

WORD

"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you." **GENESIS 17:7**

Family is God's idea. His perspective is always long-term and generational. Our lives are not just about what we can do, but also about the generations to come. Our families are blessings from God, no matter how imperfect or dysfunctional they may be. In this lesson, we will look at key ingredients in building godly families that will glorify God.

1 Faith

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 (SEE ALSO GENESIS 6:9-22.)**

Noah was mocked by the community as he built his huge boat in obedience to the Lord. Everyone thought he was crazy—everyone except his family. His family followed him into the boat, no questions asked (Genesis 7:7,13). How does your faith and obedience to God affect your family? How did Noah's faith save his family? Why do you think his family did not have a hard time following him?

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2 Love

. . . each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

EPHESIANS 5:33

The Bible is the final authority for our relationships, and we are commanded to love one another. Love is seen in how the husband cares for his wife, how the wife respects her husband, and how the family members submit to one another, out of reverence for Christ (Ephesians 5:21). After all, we can only love our spouses, children, and relatives because of God's unconditional and amazing love for us. How does the Bible define love (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)?

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3 Honor

²"Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—³"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

EPHESIANS 6:2,3

Since God is sovereign, He chose which family we would belong to and who our parents would be. We are therefore commanded to honor our parents and treat them with respect and grace. What does it mean to honor our parents? Why do you think the command to honor our parents comes with a promise of blessings and long life?

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