

FAMILY, COMMUNITY, OUTREACH
BIBLE STUDY LESSON

“FULFILLING YOUR SPIRITUAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR FAMILY”

REV. TERRELL TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR

Introduction: Many parents are only concerned about fulfilling their physical responsibilities to their families, neglecting their spiritual responsibilities. Jesus said in **Matthew 4:4 (NIV)** “**man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.**” Parents must not focus on just physical bread alone and neglect spiritual bread.

In this lesson series on the Family, we will look at the spiritual responsibilities of a husband to the wife, a wife to the husband, and parents to their children.

I. Your spiritual responsibilities:

1. **Be a godly example.** God expects parents to model the right pattern of behavior before their children because example is better than precept. The father should be a good representative of the heavenly Father before the family, especially the children.

a. He should honor and obey God, among other things.

John 2:5 (NIV) “**His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”**”

Matthew 7:24 (NIV) “**Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.**”

Luke 5:5 (NIV) “**Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”**”

b. God expects parents to teach or instruct their children.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NIV) “**These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress 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. ⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.**”

Children learn from their parents. This is beyond what you say. Training children requires that parents are Godly examples to them such as being a faithful and loving husband, a submissive and peaceful wife, a responsible and caring parent.

c. See yourself as God’s steward over your household and be faithful.

Look at Matthew 24:45 (NKJV) “*Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season.*”

II. Seek the salvation of your family. Salvation is personal; nobody can be saved for another person. There’s no salvation by others. As the spiritual head of your home, a father should work towards the salvation of members of his family, especially his children. He should pray for their salvation, share the Word of God with them and lead them to Christ.

1. A Christian wife (husband) should also seek the salvation of her unbelieving husband (wife). She should pray for him and live a godly life that would speak to him without a word.

1Peter 3:1 “*Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives.*” However, she could share the Word of God with him if he’ll listen.

The Bible records the examples of family heads who worked towards the salvation of members of their families. They were not satisfied only with their own salvation.

2. The Book of Acts gives biblical examples of Leading family members to the Lord.

a. In **Acts 10:24-48 (NIV)** what do we see about Cornelius:

- When Peter arrived at the house of Cornelius, Cornelius had already assembled his relatives and close friends, waiting for Peter.
- They were all saved and baptized.

b. In Acts 16:14-15 (NIV) what do we see about Lydia,

- A cloth merchant opened her heart to the word of God, and she was saved together with her family.
- She was a positive influence on the family, and she brought them to the Lord.

c. In **Acts 16:30-34 (NIV)** what do we see about the Philippian jailer:

- The Jailer and his family were saved and baptized after he had brought Paul and Silas to his house.

Don’t be satisfied that you’re saved. Make sure that your family members enjoy the same thing.

In **I Corinthians 1:16 (NIV)** Paul said he baptized the household of Stephanas.

III. Teach them the word of God. In a world filled with distractions, our families desperately need the daily influence of Scripture. There is nothing more important than building our family life upon the Word of God. Teaching the Bible to our family should never feel like a burden, but rather a joyful time when parents and children gather around the Word of God together. If fathers and mothers truly love the Word, their children will be encouraged to love it as well.

In **Genesis 18:19** (NKJV) notice what the Bible says about Abraham, “**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.**”

a. What command or direction are you giving your own household?

b. Can God depend on you to lead them, right?

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) “**Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.**”

- Teach your family to fear the LORD. **Acts 10:2** (NKJV) describes Cornelius, as “**a devout man and one who feared God with all his household.**”
- Teach your family faith. **II Timothy 1:5** (NKJV) “**when I call to remembrance the ^[a]genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.**”
- Teach your household holy living. Train your family to live a holy life and not to embrace the sinful lifestyle of the world. They should get rid of everything that constitutes sin
Leviticus 20:26 (NKJV) “**The LORD says, “And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.”**
Genesis 35:2-4 (NKJV) “**And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments. ³ Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone.” ⁴ So they gave Jacob all the foreign ^[a]gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem.**”

c. Why the Word of God Is Essential

- **Our Salvation Depends on the Word of God**

I Peter 1:23 (KJV) “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*”

- **Our Sanctification Depends on the Word of God**

John 17:17 (KJV) “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*”

The Bible not only brings us to salvation but also sets us apart for God’s glory. The earlier we introduce our families to the truths of Scripture, the more they will grow to be like Christ. Our children need to know who they are in Him, and this sanctifying work happens as they absorb the truth of God’s Word into their hearts and minds.

