

HOME BUILDERS

Let's Build Something Better!

- **What's something you've built or been involved in building? What things did you learn from your building process?**

After David was settled in his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under a tent." Nathan replied to David, "Whatever you have in mind, do it, for God is with you." But that night the word of God came to Nathan, saying: "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: You are not the one to build me a house to dwell in. I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought Israel up out of Egypt to this day. I have moved from one tent site to another, from one dwelling place to another. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their leaders whom I commanded to shepherd my people, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"'"

1 Chronicles 17:1-6 (NIV)

Key Thought: Building a great family doesn't just happen.

It takes wisdom to build a house, and understanding to set it on a firm foundation; It takes knowledge to furnish its rooms with fine furniture and beautiful draperies.

Proverbs 24:3-4 (MSG)

- **How is building a great family like building a dream home?**
- **How different do you think your family would be if you created a blueprint or a vision for your family? What impact do you think it would have?**
- **What are some specific areas in your family that could use the most improvement?**
- **At what stage if your family currently in? How would you like to see your family grow during this stage of life?**

And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NLT)

- **Why do you think David failed to have a more powerful impact on the generations after him?**
- **How well and often do you discuss your faith with your family? Where do you need improvement?**
- **What are some opportunities in your life that you can use to teach your kids about God?**

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, "Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children."

Deuteronomy 4:9-10 (NIV)

- **What steps can you take this week that would help you be more intentional about impacting your kids with the truths of God's Word?**

Final Thought: This is how you build a great family: God is the architect, giving us the master plan through Scripture. Parents are the builder, the general contractor, responsible to follow God's plan and make the best use of the resources available to you. And the church has its role in providing those resources, partnering with you for a season in the life of your family.

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- What have you always wished you could do?

Explore

Read 1 Chronicles 17:1-27.

- What concerned David about where the ark was being housed? (17:1)
- What is the major subject of this account? (17:1-27)
- Who are the major persons in this passage? (17:1-27)
- How did God make His will known to David? (17:3)
- What was God's message to David about housing the ark? (17:4-15)
- Whom had God selected to build a temple to house the ark? (17:11-14)
- What assurances did God give David about his successor? (17:11-14)
- For what did David express thanks to the Lord? (17:16-19)
- What special qualities of God did David recount? (17:20-22)
- What did David say about the promise that God has made to him and his family? (17:23-27)

Reflect

- What would be wrong about David's or any other Christian leader's pushing ahead with his or her plans despite warnings that those plans were unwise or not God's will?
- In what way would you like to make a big impact in this world?
- How do you know if a person's motives are pure when he or she wants to do something for God?
- How can we know if what we want to do for God is really His will?
- How should we respond when God prevents us from carrying out our plans?
- What are the signs of true humility in a person?
- What is true humility?
- For what reasons would a Christian leader ignore the signs of God's disapproval of his or her plans?
- What kind of attitude can keep us open and receptive to hearing and knowing God's will for us?
- What do you wish you could do for God?

Apply

- Using David's prayer as a model, what dream or plan that God has disallowed can you entrust to the Lord in prayer?
- What steps can you take today to change your priorities from worldly ones to kingdom ones?