



## AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE...

Called to be a Keeper Skill Session

Brett Curie

Our home is our primary place of ministry, but did you know that our house can serve the Lord? Joshua 24:15 says, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord", and the word 'house' is the Hebrew word *bavith*, which means family, the way we would typically interpret this verse. But it also means house. Creating a home for our family that serves the Lord is an awesome responsibility and privilege we have been given! We can build, 'brick by brick', a place of comfort, refuge, and joy for our family, a place where they really want to be. Although this takes some forethought (a blueprint) and plenty of work (we are on-site builders!) it is more than anything about our heart. While we may talk about a lot of 'things' today, it's NOT about the 'things'! It's not really about what it looks like at all--but what happens within the walls. The ideas we will cover are just tools to create a personal reflection of who we are, what is important to us, what our priorities are, what God has done for us. As over time we place one brick upon the other, we can build a place of true beauty that serves the Lord by pointing others, especially our family, to Him.

### LAYING THE FOUNDATION: the Lord

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock." Matthew 7:24

Who or what are you building your house on?

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up...and you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:5-7, 9

Is your home filled with God's Word; does it speak God's Word?

"Mary therefore took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume." John 12:3

Is your home filled with the fragrance of worship?

Take a look around your home--what in or about your home bears witness of Him? Think about it and be intentional. I want my home to be a place where we can't help but to think about Jesus! It's impossible--He's everywhere and fully at home there.

#### **As for your house:**

\*Who is Jesus to you? Can you think of a way to represent that aspect of His character or Name in your home? You may choose visual reminders of Jesus--such as crosses and nativities. But also be creative: He is our Rock, our Good Shepherd...

\*There are lots of ways to incorporate Scripture in your home--you may want to literally paint a special verse on your walls, or choose photos or artwork with Scriptures.

\*Speaking His Word in your home is evident beyond the visible. What goes on within the walls is written just as vividly as if it were painted. This would include devotions and quiet time, Scripture memory, prayer.

### BRICK BY BRICK: History

"The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Indeed my heritage is beautiful to me." Psalm 16:6

"Tell your sons about it, and let your sons tell their sons, and their sons the next generation." Joel 1:3

Whether we were blessed with a godly heritage or not, it is all part of His plan. We can incorporate our history in our home, surrounding ourselves with pieces of that heritage. The tangible evidence of our history in our home is a powerful, precious reminder of His providence in our lives.

**As for your house:**

\*A good place to start: be proud of hand-me-downs! Even if it's not 'your style', consider the story, the history behind the object.

\*Not every visitor to your home needs to know the stories behind your beloved pieces--you don't live in a museum! But it is important that your family is aware; this is what builds up and creates that heritage and history. You may want to write it down--it can be easy to forget.

\*Be mindful that what is happening now is built upon your heritage. Take time to reflect on it and be thankful.

\*It's not too late! You are creating a heritage NOW, both for your family and the generations that follow.

## **BRICK BY BRICK: Traditions, Memories, Celebrations**

"Tell the men to take twelve stones from where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan...We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future, your children will ask, 'What do these stones mean to you?' Then you can tell them, 'They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the Lord's covenant went across.' These stones will stand as a permanent memorial...He did this so that all the nations of the earth might know the power of the Lord, and that you might fear the Lord your God forever." Joshua 4:3, 6-8, 24

"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord." Exodus 12:14

Traditions, memories, and celebrations bind families together. They create unity, a common bond. They also create a heritage for those that come after you.

**As for your house:**

\*Make traditions and memories on purpose--they usually don't just happen! Then showcase them to keep them in the front of your mind.

\*Consider making a 'memorial box' filled with visual reminders of what God has done personally for you and your family.

\*Holidays are a great time to establish traditions, and make them special by bringing out special decorations (photos, books, crafts, journals) that only are displayed at those times.

\*The celebrations that take place in your home contribute to the atmosphere of your home; these are times that bind your family together. Try to commemorate both big ones (birthdays, spiritual milestones, vacations) and small ones (first day of school, welcome home, special events or recognition).

\*Don't forget that daily rituals such as mealtimes, bath-times, or any ordinary things you do on a regular basis are also opportunities to build memories and traditions.

## **BRICK BY BRICK: Family**

"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord..." Psalm 127:3

"I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth." III John 4

It is a vital responsibility and privilege to try to create an environment that nurtures our children in the Lord and makes them feel special. Their home should be a place they feel 'at home', where they are comfortable, a safe haven, a place that holds meaning for them--their favorite place.

**As for your house:**

\*Everybody loves to see a picture of himself! By displaying your loved ones' photos, you are displaying their importance to you. And don't just use the pretty, posed ones--choose photos that capture a moment or a memory.

\*Giving a place of honor in our home to things that are important to our family members shows them love! If it is special to them, let's make it special to us. This may include treasures like their 'artwork', special crafts, collections, trophies.

\*Did you know that I have the best family in the world? (ps--so do you!) Take the time to build unity, and create a feeling of special-ness in your family. Think about what you want your family to be 'known' for, what are you all about, what would you want to be remembered as? God's Word says that "without a vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18), so be intentional! Create a family constitution, a family motto, choose a family verse, give honor to your family name. And again, make it visible in your home as a reminder.

**THE HEART OF THE HOME:**

"But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'" I Samuel 16:7

God looks at the heart, and we are the hearts in our homes!

"And let not your adornment be merely external...but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God." I Peter 3:3-4

Just as it is with us, so it is with our homes--the external, how it looks, is not nearly as important as what goes on on the inside. Not only do we need to be purposeful with the things we choose to fill our homes with, but we also must be careful what we are putting into our hearts.

**As for your house:**

\*Consider dedicating your home to the Lord. If you are building a new home, or even re-doing an area of your home, take the opportunity to write Scripture on the walls or the concrete slab, tuck verses or prayers into the wall beams. You don't have to wait until a project comes along though--set aside a time with your family, or also invite other friends and family to pray through the rooms in your home. You may choose special verses that you would like to pray through as you do this.

\*What kind of home are we making? Ask your family. If you have not yet completed Week 7, Day 4 of "Called to be a Keeper", make sure you do! It will challenge and bless you.

\*Are you overwhelmed with where to start? Ask Him! He says in II Samuel 7:11 that He "will make a house for you" and in Psalm 107:30 that He will guide us to our "desired haven."

\*Don't make the mistake of thinking you have to do it all! Not only does He want to 'guide' us to it and 'make' it for us, He wants to BUILD it for us! "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." (Psalm 127:1) Let Him!

Like we said at the beginning, we have been given such a responsibility and privilege to create a home that serves the Lord and points our family to Him and what He has done. It is so worth it; the end result is the most important place here on earth.

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As for me and my house...

Make my home a haven, Lord,  
To hold those that I love;  
Weave a tapestry of beauty here  
That draws them to You above.

A tapestry woven all throughout  
With our heritage and history;  
An ordered, warm, and peaceful home  
That shows You are our priority.

A home for my husband to feel refreshed  
At the end of a stressful day,  
Where he finds a wife who loves him  
And two boys always ready to play.

A home for these boys You've given us  
Where they meet and grow in You.  
The place they never want to leave--  
But come back to often when they do.

A safe retreat from the outside world  
That can be so cruel and cold;  
A place where arms are always open wide  
To run into--young or old.

A place where we laugh, and cry, and pray,  
Where traditions and memories are found;  
Where together we live out our faith every day,  
Where Your glory and blessings abound.

It's not about bricks and mortar or paint--  
You look at the hearts dwelling inside.  
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord:  
We invite You to reign here and abide.

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