



Family Foundations Series  
**Bring Jesus Home**  
 Forest Park Church  
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Family is one of the most expressive things

we will ever invest in.

- Time
- Money
- Emotion

In an effort to understand what creates a successful and fulfilling life, Harvard Medical School began to track **268 male students in 1938**, and followed them through their lives.

- The results gathered over the decades have been astounding and have added much to our understanding of what promotes real success, or “flourishing,” in life.
- The researchers determined that regardless of one's socioeconomic status, the greatest predictor of life success was one's capacity for warm, intimate relationships, with spouse, family, parents and friends.

An inverse correlation could be said to exist between the deterioration of the family and the many ills of society we've experienced in our distressing times. Even Christian families today find themselves divided and facing extraordinary challenges.

In Spite of the extraordinary cost, and great potential if successful, we find that often we build our families very causally.

**Proverbs 24:3-4**

*“Through skillful and godly Wisdom is a house is built, and by understanding it is established on a sound and good foundation. And by knowledge shall the chambers of its every area be filled with all precious and pleasant riches”*

According to this scripture, a home or family is built.

- It does not just haphazardly happen,
- it is not accidental or coincidental—

- it must be deliberate built.
- It consists of builders—specifically two really three: a husband and wife and the heavenly father.

The Bible typically uses the word house to refer to family.

- For example, **Hebrews 3:1-6** says that as believers we are “God’s house” meaning that we are members of the family of God.
- Every house, and therefore every family, requires a solid foundation in order to be stable, secure and strong.

What would it look like if Jesus physically lived at your house?

### 3 I. A Christ Centered home is marked by love, not perfection.

#### II John 6

*“As you have heard from the beginning, His command is that you walk in love.”*

4

Little babies arrive here as semi-blank slates, possessing not much more than their basic personalities and their natural innate selfishness, on which we parents write messages every day in every way.

What the children turn out to be is therefore the direct consequence of the following factors:

- Our own character strengths and weaknesses;
- Our own ability (or inability) to love;
- Our own consistency or inconsistency;
- Our own healthy marriage relationship (or lack of it);
- Our own wisdom or ignorance;

- Our own philosophies about child-raising, God, other people, and life in general;
- Our own personal habits and behavior modeled before the child;
- Our own treatment of the child and others in the family;
- Our own attitudes towards the child and others
- A myriad of other obvious and not-so-obvious factors we ourselves are ultimately responsible for.

Children are products of the environment of the home.

- What we input or allow others to input into our children determines what our children will output.
- If we have a certain output that we desire from our family, then it is critical that we know exactly what kind of input is required and what kind of input must be avoided.
- The sobering truth is that we are responsible, even if we do not know what to do.

**The first love you ever know often comes from your mother and your immediate family members.**

- This unconditional love seeks nothing in return.
- Those loving times you remember cuddling with your parents, playing ball with your brother in the backyard, or getting ice cream down the street with your grandmother aren't just cherished memories.

A family's love:

- Psychologically grounds you and provides a framework for future relationships.
- It enables you to form secure attachments.
- Securely attached children feel safe and cared for.
- If you had secure bonds, your parents were likely responsive and fulfilled your needs when you were young.

Having positive attachments and feeling cared for by your loved ones leads to higher social functioning later on. A child with secure attachments also can more easily form healthy ties with others when they grow up and throughout their future.

In Contrast where there are only stark, cold rules and expectations there is no room for love or grace.

Jesus had just finished some difficult teaching on the tragedy of divorce. When Matthew records the following.

**Matthew 19:13-14**

*Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.*

*14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." 15 When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.*

5

6

## II. A Christ centered home is marked by joy.

Joy is not happiness.

- Happiness is topical.
- Joy is a strong underlying current of contentment and thankfulness that comes by trusting the Lord when all is not well in life.

Joy is that quiet rest that radiates on our faces even in the midst of trial.

It is a warmth that bounces off the walls and runs through a home that loves what is good in the eyes of the Father.

