



# THE GODLY FAMILY

BIBLE STUDY LESSONS 1-4

## ABSTRACT

The approach of this Bible study is not to exhaustively teach on the family, but to expose you to a grouping of Scriptures around the family.

## GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR *GROWING IN CHRIST* BIBLE STUDY

Alllove Faith COGIC International has partnered with Covenant Resources to bring you these Pertinent Bible Study Lessons. The greatest attack from the enemies of God are against the Family Institution. After much prayer and searching, the Holy Spirit has led us to this invaluable resource to teach our churches in California Pacific Jurisdiction COGIC International. Dig in and enjoy.

Bishop Israel Marrone, Prelate

Each *Growing in Christ* Bible study is designed to place you into the Word of God so that you are better positioned to hear from the Lord and respond to what He is saying to you. Doing Bible studies for the mere content of the Word of God has many positive attributes, but it can also reflect pride and disobedience if you do not respond to what He is impressing on you.

*2 Timothy 3:15-17 says, "From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (RSV)*

God does desire you to be equipped, but He also longs for His children to be complete so that you can experience the richness of His love and grace.

As you complete each lesson, make specific notes where you feel God's conviction of His truth might be prompting you to take specific action. After you complete each lesson, you will have the opportunity to go through the lesson again but with the answers provided. Our answers are not the only definitive answers – they are provided to help guide and to further open your spirit to His Word and truth. We encourage you to not speed through the review of the lesson with answers, but to prayerfully continue to seek God's revelation of how He would have you respond to His Word and truth. Continue to make notes where you feel God is prompting you to action.

After completing the lesson with answers, develop how you will apply God's Word and convictions in your life. Try to make them specific and accountable. This whole process should be prayerfully done under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Our prayer is that God will richly bless and transform your life.

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## LESSON 1

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### BIBLE STUDY APPROACH

The approach of this Bible study is not to exhaustively teach on the family, but to expose you to a grouping of Scriptures around the family. Using God's Word in this area exposes you to God's truth for divine inspiration. Prayerfully work each Bible study seeking God's truth and wisdom for your life. Make it your goal to complete each Bible study with specific applications that will help you in this area. Do not do the study as an exercise in Biblical content, but as a tool for God, through the work of the Holy Spirit, to bring transformation and change to your life.

## THE GODLY FAMILY

Christian parents must recognize the significance that God places on the family and the Lord's purpose in raising Godly offspring. Your Heavenly Father wants your family to be a testimony of His work in the world and future generations. Parents have important responsibilities in making the family a positive reflection of God's kingdom. Christian parents should seek to know these responsibilities and to diligently fulfill them.

**1. Psalm 127: 3-5** *"Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate."* (NIV)

a. Children are a gift from God. How should you as a Christian parent see your children?

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**2. Psalm 78:4-7** *"We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power, and the wonders He has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which He commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep His commands."* (NIV)

a. A Christian parent knows that children represent a generational process of multiplying the family of God. How do you establish a heritage for future generations to know about God?

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**3. Psalm 78:6-7** *"So the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep His commands."* (NIV)

a. What results when you represent Christ well to your children?

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**4. Daniel 12:3** *"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."* (NIV)

a. What positive results will occur from a Christian family that knows and follows Christ?

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**5. 1 Timothy 4:16** *"Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."* (NIV)

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

a. God wants all Christians to consistently live a life that models Christ. What results when parents, children, or the whole family live Godly lives on a consistent basis?

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**6. Proverbs 17:25** *"A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the one who bore him."* (NIV)

a. What results when your children do not live Godly lives?

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b. How should Christian parents raise their children knowing the pain and grief ungodly children can bring?

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**7. Joshua 24:15** *"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."* (NIV)

a. What is the key question you as parents must decide for your family?

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**8. 1 Thessalonians 1:3** *"We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."* (NIV)

a. Raising a Godly family is difficult. As a Godly parent, you need to recognize the Lord as your source for the success of raising your family. What three things will help you in producing Godly results?

