

OWN THE VISION - *STRENGTHEN FAMILIES*

Deuteronomy 6:1-12, Judges 2:10

- **Celebration's Mission** - To lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ and difference-makers in the world
- **Celebration's Vision - We pray God will use the Celebration family to: 1) Exalt Jesus** (Ephesians 3:21), **2) Transform Lives** (Titus 3:3-7), **3) Strengthen Families** (Acts 16:19-34), **4) Improve Communities** (Acts 8:5-8) **and 5) Impact our World** (Matthew 28:19-20).
- *"Another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what He had done for Israel."* (Judges 2:10 NIV)
- **We're living in a time when few families are focused on knowing the Lord and declaring His goodness, helpfulness and graciousness to others.**
- **To bring positive transformation to our world we have to strengthen families around us - helping families become healthier, happier and holier.**
- ***What are some challenges that families around us are experiencing in our day, and what are some steps we can take to help them?***
- **We need to work on strengthening families in the communities and culture around us; but we also need to work on strengthening our own family.**
- ***What are some challenges that we're experiencing in our family?***
- **Our family members need affirmation, affection and deliverance from strongholds; and they need to be growing spiritually to overcome life's challenges and make a difference in the world (Deuteronomy 6:1-9).**
- ***What are some steps we can take to lead our families to become stronger emotionally, relationally and spiritually?***

To Strengthen Our Family We Need To Be Committed To:

LOVING THE <u>LORD</u>

- *"You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength."* (Deuteronomy 6:5)

- **The Lord wants us to love Him fervently, faithfully and firmly.**
- **We are often passionate about many things (i.e., career, family, friendships, sports, hobbies, etc.); but we need to be more passionate about our relationship with the Lord than anything else to have a strong family.**
- **How we love and live for the Lord is demonstrated more during the week than on Sundays.**
- **Every day we must strive to re-surrender our lives to the Lord and live for Him. (Galatians 2:20).**
- "It doesn't take much of a man to be a Christian. It just takes all of him." (Anonymous)
- **If we really love the Lord, we're going to want to daily spend time in His presence worshiping Him, praying to Him, and reading His Word.**

To Strengthen Our Family We Need To Be Committed To:

LIVING BY GOD'S <u>WORD</u>

- *"And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today."* (Deuteronomy 6:6)
- **We learn about God's ways by: 1) Hearing God's Word (2 Timothy 1:13, Romans 10:17), 2) Reading God's Word (1 Timothy 4:13), 3) Studying God's Word (Acts 17:11), and 4) Obeying God's Word (James 1:22, John 8:31).**
- The Lord - *"Study this Book of the Law continually. Meditate on it day and night so that you may be sure to obey all that is written in it. Only then will you succeed"* (Joshua 1:8)

To Strengthen Our Family We Need To Be Committed To:

TEACHING FAMILY MEMBERS ABOUT GOD'S <u>WILL</u>

- *"Repeat them (God's commands) again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."* (Deuteronomy 6:7-9)
- **We need to teach our family members *God's Word*.**
    - *"Repeat them (God's commands) again and again to your children."* (Deuteronomy 6:7)
    - **We must know God's Word in order to teach it to our children and to other family members.**
    - **Family members need to be taught the Bible because it's the "Book of Life."**
- **We need to talk with our family members about *God's Ways*.**

- *Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up."* (Deuteronomy 6:7)
- **There isn't a wrong time to talk with our family members about God's ways.**
- *"The godly give good advice to their friends . . .* (Proverbs 12:26)
- **If we don't talk with our children about spiritual beliefs and values, they will be brainwashed by others about worldly beliefs and values.**
- *"You (Timothy) have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus."* (2 Timothy 3:15)
- **We especially need to dialogue with our children and other family members about their relationship with the Lord.**

To Strengthen Our Family We Need To Be Committed To:

SETTING A GODLY <u>EXAMPLE</u>

- *"Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders."* (Deuteronomy 6:8)
- **Parents are to consistently be a positive example to their children, because our children are constantly watching us and patterning their lives after us.**
- "Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children." – Charles Swindoll
- *"Nadab did what was evil in the LORD's sight and followed the example of his father, continuing the sins that Jeroboam had led Israel to commit."* (1 Kings 15:26)
- *"The LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his father's early years and did not worship the images of Baal."* (2 Chronicles 17:3)
- *"Don't worry that children never listen to you; worry that they are always watching you."* – Robert Fulghum

To Strengthen Our Family We Need To Be Committed To:

MAINTAINING A GODLY <u>ENVIRONMENT</u>

- *"Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."* (Deuteronomy 6:9)
- **Providing a godly home environment impacts our family member's spiritual growth.**
- "*Eternal truths are most effectively learned in the loving environment of a God-fearing home that is life-oriented, not information oriented."* – Brian Bill

- **Utilize symbolic reminders that God is in charge of your home (i.e. Scripture magnets on refrigerator, post-it notes on mirror with Scripture verses, wall pictures with Scripture references, etc…)**
- Joshua - *"As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."* (Joshua 24:15)
- **As parents and family leaders, we must remove anything from our home that is in opposition to God's Word and ways. (Deuteronomy 7:26).**

- ***What are some steps I can take to strengthen my family and other families in the communities around me?***