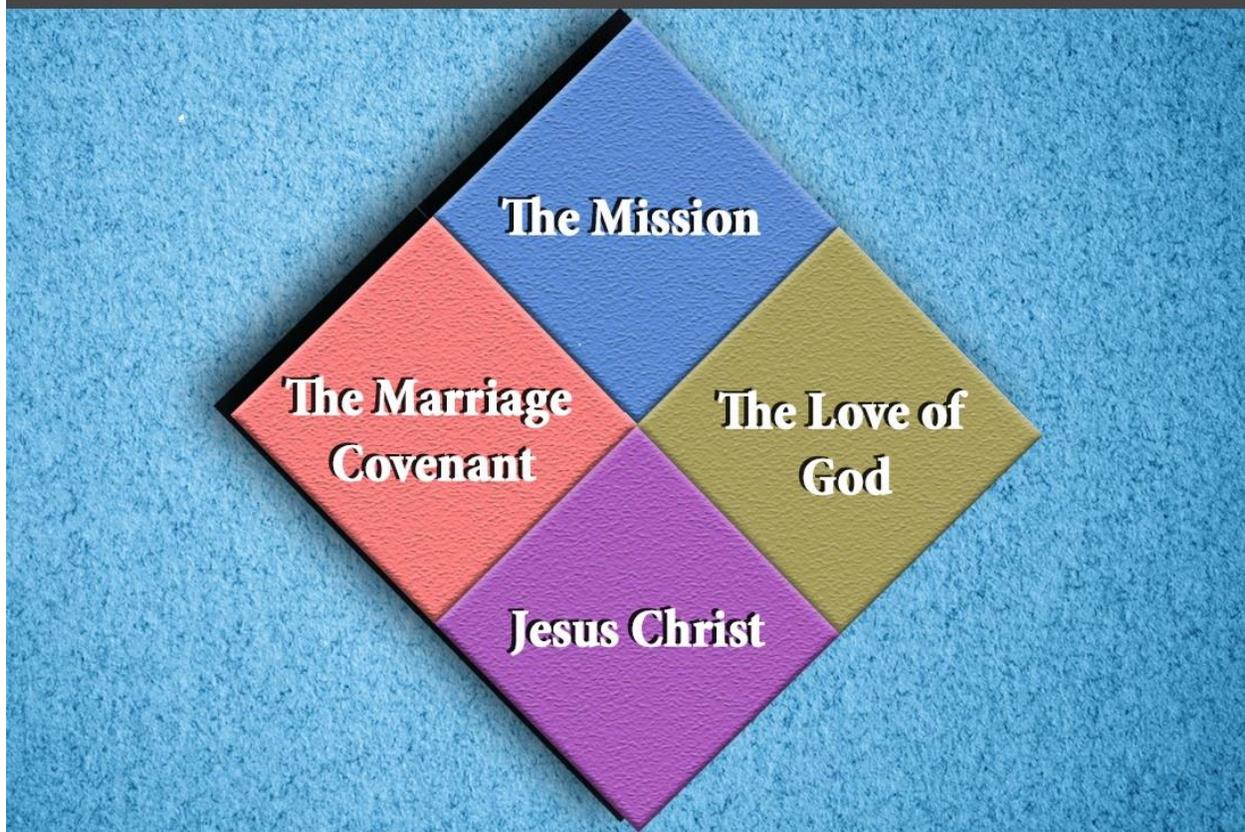


God's Blueprint For The Family
Managing Discipleship

The Four Cornerstones In Gods Blueprint for the Family



In this sermon series we have learned from God's Word the four cornerstones in God's blueprint for the family.

We have learned from God's Word how to build our family on these cornerstones by managing issues God's Way.

Managing our moral and social responsibilities to one another.

Managing money.

Managing conflict.

Managing anger.
Managing discipleship.

What is the correct definition of a disciple of Jesus?

Matt 4:18-20

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

NKJV

A disciple of Jesus is someone that....

