



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

BUILD THRIVING FAMILIES WEEK 3

OPENING & PRAYER:

A ten-point blueprint calls families to intentional, gospel-shaped parenting that treats children as gifts to steward, not possessions to surrender. The first priority demands teaching clear, Scripture-based distinctions between right and wrong, protecting children from cultural confusion and modeling behavior that would be fitting if Jesus were present. Training means active instruction and consistent example, not passive permission to "figure it out." Affection must follow, offered consistently and in ways that meet boys and girls differently so physical touch becomes a language of worth and identity rather than a void to be filled by unhealthy outlets.

"Lord, thank you for modeling what relationships are supposed to look like. Guide us as we work on and grow our relationships with our family, co-workers, and neighbors. Help us to grow these relationships on a firm foundation with you being the center. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."
Mark 9:36-37

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

"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! **Matthew 18:6**

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; **Romans 12:9-10**

There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health. **Proverbs 12:18 (NKJV)**

Rash language cuts and maims, but there is healing in the words of the wise. **Proverbs 12:18 (The Message)**

A cheerful heart is good medicine. But a broken spirit saps a person's strength.
Proverbs 17:22

A glad heart makes a happy face. **Proverbs 15:13**

My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor detest His correction; For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights. **Proverbs 3:11-12**

The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.
Proverbs 29:15

A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precaution. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. **Proverbs 27:12 NLT**

Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, **Deuteronomy 4:9**

GO DEEPER:

Words of encouragement operate as spiritual fuel; specific, timely praise roots character and tells children they matter. Play and shared joy dissolve anxiety, release hostility, and create a household where a cheerful heart repairs the soul. Discipline appears as devoted, loving guidance rather than punitive anger; correction frames wisdom and safety, and boundaries give children the security to flourish. Allowing children to face natural consequences trains responsibility, proves personal agency, and builds durable self-esteem more than rescuing ever could.

Memories crafted by parents become the archive that shapes identity, so families should create positive traditions and retell formative moments to teach values across generations. Consistent presence beats occasional, engineered "quality time"; quantity increases the chances of small, decisive moments where truth and grace intersect a child's heart. Role models matter: parents and elders must be among the primary five people shaping a life, preventing identity theft by culture and peers. Finally, home must become a place of peace, a refuge from daily combat where rest, nourishment, and restoration shape resilience. The overall aim centers on raising children who love God, know their identity, accept correction, and flourish in community because their homes made it safe, warm, and clear what is true.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Impart strong beliefs from Scripture. Clear moral formation begins with steady teaching and visible example. Children need adults who name right and wrong and who live out those distinctions so faith becomes habitual, not just informational. Protecting kids from cultural confusion requires conviction and the courage to set boundaries that align with biblical truth. **[04:40]**

2. Provide consistent appropriate physical affection. Physical touch communicates worth and belonging in ways words cannot fully reach. Different ages and genders respond to distinct expressions of affection; meeting those needs prevents compensatory behaviors and strengthens emotional health. Regular, appropriate touch teaches children how to receive love and how to express it later in life. **[12:29]**

3. Speak encouragement that builds character. Timely affirmation turns ordinary choices into moral courage by naming the good and tracing its ripple effects. Children internalize identity when adults celebrate sacrificial kindness, restraint, and forgiveness instead of only correcting failure. A home that promotes health through wise words becomes a training ground for faithful living. **[23:53]**

4. Discipline as loving, consistent guidance. Correction should aim to guide and restore, not punish out of anger; steady boundaries create safety and teach wisdom. When discipline links behavior to consequences, children learn agency and the power to change course. Love that corrects proves commitment to a child's long-term flourishing. **[31:07]**

5. Build a home of peace and fun. Peaceful, joy-filled rhythms repair daily combat and invite children to rest under wise care. Play and family traditions lower defenses and open hearts to instruction without coercion. A home that feels safe and delightful becomes the first place children choose to belong. **[46:04]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. In Mark 9:36-37, Jesus uses a child to teach about receiving others. What specific actions does He perform with the child, and what does this symbolize about how we should treat children?
2. The sermon argued that physical touch communicates worth differently to boys and girls. How might neglecting age-appropriate affection lead to emotional voids or unhealthy behaviors? **[13:23]**
3. Reflect on the statement: "If Jesus were in the room, would you do this in front of Him?" **[06:32]** What is one habit or behavior you might adjust in your home to model integrity for children?
4. What is one "small moment" this week where you can speak specific encouragement to a child or young person about a character trait you see in them? **[24:40]**
5. What family tradition or memory could you intentionally create or revisit to reinforce biblical values for the next generation? **[38:09]**

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. Help us to grow the relationships in our lives by putting you at the center of them. Our heart is to be an example to those we are around of Your love, and what to show it means to have a relationship with You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."