, II Timothy 3:15, Hebrews 13:4**).

II. The Permanence of Marriage

- A. Marriage reveals unity (**Matthew 19:3-9, Mark 10:11, Luke 6:18, Romans 7:1-4, Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:20-21**).
- B. Marriage remembers vows (**Song of Solomon, Psalm 127:3**).
- C. Marriage recognizes gifts (**Ephesians 5:21-32**).

III. The Power of Marriage

- A. Marriages can be strong if you work at it (**Matthew 19:3-9**).
- B. Marriages can be strong if you control your emotions (**Ephesians 5:21-6:4**).
- C. Marriages can be strong if you build one another up (**I Peter 3:1-4**).

Conclusion: God's word says that we were made for each other. God's word also reminds us that there is no place like home. If you are not being a godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you! If you have not been added to the family of God, come and take the steps necessary for salvation. Your Heavenly Father is waiting for you now!



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Creating Quality Time

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this lesson we will focus on the necessity of creating good quality time together. What ever happened to the family life? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Family Time Increases Loyalty

- A. Strong families (with family ties) should be hard to break (**Ruth 1-2**).
- B. Strong families should be easier to find (**Psalm 103:17**).
- C. Strong families should be loyal to Christ and one another (**Psalm 127:1**).

II. Family Time Improves Communication

- A. Families need to know one another (**Colossians 3:18-20**).
- B. Families need to help one another (**Hebrews 13:16**).
- C. Families need to bless one another (**Genesis 25:31-34, 27:1-33, 49:1-28**).

III. Family Time Initiates Growth

- A. Family time should be a happy time (seven suggestions).
 1. Share meals together.
 2. Do house and yard work together.
 3. Play together.
 4. Enjoy religious and school activities together.
 5. Spend special events together.
 6. Have leisure time together.
 7. Have family devotionals together .
- B. Family time should be about quality AND quantity.
- C. Family time should be fun experience.

Conclusion: God's word says that we were made for each other. God's word also reminds us that there is no place like home. If you are not being a godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you! If you have not been added to the family of God, come and take the steps necessary for salvation. Your Heavenly Father is waiting for you now!



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Defending Strong Morals

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on defending strong morals. There is a need for morality and Christian ethics in today's world. Even non-believers can appreciate those who stand up for and defend righteous principles. We need to learn how to stand up for what we know is right (**Proverbs 1:2-9**). Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Strong Families Are Built on Faith

- A. Strong families have love and conviction (**Mark 12:30**).
- B. Strong families have hope and assurance (**Hebrews 11:1, 6**).
- C. Strong families have purpose and meaning (**Romans 8:28, 31**).
- D. Do you have a strong family built on faith?

II. Strong Families Are Branded By God's Word

- A. Strong families have rules and guidelines (**Proverbs 6:20-23**).
- B. Strong families have freedom and peace (**Proverbs 8:32-36**).
- C. Strong families have confidence and optimism (**Proverbs 9:10-11**).
- D. Do you have a strong family branded by God's Word?

III. Strong Families Are Bound By Covenant

- A. Strong families worship with one another (**Psalms 122:1-4**).
- B. Strong families teach one another (**Deuteronomy 6:6-9**).
- C. Strong families support one another (**Luke 15:11-32**).
- D. Do you have a strong family bound by covenant?

Conclusion: God's word says that we were made for each other. We need each other! God's word also reminds us that there is no place like home. If you are not living and behaving as a godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. There is still time to set things straight. Do you need prayers for other things going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you! If you have not been added to the family of God, come and take the steps necessary for salvation. Your Heavenly Father is waiting for you now!



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Embracing Holy Commitment

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on why we need to embrace holy commitment. People today do not like “long-term” commitments because they like things that are easy, disposable, temporary, and cheap. The Lord wants us to learn to commit to an eternal covenant with Him (**Matthew 16:24-26**). Are you willing to embrace that holy commitment to follow Him? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Embrace A Holy Commitment to God

- A. We need to be committed to a holy God (**Matthew 5:48**).
- B. We need to be committed to the holy work of God (**Matthew 6:33**).
- C. We need to be committed to holy living for God (**Matthew 7:24-27**).

II. Embrace A Holy Commitment to God’s People

- A. We need to be committed to each other (**Acts 2:42-45**).
- B. We need to be committed to unity (**I Corinthians 1:10**).
- C. We need to be committed to love (**John 13:34-35**).

III. Embrace A Holy Commitment to God’s Ways

- A. We need to be committed to faithful living (**Luke 16:10**).
- B. We need to be committed to honest living (**Matthew 6:2, 5, 16**).
- C. We need to be committed to steadfast living (**I Corinthians 15:58**).

Conclusion: God’s word says that we were made for each other and that we need each other. If you are not living and behaving as a godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for family struggles? The family of God is here to pray for you! If you have not been added to the family of God, come and take the steps necessary for salvation. Your Heavenly Father is waiting for you now!