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**9. Psalm 27:1-2** *"The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall."* (NIV)

a. Where do you find comfort and strength to endure the obstacles and hardships of raising children?

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**10. Proverbs 17:21** *"To have a fool for a son brings grief; there is no joy for the father of a fool."* (NIV)

a. The Lord wants parents to raise Godly children that know God while living obedient lives to Him. What is a child called who lives an ungodly life and why do you think he is called this?

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**11. Proverbs 15:10** *"Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die."* (NIV)

a. You love your children and want nothing but good for them. Why is strong discipline so important in raising your child?

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*12. Proverbs 13:24 "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him." (NIV)*

a. A parent who loves his child works to direct and mold the life of his child by teaching him and loving him. What means should you use to raise a Godly child?

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*13. 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, Who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." (NIV)*

a. Raising children is one of the parent's most difficult tasks. What is your role in achieving success in raising Godly children?

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Lesson 1 in **"Family"** establishes the importance of a Godly family, the parents' role in creating a Godly family, and key components of creating a Godly family. Lesson 2 will focus on the father's role in raising children. It will establish the special responsibilities that a father has in raising his children.

## A FATHER'S ROLE IN BUILDING THE FAMILY

God has chosen parents as His instruments for raising children. The father, as the head of a family, plays a very crucial role in building a Godly family. This lesson goes more deeply into the father's role in raising the family and the elements that God uses in raising Godly children.

**1. Genesis 18:19** *"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what He has promised him."* (NIV)

a. The number one goal of a father in raising his children is that they are raised as Godly children. How are you to raise your children to be Godly?

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**2. Psalm 127:1** *"Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain."*

a. The father is the watchman and provider of the family. The watchman protects the children from harm in all areas including physical, spiritual, temptation, corruption, and emotional. What is the key to a father successfully carrying out this role?

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**3. Proverbs 22:6** *"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."* (NIV)

a. What responsibility does the father have in raising his children?

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**4. Deuteronomy 4:9-10** *"Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when He said to me,*

***„Assemble the people before Me to hear My words so that they may learn to revere Me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.“” (NIV)***

a. What is a crucial component for the father who is training up his children?

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***5. Colossians 3:21 “Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.” (NIV)***

a. Why is a proper balance of discipline important in raising Godly children?

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

a. What are some of the things you should do as a father in training up your children?

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***7. 2 Timothy 3:15-16 “and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” (NIV)***

a. What is your best source of instruction for training up your children?

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b. What kind of training is God's Word good for?

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**8. Psalm 78:72 "And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them." (NIV)**

a. What is required of a father to succeed in training up his children?

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**9. Luke 11:35-36 "See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you." (NIV)**

a. A father's life becomes transparent to his children. How does the life that a father lives affect his children?

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**10. Proverbs 1:7-9 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck." (NIV)**

a. What is the primary objective of the father?

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b. What is the benefit of children learning the fear of the Lord?

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c. How does fearing the Lord help children gain wisdom and discipline?

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**11. Proverbs 29:21 "If a man pampers his servant from youth, he will bring grief in the end." (NIV)**

a. How can a father hurt his children?

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**12. Colossians 3:13-14** *"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." (NIV)*

a. A father's greatest grief could be his child turning to a lifestyle that is contrary to God. Knowing the results of a child's separation from God can be one of the most agonizing moments for a father. How should a father respond to his child if the child adopts a lifestyle that is contrary to God?

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**13. Proverbs 29:15** *"The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother." (NIV)*

**Proverbs 22:15** *"Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him." (NIV)*

a. What helps bring wisdom to your child?

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**14. Proverbs 29:17** *"Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul." (NIV)*

**Proverbs 23:13-14** *"Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death." (NIV)*

a. What are the positive benefits of disciplining your child?

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**15. 1 Samuel 2:29** *"Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for My dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than Me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by My people Israel?" (NIV)*

a. What do you, as a father, have to be careful of not doing when you raise your children?

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**16. Proverbs 19:18** *"Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death." (NIV)*

**1 Samuel 3:13** *"For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them." (NIV)*

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a. What are you doing to your children when you do not discipline them?

