

## **BOOKS AND RESOURCES**

The Bible - God

### **PERSONAL AND FAMILY GROWTH FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

First Things First - Stephen Covey  
7 Habits of Highly Effective Families - Stephen Covey  
Boundaries - Dr. Henry Cloud  
Financial Peace - Dave Ramsey  
Total Money Makeover - Dave Ramsey  
No Debt, No Sweat - Steve Diggs

### **FOR THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP**

The Love Dare - Stephen and Alex Kendrick  
His Needs, Her Needs - Willard Harley  
Love Busters - Willard Harley  
5 Steps to Romantic Love - Willard Harley  
Love For a Lifetime - James Dobson  
Dare to Discipline - James Dobson  
Courtship After Marriage - Zig Ziglar  
Intended For Pleasure - Ed Wheat  
You're Singing My Song - Glenn and Cindy Colley

### **GENERAL PARENTING**

Boys Should Be Boys - Meg Meeker  
Love Must Be Tough - James Dobson  
The Strong-Willed Child - James Dobson  
Your Mama Don't Dance - Glenn and Cindy Colley

### **FOR MEN**

Courageous - Stephen and Alex Kendrick  
Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters - Meg Meeker  
Point Man - Steve Farrar  
Anchor Man - Steve Farrar  
King Me - Steve Farrar  
Finishing Strong - Steve Farrar  
Preparing Sons - Steven Maxwell  
Redeeming the Time - Steven Maxwell  
Every Man's Battle - Stephen Arterburn  
Every Young Man's Battle - Stephen Arterburn  
Preparing Your Son For Every Man's Battle - Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker

### **WEBSITES**

[www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com)  
<http://buildyourwall.weebly.com>  
<http://buildyourbibleunderstanding.com>  
[www.thebible.net](http://www.thebible.net)  
[www.thecolleyhouse.org](http://www.thecolleyhouse.org)

## WHO IS BUILDING YOUR HOME?

### INTRODUCTION:

A. Psalms 127:1-5 A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (2) It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep. (3) Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. (4) Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. (5) Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

B. Building a House is Hard. There is a great deal of planning, details, math, physical labor, money, time, disagreements, problems with contractors, problems with sub-contractors, problems with weather, etc. to deal with.

C. Building a home is tremendously more difficult. It involves more planning, details, physical labor, money, time, disagreements, problems with spouses, problems with kids, problems with extended family members, etc. to deal with.

1. There is so much to keep in balance.

Marriage and Children

Budget - Income and Outgo

Growth - Physical, Mental, Emotional, Social, Spiritual

Time - Work, Family, Church, Private

Knowledge - Spiritual, Physical

Time and Money

Positive and Negative

Punishment and Reward

Wants and Needs Both Present and Future

Work and Play / Work and Relaxation

Family and Individual

Law and Grace

Mercy and Justice

Humor and Seriousness

Correction and Praise

Privacy and Accountability

Sex and Affection

Thought and Action - Planning and Follow-through

Relationships - each individual and God, each individual with each other family member, group dynamics: boys vs. girls - parents vs. child - older vs. younger - etc. a family of two involves 3 relationships H-W, H-G, W-G; 3= 6 relationships; 4= 12 relationships; 5= 18 relationships; 6= 24 relationships; seven involves 33+ individual or group relationships

G - H      G - W      G - C1      G - C2      G - C3      G - C4

G - C5      H - W      H - C1      H - C2      H - C3      H - C4

H - C5      W - C1      W - C2      W - C3      W - C4      W - C5

C1 - C2      C1 - C3      C1 - C4      C1 - C5      C2 - C3      C2 - C4

C2 - C5      C3 - C4      C3 - C5      C4 - C5      G - Fam      G - Par

G - Ch      H+Cb-W+Cg      Par -Ch      Cb -Cg      Co -Cy      H+Cg-W+Cb

2. Why do so many spend more planning, money, time, and energy on the wedding and the house than they do on the marriage and the home?

D. How do you successfully build a home? How do you define success for your children? College degree? Good paying job? Upstanding citizen? Becoming a millionaire? Running a business? Living on their own - getting out of the nest? Better off than you are? Having friends? Getting a good looking spouse? Living in a good neighborhood? Becoming a Christian? Going to church? What about going to Heaven?

L.S. - We can build successful spiritually healthy families if we . . .