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Feeding Spiritual Hunger

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on feeding our spiritual hunger (**Matthew 5:6**). Every human being has questions about purpose. The more we ponder our existence, the more we hunger for more knowledge. A child of God should hunger and thirst for spirituality. We should long for God and for a healthy relationship with Him. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Walking in the World Creates Spiritual Hunger

- A. The world has nothing of value to offer us (**Ephesians 5:1-12**).
- B. The Lord has everything of value to offer us (**Ephesians 5:13-14**).
- C. You have to make the choice (**Ephesians 5:15-18**).

II. Walking in the Light Quenches Spiritual Hunger

- A. Families need to worship together (**Ephesians 5:19**).
- B. Families need to pray together (**Ephesians 5:20**).
- C. Families need to submit to one another (**Ephesians 5:21-6:9**).

III. Walking in the Midst of Spiritual Battles

- A. Christian homes will win spiritual battles if we are strong in the Lord (**Ephesians 6:10**).
- B. Christian homes will win spiritual battles if we put on God's armor (**Ephesians 6:11-18**).
- C. Christian homes will win spiritual battles if we DO NOT FEAR (**Ephesians 6:19-20**).

Conclusion: God's word says that we were made for each other and that we need each other. Do you believe that? God's word also reminds us that there is no place like home. If you are not living and behaving as a godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. We will face many spiritual battles in this world and we need strong Christian homes to withstand the attacks of our enemy! Do you need prayer right now? Have you have not been added to the family of God? Your Heavenly Father is waiting for you now!



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Growing Up Together

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on the need to grow up together. We are all growing up spiritually and we need to learn to be patient with one another. Everyone one of have been given a role and a responsibility in the home. God has a plan for each and every one of us. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. How Do We Grow Up Together?

- A. Growing up physically together (Proverbs 5:18, Colossians 3:12-25)
- B. Growing up emotionally together (Hosea 12:3-6, Genesis 25-49)
- C. Growing up intellectually together (Job 32:7, Luke 2:40, 52)
- D. Growing up spiritually together (II Peter 3:18, Ephesians 4-6)

II. How Can We Grow Spiritually Together?

- A. Read together as a family (II Timothy 1:5, 3:14-15)
- B. Pray together as a family (Acts 16:13-15, 40)
- C. Worship together as a family (Acts 10:2, 10:7, 10:34, 16:15, 16:31, 15:34, 18:8)
- D. Serve together as a family (Acts 12:25, 13:5, 15:36-41, Colossians 4:10, II Timothy 4:11)

III. How Can We Hinder Spiritual Growth?

- A. Make it ALL about you (Genesis 1:26-31, 2:24)
- B. Do what you want to do (I Corinthians 7, Colossians 3:21, I Timothy 5:8)
- C. See what you want to see (Genesis 1:27, Ecclesiastes 7:29, Romans 3:10)
- D. Hear what you want to hear (Matthew 13:13, Mark 8:18, II Thessalonians 2:12)

Conclusion: God's word says that we were made for each other. God's word also reminds us that there is no place like home. If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you! If you have not been added to the family of God, come and take the steps necessary for salvation. Your Heavenly Father is waiting for you now!



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Highlighting Valuable Talents

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on highlighting valuable talents within the family. Everyone has a talent. Some are valuable and others maybe not so much. One of the tasks assigned to parents is to prepare them for the real world. Our children need to be trained for real life. We need to help them find their talents and encourage them to use them. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Talents Must Be Uncovered

- A. Discovering talents takes some work (**Matthew 25:14-30**).
- B. Empowering your children can be liberating (**Ecclesiastes 9:10**).
- C. Delegating responsibility is mandatory (**Colossians 3:23-34, Proverbs 22:6**).

II. Talents Must Be Utilized

- A. Using our talents is a sign of Christian love (**Matthew 25:31-46**).
- B. Using our talents is a sign of Christian service (**Philippians 2:5-11**).
- C. Using our talents is a sign of Christian growth (**Ephesians 4:11-16**).

III. Talents Must Be Unobstructed

- A. Your talent should help you bear fruit (**John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-23**).
- B. Your talent should help broaden the kingdom (**Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:40-47**).
- C. Your talent should help others see God (**Matthew 5:13-16, James 1:17**).

Conclusion: God's word says that we were made for each other. God's word also reminds us that there is no place like home. If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you! If you have not been added to the family of God, come and take the steps necessary for salvation. Your Heavenly Father is waiting for you now!



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Identifying Positive Communication

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on identifying positive communication. Research shows that one major cause for divorce is lack of communication. When communication breaks down everything else falls apart. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Positive Communication Begins With Your Approach

- A. Be swift to love (Ephesians 4:17-32, Ephesians 5:22-33, Proverbs 10:12).
- B. Be swift to listen (James 1:19, Matthew 13:9, Proverbs 18:13).
- C. Be swift to learn (Proverbs 18:2, Proverbs 18:15, Proverbs 1:5).

II. Positive Communication Advances With Your Assistance

- A. Pray carefully (James 1:5, Ephesians 4:26, Matthew 7:7).
- B. Ask questions cautiously (James 1:19, Proverbs 15:28, Proverbs 18:13).
- C. Avoid criticism (II Timothy 2:24-25, Romans 12:17-18, Proverbs 16:23).

