

BUILDING YOUR FAMILY CULTURE

A simple parent handout for choosing your family's top three virtues

Why Begin With Virtues?

Create a list of the virtues you desire to see carried out in your family, then set your rhythms of life around them. Put Scripture to each virtue. This establishes a clear “why” and gives purpose to the routines, expectations, and habits in your home.

“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

Ask Yourself

- What habits and virtues do we want our children to leave our home with?
- What three virtues does our family most need in this season?
- What Scriptures will guide our understanding?
- What practical actions and rhythms will help us live them out?

Possible Virtues

Obedience • Honor • Truthfulness • Righteousness • Kindness • Humility • Mercy • Forgiveness • Patience • Self-Control • Faithfulness • Gratitude • Compassion • Courage • Joy • Peace • Gentleness • Diligence • Wisdom

VIRTUE EXAMPLE: OBEDIENCE

Teaching children to respond to parents as part of a healthy, God-centered family relationship

Definition

We expect first-time obedience. The Lord calls us to live a life of obedience, and parents are responsible to teach children how to obey unto the Lord from the little years until they leave home. Obedience also includes habits of order, neatness, manners, kindness, and cleanliness.

“Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”

— Colossians 3:20

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother...”

— Ephesians 6:1-3

What Obedience Can Look Like

- Listen, acknowledge the task, ask needed questions, and carry it out.
- Understand that there will be times we obey even when we do not fully understand, trusting that loving authority has our best interest in mind.
- Keep things in order and return belongings to their proper place. “Let all things be done decently and in order.” - 1 Corinthians 14:40
- Make expectations plain and simple, and explain rewards or consequences when appropriate.

VIRTUE EXAMPLE: RIGHTEOUSNESS

Forgiveness, honor, truthfulness, covenant faithfulness, and active grace

Definition

Biblical righteousness within a family moves beyond legalistic fairness. It is expressed through covenant faithfulness, unconditional love, active grace, sacrificial leadership, and patience. Parents model righteousness by correcting behavior without explosive anger or unfair standards and by remembering that true righteousness comes through faith in Jesus and a heart changed by the Holy Spirit.

“The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them.”

— Proverbs 20:7

Key Scriptures

Deuteronomy 6:7: Teach God’s ways diligently throughout ordinary family life.

Ephesians 4:15: Speak the truth in love.

Ephesians 4:32: Be kind, tenderhearted, and quick to forgive as Christ forgave you.

Psalms 101:3: Set boundaries around what is placed before our eyes.

What Righteousness Can Look Like

- Practice forgiveness in front of one another.
- Speak truth with love, gentleness, and honesty.
- Yield to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to change both parents’ and children’s hearts.
- Renew the mind through Scripture and pray specific verses over areas of temptation or weakness.
- Talk about God’s truth at the dinner table, in the car, on vacation, and throughout normal routines.

OUR FAMILY'S TOP THREE VIRTUES

Choose three virtues and build your family rhythms around them

1. Virtue: _____

Scripture:

What this looks like in our home:

Rhythm or habit we will practice:

2. Virtue: _____

Scripture:

What this looks like in our home:

Rhythm or habit we will practice:

3. Virtue: _____

Scripture:

What this looks like in our home:

Rhythm or habit we will practice:

“Choose the three virtues that best fit where your family is right now. Keep them visible, speak about them often, model them faithfully, and celebrate growth.”