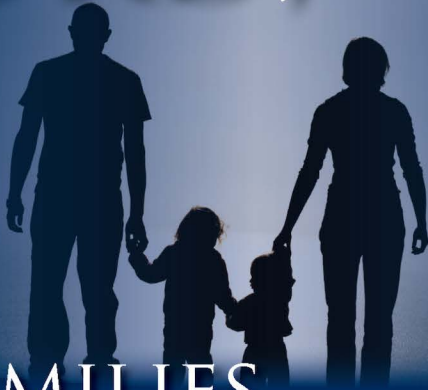


“LORD,



AS FAMILIES,

TEACH US TO PRAY!”



COLLEGE  
OF  
PRAYER



“LORD, AS FAMILIES,  
TEACH US TO PRAY”

YEAR TWO NOTEBOOK  
SECOND EDITION

“Lord, As Families, Teach Us to Pray!”

College of Prayer Year Two Notebook, Second Edition

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# CONTENTS

WELCOME TO THE COLLEGE OF PRAYER

## SECTION 1- THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST IN THE FAMILY

1. MARRIAGE, THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY
2. OPEN THE DOOR TO CHRIST AT HOME
3. DEATH TO SELF — ALIVE TO LOVE
4. HEALING WOUNDS
5. CLEANING HOUSE
6. HOLY SPIRIT FILLED HOMES

## SECTION 2- THE FULFILLMENT OF CHRIST'S MISSION THROUGH THE FAMILY

7. THE POWER OF AGREEMENT
8. BUILDING YOUR FAMILY UPPER ROOM
9. PRAYING THE KINGDOM ON YOUR FAMILY
10. THE POWER OF BLESSING
11. GOD'S CALL ON YOUR FAMILY
12. BECOMING A MISSIONAL FAMILY

# WELCOME TO THE COLLEGE OF PRAYER YEAR 2: LORD, AS FAMILIES, TEACH US TO PRAY!

The vision of the College of Prayer International is to mentor, train and equip Christian pastors and leaders who will reach a lost world through a revived church. Many groups talk about revival in abstract terms; the College of Prayer, however, is seeing revival happen one life, one family, one church, one region at a time. Our training is patterned after Jesus' model of the Lord's Prayer Pattern. You will follow three years of training because Jesus trained His disciples for three years.

Year 1 – Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Year 2 – Lord, as Families, Teach Us to Pray

Year 3 – Lord, as Churches, Teach Us to Pray

Year 2 of the College of Prayer, "Lord, As Families, Teach Us to Pray," was born out of a vision God gave us in Mali, Africa in 2005. The team saw a picture of a gushing river flowing out of heaven into believers in the College of Prayer. It was revealed that the river represented the Holy Spirit flowing into individuals, but the river was not flowing into the church because a large rock filled the riverbed and hindered the flow. The rock represented dysfunctional marriages and prayerless families. For this reason, the river of the Holy Spirit could not revive the local churches. God used this vision to call us to confront the boulder and deal with this critical issue of Christian families. We resolved to mentor pastors and Christian leaders and teach them how to attract God's presence to the home, and how to pray together as husbands and wives.

The College of Prayer vision goes beyond prayer; we want to reach the final unreached people on earth. We are now seeing this happen in dozens of nations where we have College of Prayer campuses that provide dynamic, God-encountering environments in which worship, study and mentoring can take place. Unlike conferences, seminars or even prayer summits, the College of Prayer offers a continuity of three years of training in which relationships can be fostered and life-changing kingdom-advancing principles embraced.

» We are a Christ-exalting ministry.

*"I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ." Romans 15:29*

» We are a Christ-encountering ministry.

*"I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple." Isaiah 6:1*

» We are a kingdom-advancing ministry.

*"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it." Matthew 11:12*

Since our beginning in 1997, the College of Prayer International has seen significant growth throughout the world. Requests are constantly coming in from all over the world to launch new campuses. To find a location near you and to learn how to establish a campus in your area, visit our website [www.CollegeofPrayer.org](http://www.CollegeofPrayer.org).

### 5 Elements of an Encounter with Christ

Every encounter with God normally contains these 5 elements. Every College of Prayer Module should experience these same elements.

1. High worship
2. Deep repentance
3. Forgiveness of sins and freedom from strongholds
4. Being filled with the Holy Spirit
5. Being empowered for ministry

### Three Strategic Prayers

Because Christ will rapidly gain so much ground during the College of Prayer Module and because the enemy will rapidly lose so much ground, it is important for you to begin each session by praying these three strategic prayers of protection, direction, and revelation.