III. Positive Communication Ends With Your Action

- A. Watch your heart (Proverbs 4:23, Proverbs 16:21, Psalm 73:26).
- B. Watch your tongue (Proverbs 17:27, Proverbs 25:15, Proverbs 15:23, Proverbs 25:11).
- C. Watch your step (Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-2, Proverbs 27:14).

Conclusion: Please seek positive communication in your home. Nothing good will be accomplished if we tear one another down. Negative communication will not help us build better relationships. If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



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Journaling Cheerful Thoughts

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on journaling, specifically journaling cheerful thoughts. Journals and diaries have been popular for centuries. If you don't believe me just open your Bible and read the books of Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, or Lamentations. Building on our last lesson - identifying positive communication - I wanted us to consider a creative outlet for positive thoughts. I pray that this will help you in your spiritual walk, in your marriage, with your family, and in all other relationships. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Journaling Increases Spiritual Discipline

- A. Write something every day (Habakkuk 2:2, Proverbs 28:18, Deuteronomy 31:19).
- B. Write something positive (Philippians 4:8-9, I Corinthians 13:5, Proverbs 17:22).
- C. Write something meaningful (Psalm 8, Psalm 23, Psalm 51).

II. Journaling Improves Personal Humility

- A. God loves humility (II Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 18:27, Psalm 147:6).
- B. God exalts humility (Proverbs 11:2, Luke 18:14, James 4:10).
- C. God seeks humble servants (I Samuel 13:13-14, Acts 13:22, Isaiah 66:2).

III. Journaling Imparts Emotional Stability

- A. You can build hope, love, and joy (I Corinthians 13, Romans 12:12, Philippians 4:4).
- B. You can extinguish sorrow, fear, and hate (II Corinthians 7:10, II Timothy 1:7, I John 4:20).
- C. You can find peace (Romans 5:1, Ephesians 4:3, Philippians 4:7).

Conclusion: Make time for personal devotion. Set aside some time every day when you can pray, read the Bible, and journal your thoughts. Do not rush through life ignoring God's direction. If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



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Kindling Genuine Appreciation

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on kindling genuine appreciation within the family. We just passed another holiday yesterday (Valentine's Day). Every day should be known for showing affection to the ones we love! In our homes, we cannot distance ourselves from each other. We desperately need each other in order to survive. Every person in the family needs to know that they are loved and appreciated. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Speak Words of Genuine Appreciation

- A. Say "I Love You" (John 3:16, John 13:34-35, Ephesians 5:21-33)
- B. Say "I Am Here For You" (Galatians 6:1-2, Ephesians 4:12, Colossians 3:16-17)
- C. Say "I Am Proud of You" (Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 25:29, Proverbs 22:6)

II. Write Words of Genuine Appreciation

- A. Write words that edify others (I Corinthians 10:23, Philippians 4:4-9, I Thessalonians 5:11).
- B. Write words that inspire others (Acts 15:31, Ephesians 4:12, 16).
- C. Write words that humor others (Proverbs 17:22, Ecclesiastes 3:4, Luke 6:21).

III. Live Words of Genuine Appreciation

- A. Have a life statement (Matthew 16:24, Romans 12:1-2, II Corinthians 5:17)
- B. Live life with purpose (Philippians 1:21, II Timothy 4:6-8, James 1:2-4)
- C. Make positive memories (Matthew 6:33, Philippians 1:3-5, Hebrews 13:5)

Conclusion: There are fires burning in homes all across the nation. Fires of hate, negativity, misplaced priorities, divorce, neglect, abuse, etc. Some are self-inflicted and painful. Others have overtaken us unaware. It's time that we started kindling a spiritual fire for God. Draw the fire line! If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



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Learning Personal Accountability

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on learning personal accountability. We see the first blame game being played in **Genesis 3:1-24**. Adam and Eve blame each other and the serpent for their own sins. In today's society is not just the easy thing, it's the normal thing, to blame anyone else but yourself. Whatever happened to being responsible for your own actions? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Personal Accountability For Ourselves

- A. You are responsible for your own actions.
II Chronicles 19:5-10, Ezekiel 18:20, 30
- B. You are responsible for your own words.
Matthew 12:36, 15:18-20, Romans 14:10-13
- C. You are responsible for your own thoughts.
II Corinthians 10:5, Job 31:1, Matthew 6:1-7

II. Personal Accountability For Our Families

- A. Make yourself accountable for what happens in your marriage.
Romans 12:9-10, Ephesians 4:1-3, Ephesians 5:25-29
- B. Make yourself accountable for what happens with your children.
Proverbs 22:6, Luke 17:3, Galatians 5:6, Deuteronomy 21:18-21
- C. Make yourself accountable for what happens with your grandchildren.
Proverbs 17:6, Proverbs 16:31, Proverbs 13:22

