

*Who's Building Your
House?*

*A Biblical Blueprint For
Motherhood*

by Sue Jakes

BLUEPRINT FOR MOTHERING FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Suggested Preparation For Each Session:

1. Be sure to view the video in advance and go over the discussion questions.
2. There is a handout (Listening Outline) for each session. Make copies for the women. Note: there is a copy with answers for you.
3. There are discussion questions for each session. Adapt the questions to your particular group, situation, and time-frame.
4. Have extra pencils.
5. Some suggestions for enhancing your presentation: a book table of resources, copies of *Heart of the Home* for each woman (see below), an older woman to give a testimony, a woman to give a testimony about having godly parents, etc.
6. Pray for the women who will attend.
7. Plan to pair the women as prayer partners. You will be dealing with issues about parenting that are contrary to the world's views. You need to cover this time, as well as each woman and her family, with prayer. Encourage the prayer partners to pray specifically for husbands and children.
8. The foundation for mothering is salvation. If you expect unsaved women to attend, be sure to have a clear gospel presentation. Have women available to talk with individuals about their relationship with Christ.

Information About Sue Jakes:

Sue and her husband Steve live in Surfside Beach, SC, where he pastors the Surfside PC A church. They have four children. Sue and her partner, Pricilla Stewart, write and edit a bi-monthly newsletter called "Heart of the Home" which provides helpful and encouraging information to mothers of young children. She conducts seminars, is a conference speaker, and serves as a regional teacher trainer and consultant for the PC A Christian Education Committee.

You may subscribe to the "Heart of the Home" newsletter or order the "Heart of the Home" eight-session audio tape Bible study and workbook by writing to 6815 Briargate Court, Montgomery, AL 36116.

Suggestions For Presentation:

1. Introduce the video by telling about Sue. Read Psalm 127 and open with prayer.
2. Give the women the Listening Outline and ask them to fill it out as they watch the video.
3. Show the Video.
4. Go over the Listening Outline. This will help lead into the discussion.
5. Go over the discussion questions. These are on the back of the listening outline answer sheet.
6. Have a time of prayer with prayer partners. You may want to have them join with two other pairs and form groups of six.

BLUEPRINT FOR MOTHERING LISTENING
OUTLINE for Session 1, Answer sheet for facilitator

PART I: MASTER PLAN

Motherhood as calling: God is creator. God is the builder.

Covenant framework: Who we are in relationship to God versus what we do.

Psalm 127:

SALVATION: Foundation of His building is knowing Jesus and access to the Throne of Grace.

FAITH: Forsaking me I trust Him
Forsaking
All
I
Trust
Him

REPENTANCE: away from self to the Savior. On-going process.

GUARD: He is guardian; shepherd

LIE OF THE WORLD: God could not be everywhere so He created mothers.

TRUTH: Mothers cannot be all and God guards

REST: Philippians 4:7. Peace for the hearts and minds of a household under His guardianship. Joy is lost in the labors when we do not start with the Lord. He is blessing. Stop striving! Begin each day with "God is faithful."

Mothering is not: "doing a list of things"

Mothering is: It is who you are and who you are becoming. Are children seeing a mother who rests in God's guardianship? Matthew 11:28. Happy children have a rested mom.

Provision: The Lord builds and guards and provides
(Matthew 11:28; Philippians 4:19; James 1:5) What do we do about the details.
God gave children and "matched" them. He knows.

2 Kings 4:1-7:

1. God never requires what He does not supply. What do you have in your house?
2. God uses empty vessels to multiply His provision. Emptied of self, agenda, "plans for children, other's approval"

Philippians 2 model -- model of emptying
Result:
Fullness of the Lord

Calling of Motherhood: Unnecessary to ask "where do I serve"
Susannah Wesley - few if any who would give 10 years of prime of life in single hope to save souls of their children.

Who is building your house?

SESSION 1: MASTER PLAN - Suggested Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the ways mothers "strive"? (Over-protectiveness; constant activities; perfectionism.)
2. What does it mean to rest? (Rest is in the Lord's provision.)
3. What are some of the ways God provides?
4. What are two principles we learn from 2 Kings 4:1-7?
(God never requires what He does not supply and God does not multiply without empty vessels.)
5. What are some of the things mothers must put off? (Personal agenda, others' approval.)
6. Who is our model for emptying? (Read Philippians 2.)
7. Susannah Wesley said: "There are few if any who would give twenty years of the prime of life in the single hope to save the souls of their children."
 - a. What is Mrs. Wesley saying is the primary hope of godly mothering:
(Salvation.)
 - b. What does the pursuit of this hope require of mothers? (Sacrifice.)

