

# **BUILDING HOMES OF HOPE AND WHOLENESS**

**FAMILY MINISTRIES TRAINING PROGRAM  
FOR LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS**

**LEADER'S GUIDE**

**Family Ministries Department  
North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church**

## **Mission Statement**

Our mission of evangelism is to provide resources, training, and networking opportunities that will instill hope and bring wholeness to families within the territory of the North American Division.

## **Vision Statement**

Reaching Families for Eternity

Produced by the Family Ministries Department  
North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Authors: Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra  
Managing Editor: Brad Forbes  
Designer: Claudia C. Pech Moguel

Available from *AdventSource*  
5120 Prescott Avenue  
Lincoln, NE 68506  
[www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org)

©2020 North American Division Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists  
All rights reserved. No portions of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means – electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, scanning or other – except for brief quotations in reviews or articles, without prior written permission of the copyright holder.

ISBN# 978-1-62909-829-6

Printed in the United States

# Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>A Firm Foundation</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>Aging Gracefully</b>
2	Biblical Foundation	54	Grandparenting
5	Commitment	58	Multi-generational Activities
6	Trust	58	Multi-Generational Ministry
7	Prayer	<b>67</b>	<b>How to Have Effective Family Ministries at the Local Church</b>
8	What Have They Seen in Your House?	68	Committee/Organization
<b>15</b>	<b>Relationship and Marriage</b>	68	What Your Job is and What it is Not
16	Singleness Is NOT a Disease	70	Define the Needs in Your Congregation and Community
17	Pre-Marital Counseling	71	Planning
19	Communication	71	Marketing
24	Conflict Management	72	Implementation/Evaluation/Follow-up
<b>29</b>	<b>Parenting</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>Family Ministries Church Survey</b>
31	Before Baby	<b>78</b>	<b>Family Ministries Community Survey</b>
32	Marriage Satisfaction Declines	<b>79</b>	<b>Additional Books by Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra</b>
33	Discipline vs. Punishment	<b>83</b>	<b>Certificate of Completion</b>
34	A Disciple-Making Parent		
37	A Discipled Child Becomes a Disciple-Maker		
<b>43</b>	<b>Sexuality</b>		
43	Porn Is the Norm		
46	Sex Is a Gift from God		
48	Sex Education to Children		

# Foreword

Dear Family Ministry Leaders,

We are delighted that you have been chosen by God to lead out in this important ministry in your local congregation. The fact that you are reading this is a testament to your desire to be faithful to His call.

The purpose of Family Ministries is to support families in a growing, joyful, and loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Our departmental mission statement reads, “Our mission of evangelism is to provide resources, training, and networking opportunities that will instill hope and bring wholeness to families within the territory of the North American Division.” You will notice that each chapter in this resource guide will introduce various elements needed to build homes of hope and wholeness, in fulfillment of that mission.



In addition, our departmental vision statement is, “Reaching Families for Eternity” and indeed that is also our desire — that we endeavor to have all our family members in heaven with us and that also includes our church family. Your dedication to fulfilling this vision statement will have a lasting impact on families as you realize that evangelism, at its best, occurs within the context of family.

So, where do you begin as you start to focus on family ministries? Look at this counsel: “Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home... There is no missionary field more important than this” (White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 35). Yes, all too often we think that we must go to a faraway land to be a missionary when the truth is that the starting point is in the home.

In Jesus’ great and final commission, He directed His followers: “Go and make disciples...” (Matthew 28:19). God intended the family to be a natural setting for carrying out this directive. “As workers for God, our work is to begin with those nearest. It is to begin in our own home. There is no more important missionary field than this” (White, *Child Guidance*, p. 476).

Again, thank you for your active commitment to strengthen the family ties within your local congregation and community. May God be with you as you fulfill this sacred calling.

Yours because of Him,

Drs. Claudio & Pamela Consuegra  
Family Ministries Directors  
North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

## References

White, Ellen G. (1952). *Adventist Home*. Available at: [www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com) or free download at: <http://ellenwhite.org/content/article/read-ellen-g-whites-writings>

White, Ellen G. (1954). *Child Guidance*. Available at: [www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com) or free download at: <http://ellenwhite.org/content/article/read-ellen-g-whites-writings>

# How to Use This Resource

The purpose of this resource is to train Family Ministries leaders of local churches. All too often we are asked to undertake a ministry that is new to us and further education and guidance is needed. This tool will help you to provide training so local church leaders will have a greater understanding of family issues and dynamics.