III. Personal Accountability For Our Church Family

- A. Be accountable for the work of the kingdom.
Colossians 2:1-3, I Thessalonians 3:12-13, Hebrews 6:10
- B. Be accountable for the workers of the kingdom.
Matthew 18:15-17, James 5:16, Galatians 6:1-2
- C. Be accountable for the future of the kingdom.
I Corinthians 10:24, Romans 15:1, Matthew 7:12

Conclusion: We are accountable for what we believe (**John 3:18**) and we will be rewarded for what we do (**I Corinthians 3:8**). Therefore, we should constantly examine our actions (**II Corinthians 5:10**). Where are you in your Christian walk? Where is your family headed? How are things within your spiritual family? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



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Managing Difficult Situations

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on managing difficult situations. One great text to read in times of crisis is **Isaiah 40:27-31**. When we are struggling to find answers it is important to remember the faithfulness of God! If we will just wait on Him, He will renew our strength to help us rise above life circumstances. When it comes to managing difficult circumstances within our families, the Bible has already given us advice. In fact, there are many Scripture given to help us navigate the waters of conflict resolution. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Take The Advice of Solomon

- A. Your heart should move your lips (**Proverbs 10:18-21**)
- B. Think before you speak (**Proverbs 12:18**)
- C. Say what needs to be said (**Proverbs 18:21**)

II. Take The Advice of Paul

- A. Compromise when needed (**1 Corinthians 8:1-13**)
- B. Consider your approach (**Galatians 6:1-2**)
- C. Cautiously express your feelings (**Colossians 3:12-21**)

III. Take The Advice of Jesus

- A. Recognize the problem (**Matthew 5:23-24**)
- B. Reconcile the problem (**Matthew 18:15-17**)
- C. Reaffirm the relationship (**Matthew 22:35-40**)

Conclusion: Christians shouldn't be afraid to clarify the area of conflict (**Acts 2, 7, 9, 11, 15**). We need to pursue resolution and reconciliation while it is still possible. Where are you in your walk with God? Where is your family headed? How are things within your spiritual family? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



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Nurturing Healthy Relationships

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on nurturing healthy relationships. We have all kinds of relationships in life but we have to wonder if they are healthy or unhealthy? How would God feel about your relationships? Are you “unequally yoked” with non-believers (II Corinthians 6:14)? Have you eliminated unhealthy relationships? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Healthy Relationships Matter to God

- A. God wants us to build relationships (Ephesians 1:5, 3:15, James 1:18).
- B. God wants us to seek companionship (Galatians 3:26-27, I Timothy 3:15, I John 3:1-3).
- C. God wants us to find friendship (Matthew 22:37-40, Romans 13:8, Galatians 5:6).

II. Healthy Relationships Matter to Jesus

- A. The ministry of Jesus was about relationships (Matthew 4:19, Mark 10:45, Luke 19:10).
- B. The teaching of Jesus was about relationships (Matthew 5:21-22, 7:12, 18:15-17).
- C. The work of the disciples of Jesus was about relationships (Matthew 28:18-20, II Corinthians 5:17-19, Colossians 3:13).

III. Healthy Relationships Matter to Christian Families

- A. We should be concerned (James 4:1-2, Matthew 5:23-24, Philippians 2:4).
- B. We should be considerate (Romans 15:2, Matthew 7:5, Proverbs 15:1).
- C. We should be cooperative (I Peter 3:11, Romans 12:18, Matthew 19:1-9).

Conclusion: God’s rules are not unreasonable (Romans 12:1-2). God has a plan for your life and He has put people in your pathway. Nurture relationships that can help you in your Christian walk. Where are you in your walk? Where is your family headed? How are things within your spiritual family? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson prepared by Ray Reynolds

Obeying Your Parents

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on obeying our parents. We often remind our children that they are commanded by God to obey us (**Proverbs 30:17, Ephesians 6:1-3, Exodus 20:12**), but why should children obey their parents in the Lord? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. God Knows What is Right

- A. The godly thing to do (**Exodus 20:12, Acts 5:29**).
- B. The right thing to do (**Ephesians 6:1, Colossians 3:20-21**).
- C. The loving thing to do (**John 14:15, I John 2:7-3:24**).

II. Parents Have Learned What is Right

- A. Parents understand rebellion & growing pains (**Psalm 127:3, Proverbs 13:24, Proverbs 29:15-17**).
- B. Parents understand conflict & confrontation (**Ephesians 4:26, Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:15-17, Ephesians 6:4**).
- C. Parents understand accountability & responsibility (**Ezekiel 18:1-18, II Chronicles 19:5-10, Hebrews 9:27**).

III. Children Should Learn What is Right

- A. Your parents are a part of God's perfect plan (**Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Proverbs 22:15, Proverbs 23:13-14**).
- B. Your parents are commanded to help you prepare for adulthood (**Proverbs 22:6, Hebrews 12:5-11, Deuteronomy 11:19**).
- C. You may end up just like your parents (**Matthew 7:12, Exodus 21:17, Matthew 15:4**).

