



Deeper Application Message Guide

“Blessed Dad, Blessed Family”

Speaker: Pastor Jeff Love

Week of June 20, 2010

Getting Started

- 1) As a group, discuss the attributes or qualities that a good father should have.
 - a) How do they compare to God’s attributes?
- 2) Studies show that children who live absent from their fathers are two to three times more likely to be poor, use drugs, or experience emotional, behavioral and educational problems, than children where the dad is present.
 - a) What attributes of a father’s influence do you think make such a huge impact in the life of a child?
- 3) The term “father” is mentioned 1374 times in the Bible and also used by Jesus to describe God. God’s view of the role of father is significant.
 - a) How is the role of “father” portrayed in our society through TV, Movies or commercials? Is the role of “father” respected or merely tolerated? Explain.

Into the Bible

- 4) Read **Psalms 112**
Notice in the passage how everything is affected by a man’s influence or choice to honor and fear the Lord. Families, communities, wealth and longevity are all affected by a decision to fear the Lord and delight in His commands.
 - a) Explain what it means to “fear the Lord” in your own life.
 - b) Why do you think some of us neglect following God’s commands?
- 5) Read **Psalms 112: 6-8 & Psalm 111:10**
If a fear of the Lord produces wisdom and a lack of Holy fear produces foolishness, then we must have a healthy fear of the Lord, to obtain courage and wisdom.
 - a) What does it mean to delight in His commands?

- 6) Read **Matt 12:33-34**
Jesus says we are known by our “fruit” and it is our heart that reveals the condition of our lives. It is also evident that we spend our time, energy and resources on what we value.
 - a) What gets your best?
 - b) What would others say your “fruit” look like?
- 7) Read **2 Timothy 2:19**
Many of us are struggling just to provide for our families. However, as fathers our greatest gift to our families is not a house or food or money. Our greatest legacy is to model a life of righteousness, where all who know us see a man who fears the Lord. That man is wise and delights in the Lord’s commands.
 - a) What daily obstacles (even those that are good to do) keep us from delighting in the Lord and His commands?

Digging Deeper

- 8) This week make a list or take personal inventory of your time and seriously consider ways to begin to delight in the Lord and His commands.

The more you delight in the Lord, the more of a delight you will be to those around you.

Recommended Reading (to help you delight in the Lord)

- My Utmost for his Highest *by Oswald Chambers*
- Anywhere He Leads Me *by Corrie Ten Boom*
- Beside Still Waters *by C.H. Spurgeon*
- The Finishing Touch *by Charles Swindol*