



BETTER TOGETHER

How to Win at Home



COUNTRY CHRISTIAN STUDY GUIDE
8—WEEK SERMON SERIES

This series created by The Crossing in Quincy IL.
www.thecrossing.net



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Wining at Home

We all want to win at home. Life can be complicated and so can our relationships. God created us in His image for community, it's one of the ways we are to know Him, learn who He is, growing in our knowledge of Him. The family is meant to be the foundational expression of this.



BROKEN AND REDEEMED—WK1

ROMANS 8:1-32

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank you for your goodness, your desire to redeem a people from sin. Loving us in Christ to restore us to a holy relationship with you. You are good and are always working for our good and your glory. You and you alone can fix the brokenness of our lives to use those stories of redeeming grace so others will see your goodness. So, let us be brave enough not to keep them hidden but bring them into the light so that you will do your work in and through us. Amen.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Share a favorite childhood memory that is centered around family.

Consider the following statements, what are the implications if they are true? What if anything changes in our lives?

- God can redeem anything because He redeemed us from sin.
- God given believers His Spirit to guide our hearts and minds to peace.
- God has the power to redeem death to life.
- God adopts us.
- God always works for our good.
- Nothing is too big for God.

Read Romans 8:5—Share about Paul is getting at. Make an application to your life today. What are some practical ways you can set your mind on what the Spirit desires? What can you do throughout the day to remain focused on the things of the Spirit where you live, work and play?

QUESTIONS TO PONDER CONT.

Read Romans 8:12-13—We all know we cannot be good enough to earn our salvation, see Romans 7:18, but what is vs 12-13 asking us to do and why?

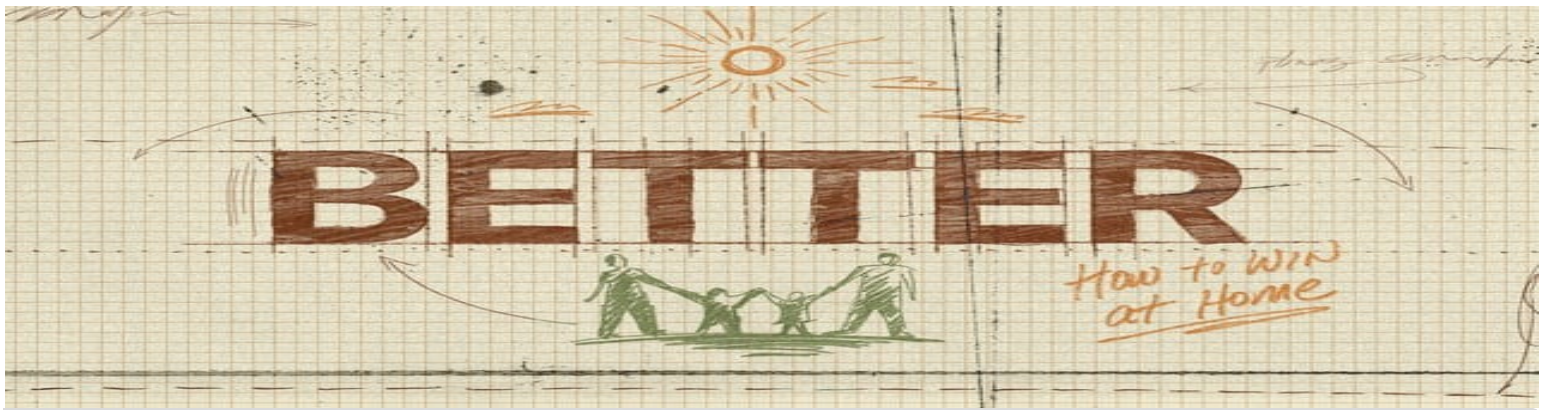
Read Romans 8:18, 22-23—How does this refute the “Health, wealth, and prosperity” doctrine, which says that God wants us to be healed, wealthy, and be in prosperity and if that’s not happening something is wrong with your faith. Can we be surprised when suffering comes? What should our attitude be toward suffering?

Read Romans 8:26-28—What is your prayer life like? Where and when do you pray? What area of prayer do you struggle with? Why do you think that is?

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery using gold. How is this an example of 1 Peter 5:10-11?

QUOTABLES

Let’s replace, “Everything happens for a reason, with anything can be redeemed.”



FOLLOWING JESUS—WK2

ROM

PRAY

Father God, all through your Word, you have set the marriage relationship as the foundation for how you love us and how we are to love you. Yet, many of our marriage relationships struggle at being that example of Jesus' love. Show us how to love one another that strengthens our marriages. Give us the wisdom and will to love one another that glorifies you, that the love of Jesus would be magnified to the world. Amen.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Share a favorite childhood memory that is centered around family.

