

# “A Family with Purpose”

## Family Bible Study Series – Vol. 2 - Quarter 1

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Dear Family,

As you know, Satan has a strong foothold on our society. He is attacking from all angles in all types of ways. His arsenal is heavily equipped with alcohol, drugs, violence, TV, negative peer pressure, complacency, busy-ness and many other tools he has at his disposal.

The only way we can truly overcome Satan and the arsenal that he uses is faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6) Romans 10:17 states it like this, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the Word of God.” If we want our family to withstand the pressures of the world, we must be in the Word.

Unfortunately, many families are too busy and have decided to put spiritual development low on the priority list. We spend quality time in activities such as work, sports, school, and recreation, but have little or no time to spend developing our relationship with God. Some families have left it to the church to provide their only spiritual food on Sundays and Wednesdays. Because of that, many of us are spiritually malnourished. We need to be in God’s word more! We need to teach our children the importance of Bible study!

That is the reason we try to supply our church family here with tools that can help make our homes the hub of spiritual development. These lessons are designed to be very simple, basic and applicable to the entire family. They are written so that someone unfamiliar with the Bible could use these outlines. They can also be used as a starting point for a family that may be older. Just take these lessons and add more depth to them. The most important thing is for us to begin to open the Word of God as a family. This is where we can develop a spiritual life that can withstand the storms of Satan! How is your family spiritually?

You can NEVER start too young or too old!

May God bless your efforts to develop a strong God-centered home.

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## **Keys to Having a Good Home Bible Study**

- Have a family meeting and discuss what night and time of the week would be best to have the study.
- Stick to the time that is agreed upon and start and finish on time!
- Make a decision that this will be a family priority.
- Start with a prayer.
- Give each family member time to discuss what has happened during their day.
- Do not allow the discussion time to become a place for family gripes and arguments.
- Give each family member an opportunity to share how he or she was able to work on last week's lesson.
- Always remember what the purpose of this study is...
  - To develop a closer relationship with God.
  - To develop a closer relationship with each other.
  - To unite as a Godly family.
- Take time to work on your family project. (*See back page for a list of suggested projects.*)
- End with a prayer.

## ***A Family with Purpose***

**Purpose:** *To read and discover God's purpose for Christian Families.*

### Bible Verses

- Matthew 1:18-25; Matthew 4:23; Philippians 2:1-5

### **Family Discussion:**

- *Matthew 1:18-25*
  - Who was the mother of Jesus?
  - Why did Jesus have to come down to earth? What was His purpose? (Matthew 1:21)
- *Matthew 4:23*
  - This verse gives a good overall picture of how Jesus lived His life.
  - Share four things that Jesus did from these verses.
  - What did Jesus ultimately have to do in order to fulfill His purpose of saving everyone from their sins?
- *Philippians 2:1-5*
  - Who are we named for as Christians?
  - Carrying the name of Christ brings about a great responsibility to imitate Christ. How can we as a family imitate Christ?
  - One of the things listed in verse 2 is purpose. We must have the same purpose as Christ. What was Christ's purpose for life? (*Refer back to Matthew 1:21*) What is your purpose?
  - As Christians we must have the same purpose as \_\_\_\_\_!

### **Weekly Challenge:**

On a piece of paper write down three things you can do this week to imitate Christ's purpose. Be prepared to share your experiences next week!

**Family Bible Goals:** Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

## ***Overcoming Satan***

**Purpose:** *To read and discuss how we can resist Satan.*

### **Bible Verses**

- Matthew 4:1-11; James 4:7; Matthew 26:41

### **Family Discussion:**

- *James 4:7*
  - We have the power to make Satan run. What must we do to cause Satan to run from us?
  - How can we resist Satan? Let's look at the life of Christ to see how we can make Satan run!
- *Matthew 4:1-11*
  - Jesus is face to face with the enemy, and is attacked with three temptations. List the three temptations that Satan threw at Jesus.
  - Jesus overcame each temptation the same way. How did Jesus make Satan run?
  - Jesus used God's Word to overcome Satan. How can God's Word help us overcome temptation in our daily lives? Share a personal example where you used God's Word to overcome temptation.
- *Matthew 26:41*
  - In this verse, Jesus is telling the apostles how to resist temptation. What did Jesus tell the apostles to do? Why do we need to be watchful for Satan? (*1 Peter 5:8*)
  - How can prayer help us resist Satan?

