

## Life Lessons from Book of Psalms

### **LESSON 12: THE HAPPY HOME**

#### **REFLECTION**

Begin your study by sharing thoughts on this question.

**1. Think of one of your favorite childhood memories. Why is that memory special to you?**

#### **BIBLE READING: Psalm 128:1–6 NIV**

<sup>1</sup> [A song of ascents.]

Blessed are all who fear the LORD,

who walk in obedience to him.

**2** You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.

**3** Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

**4** Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the LORD.

**5** May the LORD bless you from Zion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

**6** May you live to see your children's children—peace be on Israel.

## **DISCOVERY**

Explore the Bible reading by discussing these questions.

**2. How can families receive God's blessing?**

**3. List the blessings that God gives to his children.**

**4. What does God think of children?**

**5. What good things does God want families to enjoy?**

**6. How can families determine whether God is the head of their home?**

## **INSPIRATION**

Perhaps the most taxing of all, are the years a family finds itself in and out of crisis situations.

Little babies that cooed and gurgled grow up into challenging, independent-thinking adolescents. The protective, sheltered environment of the home is broken into by the school, new friends, alien philosophies, financial strain, illness, accidents, hard questions, constant decisions, and busy schedules ... and it isn't difficult to feel the pressure mounting—especially when you add dating, new drivers in the family, leaving for college, talk of marriage, and moving out. Whew! And what does God say about these years?...

He says we'll be "blessed." We'll be "happy." It will "be well" with us during these years.... In the family portrayed on this scriptural canvas, "the Lord" is still central....

Even before you finish, ... it may be the right time for you to come to terms with the truth

regarding your family. I must be honest with you, in most of the family conflicts I have dealt with involving trouble with teenagers, the problem has been more with parents who were either too liberal and permissive or too inflexible, distant, rigid (and sometimes hypocritical) than with teenagers who were unwilling to cooperate.

When the modeling is as it should be, there is seldom much trouble from those who fall under the shadow of the leader. Strengthening your grip on the family may start with an unguarded appraisal of the leadership your family is expected to follow.

*(From Strengthening Your Grip by Charles Swindoll)*

## **RESPONSE**

Use these questions to share more deeply with each other.

**7. What are some of the problems families face today?**

**8. How can families work to strengthen family relationships?**

**9. What encouragement can families glean from this psalm?**

(For more Bible passages about the family, see Genesis 2:18–24; Exodus 20:12; Matthew 19:5, 6; Ephesians 5:22–6:4.)