1. Protection – *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.” Psalms 46:1-2*
2. Direction – *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” John 16:13*
3. Revelation – *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.” Ephesians 1:17*

### Note to Pastors

We want to bless you and your people. This curriculum was written by pastors for pastors and their people. The College of Prayer serves the local church. We want to serve you. You are probably already too busy with too many demands. We promise you—the College of Prayer will give back to you much more than you invest in it. The College of Prayer is not a prayer seminar or simply a prayer meeting; it is a 2-3 day extended God-encountering gathering patterned after the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray. This curriculum is a resource for you to use to join Christ in building a praying church. This same curriculum has been field tested all over the world to lead the church to encounter the manifest presence of Christ. It is essential for you, as the Pastor-Leader, to encounter the manifest presence of Christ in your own daily prayer time, in order for you to lead others to encounter His manifest presence. God can only do through you what He has done in you.

As you gather your people for 2-3 days (approximately 15-18 hours) for the College of Prayer Module, these guidelines will help you as you lead your people to a fresh encounter with Christ. You will engage in 3 activities: (1) intercession (prayer & worship), (2) instruction, and (3) interaction with each other. While you will spend equal time in each of these elements, prayer and worship are unquestionably the most important parts because this is where you encounter the manifest presence of Christ. The manifest presence of Christ is the power cell of the praying church.

You pray toward an encounter with Christ.

You teach toward an encounter with Christ.

You share and process about your encounter with Christ.

Immediately following strategic times of encountering God, take time for your people to talk to each other. Have them get into groups of 2-3 people and discuss these 2 questions:

1. What did Christ just do in you?
2. What did Christ just teach you that you can take with you from this College of Prayer Module?

Do NOT allow your Module to become just another teaching seminar or just another prayer meeting. The goal is not to teach through every lesson in the exact order at one single Module. The goal is to teach the right lessons under the direction of the Holy Spirit that will most effectively lead your particular group to an encounter with Christ. The College of Prayer is a place where you and your local church will spend extended time together encountering and ministering to the manifest presence of Christ. The Module will help you become a powerful praying church.

*Enjoy Year Two of The College of Prayer!*

SECTION 1  
FULLNESS  
THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST IN THE FAMILY



LESSON ONE  
MARRIAGE, THE FABRIC OF  
SOCIETY

*"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."*

*Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5; Ephesians 5:31*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

There is no more foundational teaching on marriage ever given than the words God spoke of Adam and Eve in the Garden (Genesis 2:24). They are repeated by both Jesus and the Apostle Paul (Matthew 19:5, Ephesians 5:31). These words contain the most significant definition of marriage and guidelines for marriage.

When God created everything, the first human relationship He established was marriage. Everyone benefits from healthy marriages. Healthy marriages create healthy families, which create healthy churches and healthy communities. God made marriage foundational. While not every church member is married, everyone benefits from healthy marriages.

We live in a day when marriages and families are under attack. For this reason we devote our entire Year Two Curriculum to pour Christ's redemption into our home life.

**1. There are three essential elements to a healthy marriage.**

*"Leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."*

*"Leave"* - Prior to marriage, both the man and the woman are under their parent's authority. When the bride and groom get married, however, a significant transition takes place — the marriage partners are now primarily responsible to each other. Allegiance to our spouse takes precedence over allegiance to our parents.

*"Be united"* - God wants us to be united with our spouse on every level. No secrets. No hiding. No withholding. Mentally, emotionally, socially, financially, physically and spiritually marriage provides the perfect environment for intimacy – intimacy with each other and intimacy with Christ.

*"Become one flesh"* - The enjoyment of sexual intimacy is part of God's design for marriage. Satisfying each other's sexual desires is a part of a healthy marriage. Sexual intimacy and spiritual intimacy go hand-in-hand (see 1 Corinthians 7:35).

*"However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."* Ephesians 5:33

<b>Marriage is NOT a place to:</b>	<b>Marriage IS a place to:</b>
Control women	Show mutual respect
Merely satisfy my sexual desires	Satisfy each other's sexual desires
Merely make children	Raise godly generations
Simply meet your own needs	Show how Christ loves the church

## **2. Healthy marriages lead to healthy families.**

*"Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring ..."* Malachi 2:15a

*"Children are a heritage from the Lord."* Psalm 127:3

Children are a gift from God and are best protected, cared for, and nurtured in a loving environment of a godly father and a godly mother.

## **3. Healthy marriages lead to healthy churches.**

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any blemish, but holy and blameless."* Ephesians 5:25-27

*"This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church."* Ephesians 5:32

Your marriage is a picture of Christ and the church. Just as Jesus loves the church and gave Himself up for it, every day spouses have an opportunity to choose love and sacrifice just as Jesus does for the church.

