



Craig Smith • Family • November 22, 2020

Ice Breaker- What is your favorite family tradition?

God's design for the family...

- **A refuge of safety** – “He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.” (Prov. 14:26)

How can you provide a refuge for your family members?

Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred. (Prov. 15:17)

- **A learning center for life** – “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” (Prov. 22:6)

What is the most important lesson that you learned in the context of family?

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. (Prov. 1:8-9)

- **A launch-pad for ministry** – “You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints.” (1 Cor. 16:15)

What will you do to encourage your family members to be ministry focused?

Three issues that threaten the health of the home...

- **A quarrelsome voice** – “Better to live on a corner of the roof than to share a house with a quarrelsome wife.” (Prov. 21:9)
- **An absent voice** – “Like a bird who strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.” (Prov. 27:8)
- **An abusive voice** – “Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” (Prov. 12:18)

Which of these three threats most affect your home? What changes need to be made in order to have a healthy home environment?

A family pursuing God's wisdom...

- **Is submitted to God's authority** – “...a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised...He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.” (Prov.31:30; 14:26)

From these two verses what are the positive results of fearing God?

- **Is led with intentionality** – “The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.” (Prov. 14:1)

What do you do intentionally each day to inspire wisdom in your home?

- **Fosters holiness, not just happiness** – *“Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.” (Prov. 22:15)*

Do you spend more time seeing that your children are happy or holy? Expand on your answer.

- **Values character, not just accomplishment** – *“A wife of noble character is her husband’s crown...The man of integrity walks securely...” (Prov. 12:4a; 10:9a)*

How is character taught in the home?

- **Honors the aged** – *“The glory of young men is their strength, gray hair the splendor of the old.” (Prov. 20:29)*

What can your family do this season to show honor to the aged?