## **God's Blueprint For The Home**

Lesson 8: God's Blueprint For Character In The Home





#### God's Blueprint For The Home

## Lesson 8: God's Blueprint For Character In The Home

Learn the kind of character that will help make a home successful and pleasing to God

Watch the free video or listen to the audio of this study @ www.godsaidso.com/dgw210

#### **Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series**

Study Number: DGW210

Written by Eric Krieg

**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

**Copyright:** Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God's glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

**Scripture quotations:** Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

FIND MORE FROM THE DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES @ WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM

God's Blueprint For The Home

# Lesson 8: God's Blueprint For Character In The Home

Up to this point in our study, we have established God's blueprint for each member of the home and some essentials to the home. But, God's blueprint for the home is not just found in passages that specifically address marriage, parenting, children, etc. Instead, God's blueprint for the home is found throughout the pages of the Scriptures.

For instance, to carry on the illustration of a blueprint, perhaps you could say that we have now laid the foundation of the home (love and marriage), and built the structure of the home by adding the walls and the roof (in the God-given roles of the home). Now, our homes are still not fully what God wants them to be. Just as physical homes still need to have the wiring, plumbing, and ductwork ran, the insulation added, the drywall installed and finished, etc., God wants all the members of the home to dive even deeper and live according to His blueprint in all areas of their lives.

One of these areas is regarding the character of each member of the home. For, even when all the members of the home follow God's blueprint concerning their roles, they can still fail to be what God wants them to be if the members of the home do not possess the kind of character God has outlined in the pages of His word. In fact, let me simply say, that

the only way homes will function at their greatest potential is when both parents are true disciples of Jesus Christ and are training all their children to also possess the character of Christ and follow Him.

Unfortunately, Satan destroys homes by convincing members of the home *not* to possess the character that is approved by God. So, he convinces people to act in selfish ways by seeking their own pleasures above the good of the other members of the family. This is true any time there is sin in the home. Fortunately, God has given us all the same blueprint to follow concerning the kind of character that we must possess.

### **God-Shaped Character**

In order for homes to function properly, every member of the home must be committed to character that is shaped by God. He must be given the opportunity to make us into whatever He wants us to be. For, the problems that come up in the home *always* result from trying to be who *we* want to be rather than who *God* wants us to be!

#### He is the Potter, we are the clay

There is a fitting illustration in the book of Jeremiah for what God wants from us today. It is an illustration of a potter and clay. Listen to Jeremiah 18:1-10.

"The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying: 'Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.' Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

"Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 'O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?' says the Lord. 'Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel! The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have

spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it."

Just picture clay in the hand of a potter. The potter is the one who has full control. He is the one who decides what he wants to make the lump of clay into. The clay just willingly allows itself to be molded. This is what God wanted to do with His people in the Old Testament, but they refused. And, this is exactly what God wants to do with you and every member of the home today. Now, you must decide whether you will allow yourself to be molded by God into whatever shape He wants your life to take or whether you are going to resist Him as the Potter. For, God does not force Himself on anyone; but offers to mold everyone.

#### Shaped by God's word

Ultimately, the way God wants to shape everyone is through His word. This is the way God speaks to us today. Listen to 2 Timothy 3:16-17. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

The words that are found in the pages of the Bible have been breathed out by God. And, they teach you every doctrine you should believe, tell you everything about your life you need to change, help you make those changes, and tell you every right thing you should be involved in. So, the word of God can make you perfect in Christ Jesus, fully equipped to do every good thing God wants from your life.

Therefore, if you will give yourself to be obedient to His word, your character will be exactly what He wants from you in the home (and in every area). First, His word will transform you from a sinner separated from Him to a disciple of Jesus Christ. So, all members of the home who have reached the age of accountability must begin by obeying God's plan of salvation. This plan involves

hearing God's word (Romans 10:17), believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (John 8:24), repenting of sin (Acts 17:30-31), confessing Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and being baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38). Baptism is the point at which an individual becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:3-4).

Then, members of the home must continue being shaped by God's word to eliminate sinful things from their lives and put on the righteousness that God instructs (as we'll further discuss later in our study). But, in order for this to happen, all members of the home must take an attitude of being "doers of the word" and "not hearers only." For, if we are only hearers of God's word and do not practice the things God's word instructs, we can deceive ourselves (James 1:22). We do this by thinking that we are living by God's word (just because we know what His word teaches), when we are actually living contrary to His instructions.