## COMMIT YOURSELVES TO PROTECT THE INTIMACY OF MARRIAGE

There is a vital connection between spiritual intimacy and physical sexual intimacy. God intends us to enjoy both the spiritual and the physical intimacy of marriage. The enemy comes to destroy both. Christ comes to redeem both spiritual and sexual intimacy between a husband and wife. *"Therefore what God has joined together let no man separate."* Matt. 19:6



## LESSON TWO

# OPEN THE DOOR TO CHRIST AT HOME

*"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20*

*"I will give them joy in my house of prayer... for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." Isaiah 56:7*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

Christ stands at the front door of your family life and knocks. He wants you to open the door and welcome Him in. It does not matter how much junk is on the floor, or how much garbage needs to be removed, Christ wants you to just open the door and welcome His manifest presence. If you give Him space, He will do the rest.

- » Christ will heal your emotional wounds.
- » Christ will reconcile your marriage and family relationships, as far as is biblically possible.
- » Christ will forgive your sins.
- » Christ will tear down demonic strongholds and break generational curses.
- » Christ will restore love, joy, hope, peace and blessing to your family relationships.

## CALLING HUSBANDS & WIVES TO PRAY TOGETHER

*"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers." 1 Peter 3:7*

For many reasons, husbands and wives do not pray together.

Pride	Wounds	Fear of Intimacy
Fear of Losing Control	Superiority	Inferiority
Anger	Bitterness	Unworthiness
Lack of Desire	Lack of know-how	Hopelessness

Most husbands do not pray with their wives, even though the Bible says

the husband is the head of the wife (Ephesians 5:23) and as such he is to be the spiritual leader. Even though they want to be the spiritual leader in the home, men often don't know where to start.

God wants husbands and wives to pray together. Here is how to get started.

**1. Humble yourself.**

The root of prayerlessness is pride. There are many reasons why men don't want to pray with their wives; the number one reason is pride. For this reason, God invites us to go to our wives and humble ourselves. Repent of prayerlessness.

*"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5*

**2. Invite your spouse to join you in prayer.**

Make the commitment to each other to pray together each day as far as possible.

**3. Get started.**

Pick the best time (first thing in the morning; before bedtime). Be brief. Alternate who begins in prayer, sometimes the husband sometimes the wife.

**4. When you pray, be specific, joyful, biblical.**

**5. Be a blessing.**

Pray blessings on each other.

Even if you are a single parent, make a commitment to the Lord to begin praying consistently with your children.

**ACTION STEPS**

Husbands humble yourselves and repent of prayerlessness with your spouse and families. Men, commit yourselves publicly to praying with your wives and children.

**NOTES**

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## LESSON THREE

# DEATH TO SELF - ALIVE TO LOVE

*"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'"*

*Matthew 16:24*

*"[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:7,8a*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

Marriages and families are the best places to give and receive the love of God. God intends your home life to become a place where you die to self and discover unconditional love.

The love of self is the enemy of true love. For this reason Christ invites every believer to die to self. There is no better place to die to self than in family life.

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." Ephesians 5:25*

None of us realized that when we sign our marriage certificate we are also signing our death certificate – marriage and family is where we learn to die to self. We see this principle in the Bible.

*"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." Genesis 2:24 (Also Matt. 19:5, Eph. 5:31)*

*"leave father and mother" = die to past loyalties*

*"be united" = die to independence, isolation, privacy*

*"become one flesh" = die to individualism, arrogance, self-protection*

## WE DIE TO SELF

Death-to-self is one of the marks of true discipleship. It is seen most clearly in dying to personal rights – yielding our rights. Nowhere are our personal rights challenged more frequently than within marriage and family.

*"For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin." Romans 6:6*

Marriage and family is the ideal environment for us to consciously identify our old self and intentionally set it aside in preference of our new self – who we are in Christ!

*"Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ, who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God." Phil. 2:6 [TLB]*

## WE ARE ALIVE TO LOVE

Once we die to self, we come alive to love.

*"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." Col. 3:9-10*

Our new self is who we are in Christ. As we grow in Christ, we become the person we were recreated to be as His followers.

Christ is love. You can rewrite the Bible's definition of love by replacing the word "love" with the name "Jesus."

*"Jesus is patient. Jesus is kind. He does not envy, He does not boast. He is not proud. He is not rude, He is not self-seeking, He is not easily angered. He keeps no record of wrongs. Jesus does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. He always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Jesus never fails." See 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a*

True love is unconditional love. Selfless. Self-sacrificing. Before it can be a behavior, love must be experienced. Love must shatter, capture and empower us before it can flow through us.