### **Weekly Challenge:**

On a piece of paper write down three temptations each family member is facing. Share the temptations with the family and begin praying daily for strength to overcome these temptations.

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## ***Keeping Our Hearts Pure***

**Purpose:** *To read and discuss God's strategies for keeping our hearts pure.*

### **Bible Verses**

- Matthew 5:1-8; Psalms 119:9-11; Philippians 4:8

### **Family Discussion:**

- *Matthew 5:1-8*
  - While sitting on the side of a mountain, Jesus began teaching His disciples. What goal did Jesus give the people to reach for in verse 8?
  - Why is having a pure heart important to God? What is the reward for those who have pure hearts?
  - The only way for us to have a relationship with God is to be pure. Satan tries to separate us from God with sin! How difficult is it to keep a pure heart in today's world?
  - What are some strategies we can use to keep ourselves pure? Let's look at two strategies from God's Word.
- *Psalms 119:9-11*
  - How can a young man or woman keep his way pure?
  - God has given us a road map to get to heaven! He has given us solutions to all our problems! When we are faced with a tough choice where should we go for the answer?
- *Philippians 4:8*
  - Our thoughts have a direct impact on our actions. Would you describe your daily thoughts as good or bad?
  - What did Jesus think about each time He was tempted by Satan? (Matthew 4:1-11)

### **Weekly Challenge:**

Have each family member write down a Bible verse they can use to help keep their hearts pure. Share the verses with the family.

**Family Bible Goals:** Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

## ***A Praying Family***

**Purpose:** *To read and discover the power of prayer.*

### **Bible Verses**

- Matthew 6:5-13; Matthew 7:7-8; Matthew 26: 36-46

### **Family Discussion:**

- *Matthew 6:5-13*
  - God knows everything we need! Why then do we need to pray to God?
  - Who is your best friend? What would happen to that relationship if you never communicated with each other?
  - If we fail to communicate with God, our relationship with Him will fall apart. How can we communicate with God?
  - List three things Jesus prayed for in verses 9-13.
- *Matthew 7:7-8*
  - Jesus shares with us a comforting thought in these verses. If we ask for something, what will happen? Does that mean we will get everything we ask for?
  - What is the difference between praying for something we want versus something we need?
- *Matthew 26:36-46*
  - Where did Jesus go with His disciples? What did He do while He was there? Why was Jesus praying?
  - Jesus was praying to prepare for His death on the cross! How can we use prayer to prepare ourselves for situations we may face?
  - What did Jesus encourage His apostles to do in verse 41?

### **Weekly Challenge:**

Share with the family one thing you are currently praying about, and write each one down on a piece of paper. Meet together each day as a family and pray about the things on the list. (This may be done before a meal or before bedtime!)

**Family Bible Goals:** Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

## ***Seeking God First***

**Purpose:** *To read and discover how to keep God first in our lives.*

### **Bible Verses**

- Matthew 6:33; Luke 14:15-23; Matthew 19:16-22

### **Family Discussion:**

- *Matthew 6:33*
  - God must be #1 in our lives! Why does God deserve to be first in our lives?
  - We must prove that God is our first priority by the way we live our lives. How can we prove that God is first in our lives?
  - What are some things we are tempted to seek before God?
  - What is the greatest reward you have ever received?
  - What reward is given to those who seek God first?
- *Luke 14:15-23*
  - One of Satan's greatest weapons is getting people to make excuses! What three excuses did people make in this parable for not following God?
  - We must have a daily relationship with God in order to keep Him first! Have you ever made excuses for not obeying God?
  - What does God think of us when we make excuses?
- *Matthew 19:16-22*
  - What question did this man ask Jesus? Had this man kept the commandments that Jesus listed?
  - What was more important to this man, God or money?
  - What is the most important thing in your life?