- Is Following Jesus
- Is being changed by Jesus
- Is committed to the mission of Jesus (making disciples)

What is the main mission of the church?

Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

NKJV

The main mission of the church is to equip disciples to be disciples.

Who in the church is called to be a disciple?

Every believer.

What was the main method that Jesus used for discipleship?

Luke 6:13-14

13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:

NKJV

The main method that Jesus used for discipleship was a small group.

What were the main ingredients of His small group?

- An intentional leader (Luke 6:39-40)
- A relational environment (Mark 3:14)
- A reproducible process (Matthew 10:1-5)

In God's Blue Print For The Family the designated intentional leader for managing discipleship is the husband and father.

This blue print for discipleship in the family was revealed in the Old Testament to Abraham Gen. 18:19-20

19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."
NKJV

This blue print for managing discipleship in the family was then revealed to Moses in the law that God gave him before they entered the promised land.
Five times in Deuteronomy, the last book of the Torah, God commanded men to fulfill this responsibility.

Deut. 4:9-10

9 Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, 10 especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'
NKJV

Deut. 6:6-9

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
NKJV

Deut. 6:20-25

20 "When your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which the Lord our God has commanded you?' 21 then you shall say to your son: 'We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand; 22 and the Lord showed signs and wonders before our eyes, great and severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household. 23 Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers. 24 And the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. 25 Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He has commanded us.'
NKJV

Deut. 11:19-21

19 You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 20 And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 that your days and the

days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth. NKJV

Deut. 32:46-47

46 and he said to them: "Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe — all the words of this law.
NKJV

MAP OF ISRAEL DURING JOSHUA'S TIME



In the law God gave Moses, God required Israel to assemble at the temple 3 times a year. These assemblies were called the feasts of Israel. This would have been the only times that a family would have received regular instruction from God's law from someone other than the husband and father.

Synagogue assemblies were not required in the law that God gave Moses and they did not start until the Babylonian exile in 586 BC. In the law that God gave Moses, besides the 3 feasts, there was no other requirement for attending congregational worship.

This blueprint for managing discipleship in the family is affirmed in the Psalms.

Ps 78:1-4

78 Give ear, O my people, to my law;
Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
2 I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings of old,
3 Which we have heard and known,
And our fathers have told us.
4 We will not hide them from their children,
Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord,
And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.
NKJV

This blueprint for managing discipleship in the family is affirmed in the Proverbs.

Prov. 4:1-4

4 Hear, my children, the instruction of a father,
And give attention to know understanding;
2 For I give you good doctrine:
Do not forsake my law.
3 When I was my father's son,
Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,
4 He also taught me, and said to me:
"Let your heart retain my words;
Keep my commands, and live.
NKJV

In God's law a man teaching his family God's Word was God's way to teach each new generation to fear the Lord, to avoid God's judgement, and to be a light the world!

This blueprint for managing discipleship in the family continued into the New Testament church.

Eph. 5:23-27

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.
25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
NKJV

Eph. 6:4

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
NKJV

Paul even said to the church at Corinth that if a wife has a question about doctrine or she wanted to argue about an issue she should first ask her husband at home rather than raise the issue in the public assembly or even go to an elder.

1 Cor. 14:35

35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

NKJV

In God's law and in the New Testament church a man teaching his family God's Word was God's way to teach each new generation to fear the Lord, to avoid His judgment, and to be a light the world.

This certainly does not annul the responsibility of a mother to disciple her children.

But where there is a husband or father, in God's blue print for the family he is the designated intentional leader to manage discipleship for both his wife and any children they may have.

Many generations of the men of Israel rejected God's blue print for the family. They were not faithful to their calling to be the designated intentional leader of discipleship for their families. They neglected and forgot the Lord's Word. They did not teach their families. The next generation was ignorant about God and His Word. They would forsake God and worship the idols introduced to them by other nations.

