

Family Ministries Leaders'
Certification Retreat

5-7 August 2025

Rooted in Hope
Growing in
Wholeness



FAMILY - A FIRM FOUNDATION

Who came the farthest to get here today?

Did any of you have any difficulties on the road?

Did any of you get lost?

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?

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

- EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE, THEY LABOUR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT: EXCEPT THE LORD KEEP THE CITY, THE WATCHMAN WAKETH BUT IN VAIN.
(PS 127:1).





BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

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)

FAMILY – A FIRM FOUNDATION

1. **GROUP 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



A BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

- "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).

A BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

- "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).

A BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

- “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).

GROUP ACTIVITY

GROUP ACTIVITY #2:

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 was the family going through in that chapter?

And, then, think about all the ways that the church could minister to families going through those same issues today.



RUTH – ISSUES FACING FAMILY



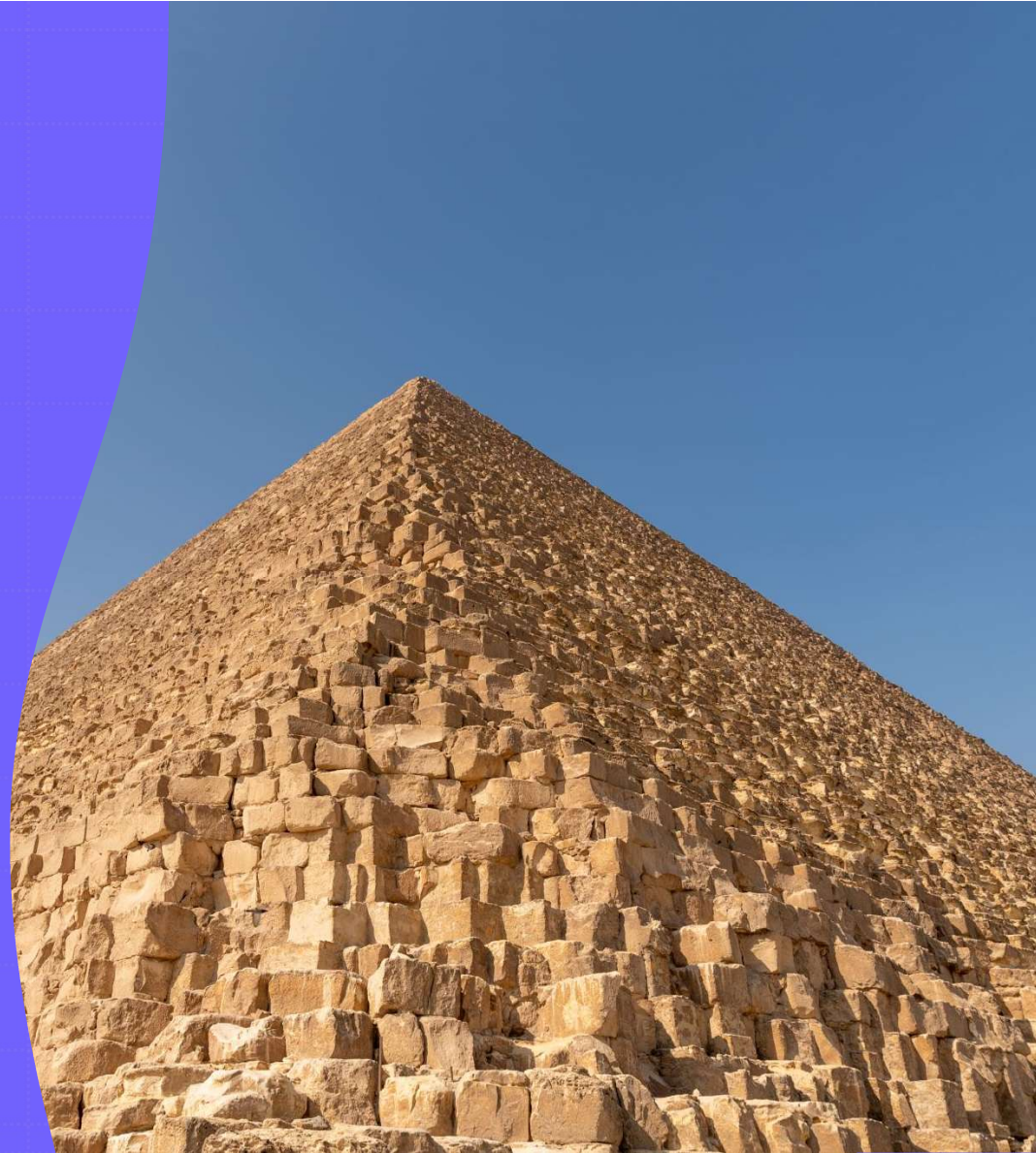
Ruth	Issues Facing Family		
Chapter 1	• Famine—No food • Relocation • Immigration • Death of Spouse/Widow	• Children Married Non-believers • Death of Children • In-law Relationships • Debt	• Return to Homeland • Grief/Loss • Low Self-Worth in Naomi
Chapter 2	• Single Parenting • Hunger • Search for Food	• Daughter-in-law/ Mother-in-law Relationship • Child Providing for Parent	
Chapter 3	• Depending on Another for Help		
Chapter 4	• Marriage/Wedding • Birth of Child	• Grandparenting	



COMMITMENT

GROUP ACTIVITY #3: TAKE A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT YOUR LIFE TODAY.