Because true love exists apart from you, you are free from ever needing to produce love from yourself for your family members. You are not the source of love; you are however, the conduit. Everything you have received in Christ you can give away.

## THE 4 "ALWAYS" OF TRUE LOVE

*"Always protects" – it covers an offense; never takes up an offense.*

*"Always trusts" – remains committed, faithful, loyal.*

*"Always hopes" – delights in, fully accepts others for who they are.*

*"Always perseveres" – never gives up*

This kind of love is obviously not humanly possible apart from Christ. In Christ however, it is yours for the taking! Even when we have suffered pain from family members, we can give grace, forgiveness, and freedom to our offenders.

In Christ you are loved unconditionally. He loves you not for what you bring to Him; He loves you simply for who you are in Him. Once you receive this kind of Christ-love, you can give it away to those in your family.





## LESSON FOUR

# HEALING WOUNDS

*"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:4-5*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

The family is intended to be an environment of safety, protection and security, yet it can often become the place we receive the deepest wounds. Those who are supposed to love us most can hurt us the deepest.

Christ normally heals our emotional wounds in two ways:

1. He heals a memory by entering into that memory, showing you that you did not face it alone.
2. He delivers you from the demonic opposition or influence attached to the memory.

## WHAT IS EMOTIONAL HEALING?

Emotional healing is the removal of an emotional wound that has become a negative stronghold that fills you with hopelessness. What the Holy Spirit reveals, the Holy Spirit heals. Emotional healing reverses the effects of our pain and wounds.

## SOURCES OF EMOTIONAL WOUNDS

Emotional wounds often come from family members.

- » Word wounds. *Have I ever wounded you with my words?*
- » Name calling. *Have I ever called you a name that was hurtful?*
- » Anger. *Have I ever spoken to or acted toward you in anger and wounded your spirit?*
- » Offense. *Have I ever done anything that offended your conscience?*
- » Broken promises. *Have I ever made a promise to you that I didn't keep?*

- » Dishonor. *Have I ever hurt you by being disrespectful?*
- » Unrealistic expectations. *Have I ever placed on you unrealistic expectations?*
- » Hurtful actions. *Have I ever done anything to you that wounded you?*
- » Failure to give blessing. *Have I ever hurt you by failing to give you my blessing?*

Every emotional wound attracts the lies of the enemy. Often, in order to cope with the pain, we accept a lie. We make vows that bind the lie to us causing us to experience spiritual strongholds that affect our souls (our mind, will, and emotions). We begin to allow these lies to define us, and by so doing we continue the abuse and hurt. Satan often supercharges our pain and builds a stronghold around it.

Jesus, our Healer, wants to heal damaged memories by showing us that we did not go through them alone. He will help us release the pain held by the memory and reinterpret the most painful memories of our life. Jesus desires to redeem our pain.

## ACTION STEPS

We recommend talking through this section and then doing it together as a group.

### 1. Identify the strongholds in your life.

From the list of emotional wounds above, which have you experienced? What are the secrets that you have kept from others?

*Loving Father, right now I bring my emotional wounds into the light of Your healing presence. I have nothing to hide. You were present with me when I was wounded and You are present with me now. Because of Your unconditional love for me, I am able to be honest with myself about my emotional wounds.*

### 2. Renounce the demonic presence in the stronghold.

To be truly healed the ground around your pain needs to be retaken through confession, repentance, and renunciation of the lies that gave the enemy access. Emotional access is one of the most common places that Satan exercises influence over believers.

*Satan, I bind you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and I renounce the lies you have spoken into my emotional wounds. I rebuke you and resist you, for it is written, "Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you." I cut you off now from my emotional wounds and I remove the strongholds you have built...(be specific in renouncing lies and declaring the truth).*



## LESSON FIVE

# CLEANING HOUSE

*"You shall not make for yourself an idol; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments." Exodus 20:4-6*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

You want your family to experience the love of God to a thousand generations, not the punishment of God for 3 or 4 generations. It is time to break the curse of idolatry and receive the blessing through the Lord Jesus Christ. As much as we have opened the door to Christ, we need to close the door to Satan.

Iniquity [Heb. AVON] is unbroken self-will, and the primary root of sin which twists and corrupts both our nature and behavior. It is passed down from generation to generation and tragically has the power to destroy marriages and families. It is normally linked to rebellion, stubbornness, and idolatry. King Saul is an example.