### **Weekly Challenge:**

We must read God's Word daily in order to put Him first in our lives. This week read through the book of Philippians (one chapter each day), and write down one question over each chapter!

**Family Bible Goals:** Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

## ***A Wise Family***

**Purpose:** *To read and discover how to build our lives on the foundation of Christ.*

### **Bible Verses**

- Matthew 7:24-27; James 3:13-18

### **Family Discussion:**

- *Matthew 7:24-27*
  - In this story Jesus describes two different men. Who were the two men that Jesus talked about in these verses?
  - What did these two men have in common? What was different about the way they built their houses?
  - Both of these houses were hit by a severe storm. What happened to the two houses? Why did one house stand strong while the other one crashed?
  - Everybody is going to face storms (struggles) in their lives! Share a struggle you are currently facing at work or school. How can we build our house (life) so that it survives the storms we face?
- *James 3:13-18*
  - James describes two different types of wisdom in these verses. One that is of God and one that is of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - How is the wisdom of the devil described? (vs. 14)
  - Selfishness is a major weapon of the devil. Describe a time in your life when you've been tempted with selfishness.
  - List the different characteristics of Godly wisdom (vs. 17)
  - We prove who we are by how we act! Describe how we can prove our wisdom in the eyes of God.

### **Weekly Challenge:**

Write out the characteristics of Godly wisdom found in verse 17 on different sheets of paper. Place the papers around the house for the family to see throughout the week. Use these as reminders of how we can build our lives on the foundation of Christ!

**Family Bible Goals:** Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

## ***Building Our Faith***

**Purpose:** *To read and discover how to build our faith as individuals.*

### **Bible Verses**

- Romans 10:17; James 2:14-26; Matthew 8:5-13

### **Family Discussion:**

- *Romans 10:17*
  - What are some things that are required to build a house?
  - We also need a tool to build our faith as individuals. What is the one tool we need to use to build our faith?
  - Reading stories from the Bible about Jesus, Jonah, and other Bible characters helps us to become stronger Christians! Who is your favorite person to read about in the Bible?
- *James 2:14-16*
  - What is your favorite sport, hobby, or interest? How do you get better at these activities?
  - We must also practice our faith. How do we prove we are a faithful Christian? How did Abraham prove his faith?
  - Share some things you can do at home, school, and work to prove your faith.
- *Matthew 8:5-13*
  - Why did the centurion come to Jesus?
  - What did Jesus say about the centurion's faith? (vs. 10)
  - Jesus was amazed at this man's faith! Share a time in your life when your faith was strong like the centurion's.
  - On a scale of 1-10, how strong is your faith right now?

### **Weekly Challenge:**

Write down your favorite Bible story, where it is found in the Bible and how it has impacted your faith. Next week come prepared to share your answers with the family.

**Family Bible Goals:** Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

## ***A Saving Family***

**Purpose:** *To read and discover how our family can reach out to our friends.*

### **Bible Verses**

- Matthew 13:1-9; Matthew 13:18-23; Matthew 28:18-20

### **Family Discussion:**

- *Matthew 13:1-9*
  - Jesus often taught using stories and parables. What is your favorite story of Jesus?
  - What story did Jesus use to teach the importance of sharing the gospel in Matthew 13?
  - How many different types of soil are mentioned in this parable? Did the farmer select where he was going to plant seeds or did he sow the seeds everywhere?
- *Matthew 13:18-23*
  - In these verses, Jesus explains the parable of the sower. Out of the four types of soils, how many were good?
  - What is our responsibility as Christians? What are some things we can do as a family to reach out to our friends and neighbors?
  - Satan uses lack of understanding of God's Word, persecution, and the worries of life to prevent God's Word from growing in the hearts of people. Which one of these obstacles is Satan trying to use against you to prevent you from sharing God's Word with others?
- *Matthew 28:18-20*
  - What instructions did Jesus leave His apostles? Do these commands apply to us today?

