Introduction: Would someone show me the "box top?"

- **The What = "Step Up" in love** Ephesians 5:21-33

- **The How = A man's top 3 priorities**

  1. Provision
  2. Protection
  3. Nurture

*But if anyone does not **provide for his own**, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.*

1 Timothy 5:8

*You husbands likewise, live with your wives **in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel**, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

1 Peter 3:7

*. . . (but if a man does not know **how to manage his own household**, how will he take care of the church of God?);*

1 Timothy 3:5

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How to "step up" in love to lead your wife and family:

1. **Husbands hold primary responsibility for the _____ _____ of their families.** 1 Timothy 5:8

   - The Role = The family "CFO/Bank President"

   - The Responsibility = Shelter, food, clothes, financial training

   - The Practical Outworking = 5 Objectives

     1. **Do** honest work
     2. **Honor** God first
     3. **Live** within your means
     4. **Prepare** for the future
     5. **Train** your children

   - The Core Values = To _____ and _____

     1. Work ethic
     2. Stewardship of money and time
     3. Responsibility and discipline
     4. Enjoyment and generosity

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2. Husbands hold primary responsibility for the _____ _____ and protection of their families.

1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:4-9

- The Role = The family "_____"

- The Responsibility = Come before God on behalf of your family and come before your family on behalf of God.

- The Practical Outworking = 5 Objectives

  1. Set the pace personally.
  2. _____ the spiritual condition of your wife and children.
  3. _____ for them and with them regularly.
  4. Insure Biblical instruction occurs at home and at church.
  5. Make _____ God and loving each other (not morality) your aim.

- The Core Values = To Model and Teach

  1. _____ evidenced by prayer/fasting
  2. Faith in God and His Word
  3. A service and outreach orientation
  4. Progressive growth in personal _____

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3. **Husbands hold primary responsibility for the _____ _____ and welfare of their families.**

1 Timothy 5:5; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Peter 3:7

- The Role = The family "GM/Coach"

- The Responsibility = To manage the household in a manner that produces love, obedience, and respect toward God and one another.

- The Practical Outworking = 5 Objectives

  1. The _____ _____ is verbalized and celebrated.
  2. Time is scheduled to develop marriage and family relationships.
  3. _____ and boundaries are provided to insure family relationships take priority over outside demands.
  4. Communication is built into the fabric and rhythm of the family schedule.
  5. _____ are exercised fairly, firmly, and lovingly among all family members.

- The Core Values = To Model and Teach

  1. Acceptance – Unconditionally
  2. Affirmation – Specifically and consistently
  3. Accountability – Filled with truth and grace
  4. Conflict Resolution – "Speaking the truth in love"

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Marriage that Works
Personal Commitment – Week 4

Providing, Protecting, Nurturing

I understand that every journey begins with first steps and my first steps will be in the area of:

- ☐ Financial Provision/Responsibility
- ☐ Spiritual Development and Protection
- ☐ Relational Health and Welfare

I know that to follow through on my commitments, I will need help. I will use a "tool" to help me take an accountability step.

- ❖ **FINANCIAL**
  Managing Our Finances God's Way DaveRamsey.com
  (Venture Resource Center or Crown.org)

- ❖ **SPIRITUAL**
  Leaving a Legacy that Lasts Forever by Chip Ingram
  Focusonthefamily.com *(Search: Family Mealtime Devotionals)*

- ❖ **RELATIONAL**
  Effective Parenting in a Defective World by Chip Ingram
  Seven Seasons of the Man in the Mirror by Pat Morley

- ☐ ASK A FRIEND TO "HOLD ME TO IT"
- ☐ SEEK OUT A MENTOR
- ☐ JOIN A MEN'S GROUP
- ☐ JOIN A "GROWTH GROUP"
- ☐ JOIN A BIBLE STUDY

_____
Signed

_____
Date

For more resources, go to **www.livingontheedge.org**
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