This resource was developed as a direct response to surveys conducted among the Family Ministries leadership team. This training resource, as requested, meets the following criteria:

- One-day Training
- Interactive
- Concise
- Practical
- Certificate Issued Upon Completion

**One-day-Training** — You will notice that there are six modules in this guide. Each module should take approximately one hour to present (including the group activities). So, it is very doable to schedule one day for this training and still allow time for short breaks between each session as well as a lunch break.

**Interactive** — A key to maximizing this resource is to utilize all the group discussion and activities that are contained within. This is to be an interactive training tool and much of the learning will take place as your group engages in these activities. We have attempted to keep the information in each module concise so you should have plenty of time for group interaction. So, don't skip the activities and discussion.

**Concise** — This resource is a basic introduction that touches the key points needed to understand healthy family dynamics and is not meant to be an exhaustive resource. Please look at it as the beginning point as you start leading your church in this very important ministry.

**Practical** — Once you have completed the one-day training, you can use each topic as a stand-alone seminar in your own church. We hope this encourages you to get started teaching the church members and the people in your communities.

**Certificate of Completion** — At the close of the training, each participant will receive a certificate. All you need to do is use the certificate provided on the resource USB drive provided with this guide, fill in the participant name and date and add your signature as the presenter.

Remember, you are the resource person for the church when it comes to family ministries so the better equipped you are, the better you will be able to minister to those in your conference, congregation and community. As stated earlier, this tool is only the beginning, therefore, it is our prayer that each director will continue the journey of learning and take advantage of the additional resources that are listed to expand understanding of each topic. May God bless you as you go forth to follow His call!

# A Word for the Trainer/Leader

We are delighted you are leading the training of local church Family Ministries leaders. The work that you do in your field may be extensive and your contact with the local church very limited, so training local church leaders is crucial in order for them to have an ongoing ministry to the families in their church and community.

While we are providing some suggested responses, we suggest you encourage the participants to respond and provide their own ideas and allow for flexibility as various groups will come up with different answers. Do not allow the possible or suggested responses we provide here to limit you as they are only given as samples to help if group discussion is slow or minimal.

Since you are the trainer/leader, we are providing you with this additional guide to help you be as prepared to lead your group as possible. We encourage you to make good use of this resource by making it:

- **Personal** — As the instructor for this course, we encourage you to make it personal. Include your own stories, illustrations, and examples when appropriate. You don't need to read everything in the participant's guide word for word; rather, explain the concepts in your own words and feel free to pause for any questions or clarifications the participants may have.
- **Clear** — We wrote the program concise enough so you should be able to cover each of the six topics, including the group activities, within an hour or so. However, try not to rush through the material in order to cover it all. It is more important that the participants learn a few concepts well than if you cover everything so quickly that they fail to grasp the concepts. So, make sure you understand the main concepts, explain them clearly, and ask the participants for feedback as to their understanding.
- **Visual** — You have a PowerPoint presentation included with this guide. The suggested answers we have provided are on each of the chapter PowerPoint presentations. Therefore, we encourage you to NOT advance to that slide, and the suggested responses, until after the participants have had a chance to share and discuss their responses. Feel free to use these PowerPoints as you see fit, add and edit to fit your presentation style. We have only provided them as an added resource to use, if desired.
- **Experiential** — Because there are different avenues of learning, encourage participants to write the responses in their books. Allow and encourage participants to ask questions and provide answers, but make sure you manage the discussions appropriately, so you don't run out of time. Also, the participants have a sketch of a house at the end of each chapter. During your closing activity have you participants write in each of the elements of a Home of Hope and Wholeness that have been covered in that chapter.

To help you identify scriptural principle and different group activities we have placed a graphic alongside each activity.



**SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLE**—Please take the time to emphasize the scriptural principle at the beginning of each session. It sets the proper context for the entire topic being discussed.



**SUGGESTED OPENING ACTIVITY**—This can be used as an icebreaker and to give extra time for everyone to arrive before you begin the actual presentation and training.



**GROUP ACTIVITY**—The group activities are not optional; they are a vital part of the program. Encourage everyone in the group to participate in them and please do not skip any activity that has this symbol.