#### Shaped by the life of Christ

One of the powerful things in the Scriptures that ought to shape our lives is the life that Jesus Christ lived on this earth. In all things, He lived as a man and was tempted in the same ways that every member of the home is tempted in. Yet, He did not commit any sin (Hebrews 4:15). So, the Scriptures encourage us to "follow His steps" (1 Peter 2:21). In fact, a true disciple of Christ is both a student of Jesus and an imitator of Jesus. Therefore, every member of the home would profit from a study of the life of Christ and observe the kind of character that He demonstrated.

For instance, Christ's character was one of a servant. His life was not about Himself and what He hoped to gain. Instead, it was a life of complete sacrifice in laying down His life (being crucified) so that we could have our sins forgiven. Listen to how Philippians 2:3-8 encourages us to serve others and look out for their best interests based on Christ's life as a servant.

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

Surely, being a servant molded by the example of Jesus Christ will go a long way in the home. Rather than every member of the home acting with pride and selfishness, fighting and bickering to get what he/she wants, there will be an attitude of humility and charity. Just picture a home where husband and wife are committed to joyfully serving one another and looking out for what the other wants more than for selfish interests. Consider the example that this will set for the children. Imagine a home in which children are taught that it is not about what they want, but that they should serve people around them (including their brothers and sisters). This can all happen if every member allows himself/herself to be shaped by the life of Christ.

Service is just one example of how a home can be shaped by the life of Christ. Think also about Christ's love. His compassion. His mercy. His patience. His self-control. His gentleness. All of these things will surely have a significant and lasting impact on the home — if every member of the home would simply be committed to allowing the life of Christ to shape their lives.

#### Shaped by God's holiness

One of the characteristics of God that will define what He molds our character into is His holiness. God is a holy God (Revelation 4:8). 1 John 1:5 explains what that means. "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."

There is no element of wickedness in who God is. He is completely separated from everything that is evil. So, if members of the home give themselves to be molded by God (as a potter molds the clay), God will make them holy. In fact, 1 Peter 1:15-16 says, "but as He who called you is holy, you

also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"

So, those who are molded by God's word should recognize that everything it instructs of them is fully in compliance with God's holiness. There is nothing that God's word instructs, approves, or implies that would result in someone *not* being holy. Therefore, if the members of the home want to have a character that is approved by God, they *must* allow God's word to be the final authority in all things.

Notice carefully that God's instruction is for us to all be holy in "all" of our conduct. This includes the choices we make. This includes the work we do. This includes the way we dress ourselves. This includes how we talk to people. This includes the entertainment we engage in. This includes how we interact with other people. There is no area that is exempt from the standard of God's holiness. Instead, every area of our lives must be molded by God's standard for what is right and wrong!

# Eliminating The Sin That Destroys

Part of having character shaped by God is to eliminate the sin that destroys. It is simply unacceptable for there to be sin that is permitted to remain in the home. For, not only does sin destroy the soul of the one who is living in it (Romans 6:23), but it will also work to destroy the home. Consider a couple passages that identify some lists of sin so that we can make application and eliminate them from our lives and have God-approved character.

#### Romans 1:28-32

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving.

unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."

Here is quite a list of sinful activities. First, recognize that those who do such things do things that "are not fitting." Second, consider that all of these things are contrary to acting in the ways of God. Third, those who do such things (as well as those who approve of people doing these things) are "deserving of death" (spiritual death). Then, while these consequences are bad enough, you must also recognize that every one of them will work to destroy the home. So, let's consider some things that are specifically identified in this text and how they will destroy the home.

- (1) Unrighteousness, wickedness, evilmindedness, inventors of evil things. Here are some general terms that can describe character that does not seek to follow God. Some are unjust/unfair in how they treat the members of the family. Some have set their hearts on devising wicked things and follow through with practicing many of those same wicked ways. And, sometimes, people also interpret the things that are done in the home in the worst possible way (i.e. believing that a member of the family has the worst motive possible).
- (2) Covetousness, maliciousness, envy. Covetousness is a greedy desire for more. This is not only dangerous in the home when there is covetousness toward another family member, but also when members of the family covet what those outside of the family have. This robs the family of the contentment that is so important. Then, sometimes it happens that envy and maliciousness are present (many times because of covetousness). Envy is the displeasure toward another for the good that he/she experiences. Jealousy can digress to envy and to maliciousness because there is a desire to injure another person. How sad it is whenever the character of one member of the family has the malicious desire to injure another member of the family – in any way, for any reason!
- (3) **Deceit**. The person who acts with deceits is always being crafty and trying to manipulate a situation to gain the advantage or get what he/she

wants. So, this individual chooses not to act and speak with honesty and integrity at every point. This destroys trust in the home because the members of the family do not know what they can actually believe. But, deceit does not just happen through lies. Instead, even the truth can be manipulated to mislead people (think about what Satan did when he tempted Jesus with Scripture in Matthew 4:5-7).