## SATAN'S FOUR PRIMARY WEAPONS OF INFLUENCE

### **1. Temptation.** (Read James 1:13-15 and 1 Corinthians 10:7-13)

Satan tempts us to establish idols. Idolatry is anything (even good things) that becomes a primary source of life to us other than Christ (i.e. spouse, children, home, job). For example, Satan may tempt us with sexual immorality.

Sexual Immorality can be a source of fulfillment that is idolatry. Soul ties are the result of sexual intercourse that result from giving into the temptation of sexual sin. Christ forgives us and He also wants to free us. *"Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, 'The two will become one flesh.'" 1 Cor. 6:16*

### **2. Accusation**

Accusation is the condemnation that comes from shame and guilt once we have given into temptation.

*"For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down." Revelation 12:10*

Accusation and condemnation are the exact opposite of what God does for us in Christ. We are meant to keep Jesus' hard won victory and heaven's hope-filled perspective in our hearts towards ourselves and others.

As family members we can become involved in accusation and condemnation by grumbling against one another. Grumbling is a negative form of prayer that can actually bring curses on our spouse or other family members.

**3. Deception and the power of lies.** (Read John 8:44)

Every evil spirit is a lying spirit. Satan is the father of lies. Once we fall into temptation he tries to deceive us in believing we will always fall to a particular sin.

**4. Control.** (Read 2 Corinthians 2:10-11)

Satan is always seeking to control us through witchcraft, which is manipulation or intimidation for the sake of domination, or control. (See 1 Samuel 15:23 *"Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft."*)

Often control manifests through religious spirits. A religious spirit holds to a form of godliness, but denies its' power. The Jezebel spirit is a particularly vicious religious spirit that tries to control its entire environment and is highly destructive in the process. It is usually linked to deep-seeded idolatry and sexual perversion, it regularly usurps control among God's people in the absence of the manifest presence of Christ (see 1 Kings 18). The Lord Jesus refers to a person manifesting this spirit in the warning to His church in Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29).

*"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." Colossians 2:15*

## POINTS OF DEMONIC ACCESS

The enemy's agenda is to gain influence and maintain control over your life. The biblical term for this is "demonization," not demon possession. His main objective is to control the thought process and the emotions, so that your own personality is rendered passive and the negative ungodly characteristics of the demonic presence are accepted by you as your own, such as spirits of anger, fear, lust, disobedience.

*"They will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." 2 Timothy 2:26*

Disobedience is another primary door opener to the enemy that can lead to

guilt, shame, self condemnation, sexual brokenness, barrenness, emotional breakdowns, mental breakdowns, and even suicide.

*"Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest." Proverbs 26:2*

Anger is a door opener to the devil. While it is never a primary emotion, it is a primary door opener to the enemy. Anger often masks fear and insecurity. It makes you feel strong. It normally comes from emotional emptiness. Do not deny your anger. Be honest and learn from it. Take time to process it. Ask yourself revealing questions: Why am I angry? Why does this matter so much to me? What needs do I have that are not being met? Bitterness is anger. *"In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." Ephesians 4:26*

*"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." Hebrews 12:15*

## ACTION STEPS

As a group take time to prayerfully and accurately review potential open doors of access to the enemy in your family (check all that apply).

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Idolatry           | <input type="checkbox"/> Rebellion            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unforgiveness      | <input type="checkbox"/> Bitterness           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Witchcraft, occult | <input type="checkbox"/> Word curses/wounds   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> False religions    | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual immorality  | <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse, trauma        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual soul ties   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fear                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Addiction          | <input type="checkbox"/> Anger                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Self hatred, suicide |

*"Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7*

1. Submit to Christ and confess your faith in His sacrifice.

*"Father God, I submit myself to You right now, spirit, soul and body, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I declare your death on the cross is the full sacrifice for my sin. You were pierced for my transgressions. You were crushed for my iniquities. You took up my infirmities and carried my sorrows in your body on the cross and by your blood, I am forgiven."*

2. Confess and repent of all sin, your own and the generational sin in your family line – rebellion, idolatry and passivity. Receive forgiveness.