**SUGGESTED CLOSING ACTIVITY**—This is optional, depending on how much time you have left at the end of each session. Remember to provide a few minutes break between sessions for people to stretch, use the restroom, or get a snack or a drink (if you are providing that for them).

Our prayer is that God will use you to convey the concepts included in the participant's and in this leader's guide clearly and effectively and that through your presentation they will be inspired and encouraged to go back home to lead and guide the families in their church and community with the message of Hope and Wholeness.





# A FIRM FOUNDATION

## Presenter Notes

### Introduction



#### OPENING ACTIVITY

In order to help facilitate group participation, you may begin this icebreaker by asking for short responses to the following:

1. Who traveled the farthest to get here today?
2. Did any of you have any difficulties on the road?
3. Did any of you get lost?
4. When you're lost, are you more likely to stop and ask for directions, or drive around until you find your way? How about your spouse?

PPT



#### Scriptural Principle

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock”  
Matthew 7: 24–25 (NIV).

Our scripture verse reminds us that our homes must have a strong foundation otherwise, they will crumble when the storms come. And, make no mistake about it, every home will experience storms, sooner or later.

Every builder will tell you that the most important component in a stable building is the foundation. It doesn't matter what the rest of the building looks like if the foundation is not solid. Any mistakes made in the foundation will only get worse as you go higher up in the construction process. Even the untrained eye will clearly see defects as the building gets higher and higher, if the foundation is weak.

In the parable of the wise man who built his house on the rock, Jesus describes the storms of life as a matter of fact. He does not say “IF” the storms come but rather, “WHEN.” We can be sure that the storms of life will come and that our home's foundation will be tested. There's no getting around it. The question

PPT

is whether the foundation will stand up to the test. Have we chosen to build our homes on THE ROCK?

This means we must make Jesus the center of our homes every day and make wise choices through the guidance of his Spirit before the storms of life come. It is only as we ground our homes through faith in Him that we may be assured that our foundation is rock-solid.

### **Biblical Foundation**

Scripture has so much to say regarding the importance of family and ways in which we can build a strong foundation that will withstand the challenges that come our way. Too often, however, we read the same verse or story over and over again without stopping to consider all of the things that, when applied, could positively impact our families. So, what does the Bible have to tell us? Let’s put on our “Family Ministries Glasses” and take a look at some familiar passages. Taking a fresh new look will cast a relational hue over familiar passages which perhaps you have read over and over again but may have missed some important lessons.

How many did you list on your own? There are so many verses that give us guidance in all our relationships, both inside and outside of the family. These are included in the Bible to give us a roadmap to follow as we go about our daily lives and interact with others. In other words, they serve as a relational framework on how to live and interact with others.

The Bible also includes lessons and guidance in the narratives or the stories that we have read so many times. If we had to select one book of the Bible that runs the gamut of family dynamics, that book would be Ruth. It is one of the shortest books in the Bible (only 4 chapters) and yet, it is rich in its teaching.

### **Presenter Notes**

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



### ACTIVITY #1

Make a list of all the verses in the Bible that you can think of that speak of ways we are to relate to our family members. It's OK if you don't know the exact reference for now. Just list them. For example: "Husbands, love your wives." Ephesians 5:22.

PPT

Other examples may include but are not limited to the following:

- "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:40).
- "Love your enemies" (Luke 6:27).
- "In humility consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).
- "Live at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18).
- "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21).
- "Rejoice in the wife of your youth" (Proverbs 5:18).
- "Wives, submit to your husband as to the Lord...Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her..." (Ephesians 5:22-25).
- "Husbands...be considerate as you live with your wives and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life..." (1 Peter 3:7).
- "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your heart. Impress them on your children. Talk about them..." (Deuteronomy 6:6, 7).
- "Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).
- "Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding" (Proverbs 4:1). "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord" (Colossians 3:20).
- "Honor your father and your mother..." (Exodus 20:12).
- "You shall not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14).
- "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife" (Deuteronomy 5:21)

PPT

PPT

PPT

---



---



---



---



---



---



### ACTIVITY #2

If possible, divide into four groups, with each group having as its assignment the reading and study of one chapter of the book of Ruth. Each group is to list all the family-related issues they can find in the chapter. In other words, what issues/challenges did the family encounter in that chapter? And, then, think about all the ways that the church could minister to families going through those same issues today.

