

Open Hands: Stewardship with Kingdom Vision

Family as the First Ministry: Stewarding Home Life

Heavenly Father,

We come before you with grateful hearts

We thank You for the gift of family and for the homes You have entrusted to our care.

We acknowledge that every good and perfect gift comes from you and today

We ask for wisdom that only You can give.

Help us to understand your Word and Your design for family life.

Teach us the biblical principles that guide our marriages, our parenting, our relationships, and our daily living.

We invite you into the Holy Spirit.

Open our hearts and minds to receive your truth.

Help us to see our homes not just as places where we live, but as sacred spaces where faith is formed and Your love is demonstrated.

Convict us gently where change is needed, and encourage us where we have grown weary.

Show us how to be faithful stewards of the families You have given us.

May our homes reflect your grace, order, and peace.

Let our lives point others to you beginning with those closest to us.

We surrender this time to you and ask that everything said and heard would bring glory to Your name.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

Scriptures for Husbands and Wives

“Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing [a] her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”-Ephesians 5:22-33

Before the church and before nations, God instituted the family. The family is where the Kingdom of God is first demonstrated. Read and memorize Genesis 2:18-25.

Scriptures for The Shema

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 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. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”-Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Stewarding home life is about creating a culture where God's Word is central. The Shema commands us to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength and to teach this to our children at every moment.

Scriptures for As for me and my house

"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."-Joshua 24:15

Scriptures for Train up a child

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."-Proverbs 22:6

1. How many of you have ever thought of your family as your first ministry?
2. What does it look like to minister within your own family?
3. What does it mean to "talk about God's commands when you sit at home, when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up?"
4. How can daily life and routine become a ministry opportunity?
5. How can we be intentional about teaching them biblical truths, values, and the importance of a personal relationship with God?
6. How does your family reflect the gospel to others?
7. Are you intentionally living out your faith in ways that others can see Christ through your family dynamics?
8. How am I stewarding the home God has entrusted to me?

The roles of husband and wife reflect Christ's relationship with the Church. Love, submission, and respect form the foundation for a godly home. Parents actively teach their children Bible stories, engaging in prayer together, and model Christian values through action. Stewardship of family life means actively investing in the spiritual growth of your children. Proverbs 22:6 urges parents to train up their children in the way they should go. Parents are the first discipleship leaders in their children's lives. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Be a family that serves and ministers to others. Let your home be a place of hospitality, generosity, and service.

As we prepare to leave today, I want to invite each of us to pause and reflect on our own family lives. Take a moment to consider the atmosphere of your home, the words that are spoken there, the habits that are being formed, and the example that is being set. Ministry does not begin in the pulpit or end at the church doors. Ministry begins at the dinner table, in everyday conversations, in moments of forgiveness, patience, discipline, and love. It is found in how we treat one another when no one else is watching. God is not only concerned with what we do for Him publicly, but how faithfully we live for Him privately. When we choose to model Christ's love in our homes through grace, humility, prayer, and service. We are building a ministry that shapes lives for generations. be intentional. Pray together. Speak life over one another. I want to speak to those who may be carrying heavy burdens in their families today. If your home is experiencing strain, conflict, hurt, or uncertainty, Serve one another. Let your home be a place where faith is lived out, not just talked about. You do not have to walk through it by yourself. If you are struggling in your marriage, with your children, or with broken relationships within your family, we want to stand with you in prayer. There is no shame in asking for help. Healing often begins with a step of faith and a willingness to invite God and others into our situation. Our prayer team

is here to pray with you, to listen, and to offer support and counsel in love. This is a safe place, and our desire is simply to walk alongside you as God brings restoration, peace, and hope to your home. Whether you come forward now or choose to speak with someone after service, know that help is available and that God cares deeply about your family. Let us pray together and believe in God for healing and renewal.

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for every family represented here today.

We lift our homes to You, knowing that you care deeply about each relationship and every heart within them.

We pray for marriages.

Strengthen the bond between husbands and wives.

Restore love where it has grown weary, bring healing where there has been hurt, and deepen commitment where faith has been tested.

Teach couples to love one another with patience, humility, and grace, just as Christ loves the Church.

We pray for our children.

Cover them with Your protection and guide their hearts in truth.

Help them grow in wisdom, character, and faith.

Surround them with godly influences and give parents discernment, patience, and courage as they lead and nurture them.

We pray for every member of the family, young and old.

Let our homes be filled with your peace, presence, and love.

May faith grow in our households, not only in words but in daily practice. Teach us to forgive quickly, love deeply, and serve one another faithfully.

We place our families in Your hands, trusting You to do what only You can do.

May our homes bring glory to Your name and reflect the love of Christ in all we do.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.