

B. Things to do to make your family a place to play.

“A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.”
Proverbs 17:22

- Relaxed atmosphere
- Regular activities
- Real affection

IV. A FAMILY IS A TEAM FOR MINISTRY

A. A home should be a launch pad of service for God.

“I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—”

I Corinthians 16:15

NOTE: Ministry begins first to those people inside the family and then extends to others who are outside the family.

B. Things to do to make your family a team for ministry.

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” I Pet. 4:10

- Every family member must discover their spiritual gifts.
- Every family member must dispense their spiritual gifts.
- Every family member must develop their spiritual gifts.

What do you need to do to better serve God in your family?

“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
Joshua 24:15

FAMILY MATTERS
Secrets To A God-Honoring Family
Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. Will your family survive in today’s culture? Many people say that the traditional idea of the family is finished. The family institution today may be fragmented, but it is definitely not finished. Your family can survive and thrive!

“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

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B. In this series you will discover the Biblical secrets for a successful family. This eight part series features the following messages:

TODAY	Secrets To A God-Honoring Family
Feb 15	Secrets To Being Single And Happy
Feb 22	Secrets To A Satisfying Marriage
Mar 1	Secrets For Great Communication
Mar 8	Secrets For Debt Free Living
Mar 15	Secrets For Successful Parenting
Mar 22	Secrets For Fruitful Grandparenting
Mar 29	Secrets For A Lasting Family

This series is for everyone!

C. TEXT: Genesis 2:18-25; 4:1-2 (Pew Bible/Pg. 2/Old Testament)

SECRETS TO A GOD-HONORING FAMILY

I. A FAMILY IS A SHELTER FROM STORMS

A. The home should be a refuge from tribulation.

"...In the world you will have tribulation;..." John 16:33b

- Change
- Failure
- Rejection

NOTE: Many homes are battle grounds.

B. Things to do to make your family a shelter from storms.

"In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge." Proverbs 14:26

- Hear
- Hug
- Help

II. A FAMILY IS A LEARNING CENTER FOR LIFE

A. The home should be a growth environment.

Jesus grew four ways in his home:

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." Luke 2:52

- Intellectually
- Physically
- Mentally
- Socially

B. The priority of learning is the Great Commandment.

Note: Some parents adopt the wrong philosophy that they will not impose their religious ideas on their children, but will let them choose their own path.

"5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Teach your children how to love God:

- Parent control – tell what to do.
- Self control – know what to do.
- God control – ask God what to do.

III. A FAMILY IS A PLACE TO PLAY

A. The home should be a habitat for happiness.

"3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them;..."

Psalm 127:3, 5a

NOTE: If your home is not a fun place then don't be surprised if your children don't come back very much after they leave home.