PPT

---



---



---



---



---



---

Ruth	Issues Facing Family	Ways to Minister to Families Facing Similar Situations Today
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Famine- No food</li> <li>• Relocation</li> <li>• Immigration</li> <li>• Death of Spouse/Widow</li> <li>• Children Married Non-believers</li> <li>• Death of Children</li> <li>• In-law Relationships</li> <li>• Debt</li> <li>• Return to Homeland</li> <li>• Grief/Loss</li> <li>• Low Self-Worth in Naomi</li> </ul>	Note: Ministry methods will vary. Allow for ample time to discuss possibilities for each family dynamic/challenge. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 10px;">PPT</div>
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single Parenting</li> <li>• Hunger</li> <li>• Search for Food</li> <li>• Daughter-in-law/Mother-in-law Relationship</li> <li>• Child Providing for Parent</li> </ul>	
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on Another for Help</li> </ul>	
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marriage/Wedding</li> <li>• Birth of Child</li> <li>• Grandparenting</li> </ul>	

Do you see why the book of Ruth is one of our personal favorites to use in teaching family dynamics? Many individuals can find themselves in the book of Ruth and take comfort that their life experience is not unique. As we share about the hardships and trials that Naomi faced others can relate, identify, and come to understand that they are not alone in the challenges they face.

Through famine, immigration, death, and loss, God was still present with Naomi and Ruth as His plan was unfolding. That grandson, named Obed, whom Naomi held in her arms was in

### Presenter Notes

---



---



---



---



---



---

the direct lineage of Jesus. What an encouraging story of resilience, trust, and God's leading we can share with others!

## Commitment

A successful marriage and family life do not always have to do with our circumstances, but it does have a lot to do with making a life-long commitment to God, to our spouse, and to our family. It involves making the decision to take the word divorce out of your vocabulary and replacing it with the word commitment. And, this commitment extends to your children as well.

You may say that you are committed to your family. However, where do they actually fall on your priority list? Where does your career/work rate in comparison? And, what about your use of technology? You see, it's easy to say we are committed but our behavior tells the true story of our commitment.

Go ahead, take out your calendar. Most of us have our calendars and appointments on our phones. As you look at your appointments for the next month you may see things such as: committee at work, dental appointment, kid's soccer practice, church board meeting, appointment at car garage, etc. Wait!

## Presenter Notes

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### ACTIVITY #3

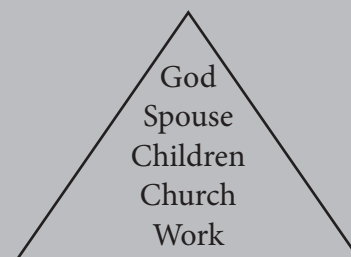
Take a moment to think about your life today.

1. Make a list of the ten most important things (and people) in your life.
2. Then, on the pyramid below, place the top five in order from the most important (at the top) to the least important (at the bottom).
3. Examine your priority pyramid. Does it reflect your faith in God? Does it reflect your commitment to your family?

- Allow those presents to write their own list. Some examples could include:

God	Wife	Family	Children	Extended Family
Work	Money	School	Career	Church
House	Investments	Cars	Vacation	Travel
Friends	Ex-spouse	Stepchildren	Neighbors	Coworkers

- Once they have made their own list, you may ask for some volunteers to share what is on their list.
- Now you can ask them to pick the top five from their list and write them on the pyramid in order of importance. One suggested order might be:



PPT

PPT

PPT

Look again! Do you see date night with my husband/wife on that calendar? How about a scheduled family night? Does your current calendar reflect what you value? If not, maybe we need to change that. You see, if we are not intentional about scheduling these things they will not happen automatically. They need to be put on our calendars and those times need to be held as sacred blocks of time.

As Christians, God should always take first place in our life. This should be reflected in our personal and family daily devotional time, study of the bible, church involvement, and how we practice our faith in our day to day activities. Most likely we all put Jesus at the top of the pyramid. However, there is usually some struggle as to what occupies second place. Many of you may say that family takes the second slot (as it should) but when it comes to practicing this, we often fall short. The thing that most often pushes family aside is our work/career. Having a good work ethic is admirable and being recognized as an outstanding employee for the company is commendable. However, we should never lose sight of the fact that our families are the most important treasure God has entrusted us with on this earth!

A true commitment to family will be reflected in our actions and in our calendars. This type of commitment will help us in building a home of hope and wholeness that will weather the storms that come.

