

PULPIT COMPANION

**BUILDING
FAMILY GOD'S
WAY**

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

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SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

09:45 AM

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In this powerful message, we're challenged to build our families God's way, focusing on four key corners: honor, nurture, forgiveness, and kingdom perspective.

The story of Joseph serves as a central example, illustrating how honoring our parents, even when they're imperfect, anchors us in God's plan. We're reminded that nurturing is not just about authority, but about cultivating the soil of our children's hearts with prayer, presence, and affirmation. The message emphasizes that forgiveness is crucial for family health, allowing us to move forward rather than remain chained to past hurts. Finally, we're encouraged to embrace a kingdom perspective that extends our family beyond blood ties to include all who do God's will.

This teaching challenges us to reflect on our own family dynamics and how we can align them more closely with God's design, fostering relationships that reflect His love and grace.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Exodus 20:12
- Ephesians 6:1-4
- Colossians 3:12-14
- Mark 3:35
- Psalm 68:6





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Honoring God and Family

Reading: Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-4

Devotional: Today, we reflect on the importance of honor in our relationships with God and family. Just as we're called to honor God, we're also instructed to honor our parents. This honor isn't based on perfection, but on recognizing the role and sacrifices of those who came before us. Consider how honoring others can anchor your relationships and draw you closer to God's heart. How might you show honor today, even in challenging circumstances? Remember, when we honor, we anchor ourselves in God's love and wisdom.

Day 2: Nurturing with God's Love

Reading: Colossians 3:12-14; Proverbs 22:6

Devotional: God calls us to nurture others as He nurtures us - with compassion, kindness, and patience. Like a gardener tending to plants, we're called to cultivate the growth of those around us, especially in our families.

Reflect on how God has nurtured you through His love and grace. How can you mirror this nurturing in your relationships today? Consider ways to encourage, support, and guide others, remembering that nurturing is a lifelong process that adapts as we grow.

Day 3: The Power of Forgiveness

Reading: Matthew 6:14-15; Ephesians 4:31-32

Devotional: Forgiveness is at the heart of God's relationship with us and should be central in our relationships with others. It's not always easy, but it's essential for spiritual and emotional health.

Reflect on areas in your life where unforgiveness may be holding you back. How has God's forgiveness impacted your life? Ask for the strength to extend that same forgiveness to others, remembering that forgiveness fuels us forward and frees us from the chains of past hurts.





Day 4: Embracing God's Kingdom Family

Reading: Mark 3:31-35; Galatians 3:26-29

Devotional: Jesus redefines family beyond blood relations to include all who do God's will. This Kingdom family transcends biological ties, cultural boundaries, and social divisions. How does this perspective change the way you view your relationships within the church and broader community?

Reflect on ways you can embrace and extend God's family love to those around you, especially to those who might feel lonely or rejected.

Day 5: Building on God's Foundation

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Ephesians 2:19-22

Devotional: As we conclude this week's reflections, let's consider how we're building our lives and relationships on God's foundation. Are we using materials that will last - love, forgiveness, honor, and nurture? Or are we building with temporary, worldly values?

Reflect on the 'corners' of your life - how you honor others, nurture relationships, practice forgiveness, and embrace God's Kingdom family. Ask God for wisdom to build in a way that aligns with His design, creating a legacy that will stand the test of time and eternity.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE : "Building Family God's Way"

Opening Prayer:

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God for wisdom and open hearts as you discuss building family according to His design.

Key Scripture:

Discussion Questions:

1. Honor that Anchors:
 - a. How does honoring parents and family members strengthen relationships?
 - b. Share an experience where honoring someone, despite their imperfections, made a positive impact.
2. Nurture that Softens:
 - a. What's the difference between "boot camp" parenting and "gardening" parenting?
 - b. How can we balance authority and affection in our relationships?
3. Forgiveness that Fuels:
 - a. Why is forgiveness crucial for family health?
 - b. Describe a time when forgiveness helped heal a family relationship.
4. Kingdom Family:
 - a. How does Jesus redefine family in Mark 3:35?
 - b. In what ways can we extend our concept of family beyond blood relations?
5. Personal Reflection:
 - a. Which of the four corners (Honor, Nurture, Forgiveness, Kingdom) do you find most challenging in your own family relationships? Why?





Practical Applications:

1. Honor Challenge: This week, find a way to honor a family member, especially one you might have struggled with. Share your experience next time.
2. Nurture Journal: Keep a daily log of how you nurture relationships around you. Are you watering, weeding, or waiting?
3. Forgiveness Letter: Write a letter (you don't have to send it) forgiving someone who has hurt you. Reflect on how this process affects you.
4. Kingdom Family Action: Identify someone outside your biological family who you can include in your "kingdom family." Plan a way to connect with them this week.
5. Four Corners Check-up: Evaluate your family relationships using the four corners. Where do you see strengths? Where is improvement needed?

Key Takeaways:

1. God's design for family includes four corners: Honor, Nurture, Forgiveness, and Kingdom perspective.
2. Honor anchors families and holds them together.
3. Nurturing is a process of cultivating, not commanding.
4. Forgiveness fuels reconciliation and moves families forward.
5. God's family extends beyond blood relations to include all who do His will.

Closing Prayer:

End the session by praying for God's guidance in building families His way, asking for strength to honor, nurture, forgive, and embrace a kingdom perspective.