Imagine you and I are standing in a vineyard with Jesus and his disciples. He says to us:

*"Abide in me like these branches abide in the grapevine. Let my words help you to abide in my love just as I abide in my Father's love. Essential to our shared life is that you love one another as I have love you."*

(Paraphrased from the beginning of John 15.)

**John 15:4**

7

*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.*

And he doesn't stop there. Later when Jesus prays for his disciples and us he says,

*"Father... I say these things... so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them"* (John 17:1, 13).

Jesus is joyful, even when at the same time he may need to confront evil or grieve a death, because he is standing in the spiritual understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven.

- He lives in continual submission to the God and not matter the circumstance lives in the knowledge that God is in control.

## 8 III. A Christ centered home is marked by peace.

9 **1 Corinthians 14:33**  
*For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.*

A home that exists for His glory can be identified by the order kept in it.

- Keeping chaos to a minimum results in a welcoming sanctuary for all who enter.

Peace doesn't just happen. We must be proactive in pursuing it.

10 **1 Peter 3:11**  
*"Whoever desires to love life  
and see good days,  
let him keep his tongue from evil  
and his lips from speaking deceit;  
11 let him turn away from evil and do good;  
let him seek peace and pursue it.*

It's worth the effort:

- It takes effort to maintain a well ordered home.

- It takes diligent gentleness to live as peaceably as possible with others (Romans 12:18).
- It takes a consistent seeking of the Lord to find peace when life is hard.

But when we are purposeful about pursuing Peace, and His Person, He will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

**Philippians 4:6-7**

*6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

11

10 Everyday Ways to Build a Christ-Centered Home

1. Prioritize personal and family devotions.
2. Pray often! Even more than you think necessary.
3. Keep communication lines open. Ask specific questions.
4. Listen well. You will hear people’s hearts when you listen without an agenda.
5. Listen to Good music! Listen to uplifting music that makes you feel GOOD.
6. Make efforts to make each heart feel included, important & invaluable to your family unit.
7. Smile a lot. Even more than you think necessary!
8. Unplug every day. Shut the phone off when everyone is home.
9. Over-use please, thank you, I’m sorry, and I love you. Say those more than necessary.
10. Make God’s word/name evident in all areas and situations.

1 Conclusion

Bring Jesus Home!

Mark 5:22–23 (NKJV)

**Mark 5:35**

And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.” While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?”

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not be afraid; only believe.” And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. When He came in, He said to them, “Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying.

Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, “Talitha, cumi,” which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.”

Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.

Talitha is a term of endearment. It is etymologically related to a word that can also mean “lamb.” Jesus’ use of this term, coupled with His taking the little girl by the hand, provides an image of a compassion and gentleness. The Good Shepherd is lovingly gathering the lambs in His arms (see Isaiah 40:11): “My little lamb,” He says to her as He restores her life, “it’s time to get up.”

Jesus saying, “Talitha cumi,” comes in the context of a larger story. In Capernaum, Jesus was surrounded by a crowd when Jairus, a synagogue ruler, fell at Jesus’ feet. Jairus “pleaded earnestly with Him” because his 12-year-old daughter was dying and he wanted Jesus to heal her (Mark 5:22–23). The crowds following Jesus were not unusual, but a synagogue leader recognizing Jesus’ authority and requesting His help was.

How important is a solid spiritual foundation in our families today?

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain” (Ps. 127:1).

- God is the architect,
- Christ is the foundation

- The Holy Spirit is the building contractor in a Christian family.

Let me close with a warning and a promise.

**Promise 1:**

Proverbs 11:29 “he who brings trouble on his own house will inherit only wind.”

If you do not act to establish a firm foundation built with the building blocks of a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ – a Christ-centered marriage and a faith-centered family – you will risk losing it all.

If, however, you strive to honor the Lord in your life, your marriage and your family, you will garner the promise of

**Promise 2:**

**2 Timothy 2:19**

But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”