*"Father God, I confess and expose my sin and that of my family line, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I was a child of darkness but now I am a child*

*of the light. I drag all my sin – my idolatry, rebellion, iniquity, disobedience out into the light of your love and your grace. I renounce my passivity toward the devil. He is my enemy and today I take my stand against him. Right now I receive in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ full and complete forgiveness for sin and removal of my shame. For it is written, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I am free and I am clean. I am a child of God.”*

3. Forgive all those who have harmed, hurt or wronged you.

*“Loving Father, right now, I do acknowledge the times I have been hurt, wounded, harmed and wronged by other people. I choose to forgive them fully, right now, for all they have done against me and against those I love. I renounce bitterness. I renounce unforgiveness, and I choose to forgive in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

4. Remove all contact with anything satanic or occultic and break the curse.

*“Father, I choose to clean house – to expose and remove any and all satanic or occult physical objects from my home and my possession – fetishes, astrology, lucky charms, free masonry bibles or other objects of evil origin. I renounce them and will remove them from my possession. I submit to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ alone. I renounce my sins of idolatry and the sins of my forefathers. I renounce all bondage and every stronghold from my lineage, and proclaim that my new lineage is through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I bind myself to Christ and to His finished work.”*

Declaration of Freedom – Breaking Generational Strongholds

*“Satan, I bind you right now in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I command you to be gone from me because it is written, ‘Resist the devil and he will flee from you.’ I bind every demonic spirit that has ever had influence over me or my family right now to the will of God. I forbid all demonic spirits inside or outside our family from being given information or strength from any other demonic spirit. I cancel all previous and current assignments from Satan and his hierarchy that have been given any demonic influence over us and I forbid any demon from manifesting in any way. I come against all evil spirits in the lineage of my father (name) and my mother (name) back to the third and fourth generation, and I break your hold over me in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have submitted to my God and have claimed my new lineage in the Lord Jesus Christ so you cannot stay. I rebuke you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and I command you to leave me spirit, soul and body. Leave my mind and my flesh and never return to me again in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I break all spoken and unspoken curses, and I command all evil spirits from these curses to go to where the Lord Jesus commands you to go*





## LESSON SIX

# HOLY SPIRIT FILLED HOMES

*“Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit...wives, submit to your husbands, as to the Lord... husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church...children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right...fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Ephesians 5:18,22,25; 6:1,4*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

When you open the door to Christ in your home, you open the door to the Holy Spirit. When you are filled with the Spirit, your home will be filled with prayer. Every family relationship will be impacted when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. Once the Apostle Paul exhorts the church to be filled with the Holy Spirit, he then explains how the Holy Spirit will impact wives, husbands, children, and parents.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and to come under His influence.

Have you consciously opened the front door to your home and family and invited the Holy Spirit to come in?

*“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Luke 11:13*

### **1. The Holy Spirit will influence your mindset and the way you think.**

*“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.” Romans 8:5*

### **2. The Holy Spirit will influence your motivation and your will.**

*“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” Philippians 2:13*

### **3. The Holy Spirit will influence your lifestyle and habits.**

*“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” 1 Cor. 6:19-20*

*“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful*



SECTION 2

FULFILLMENT

THE FULFILLMENT OF CHRIST'S MISSION THROUGH THE FAMILY

## LESSON SEVEN

# THE POWER OF AGREEMENT

*"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:19*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

One of your most powerful weapons as family members is the power of agreement. The Lord Jesus Christ only refers to the Church twice (Matthew 16:18 and Matthew 18:17), and both times He refers to the keys of the Kingdom and the authority that He is giving His disciples to bind and to loose. The power of agreement is one of the most effective ways of advancing Christ's Kingdom and fulfilling His mission on earth.

*"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:19*

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:18-20*

God intends family members to utilize the power of agreement. If it is not possible for you to agree together in prayer with your spouse, ask God to give you a prayer partner (your same gender) with whom you can agree together in prayer. Never underestimate the power that comes from praying in agreement as a family. God can use our children to unify and focus our prayers.

The power to bind and loose flows from coming into agreement with others through prayer. Some people think binding and loosing is complicated. Not at all. You simply bind what is evil and loose what is good.



## LESSON EIGHT

# BUILDING YOUR FAMILY UPPER ROOM

*"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."*

*Joshua 24:15b*

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

When Jesus built His church He built a praying church — specifically, He built an Upper Room. When Christ ascended He went to His Upper Room in heaven and sent His disciples to their Upper Room on earth. Christ not only wants an Upper Room in every church, He wants an Upper Room in every family.

A family Upper Room is a designated time each day or week when you meet together with the children to encounter Christ – to read the Bible, sing and pray together.

1. Establish a set time daily or weekly when you will meet with your children for prayer, worship, Bible reading and blessing.
2. Sing together. This brings joy to the family.
3. Read God's Word. This brings God's perspective into every situation in life. *"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6*
4. Take time to pray for each person in your family. Pray around the circle with each person praying for the one on their right-hand side. This is a great way to also take time to pray for other needs outside the family.
5. Bless each other. This is a great way to end each Family Upper Room.

6. Keep a "Family God Journal" to record answers to specific prayers. Write down what you hear God saying and where you see God working.
7. Use the Lord's Prayer Pattern at least one time each week (see Luke 11 and Matthew 6).

