



## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

May 17, 2026

**Series Title:** Raising Generations for Impact

**Lesson Title:** Building Strong Families That Last

**Key Scripture:**

Proverbs 22:6 – "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

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### Introduction

In a world where morals continue to decline, values are constantly shifting, and many influences seek to divide and weaken the family structure, God is calling families to stand strong, united, and grounded in Christ. God's design for the family remains firm — a place of love, faith, unity, and spiritual strength.

Strong families don't happen by accident; they are built intentionally, tested over time, and sustained by the truth of God's Word. The family is one of the most powerful institutions God created; that's why the enemy seeks to turn it into a place of dysfunction, disconnection, and instability.

Now more than ever, as believers we must commit ourselves to building families that honor God, stand firm in truth, and remain strong in Christ for generations to come.

### God's Design: The Family

The family is not a cultural invention – it is a divine institution established by God Himself. In Genesis 2:24, we see the foundation: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." From the beginning, God designed the family to be a place of unity, love and commitment.

Family is where identity is shaped, values are taught, and faith is modeled. It is meant to reflect God's nature – commitment, grace, order, and love. When families

function according to God's design, they become a stabilizing force not only for individuals but for strong churches, strong communities, a strong nation, and society overall. Because the family carries such great influence and responsibility, God has given parents a vital role in helping establish the spiritual foundation, character, and direction of the home.

### **Parents' Responsibilities in the Family**

God has given parents the spiritual responsibility of leading, nurturing, teaching, and protecting their children according to His Word. Parents are called to establish a home where God is honored and righteous living is consistently modeled. Proverbs 22:6 instructs parents to train up their children in the way they should go so that they "...will not depart from it" - showing that spiritual training begins at home.

Parents are called to nurture their children with wisdom, love, and encouragement. Ephesians 6:4 says, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." In addition to teaching and nurturing, parents are responsible for modeling godly character and integrity before their children. Proverbs 20:7 declares, "The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him."

Parents are also responsible for faithfully bringing their children to church and keeping them connected to the house of God. By prioritizing worship services, Bible teaching, fellowship, and involvement in ministry, parents help create a strong spiritual foundation in their children's lives. Regular church attendance teaches children the importance of God, strengthens their faith, surrounds them with godly influences, and helps them grow in truth alongside other believers.

Hebrews 10:25 reminds us not to forsake "...the assembling of ourselves together," showing that gathering with the body of Christ is an important part of spiritual growth and family strength.

Through prayer, instruction, discipline, protection, and example, parents help shape the spiritual identity, foundation, character, and future of the next generation.

### **Children's Responsibilities in the Family**

God also gives children important responsibilities within the family structure. Children are called to honor, respect, and obey their parents as an act of obedience to God.

Ephesians 6:1–2 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

<sup>2</sup> Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise."

Obedience and honor help create peace, order, and unity within the home.

Children are also responsible for receiving instruction and wisdom from their parents. Proverbs 1:8 encourages, “My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.” As children grow, they should develop godly character, respect authority, and apply the values they have been taught. Colossians 3:20 reminds children that obedience is pleasing to God: “Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”

Through obedience, respect, teachability, and godly conduct, children contribute to building a strong and healthy family.

## **Why the Enemy Attacks the Family**

Since the family is foundational to the church and the Kingdom of God, it makes sense that it is a primary target of the enemy. Satan’s goal is not random destruction – he is strategic. Satan understands that if he can weaken families, he can weaken faith, identity, future generations, churches and society worldwide.

Some of his key tactics include:

- **Division:** Constant arguing, unresolved offense, harsh communication, or family members taking sides against one another can slowly damage unity and trust within the home. He may plant thoughts like, “They don’t appreciate you,” “Don’t forgive them,” or “Just keep your distance.”
- **Distraction:** Family members may be so consumed with work, sports, phones, social media, television, or busy schedules that they rarely spend meaningful time together or invest in spiritual growth.
- **Distortion:** Society is redefining marriage, parenting, gender roles, and family values in ways that contradict God’s Word, causing confusion about God’s design for the family.
- **Isolation:** Encouraging independence to the point that family members become emotionally disconnected. Family members may live under the same roof but rarely talk, spend time or pray together.
- **Deception:** The enemy may convince people that dysfunction is normal, that church and family are not priorities, or that biblical principles are outdated and unnecessary for modern life.

Jesus warned in John 10:10 that the thief comes "...to steal, and to kill, and to destroy..." Building strong, God-centered families is not just important – it is spiritual warfare.

## **The Church's Role in Strengthening Families**

Strong churches and strong families work together. Families that start out not strong, can become strong through their connection to the church. The church provides teaching, accountability, encouragement, and community.

Through the teaching in Sunday worship services, Word Wednesday Bible teaching, youth ministry, children's ministry and more, families learn God's design. Through fellowship, they find support. Through worship, they are reminded of what matters most. The church becomes a place where families are equipped to face challenges and grow stronger together in Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:6–9 emphasizes the partnership between faith and family, and it also lets you know that not all of your instruction has to be in a formal setting. Use every opportunity that you have to get the Word of God into your children's hearts. Let's look at Deuteronomy 6:

<sup>6</sup> "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

<sup>7</sup> And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

<sup>8</sup> And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

<sup>9</sup> And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."