- (4) Strife, violent, murder. Far too many homes have an environment of constant fussing and arguing in which there is strife between family members. And, if this is a normal way of life in your home, you should recognize that there is sin in the home and someone (or multiple people) does not possess God-shaped character! Instead, there should be peace in the home. Then, the strife and anger that many people show in the home is far out of control if it ever reaches the point of violence and murder! So, let's stop this sinful character before it ever reaches these points and deal with it while it is *only* fussing and arguing.
- (5) Whisperers, backbiters. Both of these terms have to do with slander and gossip. How often do members of a family talk about the others behind their backs? It happens with regularity! One very common way this happens is for a husband or wife to go to his/her parents to talk about the failings of the spouse. This creates a situation where spouses do not trust each other out of fear that they will be gossiped and lied about. But, the same thing could be true when family members gossip and lie about the others to friends and brothers/sisters in Christ. Now, while it is entirely appropriate to seek wise counsel, help, and encouragement, the character of gossip and slander have no place in the home. These are often focused on making the other person look bad and/or making yourself look good. Trust is a very important thing in any home and must not be broken!
- (6) Haters of God. A hater of God is the opposite of someone who loves God. So, since loving God involves keeping His commandments and not allowing His commandments to be burdensome (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3), a hater of God does not keep all of God's commandments and does view God's commands as burdensome.

- (7) **Proud, boasters.** Pride goes before destruction, according to Proverbs 16:18. So, whenever members of the family elevate themselves (i.e. their own abilities, their own worth, their own opinions, their own traditions, their own judgments, etc.) above the other members of the family, there is danger on the horizon! This is going to result in greater strife and problems in the future. So, rather than boasting about self, members of the family need to learn humility and elevate the others.
- (8) Disobedient to parents. Earlier in this series, we discussed the responsibility children have to obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1). Yet, there are many children who possess such disrespect for their parents that they rebel against their instructions. This results in constant conflict between parents and children because rather than every member of the home working together and pulling in the same direction God has given, the child has decided he/she knows better than the parents and has his/her heart set on personal pleasures.
- (9) Undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful. The prefix "un" implies that there is a lack of or the opposite of something. So, someone who is undiscerning is not making the right decisions that would please God. The one who is untrustworthy does not keep his/her word (i.e. a covenant breaker). The one who is unloving fails to show the right kind of love to his/her family. The unforgiving cannot be in an agreement with another. And, the unmerciful does not show the proper compassion, kindness, and forgiveness toward another. All of these characteristics destroy the home!

#### **Galatians 5:19-21**

There are some additional characteristics that destroy homes identified in Galatians 5:19-21. "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Once again, you should notice that there are serious consequences for practicing any of the things identified in this passage. For, the passage says that those who "practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." But, again, the danger is not just spiritual. Instead, all these characteristics also destroy the home. And, notice that the destructive characteristics are not just limited to the things specifically identified in this passage. Instead, Paul concludes the list by stating "and the like." So, all similar characteristics that are not approved by God are also condemned by that phrase. Note that we have already discussed some of the things mentioned in this passage, so we will not repeat them here.

- (1) Adultery, fornication, lewdness. All these involve sins of a sexual nature. Earlier in this series, we discussed the truth that all sexual desires must be fulfilled between husband and wife in a Godapproved marriage. So, the character of a husband or wife who is not completely faithful to the other spouse is going to cause major trouble in a home. This not only applies to having sexual relationships, but even to impure thoughts about others (as lewdness involves). Unfaithfulness in these areas will destroy trust, violate the marriage covenant, and destroy the stability of the home that the children depend on. They are entirely based on selfishness and are not at all considerate of the other members of the family.
- (2) Idolatry, sorcery. Both words discuss false religion. Idolatry involves the worship and service of a false god. This could be a statue god or this could be something like money, earthly pleasures, family, jobs, etc. Anything that makes God accept less than He truly deserves is an idol and is not acceptable. Then, sorcery distorts reality and many people choose to put their trust in those things. This could involve "magical" arts (i.e. fortune tellers, palm readers, etc.) and it could also involve drugs that distort the reality for people. So, these things convince people to accept things that are not true and they serve those things instead of God. All manner of false religion will work to destroy the home because it will not help the home build on the one blueprint that will result in success (which is God's blueprint).
- (3) Outbursts of wrath. Angry passion is an all-too-common sight in homes. Rather than

members of the home practicing patience and love, members of the home are quick to respond emotionally. This results in speaking a harmful word that cannot be taken back and acting rashly in a way that leaves irreparable harm. Some get angry and are quick to leave the home rather than working through difficulties. Some husbands and wives get so angry with one another that they become physically violent toward the others. Some members of the family even become abusive toward the entire family (physically, emotionally, spiritually, sexually).

