



# Listening to God at Home

DEUTERONOMY 4:7 - 10

# 3 Steps to a Firm Foundation



Disciplined Bible  
Reading



Fervent Prayers



Soul Searching  
Outlook

# God in the Center



God, our Creator, seeks to communicate to us about Himself, our relationship with Him, our family, social, business and recreational pursuits.



God is the Pie!

# Blessing of Bible Reading

- ▶ Deut 4: 8 – 10 “Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?”
- ▶ Deu 4:9 "Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.
- ▶ Deu 4:10 "*Remember* the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'

# Blessing of Bible Reading

- ▶ Psalm 78:4 – 7 “We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.
- ▶ Psa 78:5 For He established a testimony in Jacob And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach them to their children,
- ▶ Psa 78:6 That the generation to come might know, *even* the children *yet* to be born, *That* they may arise and tell *them* to their children,
- ▶ Psa 78:7 That they should put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments,”

# Grace, Not Guilt, Motivated

- ▶ “There is more guilt amassed upon the consciences of Christian parents regarding their failure on this issue than hardly anything else. Whenever the subject surfaces men cringe at it, women harp on it and children shudder at it.” Bruce Wilkinson, editor of the Daily Walk

# Obstacles to Reading/Listening

- ▶ Time Management and Priorities
- ▶ Distinction between Lectures and Readings
- ▶ Lack of Male Leadership
- ▶ “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”  
(Ephesians 6:4)



# What Family Bible Readings Are **Not**:

Bible Class Monday – Friday



Parent Becomes a Preacher



A format for Parents to Verbally Discipline their Children

# Family Time Listening to God

- ▶ Deut. 6:4 – 9 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your **hearts**. 7 *Impress* them on your **children**. *Talk* about them when you **sit** at home and when you **walk** along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 **Write them** on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

# Family Time Listening to God

- ▶ Deut. 11:18 – 21 “Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to **your children**, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 **Write them** on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.”

# The Greatest Gift

## Steve and Annie Chapman

- ▶ “You can give your children houses.
- ▶ You can give them land.
- ▶ The riches of your efforts and all your best laid plans
- ▶ But of all that they inherit Of all that you could will
- ▶ Please include the unseen reassurance of a life that God has filled.
- ▶ Cause the greatest gift a father can give is a life lived for Jesus.
- ▶ And the greatest gift a mother can give is the knowledge of the Lord
- ▶ Pass it on to your children The greatest gift is a life lived for Jesus.
- ▶ One day the house will crumble and Time will turn the land to dust
- ▶ And when all accounts are empty Where will you invest their trust?
- ▶ But if the riches you give them is the wisdom of his ways.
- ▶ Then the wealth you leave your children will last through all their days.”




# Five Ingredients of Family Devotions

- ▶ Regularly scheduled Activity
- ▶ Participation of Majority of Family Members
- ▶ Meaningful Interaction – allow the children to read and comment
- ▶ Centered Around the Bible
- ▶ Two Part Goal:
  - ▶ Building godly character (who you are)
  - ▶ Building godly habits (what you do)

# 7 Reasons Why We Don't Read

- ▶ A Perceived Lack of Time and Energy
- ▶ My Children Don't Want Them
- ▶ My Spouse Doesn't Want Them
- ▶ My Children's Ages are Too Varied
- ▶ We Tried it and Failed
- ▶ I Don't Know the Bible Well Enough
- ▶ I Don't know what to Do, Say or Teach.





# Measurable Methods

- ▶ At the end of the Bible study period each teacher asks for an indication of all who were daily Bible readers or listeners.
- ▶ The goal is 100% participation in each class.
- ▶ Generally, the youngest classes have the highest percentage.
- ▶ Each of us can read a verse a day. Will you?
- ▶ Motivation is mutual encouragement, not an effort to punch your card or impress others.
- ▶ Will you implement in your home and in your classroom?





Are You  
Listening?

