

BLESS THIS HOME “Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness” Believers Statesboro 05-22-22

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How many of you want your home to be blessed? I’m talking about blessings, not according to the world’s standards, but blessed by God! I think this is true of all of us here today and watching online. I don’t care if you are a nuclear family, married with 2.5 children, a single parent family, a blended family, a struggling family, or a family where everything’s going well. We all want God to bless our homes.

No family is perfect, and we can all do better. We may want people to think we have it all together, but teachers and children’s church teams know the truth. Why? Because the kids tend to “tell it all”!

In the series, “Bless This Home,” we are going to look at how to experience God’s blessing upon our homes according to the blessings that Jesus taught about in the sermon on the mount, often referred to as the beatitudes. In Matthew chapter five, Jesus lists characteristics of those who are blessed.

We are going to apply a few of these to our homes as we focus on “Blessed are the Homes that Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness.” “Blessed are the Pure in Heart.” “Blessed is the Peacemakers.” And yes, even “Blessed are the Homes that are Persecuted for Jesus’ sake.” In conclusion on Father’s Day, when we will teach you how to “Speak a blessing on your families.”

Blessed are the Homes that Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness.

Matthew 5:3-5 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. And here is our application for our homes today.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Our Role? Hunger and thirst for righteousness! **God’s Role?** God fills us. Imagine a family filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

IN YOUR HOME, WHAT DO YOU HUNGER FOR?

Do you hunger for righteousness? Do you hunger for more of God? Where are you spending your time, energy, and money? Maybe a better person to ask this question would be to ask your children?

What would your kids say you are hungry for? *Comfort, Fun, Image, Popularity (social media), Keeping up with the Jones, being the Best, ECA’s, Athletic or Academic Scholarships?*

CHANGE YOUR APPETITE

Have you ever noticed how your appetites can change? Our family picks on Janet because she will get an appetite for a certain type of food and then we will eat it at a particular restaurant relentlessly.

But then she will burn out on it, her appetite will change, and we can’t get her to go back again.

You can change appetites, so why don’t we? Why don’t more families change what they are hungry for and begin to hunger and thirst for righteousness? How do we change our appetites?

WHAT DOESN’T WORK?

- **LEGALISTIC CHRISTIANITY.**

A view of God or religion based on rules, rules, and more rules! Such as, don’t drink, smoke, chew, or hang out with those that do without explaining the “whys” behind the rule is problematic.

2 Corinthians 3:6 NLT ...This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.

Rules and Regulations - Relationships = Resentment and Rebellion

“You can’t do this; you can’t do that” can become legalistic rules without understanding the heart or the purpose behind the rule. This could make your children bitter.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Examples: Unrealistic expectations
Sarcasm
Not rewarding obedience
Lack of unconditional love
Not showing affection
Never Encouraging

Punishment that is unjust or too harsh for the offense
Using fear and intimidation
Lack of respect for your child as a person
Not speaking blessings to your children
Not giving of you time. **“We spell love t-i-m-e.”**

- **LUKEWARM CHRISTIANITY.**

One of the worst things we can do in our homes is to say that we are a family that believes in God, but we are living worldly lives. Our family doesn’t look or do anything different than the non-Christian families on the block. We can drift and start doing things our own way rather than God’s way.

I hate to tell you this, but your children will pick up on your inconsistencies quickly. They know if you are living out your relationship with Jesus or not.

Remember what Jesus said in **Revelation 3:15-16 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.** Not what we want for our families!

We can’t have one foot in Jesus and one foot in the world. No, Jesus must be the center in everything we do. Everything in our home will evolve around Jesus, his truths, and his ways.

WHAT DOES WORK?

- **WE ARE NOT JUST A CHRISTIAN FAMILY. WE ARE A CHRIST-CENTERED HOME.**

Do you see the difference? We don’t want to just be a Christian family by name only.

Only turning to Jesus when we are in need or when we are in trouble

You can call yourself a duck but if you don’t quack like a duck and lay eggs, you’re not a duck.

