

## Surviving Family

### Week 1 Study Guide

### Boundaries

**Main Point:** Healthy families establish set boundaries and put up fences.

1. We live in a culture that does not like to set boundaries, however, the boundaries they do set are personal, discretionary, and temporary. This can make life very confusing!
  - In your household, what boundaries have you established to protect and teach your family?
  - After this weekend's message, what boundaries should you put in place?
2. In both the Old and New Testament, God established boundaries for His people that never changed. If His people dwelt inside these boundaries, they were blessed. If they wandered outside, they experienced pain.
  - What experience can you think back on, (morally, financially, or relationally), where you crossed a line? What was the outcome? What did you learn?
3. Love has to be the number one motivation when setting up boundaries.
  - Do your boundaries demonstrate your love for God? Your spouse? Your kids? Your friends?
  - How can you improve your boundaries that will better display the love you have for God and for your family?
4. Read Psalm 89:30-33... Parents, it is your job to teach your kids how to live and respect boundaries in life.
  - In what ways do your children test your authority?
  - Are you able to stand firm according to the boundaries you have put in place?
5. A second motivation when setting boundaries has to do with personal responsibility and a sliding scale.
  - Based on the season of life that you and your family are in, what responsibilities should influence your boundaries?
  - Technology and Social Media boundaries.
  - Build a fence around family time.
  - If you are married... ask, "How are we doing?"

- Ask yourself... “Am I dwelling within the fence of God?”  
Morally? Financially? Relationally? Spiritually?

### **Further Reading**

Hebrews 12

1 Titus 1:10-16

Job 5; 17

Proverbs 25:28

### **Additional Resources**

“Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No to Take Control of Your Life”

By Henry Cloud

“Boundaries in Marriage”

By Henry Cloud & John Townsend

“Boundaries with Kids: When to Say Yes, When to Say No, to Help Your Children Gain Control of Their Lives”

By Henry Cloud & John Townsend