(4) Selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies. The selfish character that many possess in the home leads to many kinds of problems. Rather than pursuing what is best for other members of the family, these always look out for whatever he/she desires. One of the problems this causes in the home is division. So, one member of the family puts himself/herself forward in a way that will be divisive and works to separate the family. For instance, a father or mother could force a child to pick sides in an argument. Now, rather than the entire family working according to God's blueprint to move forward together, this divisive character has fragmented the family.

(5) **Drunkenness, revelries.** Drunkenness means intoxication. Revelries refer to a half-drunken condition and noisy partying. You should also note that 1 Peter 4:3-4 even condemns any kind of social drinking of intoxicating beverages. Such intoxicating beverages have done an untold amount of damage in homes. The use of these intoxicating drinks always compounds the problems that exist in the home. Instead of choosing impairment, our character must be one of choosing to be in full control of our mental states at all times.

# Being Clothed With Righteousness

Surely these are just a sampling of the kind of character that must be eliminated from our lives. But, eliminating this kind of sinful character that destroys our homes is only one half of the battle. The other necessary part is to be clothed with the kind of righteous character God approves. So, consider a few passages that demonstrate the kind of character we all must put on to be pleasing to God.

#### Galatians 5:22-24

In contrast with the works of the flesh that will cause us to miss out on Heaven is the fruit of the Spirit identified in Galatians 5:22-24. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

(1) Love, joy, peace. Perhaps we could say that these three are foundational for a character that is pleasing to God. All the members of a home must love every other member - as well as God and everyone else they come into contact with (as discussed in lesson 2). This is a selfless and sacrificial kind of love that always seeks what is in the best interest of the others. Then, the joy that every member of the family ought to have is not a mere happiness about some earthly situation. Instead, it is a true gladness that comes from serving the Lord (even though earthly situations may be unpleasant). So, Christian homes ought to be joyful – even when there are great challenges facing it. Then, there should be peaceful harmony in every direction in the home that is built according to God's blueprint. Every member of the home should be at peace with God, with himself/herself, and live peaceably with all others as much as is possible (Romans 12:18).

(2) Longsuffering, kindness, goodness. All the members of the home should have the kind of character that endures the difficulties and trials of life (even in family life). Rather than becoming easily frustrated and quitting, there must be a commitment to working out and working through problems that come up. Then, every member of the home must have the characteristic of kindness. The words spoken and actions taken must show the proper consideration for others. And, in all things, all the members of the home must have the character of goodness. That is, they all should work toward accomplishing what is good in the sight of God.

(3) Faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Everyone in the home should be faithful (reliable, trustworthy). Not only should they all be able to trust and count on each other, but they should all be trustworthy to live in the way God desires. Part of how family members will build trust is by being gentle and self-disciplined. Gentleness is strength under control. So, it does not misuse strength for selfish purposes or in harmful ways. Instead, it properly harnesses strength to accomplish what is best for others. And, the characteristic of self-control is essential to any kind of God-approved living. Selfcontrol results in being the master of all the earthly passions that bring about sin and destruction to the home. Instead of being a slave to these desires, the one who has self-control is able to only make decisions that are right for the home.

#### **Ephesians 4:17-5:21**

This is too extensive of a passage to quote here. But, I would strongly encourage you to read the text for yourself. In fact, this one passage makes many points that are pertinent to our study that I will summarize. Study it carefully and reflect over how it applies to your life.

- (1) Put off the old, put on the new. Ephesians 4:17-32 speaks of a great transformation that should take place in every member of the home who reaches the age of accountability. Although we have all sinned in the past and demonstrated a character that was contrary to the will of God, we must put on a new kind of character that is patterned after God's righteousness and holiness. So, putting away lying, we should speak truth. We should not be angry and sin. We should put away stealing and work with our hands and give. We should be transformed in our speech. We should be kind, tenderhearted, and forgive others (just as God forgives us).
- (2) Be imitators of God as dear children. Not only in forgiveness, but in all things, we should be imitators of God. We should walk in love, just as Christ has loved us. So, we should put away every form of evil in our lives and not be a partaker of it (Ephesians 5:1-7). If God would not live in the ways that we are living, there is something wrong and we must change our lives/character immediately!

