

The Family Blueprint: Building Strong Relationships God's Way

Family is important to God, and if you're a believer, it should be important to you too. The blueprint for building strong family relationships isn't found in the world's changing definitions but in God's unchanging Word.

Why Is Family So Important to God?

Family is the foundation of God's plan to establish His Word and His ways in our lives. After God established order in creation, the first thing He did was set up His definition of family. This wasn't random—it was intentional because:

- Family is a reflection of God's character
- Family is God's blueprint for raising the next generation
- Family is meant to be a source of love, support, and growth

When you do family God's way, parents teach children about God. You can't just send your children to Sunday school and expect that to be their only exposure to faith. God's family dynamic was put in place so parents could teach the next generation about who He is.

Is Family Really My Responsibility as a Believer?

First Timothy 5:8 makes it clear: "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

That's strong language! According to Scripture, when you don't provide for and take care of your family, you've denied the faith. Why? Because it's out of God's character. You can't pick and choose which scriptures to follow.

You can't come to church every Sunday, love on other people, serve other people, and not be just as intentional about your own family. First Timothy 3 reinforces this: "For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church?"

How Do I Provide for My Family According to God's Blueprint?

The blueprint says we should provide three essential things:

1. Provide Love

Do you love your family like God says to love them? Not just the ones you get along with, but all of them—even those who get on your last nerve.

First John 4:20 challenges us: "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar." Your love for your family should reflect God's character as described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7:

- Love is patient
- Love is kind
- Love does not envy or boast
- Love is not arrogant or rude
- Love does not insist on its own way
- Love is not irritable or resentful
- Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing
- Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things

2. Provide Support

How do you support your family? One of the easiest ways is through constant prayer. Romans 12:12 encourages us to "rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

Even if you're not on speaking terms with someone in your family, you can still pray for them. The Bible says "the prayers of the righteous avail much." Allow God to work on your heart and their heart through your prayers.

Support also means sharing what you have. First John 3:17 asks, "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" Develop a mindset that says, "If I have it, my family has it."

3. Provide Forgiveness

Can you forgive your family? You might be able to forgive your boss or the person who cuts you off in traffic, but can you forgive those closest to you?

Ephesians 4:32 instructs us to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." God forgave you, so you must forgive your family.

How Do I Apply the Family Blueprint to My Life?

Follow this three-step process:

Prioritize - Make your family relationships a priority. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." Put God's values about family first in your life.

Plan - Determine what you must do both spiritually and naturally to address the needs in your family. Spiritually, you can pray, have a confession of faith, and sow seeds. Practically, you can set up quality time and have intentional conversations.

Pursue - Faith without works is dead. You'll need to put some work behind the faith you're standing on. Some conversations might be difficult, but when the Holy Spirit works on your heart, you must respond.

Life Application

This week, take a "mirror moment" with God's Word. Ask yourself these challenging questions:

- Am I loving my family the way God's Word instructs me to?
- How am I supporting my family both spiritually and practically?
- Is there someone in my family I need to forgive?
- What one step can I take this week to strengthen a family relationship?

Remember, you don't have to do this work alone. Philippians 1:6 assures us, "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion." Let God do the work in you as you follow His blueprint for family

Don't worry about doing it perfectly—just start. Put pride aside and follow God's blueprint. Your obedience could be the very thing God uses to draw your family members closer to Him.