Conclusion: Christian families need to build on their strengths and seek God's will for the home. If your parents are still alive, thank them for their patience. If your parents have passed on, live as if they were watching your every move. Where are you in your walk with God? Where is your family headed? How are things within your spiritual family? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you! Remember that your loving Heavenly Father waits to hear your voice.



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson prepared by Ray Reynolds

Preventing Broken Homes

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on preventing broken homes. The statistics on divorce has finally plateaued, but there is an increase among single parent families. How can we prevent broken homes? Let's consider the advice of Paul (**Romans 12:9-13**). Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. To Prevent A Broken Home We Must Have Purity (Romans 12:9)***
 - A. A pure home does not practice hypocrisy (**Luke 12:1-2**).
 - B. A pure home abhors what is evil (**I Corinthians 13:4-7**).
 - C. A pure home clings to what is good (**Philippians 4:8-9**).

- II. To Prevent A Broken Home We Must Have Preference (Romans 12:10)***
 - A. A preferred home is one that shows kindness (**Ephesians 4:32**).
 - B. A preferred home is one that shows affection (**I Thessalonians 2:8**).
 - C. A preferred home is one that shows honor (**I Thessalonians 5:12-13**).

- III. To Prevent A Broken Home We Must Have Perseverance (Romans 12:11)***
 - A. A persevering home takes diligence (**Galatians 6:9**).
 - B. A persevering home takes fervency (**I Corinthians 15:58**).
 - C. A persevering home takes service (**Galatians 5:13** - servant-driven).

- IV. To Prevent A Broken Home We Must Have Patience (Romans 12:12)***
 - A. A patient home rejoices in times of happiness (**Philippians 4:4**).
 - B. A patient home weeps in times of tribulation (**I Peter 5:8-9**).
 - C. A patient home prays in times of trial (**James 5:16**).

- V. To Prevent A Broken Home We Must Have Perceptiveness (Romans 12:13)***
 - A. A perceptive home is based on seeing needs (**Luke 10:29-37**).
 - B. A perceptive home is based on meeting needs (**Acts 2:44-45**).
 - C. A perceptive home is based on hospitality (**I Peter 4:9**).

Conclusion: We need to guard our hearts and guard our homes. Where are you in your Christian walk? Where is your family headed? How are things within your spiritual family? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson prepared by Ray Reynolds

Quieting In-Law Rivalry

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on quieting in-law rivalry. When a couple starts dating, it doesn't take long to see that blending two households is going to be a difficult thing (**Genesis 2:4, Matthew 19:4-8, Mark 10:18**). Somehow two are intended to become one flesh. That is easier said than done. What does the Bible say about this? Are there good Bible examples? Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. Consider the Affection of Your In-laws (Genesis 31:1-55)***
 - The story of Laban and Jacob reveals is about deception.
 - The story of Laban and Jacob reveals is about conflict.
 - The story of Laban and Jacob reveals is about resolution.

- II. Consider the Counsel of Your In-laws (Exodus 18:1-27 – v.24)***
 - The story of Jethro and Moses is about frustration.
 - The story of Jethro and Moses is about guidance.
 - The story of Jethro and Moses is about delegation.

- III. Consider the Faith of Your In-laws (Ruth 1:16-17)***
 - The story of Ruth and Naomi is about conviction.
 - The story of Ruth and Naomi is about suffering.
 - The story of Ruth and Naomi is about compassion.

- IV. Consider the Suffering of Your In-laws (Matthew 8:14-17)***
 - The story of Peter and his mother-in-law is about providence.
 - The story of Peter and his mother-in-law is about healing.
 - The story of Peter and his mother-in-law is about responsibility.

Conclusion: Praise God for in-laws that help to bring the family together. If there are any conflicts between you and your in-laws resolve them while you still have time. Quiet the rivalry between your families. Start learning to blend your families. We need to build strong Christian homes. Where are you in your Christian walk? Where is your family headed? How are things within your spiritual family? How is your relationship with the Heavenly Father? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson prepared by Ray Reynolds

Raising Godly Children

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on raising godly children. Previously we studied about honoring your father and mother. We also should consider the proper pattern for parenting. I will not stand before you today and declare myself to be perfect. God knows I made my share of mistakes. Therefore, if we want to proper parenting, why not look to the only one who is perfect!? Let's look at our Heavenly Father. Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. *A Good Parent Loves His/Her Children***
Romans 5:8, 8:37-39, John 3:16-17, I Peter 5:7, I John 4:19, Psalm 127:3
- II. *A Good Parent Responds to His/Her Children***
Genesis 6-9, John 3:16-17, Romans 3:23, Titus 3:3-7, Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 1:2-4
- III. *A Good Parent Blesses His/Her Children***
Romans 8, Acts 2:38-39, Ephesians 1:3, Genesis 27, Numbers 6:24
- IV. *A Good Parent Cherishes His/Her Children***
Genesis 3, Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:20-21, Proverbs 22:6
- V. *A Good Parent Knows His/Her Children***
Psalm 44:21, John 1:14, 2:25, Philippians 2:5-8, I Timothy 2:5, Hebrew 2:17-18, 4:15
- VI. *A Good Parent Forgives His/Her Children***
Matthew 26:28, Acts 2:38, Ephesians 1:7, 4:32, Colossians 3:13
- VII. *A Good Parent Disciplines His/Her Children***
Proverbs 3:11-12, Hebrews 12:5-8, Revelation 3:19, II Samuel 7:14, I Corinthians 4:21