- (3) Walk in light. Ephesians 5:8-14 describes how we must not live our lives in the evil that once described how we lived. Instead, we now must be transformed to live in the light of the Lord and walk as children of light. In everything that we do, we should be focused on what is acceptable to the Lord and not have any participation with the unfruitful works of darkness. Instead, we should have the kind of character that exposes everything that is sinful.
- (4) Walk carefully. Those who want to please God must be very careful in how they live their lives. This is certainly true in the home. Every member of the home must consider that there are many temptations and traps that are trying to destroy them. So, we must all seek to understand and apply the will of the Lord.

#### Matthew 5-7

Finally, Jesus' teaching during the "Sermon on the Mount" provides transformational instructions for your character. And, if every member of the home will apply these instructions to their lives, it will go a long way to having better homes. Again, this is an extensive reading, so please read, study, and apply it on your own. Consider the following brief points from the text.

- (1) The Beatitudes. In Matthew 5:3-12, Jesus demonstrates how a character that pleases God and results in happiness does not look the same as the character the world values. He speaks of the characteristics of being "poor in spirit" (humble), "those who mourn" (over their sin), "the meek" (gentle, as discussed earlier), "those who hunger and thirst for righteousness," "the merciful," "the pure in heart," "the peacemakers," and "those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake."
- (2) Be a good example. In Matthew 5:13-16, God wants your character to provide a stark contrast to the sinful ways and characteristics shown by those who are of the world. He does not want you just to be play-acting the part of a Christian. Instead, He wants you to be sincere in serving the Lord. If you do, you will point people to Jesus Christ and help them glorify the Father.

- (3) Purity in heart. Throughout Jesus' sermon, He contrasts the commonly held beliefs with His new law (see Matthew 5:17-48). And, one thing that should be apparent is that God cares about your heart. He does not want your righteous character to be empty. Instead, He wants your righteous character to flow from a pure heart. So, it is not enough just *not* to murder. Instead, God wants you to seek reconciliation with those who have something against you. It is not enough just *not* to commit adultery. Instead, God wants you to refuse to lust after another and be completely faithful to your spouse. And, rather than hating your enemies, God wants you to love them.
- (4) Sincere motives. Even in appearing to serve God, Jesus demands that you be sincere (Matthew 6:1-18). So, you must not just do good works to be seen and praised by men. Instead, you must do them for the sake of God and not to be praised by men. The same thing goes for when you pray and when you fast. Don't have the kind of character that seeks to be seen of men and praised by the same. Instead, have the kind of character that is seeking to please God and find your reward from Him!
- (5) Focus on God. In Matthew 6:19-34, Jesus wants you to put your focus on seeking God and Heavenly treasures above all things that pertain to this world. So, your character should be one of faith and faithfulness in serving the Lord. Nothing and no one must be allowed to come before Him.
- (6) The "Golden Rule." Matthew 7:12 contains a single and simple commandment that, if applied to the character of every member of the home, would quickly transform our homes. Jesus said, "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." So, your character must be such that you consider how you would want the other members of the family to treat you and adjust how you treat them accordingly!

#### **Conclusion**

There is certainly much that we could discuss relative to the kind of character that is needed in the home. It is the same kind of character that God requires of every Christian. So, let us all diligently search the Scriptures and allow God to shape our character into exactly what He wants it to be. Allow Him to identify and help you eliminate all of the sinful character that destroys homes. And, allow Him to identify and help you be clothed with all of the righteous character that will help homes be as strong as they can be!

## **Study Questions**

How does Satan destroy homes by attacking the character of each member?

#### 1. God-Shaped Character

What illustration is used in Jeremiah 18? How is this a fitting illustration of what God wants from you today?

How will God shape your character by His word?

How will God shape your character by the life of Christ?

How will God shape your character by God's holiness?

#### 2. Eliminating The Sin That Destroys

Explain the sin Romans 1:28-32 identifies and how it negatively impacts the family.

Explain the sin Galatians 5:19-21 identifies and how it negatively impacts the family.

#### 3. Being Clothed With Righteousness

Explain the righteousness Galatians 5:22-24 identifies and how it positively impacts the family.

Explain the righteousness Ephesians 4:17-5:21 identifies and how it positively impacts the family.

Explain the righteousness Matthew 5-7 identifies and how it positively impacts the family.