

FAMILY, OUR FIRST MINISTRY

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Our ministry starts at home. It is best to say that our family is our first ministry. However, it is so easy to overlook the hidden ministries in our own homes and prioritize those that are noticeable outside our four walls. We can thrive as intentional disciple-makers in church, at work, and in our community, but neglect our homes. This is not the way God wants us to treat our families. He wants us to have the same zeal and intentionality at home. God wants us to realize that our home is our mission field. It is where God has placed us first. It is not an easy task. Doing mission takes a lot of patience, perseverance, and prayer.

Training children in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6), bringing them up in the instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4), and teaching them to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and might (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) are God's commands to parents. It is a God-glorifying role for parents to raise a Christ-centered family. For you to do this, you must invest in the most important relationship of your life.

Your relationship with God matters to Him. It starts with putting God above everything else. We cannot build a godly home apart from God. As fathers and mothers, we need to model what we want our kids to learn. If we want our children to spend time with God daily, then they must see us doing it, and it must result in us being more and more like Christ: self-sacrificing, kinder and gentler with our words, patient, and forgiving. If we want to raise children who are joyful and content, it should start with us. We should express gratitude for all the things we have, avoid making comparisons, and involve the family in meeting the needs of other people, joining an outreach or doing mission work.

If we want our children to enjoy being at home, then be present when you are at home. Connect with every member of the family by being fully involved and engaged. If your work is done from home, set boundaries between family and work time. Make family time a priority.

These are some of the things that we can do to build a godly

home. What we truly desire for our children is for them to live a life that glorifies God and to become the men and women that God wants them to be. Family should always be our top priority, next to God. We can begin by embracing our ministry to our family as equally significant as the ministry outside our home.

One Christian author said, "Children take more notice of what their parents do than what they say." A lot is caught rather than taught; actions speak louder than words. We need to make sure that what we teach them is lived out in our daily lives, especially at home.

There are no perfect fathers, mothers, sons, or daughters, but we have a perfect God whom we can trust to work in our individual lives and our families. As we look forward to the celebration of the Family Month in September, may we all be in a posture of giving high regard to our family which is our first ministry next to God.*