BLUEPRINT FOR MOTHERING LISTENING
OUTLINE for Session 2, Answer sheet for facilitator

PART II: MARRIAGE FOUNDATION

PLAN: Psalm 127:5

The man — the husband. Woman was created out of and for the man. For mothers without a husband the foundation is their relationship with Christ.

Relationship with husband - mirrors true relationship with Christ.

Genesis 2:18-25

Foundation: not good for man to be alone; no suitable helper found for man, woman made from man, woman made for man.

Woman's life purpose: as husband finds his life purpose, woman finds hers in submitting to God's design ~ made for her husband. Made to be one flesh with one husband.

Marital relationship pictures for children: Christ and the Church

PURPOSE: Titus 2 - older women to teach younger

Love: to love husband unconditionally ~ work of the Spirit. With love God gives.

Submission: to be submissive to husband. The struggle with submission to husband mirrors struggle with submission to the Lord. Submissive actions flow out of a submissive attitude.

Word of God: So that the Word of God may not be dishonored. Disobedience in the marital relationship says God's Word is not true. What are children learning about God's Word from your marriage?

POWER: No power in self to be Godly wife and mother.

PUT ON: (1 Peter 3:1-4): God says the heart of a person can be changed as He uses the behavior of another. God works in husband according to wife's behavior. Hidden, without a word. What are you putting on your heart?

Quiet spirit: content with God's sovereign work in your life. Peaceful, without turmoil, contentment sets husband free, contentment is found in power and work of the Holy Spirit and in trusting God.

Gentleness: Powerful restraint. Jesus restrained the power to defend Himself and died on the cross. Resurrection power. Picture is of a "raging river" - Holy Spirit is the restraint or dam. Power is not in my words but in the Holy Spirit restraining my spirit.

Prayer: Oswald Chambers said discernment about someone else's faults is the Spirit of God calling you to pray. We pray for those we love and lack of prayer indicates a lack of love. Relationship with Lord and husband are priority. We disobey God if we allow children to consume life and husband is "alone" in the garden.

The marital relationship is the place where we can show Christ makes the difference.

Session 2: MARRIAGE FOUNDATION - Suggested Discussion Questions

Note: It is important to be sensitive to the women in your group. If there are single mothers, women in difficult marriages, etc., before you show the video you may want to explain that this session will be talking about submission, but we must remember that biblical submission does not mean that a woman submits to sin. Also explain that this is a very painful subject for some women, and that the intent is not to intensify that pain. Rather, the intent is to present the Biblical pattern for marriage.

1. Read Genesis 2:18-25. What is God's plan for marriage? (A reflection to the world of the relationship between Jesus and the church.)
2. Evaluate the testimony of your marital relationship? What does your marriage reveal about your relationship with Jesus?
3. How is your children's experience of your marriage an experience of God's Word? (By love and submission in the marital relationship, the Word of God is honored, disobedience in marriage dishonors God's Word.)
4. Read 1 Peter 3:1-4. How does God work in the life of husbands? (God often works according to a wife's behavior.)
5. What influence does the *world* say should be used? (Words.)
6. What influence does God use? (Things like a quiet spirit, gentleness, prayer.)
7. How does the Holy Spirit restrain the "raging river" of a wife's behavior? (His Word, prayer, faithful wounds/council of friends.)
8. Oswald Chambers is quoted as saying when God gives discernment about someone-else's faults, the Spirit of God is calling you to pray. List some examples of criticisms of husbands and have the group respond with a prayer request. (Example - he never helps with the children; prayer - fill my husband with the knowledge of Your will for him as a father, enable me to put off nagging him and put on praying for him.)