### **Trust**

Trusting God when things are going well is easy. But, when that boat starts to rock and the waves start spilling over the side, we start to panic just as the disciples did. Let's admit that it's easy for our faith to slide as we are faced with job losses, death in the family, terminal illness, a prodigal child, etc. However, building a home that withstands these storms of life involves trusting in God to carry us through. We may not be able to see a way around the situation, but we can still trust that God has already mapped out a path for us.

Trust in God! Remember how the disciples responded when the storm crashed upon their boat? (Mark 4:35-41) They panicked and failed to remember that the ONE who could help them was in the boat with them. They were so busy focusing on the wind and the waves that they forgot to look down and see their Savior.

## **Presenter Notes**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Trusting God starts with having a relationship with Him. Who do you put your trust in? Aren't they the people you know? We need to make sure getting to know God is a priority. Friendship takes time; it takes a commitment to the relationship. It is about talking, listening, and learning about the other person. And, it is only as we do this with God, our Savior, that we truly can learn to trust Him. If learning to trust is dependent upon having a relationship, then here are some ways we can develop that trusting relationship with God:

- **Personal Bible Study and Prayer** — It starts with you, as head of your family. Develop that personal relationship with Jesus through your own Bible study and prayer life.
- **Daily Family Worship** — Time should be set aside each day for family worship. It needs to be age-appropriate, engaging, and geared toward the youngest member of the family. This should be scheduled at the same time each day, all family members should be expected to be present, and nothing else should take the place of this worship time together as a family.
- **Church Attendance** — Having a church family is so important. These members, with like-minded faith values become like an extended family where faith is emphasized, taught, reinforced, and practiced in meaningful ways.
- **Prayer** — Most of us pray before we eat our meals and we may even pray before bed, but prayer needs to be so much more than that. We need to make talking to Jesus as common in our homes as talking to each other. Read more below concerning the importance of prayer.

Spending time with Jesus in all your daily activities will assist in building that special relationship with Him so that you will learn to trust Him, even when the winds start howling and the waves start spilling over into the boat. Above all, you will see how much God cares about you and your family and come to know that He is in the boat, right beside you, during every storm. Trust Him!

## Prayer

Prayer is another one of those main ingredients to building a home of hope and wholeness. Here are some beautiful reminders about prayer.

## Presenter Notes

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PPT

### A Special Note to Parents

Your child will learn to trust Jesus as they observe you. Do they witness you on your knees in prayer? Do they see you having personal daily devotional and prayer time? How do you handle disappointments? Do you go to church each week? What is your attitude towards God and the church? Yes, it matters. Your trusting relationship with God will go a long way in helping them develop the same.

- **Pray for Wisdom** — “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting.” (James 1:5–6)
- **Relax, God’s in the Boat** — “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6–7)
- **Talk to God as to a Friend** — “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us but brings us up to Him” (White, 1956, p. 93).

PPT

## Presenter Notes

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### What Have They Seen in Your House?

Did you ever stop to consider the fact that your home has the potential to be a powerful witness for Christ? If asked, what would your neighbors say about your homelife, your relationship to your spouse, your parenting, your values? What do others see as you go about your day to day life?

Emissaries from Babylon once came to King Hezekiah of Judah out of interest in his miraculous recovery from a fatal illness and the supernatural sign linked with it (the movement ten degrees backward of the sundial shadow described in 2 Kings 20). Hezekiah happily received these guests, but he seems to have been silent about his healing experience. He evidently put little or no emphasis on the things in his house that would have opened the hearts of these inquiring ambassadors to the knowledge of the true God. Hezekiah gave the ambassadors a tour of his home that showcased his armory and expansive treasure. When they had left, the prophet Isaiah confronted him with a penetrating question: “What have they seen in your house?” (2 Kings 20:15; Isaiah 39:4). The question was sobering and too late Hezekiah realized that his pride had led him to give away state secrets of national wealth and armaments. Even more importantly, he had missed a rare opportunity to share the truth about the God who had healed him.

Let’s us not be too quick to harshly judge King Hezekiah. Are we not often guilty of the exact same thing? What do we



showcase when visitors come to our home? Do we show off the brand-new large screen television, the new entertainment center with outdoor speakers, and all the latest technology that we have added to our homes? Or, is it evident that Jesus is the center of our homes and it is His working in our lives that we are ready to showcase and share?