### I. PRIORITIZE PASSIVELY - LET GOD DETERMINE YOUR PRIORITIES

A. Matthew 6:25-34 Therefore I say unto you, be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment? (26) Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value then they? (27) And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto the measure of his life? (28) And why are ye anxious concerning raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not,

neither do they spin: (29) yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (30) But if God doth so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? (31) Be not therefore anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (32) For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. (33) But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (34) Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

B. Make Room for the Big Rocks First.

## II. PLAN PROACTIVELY - ACT, DON'T REACT

A. Luke 14:28-33 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? (29) Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, (30) saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' (31) Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? (32) And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. (33) So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

B. PLEASE DADDY, LET'S GO - Author Unknown

A little girl with shining eyes, Her upturned face aglow,  
Said, "Daddy, it's almost time For Sunday School, you know;  
Let's go and hear of Jesus' love Of how He died for all,  
To take them to His home above Who on His name will call."  
"Oh no," said Daddy, "Not to-day; I've worked hard all the week;  
And I must have one day of rest, And fishing's find they say;  
So run along, don't bother me, We'll go ANOTHER day."  
Months and years have passed away, But Daddy hears that plea no more-

"Let's go to Sunday School..." Those childish days are o'er.

And now that Daddy's growing old, And life is almost through,  
He finds some time to go to church, BUT, what does daughter do?  
She says, "Oh, daddy, not to-day. Was out almost all night;  
I've got to get a little sleep: Besides, I look a fright."  
Then daddy lifts a trembling hand To brush away the tears;  
Again he hears that pleading voice, Distinctly through the years,  
He sees a small girl's upturned face, Upturned with eyes aglow,  
Saying, "It's time for Sunday School. Please, daddy, won't you go?"

C. Goal Worksheet

## III. PERSEVERE PATIENTLY - NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER SURRENDER

A. Galatians 6:7-9 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (8) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. (9) And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

B. Be an Anvil!

## IV. PRAY PASSIONATELY - HALF-HEARTED IS NEVER HEARD

A. James 1:5-7 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. (6) But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. (7) For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

B. Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. (15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

C. Bible Examples

## V. PLAY PROPERLY - YOU CAN BUY FUN, BUT NOT JOY

A. Proverbs 15:13-17 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. (14) The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness. (15) All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast. (16) Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith. (17) Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. Proverbs 17:22

B. Rules Without Relationship Causes Rebellion. - Josh McDowell

#### CONCLUSION:

A. Do you want to see your children in Heaven? Do you want it enough to do what it takes to get them there?

B. Failure is not a single, cataclysmic event. You don't fail overnight. Instead, failure is a few errors in judgment repeated every day. — Jim Rohn - Success is the same it is doing the right things day after day.

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II. PLAN PROACTIVELY - Act, Don't React

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IV. PRAY PASSIONATELY - Half-hearted Is Never Heard

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C. Bible Examples - Jesus, Elijah, Esther, etc.

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## A Dozen Practical Tips for Your Home Construction Project

Just scratching the surface with these.

1. Have a family devotional time every day even if it is just for a few minutes. Nothing fancy just read a Bible story or a chapter from the Bible.
2. Pray together of a morning or night or both. Just make it part of the routine like brushing teeth.
3. Turn off the TV at least once a week and talk or play a game instead.
4. Make use of drive time. Get some religious kids songs or devotional songs or scripture songs to listen to as you drive the kids around. Have something for yourself to grow from when they are not in the car.
5. Challenge yourself to read something edifying (character building) instead of fiction or TV watching.
6. Make copies of the Goal worksheet and USE them.
7. Ask your wife what she thinks would help your home be more like God wants it to be. Then, listen.
8. Make a family mission statement that is the overarching goal for your family. We took ours from Colossians chapter 3 and changed it so the kids can understand it. You can make yours whatever you want your family to be, but make sure you include everyone old enough to express coherent opinions about it. Here is what ours turned out to be:  
We are a family that will: look for heavenly things, love what God loves, not be affected by the world, execute sinful actions, get rid of sinful thoughts, silence sinful speech, dress up with good attitudes, put up with each other, forgive, love like God loves, be peaceful, be thankful, know the Bible, encourage each other, sing, and be ambassadors for Jesus (influence others for Jesus).
9. Eat together whenever possible. It is possible more often than you might think if you make it a priority.
10. Go to worship and Bible Class together whenever possible. It is possible more often than you might think if you make it a priority.
11. Find some things that mean 'I Love You' TO YOUR WIFE and do one each day. Wash dishes, pick up toys, a massage with no strings.
12. Spend more than the average 30 seconds with your kids each day, a lot more. We can bring home all the money in the world, but they would rather have time with us, believe it or not!

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