

e-Family



## Camarillo Community Church

Ralph Rittenhouse  
“ Building Loving Families”  
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All verses from New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Proverbs 24:3 (NCV) “It takes wisdom to have a good family, and it takes understanding to make it strong.”

### HOW TO LAY A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR A LOVING FAMILY

**1<sup>ST</sup>- I INVITE JESUS CHRIST TO BE THE CENTER OF YOUR HOME.**

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 “I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any other foundation than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.”

Genesis 2:18 “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who will help him.”

John 15:5, “Apart from me you can do nothing.”

The Dove Foundation at [Dove.org](http://Dove.org)

[Everythingchristian.com](http://Everythingchristian.com)

[Reasons.org](http://Reasons.org)

[Focusonthefamily.com](http://Focusonthefamily.com)

## **2<sup>ND</sup> – MAKE YOUR HOME A PLACE OF TEACHING AND TRAINING.**

Luke 6:47-48 “I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then obeys me. It is like a person who builds a house on a strong foundation laid upon the underlying rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against the house, it stands firm because it is well built.”

By demonstrating your willingness to learn.

By providing learning materials and opportunities.

By signing up your whole family for AWANA on Thursday nights.

## **3<sup>RD</sup> – CLOTHE YOUR FAMILY IN LOVE.**

Colossians 3:14 “The most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony.”

1) The power of love

2) The learning of love

### **INGREDIENTS COMMON TO STRONG FAMILIES**

- strong, supportive, honest communication
- a significant quantity of time spent together
- shared religious faith and practice
- agreement on key values
- love, consideration, understanding, mutual appreciation
- common interests, goals, and purposes
- ability to positively negotiate solutions to crises
- commitment to deepening the intra-family relationships
- a firm parental coalition in dealing with children
- regular sexual intercourse with the spouse
- willingness to sacrifice personal interests and resources for the good of the family
- behavior that earns the trust of family members (for instance, sexual fidelity, financial integrity, and so on)

# Life Group Homework

## Getting Started

1. Do you have a friend who welcomes you into their home and invites you to relax and be rejuvenated? What elements in that home make it comforting?
2. What insight, principle or observation from this Sunday's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

## Digging Deeper

God created families as the most basic building blocks of His church (as well as society)! Of course, every family looks different: some with grandparents sharing space, others with adult children at home, many with just one parent, and some with only husband and wife. Even if you live alone, there are those close friendships that are "family-like." No matter the makeup, there are bound to be underlying conflicts, personality differences, and sometimes even serious dysfunction.

Even in these imperfect families, we can find refuge for our battle-weary souls. Within the confines of our homes, we can find rest from the stresses of life-if we have fostered an atmosphere of uplifting conversation, supportive prayer, and reliance upon God.

Safety, trust, and hope are all elements that can be built into our family life to create a home of refuge.

Read Isaiah 26:1-10.

3. List the spiritual walls that we can build around our homes to create an environment of safety and peace.
4. A home that is a refuge from the world must first of all be wholesome. However, the corrupted world seems to invade our homes in a variety of ways (internet, TV, other media). How do we maintain a haven of righteousness in the home?

5. Have you set up clear boundaries between work, ministry and home? What do you or can you do to make places in your home that are not intruded upon by work and ministry?

Read Ephesians 4:25-32.

6. What words should describe our conversations at home? From verse 29, give examples of words that can be meaningful and filled with power.
7. In what ways does your home (or could your home) exemplify God's forgiveness, kindness and tenderness? How does this make your home a "refuge?"

Read Psalm 91

8. What battles do you and your family face daily? Are they brought into the home at night? Is prayer a part of your families defense (see verse 15)? How can you bolster your family's prayer coverage?
9. How does God's refuge for the soul differ from perfect protection from all physical harm? What does it mean to release family members into the care of the Lord?

## **Application**

10. Sit down with your family this week and set up ground rules for conversations in your home. From Ephesians 4:25-32 discuss the kind of words that would be beneficial, encouraging and loving. Continue to sit down with the family to share life's events on a regular basis. How can this build trust and respect?
11. How can you make family prayer a refuge for each member's heart? Consider instituting a regular time each week for discussion of God's love and concern and to pray for requests regarding friendships, school, work, ministry and spiritual concerns.

Missed a message? Need a note taking outline? Find it here at:  
[camarillocommunitychurch.com](http://camarillocommunitychurch.com)