



A Guide to Wise Living

About the Series: Life's a maze with many challenges, distractions, and obstacles, and sometimes we take a wrong turn or make foolish choices. The Book of Proverbs gives us practical ways to live wisely so as not to have so many regrets in life and helps us live in such a way that we fully enjoy our lives as God intended.

Part 9

Family Matters

Proverbs 12:4, 13:22, 13:24, 22:6, 29:17, 31:28 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

DISCUSS

There is no such thing as a perfect family. However, imperfect people can come together under God's grace and forgiveness to create a family that shows forth love, grace, and harmony—in other words, a God-honoring family. **Having a great family is worth putting in the hard work and is indeed a blessing from God (Prov. 18:22, 19:14).**

- How should you regard having a wife (or husband/family for that matter) based on these verses?
- What do you consider to be a happy home/family? Could it be "bought" by money? Why do you think so?
- What hard work should you invest in that will yield great benefits in the future of your family.

Discuss the following four key principles to having a great family:

#1: Instill godly values and develop Christlike character (v. 22:6)

- How can parents intentionally train up or dedicate their child in the ways of the Lord so that they know what is right and what is wrong according to God, and not as defined by the world?
- Do you instill godly values and develop Christlike characters in yourselves and encourage it in others? Share practical examples on how you can do it and model Biblical values in the process.

#2: Have the courage to discipline and speak the truth even if it hurts (v. 13:24, 22:15, 29:15,17)

- What guidelines do these verses teach as far as discipline is concerned?
- How should corporal punishment or spanking be applied in disciplining a child? Share other forms of needed discipline as parents raise their children that may hurt, but does not diminish the fact that they love their children.
- How do discipline and correction take the foolishness out of your sinful self to wake you up and do wise things?
- Why should a child listen to his or her parents' advice and instruction (Prov. 13:1)? Is there a time when a child can stop listening and obeying his or her parents? Explain your answer.

#3: Teach by example and model Christlikeness (v. 20:7,12:4)

- What is the importance of walking in righteousness and integrity in raising children?
- How could spouses build up or tear each other down? In each case, how would it affect the family dynamics?
- As a member of your family, are you leading each other to Christ, or away from Him? Are you spurring each other on to improve their spiritual lives?
- Fathers, are you taking on the role as the spiritual head of your household?
- As a dad or mom, are you raising your kids to live with integrity by being examples of what walking in righteousness is all about?

#4: Leave a spiritual legacy worth continuing (v. 13:22)

- Think to yourself, what is it that you want to leave to your children and grandchildren? Lots of money, which has destroyed the family? A family business empire, which you built up, but had no time to spend with your family to create memories? A spiritual ministry that has helped others, but to the neglect of ministering spiritually to your own family and close friends?
- As members of your nuclear family, what sort of spiritual legacy are you leaving that is worth continuing and worth remembering?

REFLECT

There are no perfect families, and we are not trying to create the perfect family. But we are all broken people, sinners saved by grace, and as imperfect yet redeemed people, we can learn to right wrongs, say sorry, learn to forgive, seek genuine reconciliation, and show love to one another. How will you model these Christlike qualities so that you can show the world what a God-honoring family looks like?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for the principles You have given me in Your Word that guide and help me in my family life. May You help me as I instill godly values and develop Christlike character in my family. Give me courage to discipline and speak the truth even if it hurts, and to teach by example and model Christlikeness. Help me to leave a spiritual legacy worth continuing by others in my family. Thank You that all these are possible through my Savior Jesus Christ, in whose precious name I pray. Amen.