

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”  
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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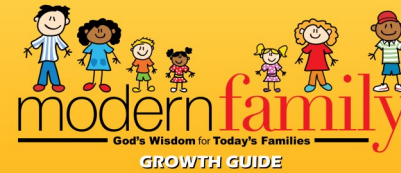
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Study: 10/07/18

## Modern Family Purpose

There are many challenges facing modern families which we will examine in our current sermon series. Though family life can be difficult, God does have a purpose for our families. In his article, “The Ordinary Christian Family”, Tedd Tripp gives us three callings for the family.

**The family is a school of theology.** The family is the place for being mesmerized by the wonder of who God is and for instilling in children a profound sense of the glory of God. The psalmist puts it like this: “One generation shall commend your works to another” (Ps. 145:4). What does this look like? What do you talk about as one generation commending God to the next? Psalm 145 tells us. It means meditating on the glorious splendor of God’s majesty; speaking of God’s majestic deeds; declaring His greatness; pouring out the fame of His abundant goodness; singing of His righteousness; speaking of the glory of His kingdom; talking of His kindness; speaking His praise (145:4-20). Love for God is instilled as we meditate on His glory and goodness. Children cannot be brought to delight in God in a conceptual vacuum. And if parents are to show their children God’s glory, they, too, must be dazzled by God.

**Family is a place for loving others.** Family life affords marvelous opportunities to show the love of Christ to others. Why? Because family living provides the greatest occasions for relational conflict. James 4 addresses social conflict with the perceptive questions: “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not your passions that are at war within you?” (4:1). We typically look outside of ourselves for the reason for conflicts—“he makes me so mad”; “she laughed at my mistakes.” James turns the tables on us. He says that relational conflicts come from desires that battle in our hearts. Our passions and desire produce conflicts. The family is the place to gain insight into the desires that wage war within and bring us into conflict with others. Family living provides the opportunity to learn the excellence of sacrificial love for others. It is an excellent place to learn to truly seek the interests of others.

**Finally, ordinary Christian family life is a school for the gospel,** a place for living out the grace of the gospel. Conflicts that arise as we strive to live together in love show our profound need for the grace of the gospel. We cannot love God and others without grace. Christ lived in human flesh without sin to provide us with righteousness that we can have no other way. He died to pay the guilt of our sin, fully satisfying the demands of God’s law. Even now, He intercedes for us so that we might experience His grace and live as people who have known forgiveness and can extend forgiveness to each other.

The ordinary Christian family is not a place of perfection. We sin and are sinned against. Our children sin and are sinned against. We are tempted to resolve conflicts through human wisdom, but we lose the benefit of our conflicts if we try to resolve them without reference to the gospel. The inevitable conflicts of family living afford excellent opportunities to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:32).

## KEY VERSE

Genesis 2:18

*And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." NKJV*

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## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Genesis 2:18-25; 4:1-2**

### Introduction

1. What are some of the challenges facing your family today?
2. What are some things that you enjoy about your family?
3. The cover of this Growth Guide listed three callings for a family. Why do you think God made families?

**Tuesday: Psalm 91; Proverbs 14:26**

### A Family Is A Shelter From Storms

4. What kinds of storms of life do you and your family face?
5. How can you make your family a shelter from these storms?

**Wednesday: Psalm 145:4; Deuteronomy 6:5-7; Luke 2:52**

### A Family Is A Learning Center For Life

6. What are some things that you have learned through your family?
7. . If you have children, what are they learning from you? What does the Bible say that we should be teaching them?
8. How can you make your home a place for growth?

**Thursday: Psalm 127; Proverbs 17:22; Psalm 16:9-11**

### A Family Is A Place To Play

9. How would you rate your home in terms of being a fun place to be?
10. What are some things you can do to make your home more enjoyable for your family?

**Friday: Romans 12:9-21; I Peter 4:10**

### A Family Is A Team For Ministry

11. How can your family be a team to serve God?
12. What is the benefit of doing ministry together as a family?