

# A FUTURE FOR THE FAMILY

FROM THE MESSAGES OF  
ADRIAN ROGERS



## **A Future for the Family**

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## INTRODUCTION

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# A FUTURE FOR THE FAMILY

In the 1950's, teenagers lost their innocence and were liberated by popular music, films, and cars, gaining newfound freedom from their parents. In the 1960's, a time of rebellion, young people lost respect for authority, and traditional ways of life were questioned. Some movements led to positive social change, but others eroded family values. Without reliable authorities, teens and young adults were left to themselves to build their own ways of seeing the world. In the 1970's, teenagers lost their ability to love. Young people substituted sex for love and didn't even know the difference. In the 1980's and 1990's, young people lost hope. They stopped believing in a future for themselves. Drug abuse increased, and the suicide rate in teens swelled.

At the turn of the century, young people lost their privacy with the invention of the smartphone and the explosion of social media. They could be in touch with anyone anywhere at any time and came under constant surveillance. In this new millennium, teenagers have lost the ability to know the truth. After the global pandemic, no news source could be trusted, and no government official consistently spoke the truth. They watched people attack and tear down others, completely unable to find common ground or make compromises. Today, you can ostracize people who don't believe the "correct" things, and you don't have to talk to anyone who makes you feel bad about yourself. This is the world our children are growing up in.

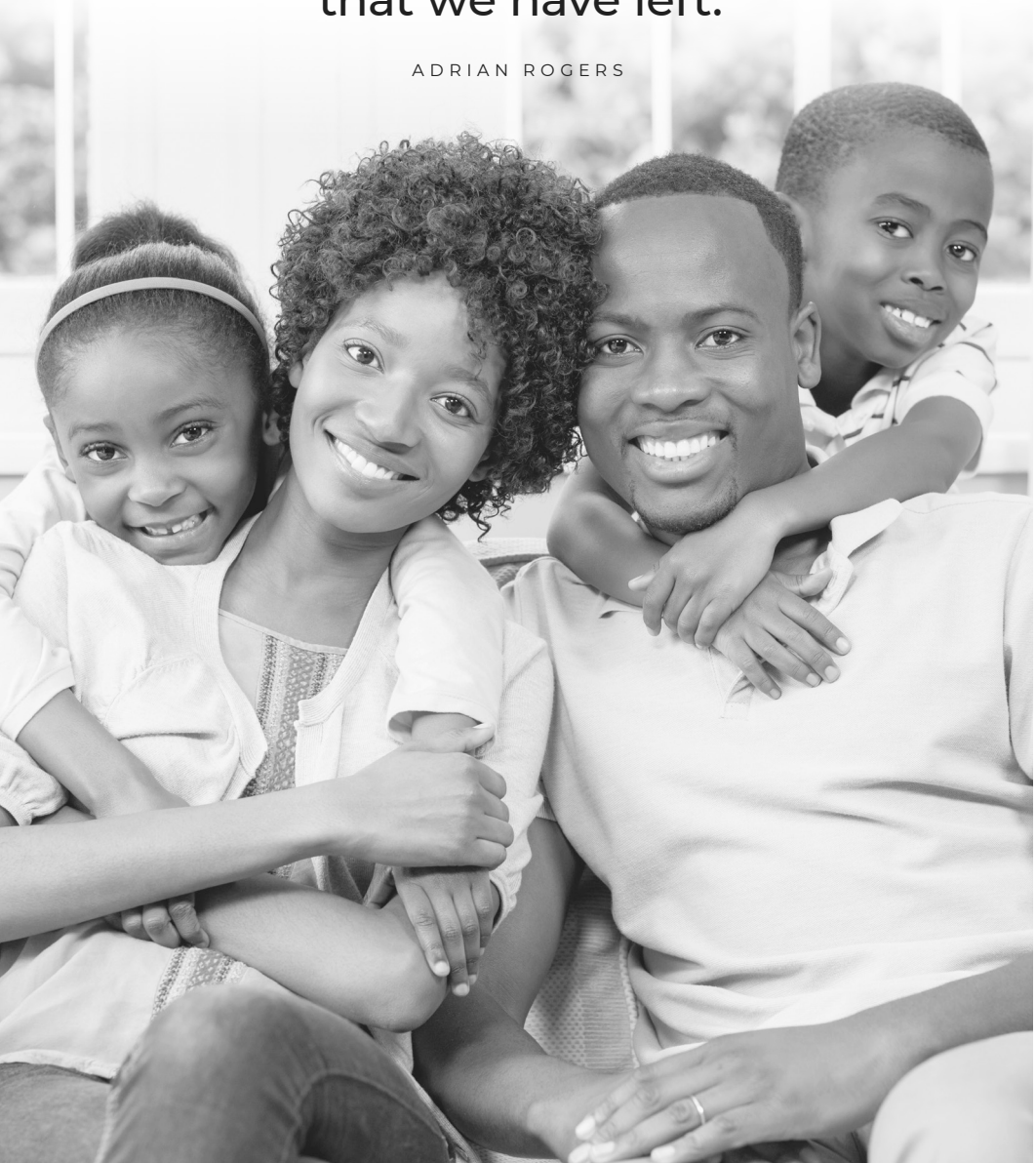
But God's answer to protecting and training our children is still what it has always been: the family. God's plan is for adults to mentor the next generation. His plan is for parents to pass on their beliefs and values to their children. This nine-week Bible study is designed to help you understand God's plan for the family and how you can raise children to know, love, and serve Jesus.

