

DIGGING DEEPER: Fail to Read the Instruction Manual (Part 2)

THE MAIN THEME

Marriage and family are God's chosen way to bring, establish, extend, and expand heaven on earth when we follow His Word.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Genesis 1:27-28a – So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it."

WHAT NOT TO MISS

- Marriage without God's instruction manual leads to fractured foundations.
- The Bible gives God's design for marriage and states the divine imperative to reflect, represent, and mirror His image.
- Marriage BRINGS heaven to earth: God's mission to expand His kingdom.
- Marriage ESTABLISHES heaven on earth: vision, values, and structure of marriage.
- Marriage EXTENDS heaven on earth: children are disciplined by parent(s) to carry on God's mission.
- Marriage EXPANDS heaven on earth: the church gives context and support for singles to live out God's mission as part of his family.
- An attack on the family is an attack on God's mission.

LIFE APPLICATION

Marriage is not simply about companionship—it is about mission. Each spouse and child has a biblical “job description” that contributes to flourishing in the home and advancing God’s Kingdom. Singles are not excluded, for the church is called to be their family.

This week, examine whether your family is being built on God’s instruction manual or cultural ones. Where do you need to realign with His design so your home can become a launching pad for heaven on earth?

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

MONDAY – Heaven in Your Home

READ: Genesis 1:27–28

REFLECT: God designed marriage as the foundation for His mission.

RESPOND: Write down one area of your home life that needs to better reflect heaven and pray over it.

TUESDAY – The Husband’s Call

READ: Ephesians 5:25–28

REFLECT: Husbands are called to lead by sacrificial love.

RESPOND: If married, write a prayer asking God to help you pastor your family well.

WEDNESDAY – The Wife’s Call

READ: Proverbs 31:10–12

REFLECT: A godly wife affirms, encourages, and enhances her family and community.

RESPOND: Find one practical way to affirm or encourage your spouse or children this week.

THURSDAY – Children’s Role

READ: Ephesians 6:1–3

REFLECT: Children honor God by honoring parents.

RESPOND: Parents, speak a blessing over your children. Kids, practice joyful obedience.

FRIDAY – Singles in God’s Mission

READ: 1 Corinthians 7:32–35

REFLECT: Singles are vital to God’s mission and embraced as family in the church.

RESPOND: Reach out to a single friend or church member with encouragement or support.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

FACILITATOR TIPS

- Create space for honesty—many will carry pain or regrets in this area.
- Encourage spouses to pray together and singles to seek encouragement in community.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

As a group, choose one way to better reflect God's mission in your homes—or as a church family. Make a plan and hold one another accountable this month.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does ignoring God's instruction manual lead to fractured marriages and families?
2. How do reflection, representation, and mirroring God's image shape marriage?
3. What does it look like for marriage to “bring heaven to earth”?
4. How do vision, values, and structure strengthen a home?
5. What specific roles and responsibilities do husbands and wives have according to Scripture?
6. How do children extend God's mission by living under His authority?
7. How is an attack on the family also an attack on God's mission?
8. In what ways can the church serve as family for singles, widows, or widowers?
9. Which area—mission, vision, structure, or strategy—needs the most attention in your family?
10. What is one step your group can take this week to realign with God's design for family?

PRAYER POINTS

CONNECT

- Pray for families to connect deeply with God and one another.
- Pray for marriages to reflect Christ's love.

CARE

- Pray for protection and provision in homes.
- Pray for wisdom to steward children and resources well.

CULTIVATE

- Pray for parents to disciple their children faithfully.
- Pray for the church to raise up leaders who model biblical family life.

COMMISSION

- Pray for families to see themselves as a launchpad for God's mission.
- Pray for singles to find belonging and purpose in the church family.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank You for creating marriage and family as a way to bring, establish, extend, and expand heaven on earth. Help us to follow Your instruction manual so that our homes reflect Your glory. Strengthen spouses, guide children, and embrace singles in Your family. Empower us to live out Your mission with faith, hope, and love. Amen.