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***17. Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law." (NAS)***

a. Your children often see the Word of God as only corrective and restraining. What else can you convey to them about the law?

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In Lesson 2 of **"Family,"** you have learned the special roles that fathers play in raising their children. It is true that many of these roles are done by mothers, but fathers carry added authority and responsibility in raising children. In Lesson 3, you will learn how to trust the Lord in raising a Godly family.

# TRUSTING GOD TO BUILD THE FAMILY

Raising a Godly family is not easy. On your own it can seem like an impossible task. When you entrust the Lord with raising your family, you open the door to allowing Him to produce Godly results. Trusting God means you continually give your family and every situation to Him for His care, protection, and direction. You no longer need to worry and fear because you have transferred the ownership and results to your Heavenly Father. When you worry, fear, and act on your own, you expose yourself and your family to your own weaknesses and limitations, the work of Satan, and the carnal forces of this world. Learning to walk with the Lord in a relationship where you entrust Him with your family allows God's full work and provision in your family.

**1. 1 Chronicles 28:20** *“David also said to Solomon his son, „Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.”” (NIV)*

**Isaiah 41:10** *“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” (NIV)*

a. What is your hope of success in raising your family?

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**2. Romans 8:28** *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” (NIV)*

a. Why should your faith not be shaken when your kids are not progressing in the way you hope?

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b. How should your faith guide your response?

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**3. James 1:3-4** *"because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* (NIV)

a. What is the positive result you can hope for when your kids are not progressing in the way you expect?

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**4. Isaiah 55:10-11** *"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."* (NIV)

a. What can you be confident of when raising children to fear God?

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**5. Romans 8:31-32** *"What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all – how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?"* (NIV) 2

**Thessalonians 2:16-17** *"May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, Who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word."* (NIV)

a. What is God able to do for you when raising your children appears difficult or hopeless?

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**6. Hebrews 12:2** *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* (NIV)

a. What will sustain and empower you when the process of raising your children is not going well, you are weary, and you are questioning God?

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**7. 1 Peter 5:10** *"And the God of all grace, Who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."* (NIV)

a. How do you find comfort when you are depleted and it appears you have failed in raising your children?

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*8. 2 Corinthians 4:15-17 "All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." (NIV)*

a. During difficult times, you tend to focus on your troubles. How does God want you to look at your troubles?

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*9. Acts 14:22 "strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. „We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said." (NIV)*

a. How might difficulties in raising your children benefit you?

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*10. 1 Chronicles 28:20 "David also said to Solomon his son, „Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished." (NIV)*

a. What does the Lord want you to do during the difficult times of raising your children?

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b. Why should you not be discouraged or afraid in this process?

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Lesson 3 of **"Family"** taught you that the Lord is the source of success, peace, and satisfaction in raising your children. It is only through trusting God that you will not only succeed, but also be sustained during this time. In Lesson 4, you will learn that it is God alone Who will enable you to raise up Godly young men and women.

## GOD BUILDS THE FAMILY

To be a successful parent, you must have the Lord's vision for your family. With this vision you must exercise your God-given duties and responsibilities for training up your children. You must remain firm during this process knowing that it is God Who will ultimately raise a successful, Godly family. Throughout the entire process of raising your children, you must trust God's providence and call upon Him for continual wisdom, strength, and direction.

**1. Hebrews 13:20-21** *"May the God of peace, Who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (NIV)*

a. How equipped are you as a parent for raising your children?

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**2. Deuteronomy 32:4** *"He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God Who does no wrong, upright and just is He." (NIV)*

a. Why should you continue to trust God for His provision and not doubt Him in the process of raising your children?

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**3. Colossians 1:11-12** *"Being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light." (NIV)*

a. What will God provide you with in this process of raising your children?

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**4. Philippians 2:13** *"For it is God Who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose." (NIV)*

a. Who ultimately achieves God's purposes for your child?

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**5. *Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this, that He Who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (NIV)***

***Psalm 138:8 "The LORD will fulfill [His purpose] for me; Your love, O LORD, endures forever – do not abandon the works of Your hands." (NIV)***

a. Who will finish the work in your children?