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*Want more? The audio messages by Pastor Adrian Rogers  
from which this study is derived are linked using  
the QR code at the end of this study.*

Satan wants to war against  
the family because the  
family is the only part  
of the Garden of Eden  
that we have left.

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## WEEK 1

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# THE FUTURE OF THE FAMILY

### ■ INTRODUCTION

Our world is at war. While it is not always a physical war, a spiritual war is being fought every day. One of the main battlegrounds for this war is within the family. If Satan can gain ground here, he can affect this building block of society for generations.

Our children are bombarded with cultural lies every day about their identity, morality, sexuality, and even the existence of absolute truth. Not only are they tempted to try sex, drugs, and alcohol, but they are also encouraged to question the morals, faith, and systems they have been taught in the home.

But we have hope for our children. God's Word is as true as it has always been, and His Word gives us principles to follow so that our children will have a solid foundation of faith. If we want to win the battle for the family, we must know what God says about raising up families that follow Christ.

**Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever! (Deuteronomy 5:29).**

This week, we will learn from the book of Deuteronomy about God's vision for the family and how we can lead our children to live faith-filled lives.

### ■ PRAY OVER IT

*Dear God, Thank you for giving me a family. I admit that I don't always display a faith-filled example for my children to learn from. Help me to know how I can be a positive example of godliness and incorporate Scripture in our home. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

## MOSES' FAMILY

### ■ PONDER IT

Before Moses died, he gave the children of Israel a farewell address with instructions about how to live and serve God. He wanted his legacy of leadership to last, and he knew that families focused on serving the Lord would help the nation endure.

Moses began his address in Deuteronomy 5. He again stated the Ten Commandments given by God and reminded the Israelites of their promise to follow those commands. Moses knew that in the Promised Land the Israelites would face even greater temptations to drift from their faithfulness to God. Moses also knew that if they failed to keep their promise to God, it would result in depravity and even death. He gave clear instructions on how to teach the next generation to follow God.

**Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’**

**Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.**

**And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between**

**your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Deuteronomy 6:1-9).**

God's desire for Israel's future was that the people would protect and cultivate the family, and that is still His desire for us today. The children of Israel faced many of the evils we do today—the influences of drunkenness, fornication, selfishness, idolatry, and more. We face liberalism in churches, humanism in schools, and atheism in society. The world is a minefield, and it is up to us to obey God's Word and spiritually build up the souls living in our homes.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- What are some of the lies, challenges, and temptations you or your family experience in society today? Where do you see the spiritual battle for your children?
- Who has God placed in your life to train up in God's Word? Is it a physical family, a spiritual family, or both? How are you pouring into the next generation?

