

# **“What You Love at Home”**

*Hidden Heart week #5*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Over the course of the last several studies we have been asking the question “What do you want?” It turns out the rhythms and patterns of our lives both reveal and reinforce what it is we truly want. The formation of our heart’s desire began in the earliest exposure we had to love. It began in the home where a mother’s smile and touch were instinctively associated with being loved. And so in this the last of our sermon studies, we are going to look at how we might allow God to shape the desires of our heart through the rhythms of our lives in our home.

### ***Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)***

When you were a kid, what is one thing that everyone in your home would gather together to do without fail?

## **STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)**

### **Practices of the Church Family**

Q1. Read 1 John 4:19-21

There are certain observances of our faith that blend our natural family with our church family. Two examples of this would be baptism and child dedications. The congregation is not merely observing, they are committing to love and to support the new believer, or the child’s parents in the spiritual journey that is beginning. Did you benefit from someone else’s commitment to you when you first came to the Lord? Discuss with your group some of the ways the congregation can be supportive of the new believer or parents of a young child.

### **Practices of the Household**

Q2. Read Joshua 24:15

Your household, be it large or small, has a rhythm that reflects your underlying values to those around you. We may not even recognize the signals we are sending. Shortly before his death, Joshua made a bold statement to the Israelites committing himself and his house to serve the Lord. Do you personally know of any heads of households who have a strong commitment to serve the Lord, and reflect that within their homes? How would you say that is evident in their homes? In

Joshua's statement he recognized that some may choose to serve other gods. If the routines of your home are closely bound to others who do not choose to serve God, you will be struggling to keep God at the center of your home. What if your child's team schedules practices on Sunday mornings? Would you forego Church/Sunday School during their season? What would you do if a non-Christian roommate invites friends in to party every weekend? Have you encountered situations where your daily routine challenges you to keep God at the center?

Take a moment to recall how your day typically begins, how meals are taken, and what happens as your day comes to a close. Where would you say God is reflected in the routine of your home and where could you make more space for God's influence?

We can adjust the routines in our home so that they reflect the rhythms of love and grace. One of the places we have opportunity to reflect God in our household is at mealtimes around the table. What were meals like when you were growing up? What are they like now? How would you say God is involved?

Opening the door to our homes is often a step in opening the door to our hearts. Take a quick mental audit of your daily routine. Does it generally welcome others in or shut them out? Does it have flexibility, or is it so rigid that you can't fit in another person?

### **Practices of the Heart**

Q3. Read Philippians 4:8-9; 2 Corinthians 10:5

Paul has given the Philippians an excellent guideline on how to keep their daily routine centered on God. Read through his list of where to fix our thoughts.

How do you capture your thoughts for Christ and come against the negative messages of the world? (see 2 Cor 10:5) How might you apply this throughout your day (or to a particular set of negative thoughts)?

How will capturing your thoughts help you to "guard your heart"? (Proverbs 4:23)

## **THE BOTTOM LINE**

If our household is going to follow the desires of God's heart we will make God our focus, and our rhythms and routines will reflect that. Our household not only includes our biological family, but our church family as well, being committed to loving and supporting one another. There will be other influences which may draw us, but we can choose to reflect God's love and grace especially in our homes. One way we do this is by following Paul's advice to the Philippians by thinking on the right things.

## **PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE**

This week find a way to support or encourage others in the family of God. Additionally, take time to journal; using Paul's list in Philippians 4:8 & 9 find something that corresponds to each item that you can think on to keep you centered in Christ.

## **MEMORY VERSE**

*Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*

*Proverbs 4:23 NLT*

## **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you will apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members' needs:

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## **\*\*\* GOING FURTHER ON YOUR OWN \*\*\***

If you are looking for a Biblical perspectives podcast check out The Breakpoint by Colson Center or The Briefing by Albert Mohler. For those who are married, check out the Beyond Ordinary marriage conference April 13 & 14 at New Life.

## BIBLE VERSES

### **Question 1**

1 John 4:19-21 ESV - 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

### **Question 2**

Joshua 24:15 ESV - 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

### **Question 3**

Philippians 4:8-9 ESV - 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me--practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 10:5 ESV - 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,