

THE HOME—GOD’S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

TEXT: (Deuteronomy 6:1-7, NIV)

¹ These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ 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.

KEY VERSES: “Write these commandments that I’ve given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, MSG).

INTRODUCTION

A. God’s Plan for the Future

1. “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day” (Acts 2:41, NIV).
2. “And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47, NIV).
3. “So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7, NIV).
4. “These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also” (Acts 17:6, KJV).

B. God’s Plan to Influence

1. “But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children—with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts” (Psalms 103:17-18, NIV).
2. “O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old—what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands” (Psalm 78:1-7, NIV).
3. “As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15, NIV).

I. CHURCH IN THE HOUSE

A. Regular Spiritual Exercise Sessions

1. “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (II Timothy 3:15, NIV).
2. “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him” (Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV).

B. Communication in the Home

1. "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6, NIV).

II. FAMILY ALTAR

A. Establishing an Altar—The First Order of Business

1. "Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it" (Genesis 8:20, NIV).
2. "Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, 'Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.' This was Job's regular custom" (Job 1:4-5, NIV).

B. When Present, It Is the Father's Role to Be the Spiritual Leader

1. "[John the Baptist] will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse" (Malachi 4:6, NIV).
2. "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" (II Timothy 1:5, NIV).

III. HOLY EXAMPLE AND INSTRUCTION

A. Teaching and Training

1. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6, KJV).

B. Making Your House a Home

1. "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith" (Hebrews 11:7, NIV).

C. Commitment to One Another

1. "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (I Peter 4:8-10, NIV).
2. "Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged" (Colossians 3:21, NIV).
3. "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" (I Peter 4:9, NIV).
4. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10, NIV).
5. "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves. Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him" (Psalm 127:1-3, NIV).
2. "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need" (Matthew 6:33, NLT).
3. "Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met" (Matthew 6:33, MSG).