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My responsibility as a parent is to create  
an atmosphere in my home where my  
children can easily choose to follow God.

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## DAY 2

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# A FUTURE FOR THE FAMILY: PROMISED AND PROVIDED

### ■ PONDER IT

God has promised a future for the family, and it starts with the parents.

**Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged (Deuteronomy 6:1-2).**

In this passage, God places the responsibility for teaching faith on the shoulders of the parents and grandparents. God's desire is that parents lead by example and raise children who know Him and obey Him. God promises a prolonged future for families that honor this command.

**God provides a foundation for the family.** The foundation of the family is a love for God. If you want to pass your faith onto your children, you must first sincerely love God.

**Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—'a land flowing with milk and honey.'**

**Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength (Deuteronomy 6:3-5).**

Many children turn away from God because the lives of the parents do not match the faith they profess on Sunday morning. Even though their parents profess religion, they live godless lives. It is important to model faith to your children in both word and deed.

Karl Marx was raised in a Jewish family in Germany, where his father Heinrich Marx worked as a lawyer. They faithfully practiced their religion and attended synagogue until they moved to a different city. Under the new law, it was illegal for people to work as lawyers unless they were members of the Protestant Lutheran denomination, so Heinrich willingly converted his whole family.

Heinrich Marx's actions demonstrated that financial stability was more important than devotion to God. Karl observed the fickleness of his father's conviction, and it was the beginning of what moved him to renounce his faith, devalue human life, and found Communism.

As parents and role models, we are to love God with sincerity and selflessness. Children need to see parents who bring God into their family, recreation, business, and relationships, not parents who compartmentalize their religion and use it to their benefit. Loving God is the foundation of a healthy family, and it should manifest in every aspect and every decision of a parent's life. What children observe in their parents' behavior impacts their own views of God.

#### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What impact did your parents have on your faith? What was modeled for you? What decisions have you made that model the application of God's Word in all aspects of your life?
- Do you believe that if you follow God and obey his commands your days will be prolonged? Is loving God the foundation for your family? Why or why not?

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We can't deal with our ancestors, but we  
can deal with our descendants.

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## A FORMULA FOR THE FAMILY

### ■ PONDER IT

**God gave us a formula for the family.** God says that your faith should be passed down from you to your children. It is not a pastor's job, a teacher's job, or a friend's job, to teach your children. It is your job to teach them how to live a life of godliness. Read it again and count how many times the word "you" is mentioned in Deuteronomy 6:1-9. You have personal responsibility for your family.

A woman asked a pastor, "How soon should I start spiritually training my child?"

The pastor asked, "How old is the child?"

"Five years old."

"You're five years too late," the pastor replied.

God wants you to be a strong, faith-filled mother or father to your children, and it starts by being present in your child's life from birth. Nobody else has as powerful a spiritual influence on your children as you do. But tragically, many parents give away this precious time. You cannot rely on daycare centers, schools, television programs, extra-curricular clubs, or other caregivers to teach your children the way they should go. God wants you to be their greatest role-model.

The most critical time for your family's faith is during your child's early years. You might think babies or toddlers are too young to understand, but they absorb everything. Be a present and strong example of faith to your family.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- How present was your mother and/or father when you were young? What impact did this have on your spiritual development?
- Have you given away your time with your children? What are you doing to influence the faith of your children?

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Your desire for your children is that they  
be godly children. Your goal is that you be  
a godly parent.

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# HOW TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THE BIBLE CONVINCINGLY AND CREATIVELY

## ■ PONDER IT

**When you are present with your children, you get to teach them intentionally.** This is not something that happens by accident or by default.