After Pentecost and the church of Jesus Christ was born, the early Christians assembled every day at the temple and from house to house. From Acts 2:42 we can assume that the reasons for this were to continue in the apostle's doctrine, fellowship, eat together, and prayer.

Acts 2:42

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

NKJV

The meetings were created by the first elders of the church to meet these practical needs. And as the church fulfilled its mission to take the gospel to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth, the meetings of the church were determined by the elders of each church based on the practical needs of the church.

At Western Hills, our elders have determined that we will have one congregational worship meeting a week and that we will meet on Sunday. The primary purpose of this meeting is to continue in the Apostle's Doctrine, to worship in song, to pray together, and to be a top of the funnel event for the lost.

We have also determined that we will follow the main discipleship model that Jesus used and organize the church into small groups. The primary purpose of these meetings is to help men and women grow spiritually into disciples of Jesus by having an intentional leader, a relational environment, and a reproducible process.

But, there is no precedent in the Old or New Testament or in our church for someone other than the heads of households assuming the primary responsibility of managing discipleship for the family. Husbands and fathers, you are the designated intentional leader for managing discipleship for your wife and any children God may give you.

This is a vital building block in God's Blue Print For The Family!

Why aren't more men assuming this responsibility? Why are so many men in the church like the Jews in the Israel who neglected their responsibility?

- Ignorance
- Fear
 - What causes fear?
 - Untrained
 - Feminism
 - Rejection
- Worldly values

Deut. 6:6-9

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

NKJV

For many men, managing discipleship for their family and being the intentional leader is not the chief priority in their life because they have worldly values.

You will not do it as long as you have worldly values. Some are too busy with making money. Some are too busy with hobbies. Some are too busy with serving others. Some are too busy sitting in front of the TV. Some are too busy finding ways to fulfill their sinful desires.

The proverbs say that learning the wisdom of God's Word is more valuable than wealth.

Prov. 3:13-15

13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom,
And the man who gains understanding;
14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver,
And her gain than fine gold.
15 She is more precious than rubies,
And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.

NKJV

There are many men who don't value God's Word so learning God's Word and teaching their family God's Word is not the chief priority in their life.

Disciple means learner. It comes from the Greek Word Mathetes from which we get our word math. Math is based on absolutes.

To learn math, you have to have a passion to do it. You have to have an intentional leader. You have to be humble. You have to be teachable. You have to be curious. You have to be diligent. You have to be reliable. You have to be determined.

To learn God's Word as a disciple of Jesus you need all of the same qualities.

All of these qualities add up to being a faithful man.

[2 Tim. 2:2](#)

[2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.](#)

[NKJV](#)

The proverbs say that is difficult to find faithful men.

[Prov. 20:6-7](#)

[6 Most men will proclaim each his own goodness,](#)

[But who can find a faithful man?](#)

[7 The righteous man walks in his integrity;](#)

[His children are blessed after him.](#)

[NKJV](#)

They are exceptional.

Some of you are not faithful men because you have never received Jesus?

Will you receive Jesus?

Some of you are not faithful men because being a disciple of Jesus and learning God's Word is not the chief priority and purpose of your life? You do not value God's Word more than anything else in your life.

Will you change your priority today? Will you make it your life purpose to be a faithful man who loves God's Word and disciple's others, beginning with your own family?

For the glory of Jesus and the Kingdom of God

For the sake of your family

For the sake of our nation

After you have received Jesus and have committed yourself to be a faithful man who disciple's others, the most effective way to grow as an intentional leader is to get connected with other men who are on the same journey. That was the strategy that Jesus used and this is our strategy at WHC.

Will you get connected?

How should a husband fulfill his responsibility as the designated intentional leader?

Deut. 6:6-9

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

NKJV

- By example (verse 6)
6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.
- By diligently teaching God's Word (verse 7)
7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.
 1. As you sit in your house
 2. As you walk along the way
 3. As you lie down
 4. As you wake up
- By meditating on God's Word (verse 8-9)
8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.