The church helps plant and water, but the family nurtures daily growth.

## **The Family's Role in Strengthening the Church**

Strong families do not just benefit from the church – they help build and strengthen it. Families are often the first place where faith is practiced, modeled, and passed down. When parents pray with their children, teach God's Word at home, give in tithing and offering, serve faithfully, and live with integrity, they help develop spiritually mature believers who contribute to the health of the church.

Strong families create strong congregations because they bring unity, stability, encouragement, continuity, financial strength and leadership into the house of God. Families that worship together, serve together, and support one another spiritually help create a church culture where faith can flourish across generations. Psalm 145:4 reminds us, “One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.”

The church becomes stronger when families embrace their responsibility to disciple, encourage, and actively participate in the body of Christ.

### **What Strong Families Actually Do**

Strong families aren't defined by perfection – they are defined by intentional habits. Here are some activities and practices that consistently strengthen families:

- Pray together regularly
- Attend church and worship together
- Eat meals together without distractions (at least some of the time!)
- Communicate openly and honestly
- Resolve conflict with forgiveness and humility
- Study and discuss Scripture together (Consistently participate in Family Monday)
- Celebrate milestones and create traditions
- Serve in ministry together (everyone using their gifts and talents to advance the Kingdom of God)
- Everyone who is able has some sort of responsibility / chores to help the family
- Encourage and affirm one another
- Engage in fun recreational activities together
- Spend quality time together consistently
- Parents spend quality time with each individual child

These practices build connection, trust, and spiritual depth over time.

## Conclusion

Strong families are not built in a single day, and they are not sustained by luck, convenience, or perfect circumstances. They are built intentionally – through prayer, sacrifice, forgiveness, consistency, and a commitment to living life God’s way. In every generation, the enemy tries to weaken the family because he understands its power. But when families choose to stand on God’s Word, remain connected to the church, and faithfully fulfill their God-given responsibilities, they become a force that impacts generations and advances the Kingdom of God.

Our [Family Ministry page](#) is a powerful resource on our website, [impactchurch.org](http://impactchurch.org). Visit today to learn more about our empowerment programs for families, youth, children, and adults – all designed to help you grow stronger in Christ.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

### Key Scripture

1. **Write out the key scripture.** Write Proverbs 22:6 in the space provided below.

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### God's Design: The Family

2. **True or False (circle one).** The family is not a cultural invention – it is a divine institution established by God Himself.
- a. True
  - b. False
3. **Fill in the blanks (circle one).** Family is where \_\_\_\_\_ is shaped, \_\_\_\_\_ are taught, and \_\_\_\_\_ is modeled.
- a. faith, emotions, clothing
  - b. identity, values, faith
  - c. identity, emotions, clothing
  - d. None of the above

### Parents' Responsibility in the Family

4. **Fill in the blank (circle one).** Deuteronomy 6:6–9 instructs parents to diligently teach God's commands to their children in everyday life, showing that spiritual training begins at \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. school
  - b. church
  - c. home
  - d. None of the above

5. **Fill in the blank (circle one).** In addition to teaching and nurturing, parents are responsible for modeling \_\_\_\_\_ character and integrity before their children.
- a. silly
  - b. godly
  - c. stern
  - d. None of the above
6. **Fill in the blank (circle one).** Proverbs 20:7 declares, “The just man walketh in his integrity: his \_\_\_\_\_ are blessed after him.”
- a. brethren
  - b. children
  - c. nephews
  - d. None of the above

### **Children’s Responsibilities in the Family**

7. **Fill in the blanks (circle one).** “Children, \_\_\_\_\_ your parents in the Lord: for this is \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise.” (Ephesians 6:1-2)
- a. follow, safety, Bless
  - b. obey, right, Honour
  - c. love, family, Bless
  - d. None of the above

### **Why the Enemy Attacks the Family**

8. **Fill in the blanks (circle one).** The family is a primary target of the enemy because it is foundational to the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- a. church, temple
  - b. heart, mind
  - c. church, Kingdom
  - d. None of the above

**9. Answer the question.** What are two of the tactics the enemy uses against families? (write on the lines below)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Answer the question (circle one).** What does the thief come to do in John 10:10?

a. lie, cheat and steal

b. steal, kill and destroy

c. confuse, lie, steal

d. None of the above

### **The Church's Role in Strengthening Families**

**12. Answer the question (circle one).** The church provides \_\_\_\_\_, accountability, encouragement, and \_\_\_\_\_.

a. preaching, reaching

b. reading, arithmetic

c. teaching, community

d. None of the above

### **The Family's Role in Strengthening the Church**

**13. True or False (circle one).** When parents pray with their children, teach God's Word at home, give in tithing and offering, serve faithfully, and live with integrity, they help develop spiritually mature believers who contribute to the health of the church.

a. True

b. False

**14. Fill in the blanks (circle one).** Psalm 145:4 reminds us, "One \_\_\_\_\_ shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts."

a. generation

b. celebration

c. nation

d. None of the above

**15. Fill in the blanks.** The \_\_\_\_\_ becomes stronger when \_\_\_\_\_ embrace their responsibility to disciple, encourage, and actively participate in the body of Christ.

### **What Strong Families Actually Do**

**16. Answer the question.** What are 3 things that strong families do (write on the lines below)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_