



## **INTRODUCTION TO OUR FAMILY CHALLENGE**

Everyone would agree that the structure called a house is not nearly as important as the relationships called a home. And yet while we wouldn't think of building a house without a blueprint, many go about building their homes and families with no idea of God's plan. It doesn't make sense. And the result, all too often, is a lean-to family life.

If you want to build a house, you need a blueprint which shows the proper design and necessary materials. This series of daily FAMILY CHALLENGES is designed to encourage parents to follow God's blueprint for building homes. In Psalms 127 and 128 God gives us His design and the necessary building materials. The goal of the home is to nurture and build the next generation to love and serve God in the present time as well as the future. This is a top priority to God and it must be a top priority to us as parents, grandparents and all adult believers as well.

Passing on a heritage of godliness to the next generation is a responsibility for everyone. Some of you have children and grandchildren and you're doing this in obvious ways. However, all adult believers in Christ bear a responsibility to value children, pray for them, be godly examples and minister through the larger family of the church and in other areas of influence to see that they are cared for, protected and encouraged in their spiritual development.

Following God's blueprint will help you build a home, not just a house. And build for the future, not just the present. A lot is at stake and we must build well using God's design and the right building materials.

Each daily post will include:

- Scripture reading
- A short, meaningful devotional
- Reflect and Respond Questions
- Prayer

## **PRAYER**

Father, we acknowledge that building the next generation to hunger and thirst for righteousness is a top priority for You. Please do Your building work in our home and in our hearts. Would You increase our desire, our sense of purpose and intentionality about building a home for You and a generation that will seek after You now and in the future. I pray for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Portions of these Challenges are taken from

"Leaving a Godly Legacy,"  
used by permission, Revive Our Hearts  
and

"Blueprint for a Satisfying Home,"  
by Steve Cole, retired pastor, used by permission, Flagstaff Christian Fellowship, Flagstaff, AZ



## **FAMILY CHALLENGE**

### **DAY 1: A Satisfying Home Depends on God's Blessing, Part 1**

#### **SCRIPTURE**

*Unless the LORD builds a house, they labor in vain who build it; — Psalm 127:1a*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

As parents it's easy to slip into thinking that if our children are to love God it will be due to our hard work as parents. We must get everything right. But all our anxious planning and frantic living of providing our children with endless opportunities is not what will create what we're hoping for in their lives. Whether we are building structures with brick and mortar or building our families with truth and love, we cannot succeed without the help and blessing of the Lord. We build under His instruction and leadership.

Seeking God's blessing for your home means understanding the balance between faith and works. We don't stop building and leave it all for God to do. We build but trust God to build too. Jesus said, "Without Me you can do nothing." — John 15:5

We must work hard at building our families and, at the same time, depend wholeheartedly on the Lord. Faith and works are compatible. We must also seek God's gracious blessing for our family through daily prayer.

#### **REFLECTION AND RESPONSE**

- How are you working to raise your children to love and serve God? How are you daily seeking God's gracious help and blessing for your family?
- In what ways can you cooperate with God to build a church of young worshipers that will reflect His glory to our world after you're gone?

## **PRAYER**

Our heart's desire is to raise our children to be the next generation that loves You but we confess that we really don't have the wisdom and strength to do this. Lord, would You show us how to work while also trusting You for the sake of Your great Kingdom. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## **FAMILY CHALLENGE**

### **DAY 2: A Satisfying Home Depends on God's Blessing, Part 2**

#### **SCRIPTURE**

*Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. — Psalm 127:1b*

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Building and battling go together. This is seen in the Old Testament book of Nehemiah as the workers rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem. The enemy showed up as the wall was going up. This is why the workers had their tools in one hand and their swords at their side. — Nehemiah 4:17-18. The enemy will show up as you build your family on the foundation of the Solid Rock.

Be a faithful watchman for your family. Don't fall asleep or get distracted on this critical job! Remain alert and tuned in to what is going on in the lives of your children and culture. Look for danger and use discernment to recognize an enemy. But also look to God. Do your appointed tasks with a quiet dependence on Him. *"The young lions suffer want and hunger (the young lions who, for all their claws and strength, do lack and suffer hunger); but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing." (Psalm 34:10)*

It's foolish to build and not protect. If we do not guard our homes against the enemy, our building will be in vain. But we cannot succeed at protecting our family without the help and blessing of the Lord. We watch under His watchful eye.

## **REFLECTION AND RESPONSE**

- How are you protecting your children from ungodly influences?
- How are you providing a godly influence in their lives that will create in them a hunger for God?

## **PRAYER**

Father, would You give us wisdom to know how to protect our children from ungodly influences and how to bring into our homes the kind of influence that will lead our children toward righteousness?

El Roi (the God who sees), I can't always see my children. I'm not there physically to protect them, and if I were there physically, I couldn't protect their hearts. But Lord, You are the Ultimate Watchman and You see them. Would You protect them and their heart from evil influences?