

Bless This Home Change That Appetite!

Christ-centered homes are blessed (Matthew 5:6). Though most people desire happiness (or blessing), it seems exceptionally elusive. Experiencing circumstances that are consistently pleasant and a life relatively free from trouble is nearly impossible. In contrast, Jesus teaches that blessing has more to do with being on the right path than good circumstances. Even if the road is challenging, Jesus makes the promise that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness *will be satisfied*. Unfortunately, we tend to look for satisfaction in the wrong places: in pleasure, performance, possessions, positions, and popularity. None of these are intended nor have the capacity to satisfy our deeper longings. If we want to see blessing in our homes, we must be willing to change our priorities, our use of time, and our use of money. Having a Christ-centered home that is blessed means giving each member of our family the best opportunity to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

GET THINGS STARTED

What do you think it would take for you and your family to be *happy*? Why does it seem like the word *happy* often has a negative connotation within the Christian church? What difference is there, if any, between happiness, joy, peace, and blessing?

GO DEEPER

1. From Matthew 5:6, what does it mean to *hunger and thirst for righteousness*? What is the powerful promise of this verse, and why do so many followers of Jesus struggle to believe or embrace this promise?
2. According to Jeremiah 29:11-13, God has great plans for those who seek Him with all their heart. What does it look like to seek Him with all your heart both individually and as a family? What are the key indicators that your home is Christ-centered and making Him a priority? What is given higher priority in a Christ-centered family, and what is given less priority?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Where are you and your family trying to find satisfaction and happiness, based on where you invest your time and resources? Of the various areas that our culture attempts to find happiness and satisfaction in (e.g., pleasure, possessions, positions, popularity, performance), which one is most tempting or enticing for you, and why? Which ones might be a stronghold for you that you need to surrender and find freedom from?
2. How Christ-centered is your home and family? What needs to change to make your home *more* Christ-centered?
3. What part of your spiritual appetite or diet needs to change?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group in prayer to express to God your hunger and thirst for Him and His Kingdom. Ask Him to help you make your home Christ-centered, to have the courage and strength to adjust your priorities as a family. Ask God to show you how to find true satisfaction in Him both individually and as a family. Confess and repent of those areas that you tend to pursue or make priority over seeking Him with all your heart and invite Him to lead you to freedom and healing.