Read Matthew 22:34-40. How would focusing on living out this passage affect our relationship with our spouse? With others? Read Luke 10:27 and Deuteronomy 6:5. Combining those text, we are to love God with all our what? Which of the four, heart, soul, mind, strength, do you struggle with most in the relationships in your life?

Of the five relationship components, what impacted you the most? Which are well versed in? Which are hard for you to accomplish? Why?

-Know. Sharing thoughts, dreams, feelings and day to day experiences. The quality of communication.

-Trust. Keeping your promises and commitments. Trust doesn't come from what you know but from how you think about what you know.

-Rely. The way we depend on each other to meet each other's needs and wants. Trust is about what we think. Rely is about what we do.

-Commit. Promise, Priority, and Presence.

-Touch. Affection and intimacy expressed through touch.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER CONT.

What are your expectations as a Christian in your relationship with God?

Scripture refers to the Church being the bride of Christ. (Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-9, 21:2, Isaiah 54:5, 2 Corinthians 11:2.)

Read Proverbs 31:10-31 but instead of wife use church. Instead of husband use Christ. For example: "An excellent church who can find? The church is far more precious than jewels. The heart of Christ trust his church and he will have no lack of gain. The church does him good and not harm, all its days." You get the idea.

Seeing it in that light what if any perspective does this bring to mind as Christ's church?

QUOTABLES

"The stronger the foundation, the more stable whatever is built upon it will be."



FOLLOWING JESUS—WK3

EPHESIANS 5:21-23

PRAY

Heavenly Father, We need strong, faithful, loving marriages grounded and built on your Word. We need to learn your ways and your expectations. Help us order our lives according to your Word and help grow us up in the likeness of Jesus Christ and to each other in the process. Amen.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Suppose you had a farmer who needs to transport a fox, a chicken, and some corn across a river. He only has a small boat that can only carry him and one of them with him per crossing. The farmer needs to get all three items across the river in one piece, but there is a problem. He can't leave the fox with the chicken alone as the fox will eat the chicken. Likewise, he can't leave the chicken with the corn as the chicken will eat the corn. How can the farmer solve the problem? (Find the solution here: <https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/news/a23688/solution-to-riddle-of-the-week-1-the-farmers-delemma/>)

-Read Ephesians 5:21-33. Why is it important to read, understand and remember verse 21 and verse 30 before you get to 22 and 25? What is the model for marriage in this passage of scripture? (The church, vs 32.) What is the common thread between how the wife submits to the husband and how the husband loves his wife? What does it look like for the church to submit to Christ? What does it look like for Christ to love the church? How should this spiritual understanding help us have thriving relationships with our spouse?

-A marriage without love creates a crazy cycle. Without love...she reacts...without love...he reacts...without love. Have you ever found yourself amid the crazy cycle? Would you be willing to share an example? How is the crazy cycle broken? Who can break the crazy cycle?

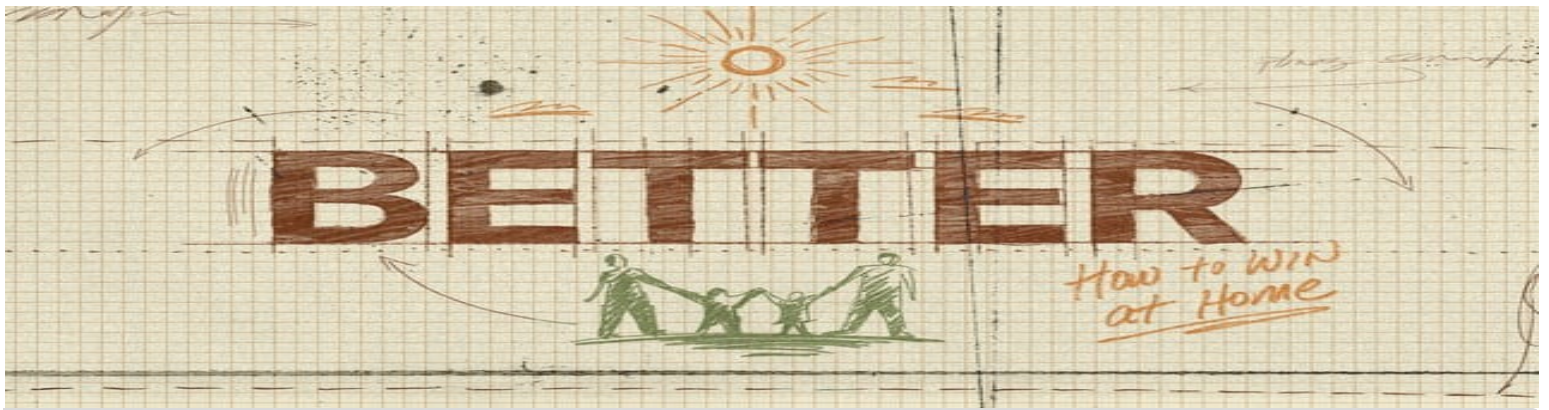
QUESTIONS TO PONDER CONT.