Conclusion: We need to build strong Christian homes. Who better to look to than the Heavenly Father? Where are you in your Christian walk? Where is your family headed? How are things within your spiritual family? How is your relationship with the Heavenly Father? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson prepared by Ray Reynolds

Showing Genuine Affection

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on showing genuine affection. People are starving for attention. People are dying to be noticed. The Bible teaches us that we are supposed to be genuine Christian examples, and that our Christian love should draw other people to God. The early church was well-known for showing affection (**Romans 16:16, I Corinthians 16:20, II Corinthians 13:12, and I Thessalonians 5:26**). Why? Because they wanted to be like Jesus (**Philippians 2:1-5**)! Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Source of Affection

- A. God personifies love (**I John 4:8, 16**).
- B. God loved us first (**I John 4:19**).
- C. God gave His Son for us (**I John 3:16, 4:9-10**).
- D. God knows that love affects our relationships (**I John 3:15, 4:20**).

II. The Sentiment of Affection

- A. Individuals must have this component in their life (**Mark 12:31**).
- B. Couples must have this component in their marriage (**Song of Solomon**).
- C. Families must have this component in their homes (**Ephesians 5:21-6:4**).
- D. Churches must have this component in their church family (**I Corinthians 13**).

III. The Satisfaction of Affection

- A. We should reflect love in the world (**I John 4:7**).
- B. We should watch fears melt away (**I John 4:18-19, 5:3**).
- C. We should want to give to others freely (**I John 3:17, 4:11**).
- D. We should lay down our lives for others (**I John 3:16**).

Conclusion: When you see your family ministering to you and showing genuine love it should compel you to show it right back! There are too many hard hearts and dry eyes in the kingdom today. More of us should be volunteering to work and serve in God's kingdom. We need to show God's love to every creature on earth! Why don't you start with your family? Where are you in your Christian walk? Where is your family headed? How are things within your spiritual family? How is your relationship with the Heavenly Father? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson prepared by Ray Reynolds

Taking Faith Journeys

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on taking a faith journey. How many times does the Bible speak of walking in the “way” of the Lord or following the “way” of God? The Scriptures teach us to talk to our children when we walk along the road (**Deuteronomy 11:19**). What does that mean? Maybe we are supposed to be on a faith journey. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Remember Where You Have Worshipped

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Noah built an altar (Genesis 8:20) | J. Manoah built an altar (Judges 13:20) |
| B. Abraham built altars in Moriah (Genesis 12:7-8),
Hebron (Genesis 13:18), Shechem (Genesis 22:2,9) | K. The people of Israel built an altar (Judges 21:4) |
| C. Isaac built an altar in (Genesis 26:25) | L. Samuel built an altar (I Samuel 7:1-17) |
| D. Jacob built altars in Shechem (Genesis 33:20) and
Bethel (Genesis 35:1-7) | M. Saul built an altar (I Samuel 14:35) |
| E. Moses built an altar (Exodus 17:15) | N. David built an altar (II Samuel 24:25) |
| F. Balak built an altar (Numbers 23:1, 4, 14) | O. Jeroboam built an altar (I Kings 12:32-33) |
| G. Joshua built an altar (Joshua 8:30) | P. Ahab built an altar (I Kings 16:32) |
| H. The Hebrew tribes built an altar (Joshua 22:10) | Q. Elijah built an altar (I Kings 18:31-32) |
| I. Gideon built an altar (Judges 6:24) | R. Uriah built an altar (II Kings 16:11) |
| | S. Manasseh built an altar (II Kings 21:3) |
| | T. Zerubbabel built an altar (Ezra 3:2) |

II. Remember Where You Have Overcome

I Samuel 7:15-17, I Samuel 4:1-2, 4:10, 5:1, Joshua 4:4-7

III. Remember Where You Have Rested

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. The stones of Jacob (Genesis 28:20-22, 35:14) | H. The wells of Elim (Exodus 15:27) |
| B. The well in the Kadesh wilderness (Genesis 16:14) | I. The wells of the wanderings (Numbers 21:16-18) |
| C. The well in the Paran wilderness (Genesis 21:19) | J. The well in Ramah (I Samuel 19: 18-24) |
| D. The well in Beersheba (Genesis 21:30) | K. The well in Sirah (II Samuel 3:26) |
| E. The well in Nahor (Genesis 24:11-20) | L. The well of Bahurim (II Samuel 17:18-19) |
| F. The wells of Gerar (Genesis 26:18) | M. The well of Bethlehem (II Samuel 23:15) |
| G. The well in Midian (Exodus 2:15-21) | N. The well in Samaria (John 4:6) |