Relationship – *"Our Father in heaven ..."*

Worship – *"Hallowed be your name ..."*

Lordship – *"Your kingdom come, your will be done ..."*

Sonship – *"Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts ..."*

Fellowship – *"As we forgive our debtors ..."*

Leadership – *"Lead us not into temptation ..."*

Ownership – *"Yours is the kingdom, power, glory ..."*

## OTHER HELPFUL GUIDELINES

With pre-school children use coloring books, crayons, and/or puzzles to keep them active and engaged. Children are great at multi-tasking. Be patient. Don't try to make it perfect. Be as demonstrative or action-oriented as possible.

Assign a family scribe. Appoint someone to write in the "Family God Journal." This will become an heirloom – a family treasure. Write down the challenges you face and the victories and answers to prayer you receive.

Activate your teenagers. Teenagers crave their parents' guidance more than you realize. Even if it does not seem like they are getting anything out of it, maintain consistency. Express love and appreciation. Give them assignments equal to their abilities.

When women lead. In many single-parent families, you will discover that women will rise as anointed spiritual leaders. Even as it was said of Timothy, *"I have been reminded of your sincere faith which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and I am persuaded now lives in you also"* 2 Timothy 1:5. Women are called to nurture children not only physically but spiritually as well.

Listen to God. This is the key to effective prayer. No one knows better how to facilitate a Family Upper Room better than God Himself. Every believer is able to hear from God. Jesus said, *"My sheep hear my voice"* (John 10:27). Every one, however, hears from God differently.

- » Some will hear God in Bible verses that come to mind.
- » Some will see pictures.
- » Some will have strong impressions.





## LESSON NINE

# PRAYING THE KINGDOM ON YOUR FAMILY

*"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."  
Matthew 6:10*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

God wants each of our families to become Kingdom families where the Kingdom of Christ is experienced and through which His Kingdom is advanced. The Kingdom of God, after all, is everywhere God manifests His presence and everywhere the will of God is being done. For this reason He wants to teach us to specifically and intentionally pray the Kingdom.

Christ taught the Kingdom of God. He taught us as His followers to pray the Kingdom (Matthew 6:10), to seek the Kingdom (Matthew 6:33), to preach the Kingdom (Matthew 24:14), and to advance the Kingdom (Matthew 11:12). You certainly want to see Christ's Kingdom advance in your own family.

Often our prayers for family members are limited to felt needs – for health and finances. One of the most practical ways to pray for our family members is to pray down the Kingdom. When we pray the Kingdom, however, all these felt-needs will be met as well. Let's be specific. Here are 10 spiritual realities in the Kingdom you have authority to pray on your family.

### 1. Hunger for God.

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matt. 5:6*

### 2. The Holy Spirit.

*"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13*

### 3. The love of God.

*"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." Romans 5:5*

### 4. Repentance.

*"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 4:17*

5. Deliverance.

*"But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." Matthew 12:28*

6. The knowledge of God.

*"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:6*

7. Wisdom and revelation.

*"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better." Ephesians 1:17*

8. Righteousness, peace and joy.

*"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 14:17*

9. Physical healing as well as signs and wonders.

*"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power." 1 Cor. 4:20*

10. A willingness to stand alone for Christ.

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:10*

In the College of Prayer God has taught us to pray protection, direction and revelation. These are three critical prayers for us to pray in agreement over our family members.

- » Protection from the enemy and his plots against us. (Ps. 46:1-2)
- » Direction from the Holy Spirit. (John 16:13)
- » Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:17)

## NOTES

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## LESSON TEN

# THE POWER OF BLESSING

*"I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ." Romans 15:29*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

## BLESSINGS

Our God is a God of blessing. He wants us to build a culture of blessing in our homes. From the beginning of the Bible to the end, God is one big blessing waiting to happen!

Creation *Genesis 1:21*

Proverbs *Proverbs 31*

Abraham *Genesis 12:2-3*

Jesus *Matthew 5*

Priests *Numbers 6:24-26*

Paul's Letters

Psalms *Psalms 1*

Book of the Revelation – Seven blessings

Blessing is empowerment for success. Blessing is communicated by appropriate touch, spoken words, gestures, gifts and facial expressions.

## CURSES

The source of every curse is sin—sin committed by us or against us.

*"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him." Deuteronomy 30:19-20*

Christ became a curse for us in order to take our curses from us.

*"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'"*

*Galatians 3:13*

Christ was raised and ascended to reverse the curse and impart every blessing.

The family is where God wants to give His blessing.