SUGGESTED READING AND RESOURCES:

How to be the Parents of Happy and Obedient Children, Roy Lessin

Spanking: Why, When, and How, Roy Lessin (excerpt from *How to be the Parents of Happy and Obedient Children*)

Withhold Not Correction, Bruce Ray

"Heart of the Home" Newsletter by Sue Jakes and Pricilla Stewart (To subscribe, write: 6816 Briargate Court, Montgomery AL 36116)

BLUEPRINT FOR MOTHERING LISTENING
OUTLINE for Session 3, Answer sheet for facilitator

PART III: COVENANTAL FRAMEWORK

Psalm 127:3-5: Children are gifts, blessings, rewards. World says children are burden. Call for repentance. Children are God's continuation with His people. Benefit is the Heavenly Kingdom is all around. Principles of the Kingdom are humility, trust, faith. Children confront our lack of control. Practice of unconditional love. Practice of servanthood.

Blessings: (Mark 10:13-17); Importance of children. Jesus was indignant when disciples challenged importance of children. Mothers are practicing the Kingdom of God by taking a child, one at a time, sitting them on your lap and showing them Christ.

Arrows: Children are arrows. God made them for a purpose and plan.

Shape - BLESS: by touching them, speaking words of encouragement, constantly setting before them what God is doing in their lives.

Sharpen - DISCIPLINE (Hebrews 12:5-11): Discipline is not punishment. Discipline is restoration.

Aim - PURPOSE: First question of the Shorter Catechism: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." Purpose is to teach children "I'm here about God, not me." That children may know their place in the two institutions which God ordained — the family and the church versus how they fit in the world. Children are to be aimed at the world after they know their place in the family and the church.

Greatest fault of this generation is handing arrows to the enemy to sharpen. Our goal is to aim arrows at the enemy after they are shaped and sharpened.

GOD'S COVENANT WORK

(Ephesians 3:20; James 4:2; Psalm 128)

God has set apart a people to do battle. His purpose is covenantal. God works in families and His church. His power is at work within us. We do not have because we do not ask.

Psalm 128 is a blessing and a hope.

Session 3: COVENANTAL FRAMEWORK - Suggested Discussion Questions

1. Make a list of descriptions, sayings and responses to children. (No children allowed, no nursery provided, "I've done my turn in the nursery," etc.)
2. What do these responses indicate about the Church's view of children?
3. What are some of the consequences of the devaluing of children? (Abortion, lack of educational resources, child molestation and abuse, child neglect.)
4. What attitude would you personally have to change to adopt God's view that "children are a gift and reward of God"?
5. Read Mark 10:13-17. Think again about Susannah Wesley's statement. How are mothers called to serve in the Kingdom of God? (One child at a time, introducing them to Jesus.)
6. How do we best shape children? (Bless them.)
7. Read Proverbs 22:6. What does "train a child in the way he should go" mean? (Children are created with God's unique design. The task of parents is to discover that "design" and train children by encouraging God's design.)
8. How do we best sharpen children? (Discipline.)
9. Read Hebrews 12:5-11. Locate several other-Scriptures which make reference to discipline. (Proverbs 12:1, 5:11-14, 13:1).

Have the group write a Biblical definition of discipline. (Discipline is correction or rebuke which promotes reconciliation and restoration first to God, and then to others, and produces holiness and peace.)

10. Where are we to aim our children? (To the fulfillment of God's work created for them.)
11. What are some ways in which mothers can assist their children in knowing their place in the family and home? (Put off focus on how they "fit" in the world, teach servanthood in the family and church prior to attempts in the world.)
12. Consider some Old Testament examples of how God's covenantal purposes are worked out in families. (Abraham, Esther, Ruth)

Will you pray for revival through God's working in your family and church?

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Handout for Session 1: LISTENING OUTLINE

PART I: MASTER PLAN

Motherhood as calling

Covenant framework

Psalm 127:

SALVATION:

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REPENTANCE:

GUARD:

LIE OF THE WORLD:

TRUTH:

REST:

Mothering is not:

Mothering is:

Provision:

(Matthew 11:28; Philippians 4:19; James 1:5)

2 Kings 4:1-7:

1. God never

2. God uses Philippians 2 model

Calling of Motherhood

Susannah Wesley



BLUEPRINT FOR MOTHERING
Handout for Session 2: LISTENING OUTLINE

PART II: MARRIAGE FOUNDATION

PLAN: Psalm 127:5

The man

Relationship with husband

Genesis 2:18-25
Foundation

Woman's life purpose

Marital relationship pictures for children

PURPOSE: Titus 2 - older women to teach younger

Love

Submission

Word of God

POWER:

PUT ON:

Quiet spirit

Gentleness

Prayer



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Handout for Session 3: LISTENING OUTLINE

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