Conclusion: What would happen if we planned our trips around spiritual activities? Don’t leave God out of your plans. Take some spiritual journeys. It doesn’t have to be something special. Every day we have an opportunity to start a new walk of faith. Also, don’t forget that you don’t go to God, God goes with you! So be a witness wherever you are (**Luke 22:46-49, Acts 1:7-8**)! Where are you in your Christian walk? Where is your family headed? How are things within your spiritual family? How is your relationship with the Heavenly Father? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson prepared by Ray Reynolds

Understanding Sincere Harmony

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on understanding sincere harmony. Where has all the family unity gone? Where is the sense of togetherness? There has to be unity in our Christian homes! How can we have harmony? Is it possible to restore unity? Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. Families Should Be Living Together***
Genesis 1:27-28, 2:1-25, 4:1-15, 4:25-26, Proverbs 6:19

- II. Families Should Be Praying Together***
Genesis 27, 49, Acts 2:42

- III. Families Should Be Crying Together***
Genesis 45:15, Romans 12:15

- IV. Families Should Be Fighting Together***
Exodus 17:10-12, Galatians 6:1-2

- V. Families Should Be Worshipping Together***
Joshua 24:15, Acts 5:42

Conclusion: If we are living together, praying together, crying together, fighting together, and worshipping together... something greater will happen! ***We will go to heaven together!*** Do you want to go to heaven? Have you been added to the family of God? Where are you in your Christian walk? Where is your family headed? How are things within your spiritual family? How is your relationship with the Heavenly Father? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson prepared by Ray Reynolds

Valuing Your Elders

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on valuing our elders. We need to value our parents, our grandparents, aunts, uncles, and all other older people. The Bible has a lot to say about our treatment of the elderly. Paul spent nearly an entire chapter on it (**I Timothy 5:1-10**). Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Elderly People Deserve Respect

- A. The precedent of the patriarchs (**Genesis 48:12, Job 32:4-6**).
- B. The promise of the fifth commandment (**Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:1-4**).
- C. The problem of immaturity (**I Kings 12:1-16, Proverbs 23:22**).

II. Elderly People Deserve Honor

- A. Give your seat to the elderly (**Leviticus 19:32, Proverbs 16:31**).
- B. Give your substance to the elderly (**I Timothy 5:8, Ruth 2**).
- C. Give your service to the elderly (**I Peter 5:5, James 1:27**).

III. Elderly People Deserve Praise

- A. Elderly Christians can offer wisdom (**Job 12:12, 32:7, I Timothy 5:5-10**).
- B. Elderly Christians can offer stability (**Isaiah 46:4, Psalm 71:8-9, 17-18**).
- C. Elderly Christians can offer instruction (**II Timothy 1:5, Titus 1:9, 2:3**).

Conclusion: We need to be careful not to subscribe to "ageism" in society. With arguments about euthanasia in the minds of the world, we need to remind them that God loves the aged! Consider the Golden rule (**Matthew 7:12**). How do you want people to treat you when you get older? Where are you in your Christian walk? Where is your family headed? How are things within your spiritual family? How is your relationship with the Heavenly Father? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson prepared by Ray Reynolds

Working Through Stress

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on working through stress. Do you have stress? Is there stress in your family? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Figure Out The Problem

- A. We are thinking too much (**Matthew 11:28-30, Philippians 4:6, I Peter 1:7**)
- B. We are taking on too much (**Exodus 18, Proverbs 12:25, Luke 5:16**)
- C. We are tolerating too much (**Matthew 6:27-29, 6:33, 7:7**)

II. Talk Out The Problem

- A. Identify what causes your stress (**Matthew 11:28-30, I Peter 1:7**)
- B. Identify your stress to God (**Philippians 4:6, I John 1:9, Matthew 26:36-36**)
- C. Identify your stress to others (**James 5:16, Psalm 32, Psalm 51, Galatians 6:1-2**)

III. Work Out The Problem

- A. Change of heart (**Psalm 131:1, I Samuel 13:14, 16:7, Acts 13:22**)
- B. Change of soul (**Psalm 131:2, Psalm 42:5, Psalm 46:10**)
- C. Change of mind (**Psalm 131:1, Philippians 4:7, Luke 13:3, 5**)
- D. Change of strength (**Psalm 131:2, Isaiah 40:31, James 1:2**)

Conclusion: You might notice that this sounds familiar (**Deuteronomy 6:5, Mark 12:30**). God wants full surrender! Get rid of your depression and learn to press on through the stress! (**II Corinthians 4:8-9, 16, Galatians 6:9, Philippians 3:12, Hebrews 12:5**). Have you been added to the family of God? Where are you in your Christian walk? Where is your family headed? How are things within your spiritual family? How is your relationship with the Heavenly Father? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson prepared by Ray Reynolds

eXamining Godly Characters

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this specific lesson we will focus on examining godly characters. When we are looking for a pattern to follow it is wise to look to the Scriptures. There are many stories within the pages of the Bible that can encourage and inspire us. Have you ever noticed how many stories are about families of faith? I want to turn our attention to Moses and his family (**Hebrews 11:23-29**). Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Godly Characters Share a Common Vision