### **Weekly Challenge:**

Write down the name of one friend you are trying to reach with the gospel. Each day meet as a family and pray for these individuals.

**Family Bible Goals:** Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

## ***Keeping Our Focus***

**Purpose:** *To read and discover how we can keep our family focused on Christ.*

### **Bible Verses**

- Matthew 14:22-31; Hebrews 12:1-2

### **Family Discussion:**

#### *1. Matthew 14:22-31*

- What is the most amazing thing you have ever seen? What miracle did the apostles witness here in these verses?
- How would you react to someone walking on water? How did the apostles react?
- What words did Jesus share with the apostles? Which apostle had the courage to get out of the boat?
- What caused Peter to sink? Peter's experience of walking on the water came to an abrupt end when he lost his focus.
- We must be aware of possible distractions that cause us to lose our focus. What are some things in our lives that may cause us to sink?

#### ▪ *Hebrews 12:1-2*

- We are running a race to get to heaven! What are some obstacles that may prevent us from finishing the race?
- How can we overcome these obstacles? We must keep our eyes focused on Jesus, and we will reach our destination!
- What are some things we can do to keep our eyes on Jesus at school and at work?

### **Weekly Challenge:**

Have each family member write down Hebrews 12:1-2 on an index card. Keep the card with you throughout the week, and when you face a temptation pull out the card and read it for strength.

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## ***A Humble Home***

**Purpose:** *To read and discover the importance of living a humble life.*

### **Bible Verses**

- Matthew 5:3; Matthew 18:1-6; Philippians 2:5-11

### **Family Discussion:**

- *Matthew 5:3*
  - Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by teaching His followers the importance of being humble. Why would Jesus start His sermon on the subject of humility? What does it mean to be humble?
  - Jesus describes the reward for those who live in a humble life. What will the humble person receive from God?
- *Matthew 18:1-6*
  - What are the apostles arguing over in these verses?
  - Describe the attitudes of the apostles. Would you like to be around someone who is always concerned about self?
  - Jesus often uses illustrations and examples to teach His apostles. What example of humility does Jesus present before His apostles?
  - List some characteristics of children that everyone needs to imitate.
- *Philippians 2:5-11*
  - Jesus provides the ultimate example of how we should live our lives. How did Jesus model humility for everyone?
  - What reward did Jesus receive from God for humbling Himself to death on a cross?
  - Besides Jesus, who is the most humble person you know?
  - Would your friends/family describe you as a humble person?

### **Weekly Challenge:**

Praying for others is a way to practice humility. This week get together as a family and pray for those listed in our church bulletin.

**Family Bible Goals:** Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

## ***A Talented Family***

**Purpose:** *To read and discover the importance of using our abilities for God's Kingdom.*

### **Bible Verses**

- Matthew 25:14-30

### **Family Discussion:**

- How did Jesus teach His disciples the importance of using their abilities? What did the man in this story do before leaving on his journey? How many slaves did he entrust the talents to?
- What did the first slave do with his five talents? What did the second slave do with his two talents? When their master returned these two were given rewards. What reward did they receive? Why were these two slaves rewarded?
- What did the third slave do with his one talent? What punishment did he receive? Why was he punished?
- List three important lessons we can learn from this parable.
  - *We are all blessed with talents from God.*
  - *We are all blessed with different talents from God.*
  - *God expects everyone to fully use his or her talents*
- List some abilities that God has given you that you are currently using for God.
- What are some abilities God has blessed you with that you are not using for God? How can we develop our talents for God?