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**6. *Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (Joseph speaking of his trials) (NIV)***

a. What quality is important to have during the process of raising your children?

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**7. *Ephesians 3:16-18 "I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." (NIV)***

***Colossians 1:9-10 "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God." (NIV)***

a. How will God better equip you for raising your children?

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**8. *1 Corinthians 3:11-13 "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work." (NIV)***

a. What is the foundation upon which you should build?

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9. John 3:6 *"Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."* (NIV)

a. What is the beginning of change in your children?

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10. Psalm 27:1-2 *"The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall."* (NIV)

a. Raising children is an uphill battle. You will be fighting the child's sin that dwells within, peer influence, the educational establishment, culture, false religions, media, advertising, and many other bad influences that are not only determined to devour your child, but will also be vehicles for Satan to apply double temptation. Why will you prevail in this battle?

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b. What is your greatest threat to failure?

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Congratulations on completing the **"Family"** study! Raising a family can be the hardest experience of your life – or it can be the most awesome exhibition of God's power you have ever seen and experienced! Success begins by taking on God's perspective in raising children. See your experience within God's eternal context. Fathers play a special role in raising children. The father should claim those responsibilities and faithfully execute them. Raise your family by giving God the ownership and responsibility. Give your children to the Lord and then faithfully walk with Him in raising a Godly family. Remember that it is God Who will build your family. You raise your family on a moment by moment basis under the loving and guiding hand of your Heavenly Father. God will not only bring success, but will also raise up a Godly family that stands as a testament to His greatness. Family – Lesson 4 – God Builds the Family Copyright 2008 by Covenant Resources. All rights reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from Covenant Resources 4

## CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE STUDIES

Many problems that a person has are often related to his or her concept of God. The goal of this study was to help you in dealing with a specific need in your life. Your success in dealing with this need or continuing to have success in this area is dependent upon your relationship with God and the Holy Spirit acting in your life – to comfort, guide, teach, provide strength, etc. Your success in the Christian life is hinged upon your ongoing relationship with Christ. Success is defined as not only knowing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, but also having an intimate relationship with Christ that releases the abundance of life He has for you. *Growing in Christ* has several important Bible studies that can help you in developing intimacy with Christ as well as experiencing a fuller and more abundant life in Him. These studies are designed to help you grow where you are. The following is a brief description of each spiritual growth study to help you determine which resources will be most beneficial to you.

*Your Life in Christ* is a nine lesson study which will help you establish your life in Christ. Even though many of the topics will be familiar, it may still be important to do this study to fully establish your life in Christ. Many Christians often experience failure and a lack of abundance in their Christian lives because of lack of understanding of Who Christ is in their lives or how they should live their Christian lives as well as because of corrupted beliefs that are affecting their ability to relate and walk with Christ. “Growing in Christ” will help you establish your relationship with Christ to help you experience God's very best.

*Deeper with God* is for the Christian who is living his/her life in Christ but still not totally connecting with the Lord. This Christian's daily walk with Christ is being experienced more in the trappings of Christianity such as church, Sunday school, Bible study, and small groups more than living in the presence, fullness, and empowerment of God through the work of the Holy Spirit. “Deeper with God” will help you position your life to experience more of Christ in your daily walk with Him.

*Discipleship* is for the Christian who strives to actively walk with Christ on a daily basis. You seek to have a devotional life that allows you to live in the constant presence and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Your relationship with the Lord is opening your life wider to receive and hear His Word. As God speaks, you will be prompted to step out in the areas of your gifting's and the calling that He has for you. Stepping out and allowing God to live His purpose through you will draw you closer to Him in discipleship. “Discipleship” will help your life in Christ expand to its full purpose and fruitfulness.

The *Laborer* study is not yet fully developed. It will be a study that deals with how you allow God to utilize the gifts in your life with which He has blessed you. This study will help balance your walk with Christ – you will develop a proper balance of impression by God's Word with expression of God's work through your life.

