

Happy Mother's Day! We owe a lot to our mothers! Think of all the things our mothers taught us.

- Cleanliness:** "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside - I just finished cleaning!"
- Religion:** "You had better pray that will come out of the carpet."
- Logic:** "Because I said so, that's why."
- Planning:** "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
- The Circle of Life:** "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out of it."

From Mother's Day to Father's Day, we are going to be talking about family, and looking at the Biblical principles for Marriage and Parenting. (Married or not this material will be useful to you.)

### Christ Like Family

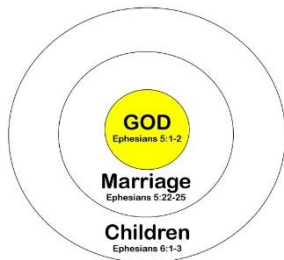
Our theme in 2024 is "Live Like Jesus." What if we changed our 2024 theme verses to apply directly to our families? **Philippians 2:5 (NCV) In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.** Might read, "In our Family, we must think and act like Christ Jesus."

**1 John 2:6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.** Would say something like, "We claim to be a Christian family, therefore our family must live as Jesus did."

We want all of our families and each family member to reflect the image of Christ to this world.

### HOW TO GROW INTO A CHRIST LIKE FAMILY

#### 1. FOLLOW GOD'S GPS - GOD'S POSITIONING SYSTEM



**GOD - Ephesians 5:1-2 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

God must be at the center of every family. God is like the sun that the family orbits around. Let God be the center point.

- The best gift a parent can give their children is a relationship with God.
- Parents, love God with all of your heart, soul, and mind.

#### **MARRIAGE - Ephesians 5:22-23 and 25**

**22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 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.**

**25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.**

- The second-best gift you can give to your child is a Godly, healthy relationship with your spouse.
- What if you are a single parent? This means that you will need to grow in your relationship with Jesus all the more to fulfill your needs and be your help.
  - The best gift you can give your child is a healthy "you."
  - Develop pure and Godly relationships with people who build you up and encourage you.

#### **CHILDREN - Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.**

**2 "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—**

**3 "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."**

Obey your parents, honoring them and you will live well, blessed, and enjoy a long, good life.

**OR** Disobey and dishonor and pay the price, not living well or blessed! *The choice is yours.*

Notice, in our GPS, that the children are the outer circle. They are not the center.

But what do we do? We put kids first, marriage second and God third. **We invert God's flow chart. This inversion has become a perversion of what God wants in every family unit.**

## **ILL: Unused GPS. Janet and I getting lost in Mid- Georgia because our phone died.**

Do we ever lose direction in our families? One day we look around and say, “How did we wind up here?” Turn on God’s GPS for your family: God, marriage, and children. This will reestablish God’s direction and God’s destination back to the family.

- I don’t care if you are in a blended family, a single-parent situation, or if you are in a typical nuclear family with 2.3 kids.
- If you are single, stats indicate that **90% of you** will get married.
- Children and students listen because these principles and these precepts will give you great focus and direction when one day you have your own family.

**NEXT STEP: Honestly list the current order of your family. Now commit to GPS.**

## **2. TALK ABOUT JESUS ALL THE TIME.**

*“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 principles 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**

## **3. MODEL PRAYER AND PRAY TOGETHER.**

Prayer will bring a family a sense of connectedness, not only to God, but to each other as well.

Kids love to be prayed for, but they also love to pray.

**Matthew 18:19 Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.**

What a blessing to have a house full of **“Prayer Partners,”** ready and available to agree in prayer!

## **4. MAKE CHURCH NON-NEGOTIABLE.**

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

I heard someone say, *“The reason 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 your 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 that now?

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

**NEXT STEP: Today I commit to make church a non-negotiable for my family so we can grow to be more like Jesus.**

BC Tots and BC Kids are a blast. Family worship experiences are super fun. Our favorite week of the summer is Family Vacation Bible School. (Reg. Tee Shirt?) Which brings us to our next point.

## **5. WORSHIP TOGETHER AS A FAMILY.**

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

I hope every family is trying to make time to worship together. This includes church family worship times, but also includes worshiping and studying the Word of God together at home.

Devotionals/ BC Kids weekly “Grow at Home Conversation Starters” / Believers Church Sermon Notes  
Family Devotional Questions / Teachable Moments / Singing together /Dancing unto the Lord together!

The promise: **Matthew 18:20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.**

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 card 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.
- Kids enjoy seeing answered prayers, so parents make sure you share the answers to prayer.
- 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.

**NEXT STEP: This week we will discover new and fun ways to worship at home together.**

## **6. 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 Serve the Boro as a family and look for a Ministry Team task that you can do together. Brainstorm with your family ways to bless and serve others. Kids have great ideas!

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

**Mark 10:43 ...Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.**

There is such joy in serving others. This is something that we want our families to experience together!

- There is such a bonding process that takes place when families serve together.
- Serving others promotes humility, sharing, compassion, and a new intimacy in marriage and family.

## **7. PARTNER WITH THE CHURCH.**

A Core Belief at Believers: Nothing is more important than a child’s relationship with God. Therefore, the most powerful thing we can do for our children is for parents and the Church to partner together to raise Godly children.

**Matthew 18:1-6 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

**5 "Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.**

**6 "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. (NKJ)**

**At Believers, we are called to partner together with the parents to help raise Godly children.**

(THIS MEANS EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH, children’s volunteer ministry team or not.)

- We believe that it is ultimately the parents’ responsibility to train children up in the ways of the Lord, so, we want to help you train your children up in the ways of the Lord.
- We will synchronize with in what you are already doing.
- We are called to help you become a “Christ Like Family.”

**NEXT STEP: I want to know more about serving for a BC Kids or BC Tots Ministry Team.**

**NEXT STEP: As a parent, I will take full advantage of the help our church offers me.**