- **Our Service Depends on the Word of God**

II Timothy 2:15 (KJV) “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

The more we read, study, and teach the Bible, the better equipped we are to serve the Lord. Each family member has gifts and talents given by God. By grounding ourselves in Scripture, we learn to use our abilities for His honor and glory. The Word of God provides both the foundation and the framework for effective ministry.

- **Our Eternal Security Depends on the Word of God**

I John 5:13 (KJV) “*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...*”

In a world where doubt and uncertainty abound, Scripture provides the assurance we need. Through the Word of God, we find the confidence that we are eternally secure in Christ. It is the anchor of our faith and the steadying force in the midst of life’s storms.

IV. Love and encourage your family.

1. Love your wife as your own body. Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV) “*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.*”

2. Ephesians 5:28-29 (NKJV) “*So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.*”

3. Colossians 3:19 (NLT) “*husbands should love their wives and never treat them harshly.*”

4. Wives should love their husbands. **Titus 2:4 (NLT)** “*older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children.*”

5. Parents should raise their children in an atmosphere of love. They should not only show them love by buying them things; they should first give themselves to their children by spending quality and quantity of time with them. Don't be an absentee parent. Be available.

6. Everybody needs encouragement. Couples should encourage each other. Notice what **II Corinthians 13:11 (NLT)** “*Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.*”

More importantly, parents should encourage their children to do the right thing and excel. They should not be discouraged.

Colossians 3:21 (NKJV) “*Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*” The (NLT) says “*Fathers, don't aggravate your children. If you do, they will become discouraged and quit trying.*”

V. Discipline your children. Disciplining your children and other young ones under your care is part of your spiritual responsibilities as a parent or guardian. The father should take the lead in doing this. **Proverbs 29:17 (NLT)** says, “*Discipline your children, and they will give you happiness and peace of mind.*” The opposite is also true: don't discipline your children and they will not give you happiness and peace of mind.

1. You must instruct, correct and punish when necessary. **Proverbs 23:13-14 (CEV)** “*Don't fail to correct your children. You won't kill them by being firm, 14 and it may even save their lives.*”

Proverbs 23:13-14 (NCV) “*Don't fail to punish children. If you spank them, they won't die. 14 If you spank them, you will save them from death.*”

The Bible knows that there are certain things our children won't get or do right except we apply discipline and correction.

VI. Cultivate a habit of going regularly with your family to the house of God. Train your family to cherish the gathering together of saints; don't go to church services or any other church program and leave your family at home. Church services are not for adults only; go with your family. Let them appreciate the importance of not forsaking meeting together with fellow believers.

Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV) “*not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*”

We are never to forsake our gathering together, not even for a brief time. This is the meaning of this exhortation. Believers are to assemble together. Families are to gather together to worship. Why?

- for prayer
- for the study of God's Word
- for ministry and witnessing

Acts 2:46 (NKJV) “*So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.*”

VII. Pray for them and pray with them. Pray for your family and with them. Train your children to pray. Jesus modeled a prayerful life to the disciples and, upon their request, taught them how to pray (**Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9-15**). Let your family see your prayer life and also teach them, especially your children and the younger ones, how to pray.

Rebuild the altar of God – you and your family. Pray for your family and pray with them. Teach them spiritual warfare, prayer and fasting, and praise and worship.

VIII. Bring your family under God's blessing. Do what will bring God's blessing upon your family. The name Achan means troubler. Achan brought trouble upon his family by his greed or covetousness. All Israel stoned them and burnt them (**Joshua 7:25**). Don't bring your family under a curse or cause trouble for them.

The house of Obed-Edom was blessed because of the ark of God brought to his house (**II Samuel 6:11**). Become a channel of blessing to your family. Bequeath to them a legacy of blessing, not that of a curse.

Pronounce blessing upon your household, especially your spouse and children. **II Samuel 6:20** says David returned to bless his family, but the head of Michal, the daughter of Saul (David's wife), by her contempt for David, rejected blessing (**verses 21-23**).

Conclusion: Are you fulfilling your spiritual responsibilities to your family? If you are not, start today. Don't be satisfied with fulfilling only your physical responsibilities. Your family shall be blessed, and you also, if you fulfill your spiritual responsibilities.