

How to Build a Strong Family

Introduction: The research on strong families

1. Everyone _____ one!

- The surprising research:

2. Everyone _____ one!

- The startling research:

3. Everyone _____ have one!

- The encouraging research:

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God's prescription for strong families:

Now this is the command; the statutes and the judgments (precepts) which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, so that you might do (follow, obey) them in the land which you are crossing over [the Jordan] to possess, so that you and your son and your grandson may fear and worship the Lord your God [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect], to keep [and actively do] all His statutes and His commandments which I am commanding you, all the days of your life, so that your days may be prolonged. Therefore listen, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly [in numbers], as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

Deuteronomy 6:1-3

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one [the only God]! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and with all your soul and with all your strength [your entire being]. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be [written] on your heart and mind. You shall teach them diligently to your children [impressing God's precepts on their minds and penetrating their hearts with His truths] and shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand (forearm), and they shall be used as bands (frontals, frontlets) on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore (solemnly promised) to [give] your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give you, [a land with] great and splendid cities which you did not build, and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn (excavated) cisterns (wells) which you did not dig out, and vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are full and satisfied, then beware that you do not forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall fear [only] the Lord your God; and you shall serve Him [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect] and swear [oaths] by His name [alone]. You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, for the Lord your God who is among you is a jealous (impassioned) God [demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His]—otherwise the anger of the Lord your God will be kindled and burn against you, and He will destroy you from the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 6:10-15

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God's prescription for your family:

1. The who...
2. The what....
3. The why...

Some perspective before proceeding:

1. There is no " _____ " family.
2. We all tend to _____ our family of origin or _____ strongly against it.
3. Rome wasn't built in a day; family repair and restoration take _____.
4. Every family is a _____ and even positive change will be met with resistance.
5. Death, divorce, separation, technology, and idols (success, education, fame, wealth) make building a strong family more difficult than ever before. We desperately need courage and _____.

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Discussion Questions:

1. What's your biggest "take away"?

Why?

2. What's your next step to building a strong family?

3. Who will you tell?

4. What's your biggest -
Challenge?

Fear?

5. Where could you get help to build a strong family?