We should be in a relationship with Jesus, as the entire family is being transformed into his image. We want to have blessed homes, so remember what Jesus is saying... **Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

The Psalmist put it this way... **Psalms 63:1 You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.** Life without Jesus is like drying up in a desert.

What if we changed that verse to apply directly to our families?

You God are our God, earnestly we seek you; we thirst for you, our whole family longs for you...
Psalms 63:1 (edited toward the family)

You God are our God! You are the God of our family! Some families would have to say:
You, high score on video games, are my God. / You, Instagram followers (FB likes) are my God.
You, workplace that I go to everyday, you are my God! / You, bank account, you are my God!
You, new car—you are my God!

NEXT STEP: This week I will consider “What advice would you give to a family to help them be Christ centered?”. I will also consider if I am taking my own advice.

• **HELP YOUR FAMILY SEE GOD AS LOVING, APPROACHABLE, AND INVOLVED.**

Our children will love God the way we love God.

They will have a relationship with God that’s proportional to our relationship with God.

God is Loving: **1 John 4:8 ...God is love.** Our family needs to know that God loves them with unconditional love, as we try to model that love as well.

God is Approachable: Our family needs to know that they can honestly approach God in prayer and conversation. He not running away from them, he is running to them.

James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you.

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, ...Instead, I have called you friends...

God is Involved: Our families should know that God wants to be involved in every aspect of our lives. He cares and as God said in **Hebrews 13:5 ...“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”**

THREE WAYS TO CREATE HUNGER FOR GOD

1) BRING GOD INTO YOUR DAILY CONVERSATIONS.

“We have so much to be thankful for. Look at how God has blessed us. Let me tell you what Jesus means to me.” Concerning the principals in God’s word, Moses exhorted the Israelites to... **Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Deuteronomy 6:7**

2) MAKE CHURCH NON-NEGOTIABLE.

Children love Promiseland and BC Kids! Children love church, but they can’t drive.

I heard someone say, *“The reasons kids leave church when they are 18 years old or so, is because they never were a part of the church in the first place. Their parents were members, but they never really went to church consistently.”*

- Some parents seem to be teaching their children that church is optional and ok until something better comes along.

What if the kids don’t want to come to church? Be a parent and choose what is best for them.

Some say, *“If I make my children go to church, they will hate it and never go when they are an adult.”* Really? You made them bathe and brush their teeth, didn’t you? Do they refuse to do it now?

Remind your family that God honors those who honor him. (1 Samuel 2:30)

NEXT STEP: Today I make a commitment to make church a non-negotiable for my family as we hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Promiseland and BC Kids are a blast. Family worship experiences are super fun. Our favorite week of the summer is Family Vacation Bible School. Which brings us to our last point.

3) SHOW HOW SEEKING AND SERVING GOD IS FUN.

- SEEK GOD DAILY AS A FAMILY.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matt hew 6:33

Your children and family will look forward to family devotional times, especially if you make them fun. For some like Janet and I, this was often difficult due to shift work. But we found other ways to enjoy seeking Jesus together.

- Our Daily Bread scriptures on the dinner table. Everyone pulled one and shared their verse.
 - Reading children's bibles and bible stories at bedtime, followed by prayer.
 - Blessings spoken over them in the morning before school. (Learn how to bless in week five!)
 - The kids enjoyed seeing answered prayers, so parents make sure you share the answered ones.
 - Shared music interest that may have been a little more youthful than Janet and I would listen to.
 - We also enjoyed church and all church related activities as a family.
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- **SERVE GOD DAILY AS A FAMILY.**

Our family loved serving together. It allowed us to enjoy and enter the joy of the Lord together. Consider Serving the Boro as a family and look for a Ministry Team task that you can do together.

As Joshua resolved in **Joshua 24:15 But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.**"

Let's begin applying all three to get started, with the resolve to be a family that hungers and thirsts for righteousness.

Then let's fully expect the fulfillment of the blessing promise upon our homes.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.