

A Household of Faith ***Deuteronomy 6:4-9***

Our goal at ICOP is for every family unit to become a discipleship group and to grow in grace, in the knowledge of God and faith. And for that to happen, we need to know something about what the Bible says concerning being a household of faith. God's Word must be the foundation of a strong, fulfilled and blessed family (Psalm 127:1; Prov. 23:3-4).

Central Truth: Because God designed the family to be a household of faith, we must, therefore, respond in complete obedience to him.

***1. Because God is the _____ of our family, we must _____
Him wholeheartedly***

Devotion to God and the Lord Jesus Christ is the priority of every Christian. It must come above all the rest of the choices in life (Psalm 31:23; Ecclesiastes 12:13, Deut. 10:12-13). God is the most adequate and complete object of our love. Why? For He is our Maker (Psalm 100:3; Isa. 54:5; Acts 17:28). He belongs to us as much as we belong to Him (Song of Solomon 2:16). God calls us to a wholehearted devotion. We are to love the Lord our God with every part of our being (Psalm 103:1).

***2. Because God plans to _____ the family, we must _____
our children diligently***

Parents have the most blessed task of raising their children to become a generation of faith. Since children are born sinners (Psalm 51:5) they must be taught the fear of the Lord (Prov. 9:10). To teach diligently means to "sharpen." And so, parents are to intensely sharpen the spiritual senses of their children (Deut. 4:9). Parents are to teach their children; to acknowledge God as their loving and caring Creator; to love and obey God; to worship and revere God and to serve God (1 Chronicles 28:9).

The instruction of our children must be supported by our examples. We need to be an example in our lives, and priorities and choices. We must also discipline our children (Eph. 6:4; Prov. 29:15). We must also consistently and constantly pray for them.

***3. Because God desires to _____ the family, we must _____
His Word faithfully***

Teaching our children implies that we ourselves have been taught. And our learning happens through our daily living. The example we live out before our family is what most affects them. The terms "...when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up" simply means "at all times and in every situation." God blesses the family that puts His Word into practice (Lev. 26:3-10; Deut. 6:24; 28:1-2; Isa. 48:18).

God designed our families to be a household of faith. We must respond in obedience to Him. This is our solemn and awesome responsibility and our wonderful privilege. One of the most fulfilling experiences in all the world is to have a family committed to following the Lord, at any cost. That's what it takes to be blessed by God.