### **Weekly Challenge:**

On a sheet of paper write down three talents that God has given you. Next to each talent write down two ways that you can use that talent for God. Share your answers with your family. This week put your abilities to work for God!

**Family Bible Goals:** Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

## ***Friendship***

**Purpose:** *To read and discover how to be a devoted, committed friend.*

### Bible Verses

- Matthew 26:47-50; Matthew 26:69-75; John 15:12-15

### **Family Discussion:**

#### *Matthew 26:47-50*

- Who, besides Jesus, is your best friend? Why do you consider this person to be your best friend?
- List some qualities we want our friends to have.
- The twelve apostles were very close friends to Jesus. Sadly, many of Jesus' closest friends turned their backs on Him. Who betrays Jesus in these verses? What does Judas get in exchange for betraying Christ (*See Matthew 26:14-16*)
- What words did Jesus say to Judas as He was being betrayed? Why did Christ call Judas His friend?

#### 2. *Hebrews 12:1-2*

- The nightmare for Jesus didn't end with Judas' betrayal. What friend of Jesus denied Him in these verses?
- What are some lessons we can learn from Judas and Peter about friendship? What can we learn from Jesus about being a friend?
- List some things you need to do to be a better friend.

#### 3. *John 15:12-15*

- How do we prove we are a good friend? What is the ultimate test of a friendship?
- The best friend we will ever have is Jesus Christ. He gave His life for us to prove His love and friendship for us. How can we prove our friendship to Jesus?
- On a scale of 1-10, how good of a friend are you right now to other people and most importantly to Jesus?

### **Weekly Challenge:**

Have each family member list one person whom they don't know real well that they would like to get to know better and discuss ways to be a friend to Jesus by being a friend to others.

**Family Bible Goals:** Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

## ***Taking a Stand***

**Purpose:** *To read and discover how we as a family can stand strong for Christ!*

Bible Verses

- Matthew 27:55-56; Matthew 27:22-26

### **Family Discussion:**

After being betrayed by Judas, Jesus was arrested. What did Jesus' disciples do after He was arrested? Why do you think the disciples ran away? If you were in the shoes of the disciples, what would you have done?

Jesus eventually appeared before Pilate. Did Pilate find anything that Jesus had done wrong? What did Pilate want to do with Jesus?

Pilate was in a position to release Jesus. Why didn't he release Him? What did Pilate do instead of releasing Jesus? If you were in the shoes of Pilate, what would you have done with Christ?

Everyday we have the same dilemma that the disciples and Pilate faced. We have opportunities to either stand up for Christ or run away from Christ.

Are you standing up for Christ in your daily life? At school? At work?

Is it always easy to stand up for Christ? List some times when it is a struggle to stand up for Christ.

List some things this family can do to help you stand strong for Christ.

### **Weekly Challenge:**

On a piece of paper, write down a situation you have been in when you took a stand for Christ. Have each family member share their answers with the family.

**Family Bible Goals:** Take time to work on your Family Bible Goals! (p. 17)

## Suggestions for Family Projects

- Memorize the books of the New Testament.
- Memorize the books of the Old Testament.
- Develop an outreach of service that you and your family can do.
  - Write cards to the missionaries.
  - Write cards to the shut-ins, widows or widowers.
  - Write notes of appreciation to your Bible class teachers.
  - Mow someone's yard.
  - Plant some flowers for someone.
  - Put together a care package for someone in need.
  - Spend a day working at the Barely Used Resale Shop in Tyler. (See Tony for more information.)
  - Visit the nursing home.
  - Sponsor an orphan in our outreach in China. (See Greg Taylor on how to reach, Ron Brown, the missionary for China.)
- Memorize I Corinthians 13.
- Memorize the 12 Apostles.
- Memorize the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.
- Memorize the 12 sons of Jacob.
- Memorize the verses that teach us the plan of salvation.

As you can see there are unlimited opportunities to develop your family. Take time to come up with some of your own ideas to put Christianity to work in your family! I know God will bless you!