*Teach them convincingly.* Your children will know you are not perfect, but they need to know you are not a phony. Though they will see you make mistakes, they also need to see you demonstrate a heart of repentance before God. They need to know you love God with all your heart, soul, and strength.

**And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart (Deuteronomy 6:6).**

*Teach them creatively.* You need to make the Word of God a constant and fun part of your children's lives.

**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 6:7).**

Find creative ways to incorporate Scripture when you wake up in the morning, when you dine, when you ride in the car, when you play games, and in everyday moments. You can watch shows and listen to music that helps your children memorize Bible verses. It's helpful to create dedicated times to read the Bible together in addition to using regular, life moments to share God's Word.

■ **PUT IT IN WRITING**

- Do your kids see you authentically living your faith? How do they know that you love God with all your heart, soul, and mind?
- What are some creative ways you have incorporated Scripture reading into your routines and habits in your home? What ideas would you like to try?

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Faith is caught as well as taught.

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## DAY 5

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# TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THE BIBLE CONSISTENTLY, CONVERSATIONALLY, AND CONSPICUOUSLY

### ■ PONDER IT

*Teach it consistently.* Teach God's Word with diligence and consistency. Don't make promises that you will start reading the Bible together and not follow through with it.

**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 6:7, emphasis added).**

Make Scripture reading a priority in your home, just like eating breakfast or brushing your teeth. Create habits and routines that instill the importance of God's Word in your children.

**Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little (Isaiah 28:9-10).**

It is not easy to be disciplined in reading the Word with your family, but the cumulative impact is substantial. Diligently teach your children the Bible, and it will impact generations.

*Teach it conversationally.* Don't simply recite Bible verses but incorporate them into your casual conversations.

**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 6:7, emphasis added).**

Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom to find everyday moments in which you can apply the Word of God. Don't give it in doses like foul medicine used to keep away evil. Make it relevant to your children's interests and stages of life.

*Teach it conspicuously.* We need to have outward ways of teaching the Word that can be seen by other people.

**You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Deuteronomy 6:8-9).**

Because of this verse, some Jewish people keep a box with God's Word inside called a "phylactery" on their foreheads. Though we do not need to take this passage literally as they do, it illustrates how seriously we need to consider and apply Scripture in our lives.

God's Word on your hand means that whatever you do should be controlled by the Word of God. Keeping God's Word between your eyes means that whatever you think is controlled by the Word of God. God's Word on your doorposts and gates means you need to have the Word of God in your home, guiding your coming and going.

The influence of Scripture in your family should be evident in every aspect of your living and your environment. Put Bible verses in places that remind you of truth. Display artwork that quotes the Word of God. Write Scripture in places that you see most often. Let all who enter your home see that what God says in the Bible dictates the way you act, think, and live.

#### ■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- How have you tried to consistently and conversationally teach the Word to your children? How did it go? What would you like to try?
- Is God's Word a conspicuous part of your home?

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Some of you go home after Sunday service, and you have roast preacher for dinner. Those little ears are listening.



## THE FUTURE OF THE FAMILY

### ■ PRACTICE IT

The love of God needs to be evident in every aspect of your life because your children are watching. Their future is being shaped by the influence you have on them now. Teach them the Word of God, surround them with godly influences, and be present in their lives. If you do this, you will see a future for your family.

If you are not saved, God does not promise a future for your family. But if you will accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit will empower you to lead your family in godliness and wisdom.

If you need to be saved, pray, confessing your sin and believing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Accept the free gift of salvation that He offers you. Then thank Him for saving you and make your new faith public.

## ■ PROCLAIM IT

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it, so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to [lwf.org/discover-jesus](http://lwf.org/discover-jesus), scrolling down the page and clicking on *I Believe*.

With your spouse, a grandparent or spiritual mentor, take time to evaluate the habits, influences, and routines in your home regarding teaching God's Word.

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I, for one, would rather leave to  
our children a legacy of great and  
godly principles than to leave to  
them a nation of great wealth to be  
squandered in a godless society.

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