

10 Reasons to Raise a Family that Draws Others to Christ

- 1. The family is where we are fed, physically, spiritually and emotionally.** We receive our sustenance from our family. Even Jesus, the God of the universe, was placed in the context of a family. Think about it. God could have done it any way He wanted. He could have had Jesus grow up under the tutelage of a priest or the mentoring of a great king. Instead He placed Him in a simple family, with a young inexperienced mother and an imperfect carpenter dad. If God is in charge, then the family is where God intends for us to learn, to grow, to take our first steps. It's the place we are taught so many life skills, language, a trade, our culture. In Chapter 2 of [The Purpose Driven Life](#), Rick Warren says this, "*Most amazing, God decided how you would be born. Regardless of the circumstances of your birth or who your parents are, God had a plan in creating you. It doesn't matter whether your parents were good, bad, or indifferent. God knew that those two individuals possessed exactly the right genetic makeup to create the custom "you" he had in mind.*" Someone once said 'the nest is the enemy of flight.' That is true. What else is true is 'the nest is where we learn to fly.' Proverbs 22:6 – "*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*" Family gives loving adults a chance to use "teachable moments" to shape the character of young lives.
- 2. The family is where we learn what we believe.** Much of what we hold to believe as true is what we learn in the context of family. Because I believe it, does that make it true? Truth about morality, about God, about race, about rights, about responsibilities, we learn these things best in the context of family. You want to teach your kids wisdom, Psalm 111:10 says, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.*" The family is where true wisdom can be learned. The family is where truth can be taught.
- 3. The family is where we best learn about identity.** The family is the best place to discover *who you are* and *why you are here*. Kids are asking these questions; who am I, why am I here? Is who I am based on what I drive? Is it based on what sport I play or how much I weigh? Is it based on my grades, or what school I go to? What better place to ask these questions and discover the answers than in the context of a family.
- 4. The family is the place where we can risk.** The world can be a scary place. The family can be the place where it is safe to take a chance. How can you discover and develop your talents and gifts if you can't *give it a shot*? The family is the place where you can be encouraged to try new things.
- 5. The family is the place where you get encouraged and affirmed.** 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 says, "*For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.*" The family is a place God designed for us be encouraged and affirmed.

6. The family is the place we can take refuge. The family is a place to go to get away from the world. It is our place of security, our place of safety. When times are tough and you need someone to talk to, what a blessing to have relationships refined over the years, to go to.

7. The family is where our character is built and sharpened. Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” No one knows us like our family. No one has the opportunities to sharpen us, like our family. Sometimes we can fool the world, but our family knows. The family is where we are sharpened and where we sharpen others. What better place for God to sharpen us than our family.

8. The family is a place where we receive unconditional love and acceptance. It is the place where we are loved without worry or regard to who we are or what we do. No matter what happens, no matter what our kids do, we want them to know that we love them. This principle is not an excuse to do the wrong thing. It means when our kids mess up, even in the midst of suffering the consequences, we want them to know it doesn't change our love for them. Isn't that the picture of God that we want them to have? Paul tells us in Romans 8:38, “*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” Nothing we can ever do will make him love us any less, and nothing we can do could make him love us any more! The family is a great place to live out this principle. We can practice saying to our kids, “We love you and we are going to get through this.”

9. The family is where we learn to serve. What does the bible teach about what it takes to be great in God's kingdom? According to Mark 9:35 Jesus told his disciples, “*If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.*” Where are you going to learn what it means to serve? Often we want to send our kids on a missions trip to serve. What better place to learn how to serve than the family? The family provides a great opportunity to learn this Godly character quality.

10. The family is ordained by God Almighty and is a weapon in a dark world. God created the family. It is holy. It is here to stay. The enemy has taken one of God's most powerful tools and reduced it, in many cases, to a wounded animal struggling for survival. Robert B. Andrews, in his book The Family – God's Weapon for Victory, says this “...*One of the major battlefields in the cosmic war with Satan and his world system is the family. Sadly, God's people, for the most part, do not have a coherent biblical theology of family life that prepares them to be effective on that front in the battle.*” Remember, if God calls you, then he wants to use your family as a weapon for his glory. Only, unlike weapons of mass destruction, this weapon uses love, mercy, compassion, grace, and truth to wage battle.

God is looking for marriages and families that He can work through to further His Kingdom