

eFamily



Camarillo Community Church

"Smarter Step(s for) Families"

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5/24/2009

Psalm 128:1-4 (NLT)

● **WHY DID GOD DESIGN THE FAMILY? Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18**

- To experience His love v. 26
- To express His image v.27
- To fulfill His mission for our lives v.28
- To partner to bless the world v.2:18

● **WHAT HAPPENED? Gen. 3: 1-24**

*"Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted."
Psalm 127:1a*

"Didn't the Lord make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his.[a] And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth." Malachi 2: 15

"His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse." Malachi 4:6

● **WHAT IS A SMARTER PLAN FOR STEP FAMILIES?**

- A. Unpack old baggage. Ephesians 4:22-24
- B. Pursue a new model and intimacy with Christ. Ephesians 5:25 & 1Peter 3:7
- C. Pray as if your family future depends on it.
Romans 15:30
- D. Love like Jesus daily. Philippians 2:3-5
- E. Plan to win. Proverbs 21:5

- **WILL I GIVE MY FAMILY MORE THAN A CHANCE?**

Amount of time with Jesus daily?

More than 5 Min.? _____ 10 Min.? _____

Amount of time Praying for my loved ones daily ?

More than 5 Min.? _____ 10 Min.? _____

Amount of time Planning for my loved ones weekly?

More than 10 min.? _____ 30 Min.? _____

Affirmation for my loved ones daily?

At least one? _____ More than 3? _____

Serving Christ outside the family?

At least 30 Min. a week? _____ Outside of church? _____

References:

“ Building a Successful Step Family” by Ron Deal, Bethany House Publishers

“Thriving Despite A Difficult Marriage” by Michael and Chuck Misja – Nav Press

“ Have A New Kid By Friday” by Kevin Lehman, Revell Publishing Group

Life Group Homework

Getting Started

1. Were you or someone close involved in a remarriage (as a child or a parent) due to divorce or death? What were some of the emotions you felt or ones you observed during the start of the new family?
2. What insight, principle or observation from Roland's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

Every family faces challenges. Perhaps stepfamilies, by their very nature, face a few more challenges. After all, people who don't know each other well are suddenly thrust into the same home and told, "Get along. Not only that, develop the closeness of a family!"

With the many challenges a stepfamily faces, it's a miracle that it or any stepfamily survives. But with God all things are possible-even building a great family.

Many of us encounter difficult relationships that require God's grace and wisdom, not just those in stepfamilies. Today's lesson can bring hope to any difficult relationship or circumstance. It requires a trust in God, that He can accomplish what seems impossible.

Read Isaiah 61:1-7.

3. From the ashes of destruction and sorrow God can bring beauty and joy.
 - a. What are some of the reminders of destruction and sorrow that can be visible in a stepfamily?
 - b. How can we maintain hope when all we see is devastation?
 - c. What are some of the signs of new life in a stepfamily?

- d. This scripture says, "Instead of shame, my people will receive a double portion." What do you think is meant by that? How would this look in our families/relationships?

Read 1 Peter 3:8-17.

4. Peter gives instruction on how to live in difficult relationships/circumstances.
 - a. How should we respond when we are returned evil for good?

 - b. This passage states we are blessed if we suffer for doing right. What do you think this means?

 - c. How do you respond when a task or situation seems overwhelming?

Read Colossians 3:12-17

5. As children of God, He invites us to come to Him with our problems and challenges. Paul talks of the importance of love and forgiveness.
 - a. Is love a feeling, a behavior, or both? Is it dishonest to act in loving ways when we don't feel loving, or is it a step of faith?

 - b. Likewise, is forgiveness a feeling, a behavior, or an act of faith?

Application

How can we treat a child (or other difficult relationship) until they outgrow the hostility or has a change of heart? Although we cannot change someone else, can God use our behavior to change others? How?

Missed a message? Need a note taking outline? Find it here at:
camarillocommunitychurch.com