Gary Chapman suggest there are five love languages. Which do you think is your spouse's primary language? Which one is your love language? We all have or need each. Rate them in the order from primary to secondary.

1. Words of Affirmation
2. Quality Time
3. Acts of Service
4. Physical Touch
5. Gifts.

QUOTABLES

"We weren't designed to act like a feral dog or cat, but some do. The Bible is crystal clear. We were designed to mate for life."



CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE THE FAMILY—WK4

3 John 1:4

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of family. Grant us the wisdom to learn to be godly influencers in our children's lives. Grant us the wisdom to set up and surround our children with others who will help build godly character in them. Amen.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Share a funny story about raising your children. Or, if you don't have children, tell a funny story that happened with your parents when they were raising you.

-Read 3 John 1:4. John was talking about those in the church. But is this your desire for those in your life, especially your children? What have you done, or what would you like to do that will ensure that your children are walking in the truth of God's word?

-Who are the eight loudest voices in your life currently? How have they contributed to your growth or how have they hindered your growth? If this is true in your life, is it true for your children? Who are the eight loudest voices in your children's life? Write them down. If you can't list them with confidence, what does this say to you? Are you satisfied with the eight loudest voices in your child's life? What about yours? If not, what action needs to be taken?

-Read Proverbs 13:20. This is a truism in the Bible. What does it mean, and how can it be applied to your life? How have you seen it prove itself true in the life of your children?

QUESTIONS TO PONDER CONT.

-Read Proverbs 27:17. This is another truism in the Bible. What does it mean, and how can it be applied to your life? How do you ensure that this becomes true in the life of your children?

-Jesus had two circles. He had a circle of three; Peter, James, and John. Then he had the rest of the disciples. Who are you influencing in life for the Lord? Who are you leading? Discipling? If you are not leading someone, why not? Who is available for you to lead? How will you get started?

CHALLENGE: Talk to your child. Find out who the 8-12 most influential people are in their lives. Then, start holding "board meetings" with your child. Take the lead. Make it a point to influence their lives for the Lord and for the good of the child.

CHALLENGE

This week write "Thank you" cards or cards of encouragement to those in your circle, where you live, work, and play.

QUOTABLES

"we do not need to delay spiritual maturity. We do not need to put off pushing and challenging each other and our kids in the area of growing in Christ-likeness. We do not get everything right. So we need people to coach and help us navigate life's challenges."



GLOWING RECTANGLES—WK5

Matthew 9:16-17, Proverbs 4:23, Ephesians 5:15-16

PRAY

Father God, all through your Word, you have set the marriage relationship as the foundation for how you love us and how we are to love you. Yet, many of our marriage relationships struggle at being that example of Jesus' love. Show us how to love one another that strengthens our marriages. Give us the wisdom and will to love one another that glorifies you, that the love of Jesus would be magnified to the world. Amen.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

What is the oldest phone you can remember using? What is the earliest phone number you can remember? Have you ever used a payphone?

-Read through the following statistics, and then take a few minutes and pray for the young people you know. Pray for all the young people that attend our church.

-Some studies show a 66% increase in depression because of social media.

-The 8th–12th grade suicide rate for girls has increased by 65%.

-Kids with smartphones get one hour less sleep per night than kids that do not go to bed with their phones.

-62% of teenagers say they have received a nude image on their phone. 40% of teenagers have sent nude photos.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER CONT.

-Read Proverbs 4:23. Spend some time as a group taking this verse apart. When you read the words, "above all else..." what comes to mind? Make a list of "everything else." Don't stop until your list includes at least 20 ideas. Then discuss what "...guard your heart" means. What does it look like to guard a treasure or something of value? What lengths do you or would you go to protect something of great value? What are those protocols that you have in place? How does this relate to your heart? This passage says that, "...everything you do..." flows from your heart. Make an inventory of everything you have done in the past week? How does this exercise inform your view of your walk with Christ? How does it impact your perspective on raising children?

