

Fall 2021

College View Church of Christ

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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.

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| 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:
	1. Love- Eph 5:25,28-29, 1 Tim 1:5
	2. Serve- Eph. 5:25
	3. Plan- Eph. 5:27
	4. Empower- Luke 9:1-6
	5. Seek Counsel- Prov. 15:22
	6. 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](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?version=NASB&passage=Matthew+19:6))([Ephesians 5:22-6:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?version=NASB&passage=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?
	1. To our spouse?
	2. To our children/grandchildren?
	3. To our parents/grandparents?
	4. To children in the local church?
	5. 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.
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| Lesson 2- 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, Murrowshares 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)
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| Lesson 3- 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.
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| Lesson 4- What Is My Role As A Husband? |
| Memory Verse- Ephesians 5:25 Devotional Song- He Loved Me So  |
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| 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 31:28-297. 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?
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| Lesson 5- What Is My Role As A Wife? |
| Memory Verse- Proverbs 31:10 Devotional Song- Have Thine Own Way, Lord |
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| 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?
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| Lesson 6- In-Laws: Loyalty And Love |
| Memory Verse- Ruth 1:16 Devotional Song- Let The Beauty Of Jesus |
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| 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.
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| Lesson 7- Choosing To Become A Parent |
| Memory Verse- Psalm 127:3 Devotional Song- Do All In The Name Of The Lord  |
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| 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.
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| Lesson 8- What Is My Role As A Father? |
| Memory Verse- Eph. 6:4 Devotional Song- Train Your Children |
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| 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.
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| Lesson 9- What Is My Role As A Mother? |
| Memory Verse- 2 Timothy 1:5 Devotional Song- Train Your Children |
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| 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](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%2032.18)
* Psalm 131:2-3
* [Isaiah 42:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2042.14)
* Isaiah [49:15](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isaiah%2049.15) and 1 Thes. 2:7
* Isaiah [66:12-13](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isaiah%2066.13)
* [Hosea 11:3–4](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Hos%2011.3%E2%80%934)
* 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.
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| Lesson 10- Guardrails For The Family |
| Memory Verse- Eph. 5:15 Devotional Song- The Way of the Cross Leads Home |
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| 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. |

**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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| Lesson 11- The Value Of Family Worship |
| Memory Verse – Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Devotional Song- O Worship the King |
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| 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 worshiping 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) |

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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”**