

OUR FAMILY BELONGS TO THE LORD

Stories

HOW TO LEAVE A GODLY LEGACY

PRECEPT

JEREMIAH 29:11

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

DEUTERONOMY 5:16

¹⁶ Honour your father and mother, and you will live a long and successful life.

PROMISE

Every family is unique; we have different cultures and dynamics and different ways of doing things, depending on our schedule and season of life. As we learn from the lives of our guests that we've interviewed the past Sunday, may we carry out the principles the we can apply in our lives and families to help establish a strong and thriving relationship with each other. We are in this series for each of us to understand the importance of intentionally discipling our families, learn practical steps on how to build strong family relationships, and to be inspired and motivated to obey God no matter how hard life can be.

Learning from the example of Domingo family, here are the things they applied in order to enjoy a flourishing family relationship:

LEAD BY EXAMPLE. Let us demonstrate Christ-like character in our daily actions, not just in church but especially at home. Fathers especially should lead the family in reading the Bible. We must be a role model to our children in loving and respecting our wife so they will do the same to their mother and to us. If we want them to be involved in the ministry, we have to involve ourselves first. Show our children the importance of honouring God starting at home.

PRAY FOR/WITH YOUR CHILDREN. Let our children hear our prayers for them. Speak and declare powerful words like *"I pray for them to have good hearts that love the Lord and love their family, to be the best sibling, for wisdom, God's protection, for them to be destined for greatness, etc."* Whatever we want to happen to our children, as long as it does not contradict the Word of God, declare it over them in Jesus' name. Eventually they will grasp it and we will hear them praying the same things.

BALANCE WORK & FAMILY LIFE. Parents, we are to balance work and family life. We are to spend time with our family; watch movies together, bike, go places with our kids, have a family talk, and study the Bible together. If there is a concern, sit down with them and discuss the issue, listen to them, pray, and focus on solving the issue to avoid them from recurring rather than blaming them.

TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN. Proverbs 22:6 says, *"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it."* We must teach our children to be helpful and responsible. It starts at home, like doing household chores (cleaning the house, doing laundry, vacuuming the house, snow blowing, lawn mowing). We are also training them to be patient, that God will give His best to them in His perfect time, so there is no rush to get into a relationship and no to premarital sex as this is God's will and protection for them.

LOVE GOD FIRST, AND YOU WILL LOVE YOUR FAMILY. Pray and ask God for wisdom on how to balance love and discipline with our children. Be patient when our children make mistakes, but discipline them when needed. Let our discipline reflect how God lovingly corrects us, which is meant for growth and transformation.

NEVER GIVE UP ON YOUR CHILDREN. We are more than just parents. We are God's warriors. We must never give up on our children. They won't always be at their best with their personal life, school, work, or at home. When they feel like quitting, hold them close. Even before we get exhausted, cry out to God and surrender our children to Him.

PRACTICE

1. For the Married Couples. How can you work as a team to raise your children in God's ways? Cite some practical steps.

2. For the Children. How can you honour your parents in ways that are pleasing to the Lord? Share some practical ways.

PRAYER

I. Family

- Pray that our homes be filled with God's presence, peace, unity, love, and joy.

II. Marriages

- May God help each couple reflect His love to others in their relationship and togetherness.

III. Joy

- May God fill our hearts with joy that overflows, even in the midst of challenges.

IV. Faith

- May the Lord increase our faith and help us trust in His promises and Word.

V. Love

- May God help us to love deeply and selflessly, reflecting His divine love in all our relationships.

VI. Unity

- Thank God for gift of the bond we share in His love.

VII. Provision

- Pray that we may remain grateful and to use what we receive with wisdom and generosity.