Exodus 2, Psalm 112:1-2, Proverbs 22:6, Mark 9:20-24, Hebrews 11:23

II. Godly Characters Share a Common Valor

Exodus 1:22, Proverbs 21:11, Ephesians 6:12, II Timothy 3:1, Hebrews 11:23

III. Godly Characters Share a Common Venture

Leviticus 18:22, Psalm 127:3, Proverbs 22:15, James 2:17-18, Hebrews 11:24-27

IV. Godly Characters Share Common Values

Psalm 68:20, Matthew 19:26, Philippians 4:13, Hebrews 11:26-29, 38-40

Conclusion: There is a reason why God included so many stories in the Bible. And there is a reason why so many stories are about families of faith. God wants you but He also wants your family. His will is to save your entire household! Just read through the book of Acts and see how many families respond collectively to the message of the gospel. Where are you leading your family? Are you examining godly characters? Are you following their great example? Have you been added to the family of God? Where are you in your Christian walk? How is your relationship with the Heavenly Father? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson prepared by Ray Reynolds

Yearning For Progress

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this lesson we will focus on yearning for progress. If things are going to change, people need to get motivated. We need to keep moving forward toward in God's will and it starts in our homes! If we don't like what we see, we need to work towards a solution. We need to yearn for progress! Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Progress Toward Conflict Resolution

Psalm 133, Proverbs 6:19, Matthew 5:9, 18:15-17,
I Corinthians 1:10, Galatians 5:13, 6:1-2

II. Progress Toward Christian Maturity

Acts 2:41-47, Ephesians 4:14-15, Philippians 1:9,
II Thessalonians 1:3, II Peter 3:18

III. Progress Toward Genuine Compassion

John 13:34-35, Romans 5:8, 12:10, 13:8, Ephesians 4:2,
Hebrews 10:24

IV. Progress Toward Comprehensive Forgiveness

Genesis 2:23-3:12, Proverbs 10:12, I Corinthians 13:5,
I Peter 4:8, I John 3-4

Conclusion: If our families are broken, and our marriages are struggling, we should seek to repair the damage. We know God hates division and He hates divorce. But God loves the broken and still loves the people of divorce. He wants us to take His hand. He wants to guide us in His way, a more perfect way, toward solid ground. But we have to yearn for progress. We have to want to change. We have free will. We have to choose. What will you choose? Have you been added to the family of God? Where are you in your Christian walk? How is your relationship with the Heavenly Father? If you are not living as a faithful and godly family... PLEASE repent and set your house in order. Do you need prayers for any other thing going on in your life? The family of God is here to pray for you!



ABC'S FOR THE FAMILY

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson prepared by Ray Reynolds

Zooming Straight Ahead

Introduction: We are living in an age when the Christian home is under attack. We are bombarded from every side and it is taking its toll on faithful Christians. We need to put the family first! In this final lesson we will focus on zooming straight ahead. God has big plans for us but we have to stay on board with Him. He plans to pilot us wherever He wants us to go. Will you submit to Him? Will you allow Him to guide you? What do we need to zoom ahead? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Every Family Needs God

- God made a promise to save you (**Genesis 3:15**).
- God created you for a purpose (**Jeremiah 29:11**).
- God will never give up on you (**Luke 15:11-32**).
- God has great plans for you (**Romans 8:28-39**).
- God is waiting to welcome you home (**Revelation 20-22**).

II. Every Family Needs Faith in God

- Faith in God is the first step (**Genesis 15:6**).
- Faith is powerful, even if it is a small amount (**Luke 17:6**).
- Faith is needed for salvation (**Romans 3:28**).
- Faith comes from hearing the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**).
- Faith is hoping in what is not seen (**Hebrews 11:1**).

III. Every Family Needs the Hope of God

- Hope gives us confidence (**Psalms 25:3**).
- Hope is found in God's Word (**Psalms 119**).
- Hope comes from the Holy Spirit (**Romans 15:13**).
- Hope is found in the resurrection (**I Corinthians 6:14**).
- Hope is fulfilled in eternal life (**Titus 1:1-2**).

IV. Every Family Needs the Love of God

- Love strengthens our marriage (**Song of Songs 8:6-7**).
- Love erases enemy lines (**Matthew 5:43-44**).
- Love is the most important virtue (**Mark 12:29-30**).
- Love is natural for a child of God (**John 13:34-35**).
- Love never quits (**I Corinthians 13:4-8**).

Conclusion: God wants us to think of Him as our Heavenly Father. He wants us to come to know Him, live in the Lord, marry in the Lord, raise our children in the Lord, do all our work to the glory of the Lord, and every word or deed should be done in the name of the Lord! To God it's not just about zooming ahead, it's about zooming upward! It's about changing our perspective of the journey of life and protecting our cargo on the ship of life. How is your relationship with your Heavenly Father? God wants to save you! Where are you headed? The family of God wants to pray for you!