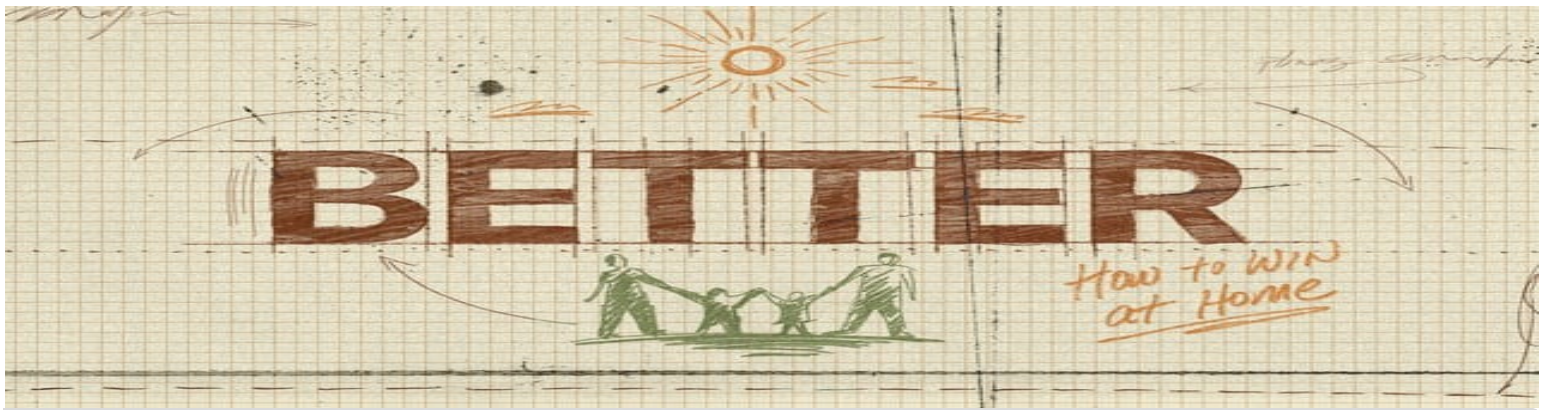
-Read Ephesians 5:16-17. When considering technology, we can reject it, receive it, or redeem it. Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of each one.

-Discuss what each of the following statements means and how they impact your family if they are not considered.

- Time over time is history.
- Love over time is worth.
- Words over time is direction.
- Stories over time is perspective.
- Family over time is belonging.
- Fun over time is connection.

QUOTABLES

"We must become committed to guarding our hearts and our children's hearts. There is too much at stake."



INSIDE OUT—WK6

Deuteronomy 6:1-7, Proverbs 22:6

PRAY

Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of family. You have given us the great joy and responsibility of training our children to know you. Yet, you have wired that relationship to be caught from the inside of each of us. Let us, as parents, keep our priorities lined with yours, so that our children understand from us how important Jesus is and their need for him. Amen.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend some time as a group discussing how this sermon series has impacted your lives. Talk about what adjustments you have made in your personal life during this series and the difference it has made.

-Read Deuteronomy 6:1-2. Why did Moses say God directed him to teach them the commands, decrees, and laws of God? This verse was a promise to the Israelites originally. What are the implications or applications of this scripture for us today? Do you think that most Christian parents believe the truth of this verse? Do you think most live by it? Why or why not? What about you and your family? What takeaways from this verse you'd like to implement in your family?

-Read Deuteronomy 6:5-7. How have you been doing as a parent regarding helping your children understand God's Word? What do you wish you had done differently? What might you do to take advantage of the time you have left or redeem your lost time?

-Read Proverbs 22:6. What is difference between teaching and training? Explain how each has its place in the family. What does it mean for you as a parent that you are switching from caregiver to coach in your child's life? How does this affect the way you view your time with your children?

CHALLENGE

Start a habit to reinforce Godly Christian values. If you already do, considering adding one.

-Create a prayer team for your family. Invite one person from each generation, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, 50 and up.