You see, if our homes are built on a strong biblical foundation, if we are committed to being the kind of husband, wife, or single person that God has called us to be, then it will be no secret to our neighbors and others who know us

## Presenter Notes

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



### ACTIVITY #4

You may do this activity regardless of your family makeup: as a couple, with your children, or as a single adult.

1. Spend time thinking and talking about the mission of your family as it relates to what we have learned in this chapter.
2. Write a family mission statement. Here's an example of a Family Mission Statement: The mission of our family is to model Jesus' love to each family member and to share the gospel message to friends, family, and neighbors.
3. Then list at least five specific things you can do (as a family) to accomplish this mission.

PPT

Family Mission Statement	Ways to Accomplish Mission
NOTE: Statements and Ways to Accomplish Will Vary. Take the Time for Sharing!	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.

## A Ministry of Evangelism

Now that we have explored ways to strengthen the spiritual foundation of our homes, we must consider the potential impact that the members of a Christ-centered home could have upon their communities. Each family represents a powerful evangelistic team who can share Jesus with others.

You see, all too often we leave evangelism to the pastor or other professionals and think of it as an event or series of meetings held in the church. However, evangelism at its best happens each day as you interact with others around you. It is more of a lifestyle than something that happens occasionally. We need to put family and evangelism together to discover the powerful life-changing force it can create.

Remember, family ministries is a ministry of evangelism. It must first begin inside the walls of our own home. Look at these powerful words,

“Far more powerful than any sermon that can be preached is the influence of a true home upon human hearts and lives. . . .Our sphere of influence may seem narrow, our ability small, our opportunities few, our acquirements limited; yet wonderful possibilities are ours through a faithful use of the opportunities of our own homes” (White, 1905, pp. 352, 355).

But family ministries, or family evangelism, cannot be confined to the home; it must also be what happens once we leave our dwelling place.

“The mission of the home extends beyond its own members. The Christian home is to be an object lesson, illustrating the excellence of the true principles of life. Such an illustration will be a power for good in the world. . . .As the youth go out from such a home, the lessons they have learned are imparted. Nobler principles of life are introduced into other households, and an uplifting influence works in the community” (White, 1952, p. 31).

So, as you answer the question, “What have they seen in your house?” and as you review the activity that you did above, thinking of practical ways to fulfill the mission in your home, understand that the answer to that question and every one of

## Presenter Notes

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

those strategies is evangelistic in nature. Yes, your family is one of the most powerful evangelizing teams in the world!

## Presenter Notes



### SUGGESTED CLOSING ACTIVITY

You may do this if time allows. Ask those in attendance to answer these questions:

1. Considering the parable of the man who built his house on the rock and the one who built on the sand (Matt 7:24–27), is your family foundation on solid rock, or on sand but with a nice view?
2. What might you have to change in order to shore up the foundation?
3. How can others help you in the process?
4. When you consider your life and family today, is your pressing need to learn more, or to practice daily what you have already learned?

