



KINGDOM ABOVE HOUSEHOLDS

A SIX-WEEK COURSE ON CULTIVATING HOMES THAT MAKE DISCIPLES FRUITFUL

The home is a place of supreme importance to God. It is where we experience some of our greatest joys and disappointments. When Christians cultivate homes that rest on the gospel, disciples are strengthened in every area of life. When things go spiritually wrong at home, our path in life is deeply disrupted.

How can Christians invest in their homes, and cultivate households that build people up for the kingdom of God?

This lesson plan is ideal if people in your group...

- Feel like their work in the home isn't respected or valued
- Are hungry for deeper insight on a gospel approach to home life
- Are frustrated by problems in family relationships

Topics we will discuss include...

1. Parenthood as a Divine Calling
2. Marriage: Worth It
3. Striving To Bear God's Image
4. Made Female in His Image
5. Committed to Each Other
6. Being Good Stewards



WEEK 1: PARENTHOOD AS A DIVINE CALLING

Gather & Open with Prayer

Opening Discussion (5 minutes)

Our homes are where we face some of our biggest challenges and struggles. What are some examples of the problems people struggle with in their home life? (Keep the examples short.)

When things aren't going well at home, how does it affect the rest of our lives?

Introduce Video:

In this video, pastor Mark Roberts describes how the work we do helping children grow, whether that's raising our own children or being an influence in the lives of other people's children, is central to living out the purpose God made us for.

Watch Video:

Mark Roberts, *All Good Work: Creation and Parenthood*, Oikonomia Network (16 minutes) tiu.edu/households1a

Discussion (20 minutes)

Group leader selects questions to focus on.

The work people do in their jobs and professions gets more public recognition than the work people do in the home. What are some examples of how we see that?

How does the work we do helping children grow up today have an impact on the world for years to come? What are the future "ripple effects" of the influence we have on kids now?

People who haven't had children themselves can be an important part of the work of helping children grow up. How can we value that and connect with what they have to contribute?

If a company doesn't value the home life of its workers, how does that affect the workplace?

When we raise children, we often say we want "what's best for them." What do we mean by that? What's missing from this picture?

In Genesis, God tells Adam and Eve to have children, and also to take control of the world and do work that cultivates and improves it. How are these two commands connected?

Watch Video: Jay Moon, *The Connected Complexity of Culture Change* (9 minutes) tiu.edu/households1b

Discussion (10 minutes)

Think about your local community. What are some examples of the "ideology/beliefs" of its culture? How about its "social/relationships" sector and its "economics/technology"?

How is cultivating a home that rests on the gospel related to what we do to accomplish God's purposes outside the home, in every other area of life?

Jay Moon shared some examples of how a change in one sector produces changes in the other sectors. If homes in your community adopted Christian practices, what long-term effect would that have on other areas of life in your community?

Integration Point:

This week, find an opportunity to praise or honor someone for the work they do in their home.

Close with Prayer