Abraham *Genesis 12*

Jacob *Genesis 48-49*

## IMPARTING THE FATHER'S BLESSING

*"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:11*

Every father and every mother has the privilege of imparting this blessing from the Heavenly Father to their children. There is nothing that every child longs for more than for their father's blessing of acceptance, affection, and affirmation. When Father God spoke to His Son, He included all three facets of the father's blessing.

- » Acceptance - *"You are my Son"*
- » Affection - *"whom I love"*
- » Affirmation - *"with you I am well-pleased"*

These three – acceptance, affection and affirmation – are the deepest needs in each of your children. It is an honor for fathers and mothers to communicate this blessing to each of their children in very specific and tangible ways. These three needs must always be met in our children regardless of age and it is helpful to recognize that their primary needs change as they grow.

- » Infants – 5 year-olds primarily need acceptance.
- » 5 – 12 years-old primarily need affection.
- » 12 – 21 year-olds and older primarily need affirmation.

While the father's blessing ultimately comes from God the Father, it is our privilege as natural fathers and mothers and spiritual fathers and mothers to communicate the fullness of this blessing to our children.

*"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18*

*"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." Romans 8:15-16*

## ACTION STEPS

Take time right now to speak blessing over your family members.

Bless the wife and mother.

*"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Proverbs. 31:28-29*

Bless the husband and father.

*"The wife must respect her husband." Ephesians 5:33*  
*"Honor your father and mother." Ephesians 6:2*

Bless the children.

*"I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." Mark 10:15-16*

LESSON ELEVEN

# GOD'S CALL ON YOUR FAMILY

*"The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it."*

*1 Thessalonians 5:24*

*"For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." Romans 11:29*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

Christ is the Redeemer of all things. He not only promises to redeem your life and the lives of those in your family, He also promises to fully restore your calling.

Your calling is linked to your spiritual gifts.

*"For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." Romans 11:29*

Your calling is irrevocably linked to your identity and your life purpose.

*"The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:24*

The enemy seeks to destroy you and your calling; Christ is the redeemer and defender of your calling.

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10*

It is helpful to distinguish the difference between your calling and your assignment.

<b>CALLING</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>
Who you are	What you do
Above you	Beneath you
Unchangeable	Changeable
Universal	Local
Ever-expanding	Diminishing
Totally unique to me	Shared with many
Totally fulfilling	Potentially frustrating
Given by God	Given by man





God wants you to contend for your calling, knowing that your calling is irrevocable and that it affects the impact your family will have now and in the future.

## A UNIFIED CALLING

In marriage it is helpful to not only affirm each other's calling, but to embrace a unified calling. Many Christian husbands and wives live their entire lives as if their spouse's calling is irrelevant. This is sad and unnecessary. God wants each of us to enjoy the blessing of converging callings.

Take time to talk together about each other's calling and the interface between your callings.

Her Calling	His Calling	Unified Calling

			
Level 1 Conflicting Callings	Level 2 Co-existing Callings	Level 3 Crisscross Callings	Level 4 Converging Callings

Level 4 Convergence of Calling – *I am linked with your calling.*

Level 3 Crisscross of Calling – *I respect your calling.*

Level 2 Coexistence of Calling – *I am neutral toward your calling.*

Level 1 Conflict of Calling – *I am bothered by your calling.*

God not only intends to redeem the calling of husbands and wives, He also wants to redeem the calling of our children. There is no more important role for parents to fulfill than to help identify and champion their child's life-calling. Using the diagram below, fill in the specifics for each of your children to help you know how to identify and champion their unique calling.

As our families become more aware of each other's callings and giftings it will dramatically impact the way we pray with and for each other.



## LESSON TWLEVE

# BECOMING A MISSIONAL FAMILY

*"I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you and make your name great so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and he who dishonors you I will curse and in you, all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:2-3*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

God not only called Abraham to Himself in order to bless Abraham, He called Abraham to Himself to bless all the nations on earth.

God not only called you to Himself to bless you, He called you to Himself to bless all the nations on earth.

You and your family are chosen to become a nation impacting family. He has blessed you so that you can become a blessing.

Every family is ultimately called to bring glory to God and to make Him known among the nations. The bigger God becomes in your home, the bigger your heart becomes for the nations.

Psalms 67 is a wonderful family missional Psalm that asks for God's blessing on the family so that the family will be a blessing to the nations.

*"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us. God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him."*

*Psalm 67*

## ACTION STEPS

Stand together. Read aloud in unison Psalm 67. Get into families or groups of 3-4 and ask Christ to make your family a missional family.



As God works in your life through this curriculum, please share your story with us.



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