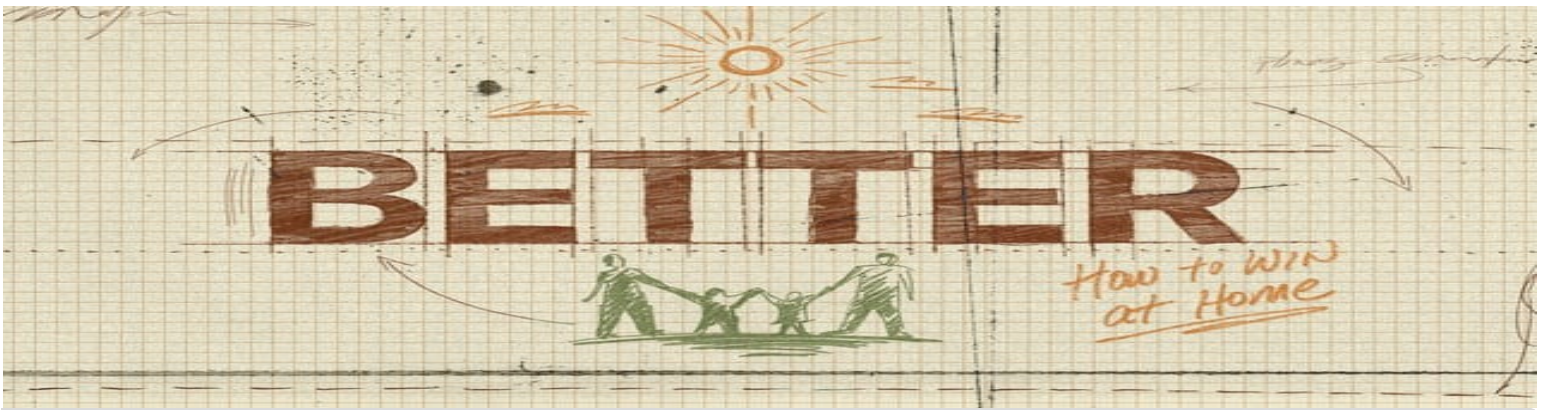
-Begin a bible reading plan with someone from your team or all of them.

-Have a weekly date night with your kids. Discover their love languages.

-Find a service project in the community or serve together in a ministry at church.

QUOTABLES

“Be purposeful about speaking and living God’s truth in front of your children. Provide good examples...they are watching you.”



BALANCE—WK7

Philippians 4:1-13

PRAY

Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of rest, Sabbath. We ask for wisdom to have balance in our lives not allowing the distractions of this world to move you from your place of pre-eminence, Lord of our lives, when life gets so overwhelming. Teach us how to be content in all things remembering you are the most essential relationship in our lives. Trusting you to work all things for your glory and our benefit. Amen.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Does your family have a story about you they always retell when you are together?

-Read Philippians 4:1-13 together.

-Read Philippians 4:6-7. What is our part in this passage? What is God's part? How often have you expected God to do His part but you don't take your part seriously? How often has God been faithful to His part when you have not been faithful to your part? Based on this passage, when should you pray? What should you pray for? How should you pray?

-Read Philippians 4:8-9. What is our part in this passage? What is God's part? How often do you want peace in your life but don't take time to "...think on these things..."? Do you have an example you can share?

-Read Philippians 4:12-13. Do you think there is a connection between verses 6-8 and Paul's statement, "...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances..."?

-As a group, give some specific ways to apply these scriptures to your life. When should you do them? What does it look like to do them? How do you do them in the midst of your troubles and problems?

CHALLENGE

We all have heard the definition of insanity. It is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. What godly changes in your routine of life have you been blessed by. What changes if any, in your life's routine can you make that will reinforce a balanced life in Christ? What is one that you will make for the next 40 days?

QUOTABLES

"People try to balance everything in their life, including their walk with Jesus. It's like Jesus is another piece they have to fit in. Jesus is the piece all others rest on."



GENERATIONAL IMPACT—WK8

Galatians 6:9, Romans 12:1-8

PRAY

Father in heaven, those generations coming after us needs to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. Help me to learn to think and act generationally. Let me live with consistency, engagement, and sacrifice so that those coming behind, until you come, learn to love you and live for you. Amen.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given?

-In your own words, what does it mean to have a generational impact? Why is a generational impact so crucial for a church that wants to reach the lost? Is it too early to start trying to have a generational impact? Why or why not?

-Read Galatians 6:9. Based on this text, what is the purpose of doing good? Do you think that most people think about a harvest when they are doing good? If not, what are they thinking about? Why is it so important, as a believer that God will use you to reap a harvest if you are intentional about reaching others for the Lord? Explain.

-Read Romans 12:4-8. (Exercise: Have each person write what they believe is the primary gift God has given them for the church on an index card. Then, before they reveal what they have written, have each group member share what they see in others. After the exercise, say, "You have all heard how valuable you are to the Kingdom. Others are impacted if you are not using your gift in the church. How are you serving currently or when can you serve?"

CHALLENGE

We all have heard the definition of insanity. It is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. What godly changes in your routine of life have you been blessed by. What changes if any, in your life's routine can you make that will reinforce a balanced life in Christ? What is one that you will make for the next 40 days?

QUOTABLES

"Noah was provided 40 days of life-saving protection after 20,000 days of consistency, faithfully following God. I choose my God over sleeping in. I choose my God over my devices, I Prioritize worship and direct my gaze toward heavenly promises."



BELONG. GROW. REACH