

## “God’s Design for the Family”

Family Matters! Part 1  
January 30 & 31, 2010

"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.' For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife..." Genesis 2:18, 24

### 1. God has designed the family for

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"He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge" Proverbs 14:26

Storms of life include . . .

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Evaluation: 1—2—3—4—5—6—7—8—9—10

### 2. God has designed the family as a place for

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"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4

"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with man." Luke 2:52

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Evaluation: 1—2—3—4—5—6—7—8—9—10

### 3. God has designed the family as

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*Always laugh when you can;  
it is cheap medicine* -Lord Byron

Evaluation: 1—2—3—4—5—6—7—8—9—10

### 4. God has designed the family as

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"As for me and my household,  
we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24.15

Evaluation: 1—2—3—4—5—6—7—8—9—10

## Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. Ever watch “Leave it to Beaver” on TV? Is it a model or a myth? What aspects of that depiction of family life are desirable and what parts are completely unrealistic? (If you’ve never seen “Leave it to Beaver” perhaps you can discuss the model for family life presented in “The Simpsons”...)

2. Why is a place of ‘protection’ (both physical and emotional) so important to raising healthy adults? Share a time when you experienced help or healing from your family after experiencing a disappointment, rejection or heartbreak. If your family life was/is lacking, how have you dealt with it?

3. Discuss what you think the biggest challenges are that families face when it comes to teaching character (integrity, honesty, etc.) and relational skills to the next generation? Discuss the importance of ‘intentionality’.

4. What are the best ways a parent can instill a hunger for knowing and doing God’s will?

5. It seems difficult for some families to strike an appropriate balance between work & leisure. Why are fun memories so important to build into the family? If God has designed the family as a place to enjoy life...a place to let down, kick back, relax and have fun...how can we avoid creating an unhealthy ‘culture of leisure’ in our family ?

6. How can we make families a ‘launch pad’ for a life of service to God? What are the keys?

7. Discuss what Jesus meant when he described a house build on the rock (Matthew 7.24-27). What does it mean to have a Christ-centered home?