PPT

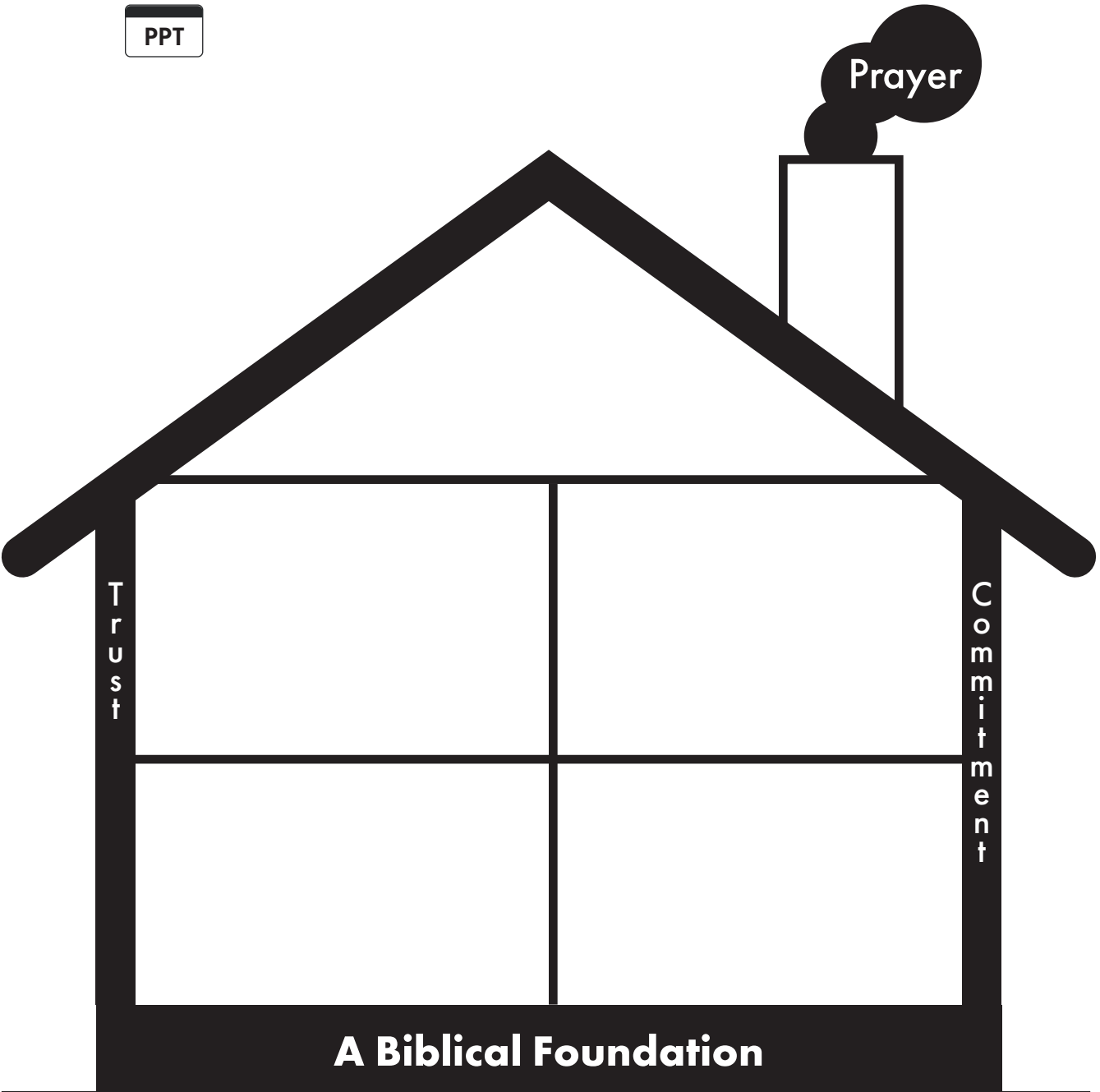
## Wrap-Up

So, what does the solid foundation of a home look like? It is one that rests upon strong biblical principles and one where faith is evident to all you come in contact with. In summary:

- Build your home upon THE ROCK!
- Commit your marriage and your family to God and make Him a priority in your life.
- Make sure your priority to your family is evident in the way in which you live.
- Trust in the one who is in the boat with you!
- Pray for wisdom in all the decisions you make.
- Live in such a way that your home reflects Jesus to others!
- Make sure others see Jesus in your house!

PPT

PPT



## References

White, E. G. (1956) Steps to Christ. Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association

White, E. G. (1905). The ministry of healing. Washington: Review and Herald Publishing Association.

## Additional Resources

Consuegra, C. (2014). A Follower of Jesus. Available at: [www.AdventSource.org/store](http://www.AdventSource.org/store)

Consuegra, C. & P. (2005). Making Jesus My Best Friend. Available at: [www.AdventSource.org/store](http://www.AdventSource.org/store) or [www.AdventistBookCenter.com](http://www.AdventistBookCenter.com)

Consuegra, C. & P. (2016). Family Faith. Available at: [www.AdventSource.org/store](http://www.AdventSource.org/store) or [www.AdventistBookCenter.com](http://www.AdventistBookCenter.com)

Consuegra, C. & P. (2019). Family Seasons Adult Bible Study Guide. Available at: [www.AdventSource.org/store](http://www.AdventSource.org/store) or [www.AdventistBookCenter.com](http://www.AdventistBookCenter.com)

Consuegra, C. & P. (2019). Family Seasons Companion Book. Available at: [www.AdventSource.org/store](http://www.AdventSource.org/store) or [www.AdventistBookCenter.com](http://www.AdventistBookCenter.com)

White, Ellen G. (1952). Adventist Home. [www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com) or free download at: <http://ellenwhite.org/content/article/read-ellen-g-whites-writings>