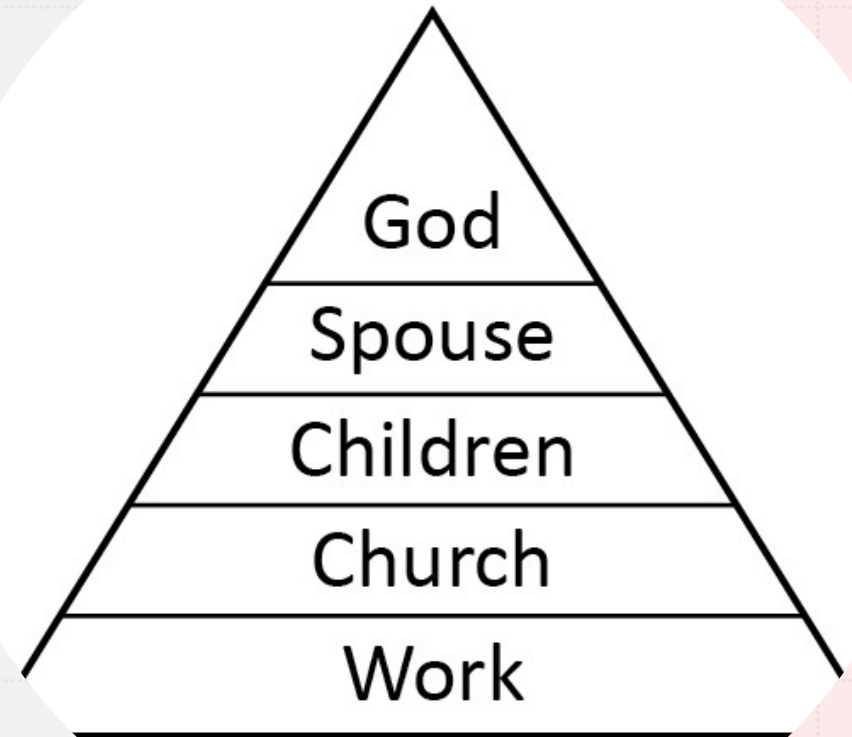
1. MAKE A LIST OF THE TEN MOST IMPORTANT THINGS (AND PEOPLE) IN YOUR LIFE.
2. ON THE PYRAMID, PLACE THE TOP FIVE IN ORDER FROM THE MOST IMPORTANT (AT THE TOP) TO THE LEAST IMPORTANT (AT THE BOTTOM).
3. EXAMINE YOUR PRIORITY PYRAMID. DOES IT REFLECT YOUR FAITH IN GOD? DOES IT REFLECT YOUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR FAMILY?



COMMITMENT

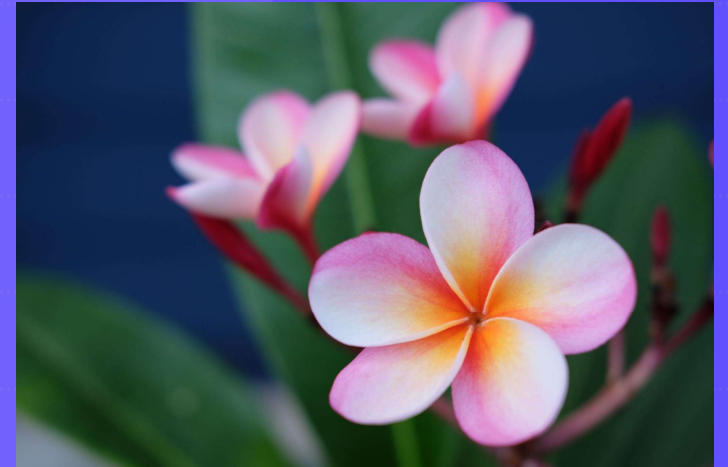
1 SOME EXAMPLES COULD INCLUDE:

- 2 GOD WIFE
 HUSBAND FAMILY
- 3 CHILDREN EXTENDED FAMILYWORK
 MONEY
- 4 SCHOOL CAREER
 INVESTMENTS CHURCH
- 5 HOUSE CARS TRAVEL
 VACATION
- 6 FRIEND EX-SPOUSE
 NEIGHBORS
 COWORKERS
- 7 STEPCCHILDREN



TRUST

- 1.PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER
- 2.DAILY FAMILY WORSHIP
- 3.CHURCH ATTENDANCE
- 4.PRAYER



PRAYER

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 DOUBTING."
JAMES 1:5-6

RELAX, GOD'S IN THE BOAT

"BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKS-GIVING 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." ELLEN WHITE, STEPS TO CHRIST, PG. 93



WHAT HAVE THEY SEEN IN YOUR HOUSE

GROUP ACTIVITY #4: You can also do this activity as a family, as a couple, or if you are single, individually.

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.
3. Then list at least five specific things you can do (as a family) to accomplish this mission.

CLOSING ACTIVITY

1. CONSIDERING THE PARABLE OF THE MAN WHO BUILT ON THE ROCK AND THE ONE WHO BUILT IT 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?



APPEAL TO FAMILIES

1. BUILD YOUR HOME UPON THE ROCK!
2. COMMIT YOUR MARRIAGE AND YOUR FAMILY TO GOD AND MAKE HIM A PRIORITY IN YOUR LIFE.
3. MAKE SURE YOUR PRIORITY TO YOUR FAMILY IS EVIDENT IN THE WAY IN WHICH YOU LIVE.
4. TRUST IN THE ONE WHO IS IN THE BOAT WITH YOU!
5. PRAY FOR WISDOM IN ALL THE DECISIONS YOU MAKE.
6. LIVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT YOUR HOME REFLECTS JESUS TO OTHERS!
7. MAKE SURE OTHERS SEE JESUS IN YOUR HOUSE!



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REFERENCES

- Drs Claudio and Pamela Consuegra – Family Ministries Leader Guide for North America Division.
- Bible
- E.G. White
- Dennis Rainey – Ministering to 21st Century Families