

Small Group Guide

HOMES BUILT BY THE LORD

The Church at Brook Hills

Scott Kindig

June 26, 2011

Psalm 127 | Luke 2:41-52

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

Welcome—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

Review—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time. Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to revisit the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

Prayer—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications in our lives:

Sermon Outline

Homes Built by the Lord

Psalm 127 | Luke 2:41-52

Jesus is a gift!

- God **promised** Mary & Joseph a very special gift.
 - God's promise to Mary. (Luke 1:26-33)
 - God's promise to Joseph. (Matthew 1:20-23)
- God **provided** Mary & Joseph a very special gift. (Luke 2:1-7)
 - God's provision of Jesus as a son to Mary and Joseph.
 - God's provision of His Son as Savior of the world.
- Joseph and Mary consistently **cared** for God's great gift. (Luke 2:41-42)
 - They carried out their responsibility of spiritual leadership.
 - They connected Jesus to the larger faith family.
- Joseph and Mary **lost** that gift. (Luke 2:43-45)
- Joseph and Mary **found** that gift. (Luke 2:46-48)

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- The gift, Jesus, who was GOD IN FLESH, took Mary and Joseph to school. (Luke 2:49)
- Mary and Joseph did not understand their adolescent Son. (Luke 2:50)

Children are gifts!

- God builds durable homes/families on a solid foundation.
- God guards His community.
- God gives His beloved rest.
- God blesses homes with the Next Generation.
- He multiplies His blessing with children/Next Generation.
 - With birth children.
 - With adopted children.
 - With foster children.
 - With your children's friends.
- God fills your home with abundance.
- Children become your ammunition.
- Children become your protection.
- Children extend your mission, influence and values.

Re-gifting God's good gifts!

- Fill the quiver.
- Load the bow.
- Aim the arrow.
- Release the Next Generation toward God's bull's-eye.

Message Summary

By studying Solomon's Song of Ascents in Psalm 127 and Luke's record of Jesus as a boy at the Temple in Luke 2:41-52, Brook Hill's Next Generation Disciple Making Pastor, Scott Kindig, led the church to look at homes built by the Lord. From Psalm 127, he noted four aspects of these homes: The parents are to build well, to protect their family, to fill their home with blessing, and to prepare themselves for battle. Jesus was a very special gift given specifically to Mary and Joseph to raise. The church looked at God's promise and provision to Mary and Joseph as parents and Mary and Joseph's consistent care for Jesus when He was a boy. Luke 2:41-52 tells of the instance when Mary and Joseph thought they had lost their twelve-year-old Son. Through this event we learn from Jesus that it was natural for Him to seek after God when He was away from His parents—evidence of a well-built house.

In Psalm 127, we see the gift that children are to their parents. The most durable homes are those in which the solid foundation of God's Word and intimate prayer times are primary. As we seek God through prayer and His Word, we show our children that we are totally dependent on God. God guards His community and gives rest to His people as we strive to work, rest, and play all while showing our children a proper balance of the three. God blesses homes through birth children, adopted children, foster children, and with our children's friends. In doing so, He fills homes with abundance as these children become parents' ammunition and protection. One day children will extend our message to touch a generation we will never even meet.

We have the privilege of "re-gifting" God's good gifts of children by filling the quiver, loading the bow, aiming the arrow, and releasing the next generation toward God's bull's-eye. We are not to hold onto our children but to send them to the world.

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Discuss

Use the following questions to review the Head (What does God want me to know?), Heart (What does God want me to value?), and Hands (What does God want me to do?) aspects of the message.

- When you think about Jesus as God's promise and provision to Mary and Joseph, how does that affect your perception of them as a family?
- How does Mary and Joseph's care for Jesus through spiritual leadership and connecting Him to the larger covenant community serve as an example for how we should raise our children?
- What caused Mary and Joseph's astonishment when they found Jesus at the Temple? (Luke 2:47-50)
- If prayer and God's Word are essential tools God uses to build durable homes on a solid foundation, how can you more greatly incorporate those tools into your family life?
- What hindrances do you face in showing your children your complete dependence on God?
- When have you experienced God guarding your family and home? How did you share God's work of protection with your children?
- God gives rest, work, and play—each in their proper place. How are you demonstrating each of these actions to your children? Which is easiest for you to show? Why is a balance among the three so important?
- If your children will extend your mission, how are you intentionally shaping them to share with you in God's mission for the world?
- Consider the process of filling the quiver, loading the bow, aiming the arrow, and releasing the next generation toward God's bull's-eye. In your particular life circumstances, what does this process practically look like?
- What are some practical ways you can "load the bow" with your children? Why does "loading the bow" require such great intentionality?
- If you are a parent, what specific gifts do you see in your children? How can you encourage them to pursue those gifts in a God-honoring, mission-oriented way?

Respond . . .

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from the message?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.

Weekly Prayer Focus . . . (from the worship guide)

- **Lives and Church:** *Pray that older men and women throughout our faith family would be diligent to invest their lives and disciple those in the next generation.*

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- **Local:** *This week we are praying that God would advance His Gospel through His people from generation to generation and from neighborhoods to nations for His glory and for our good. We are also praying for Center Crest Baptist, Tim Evans, Pastor.*
- **Global:** *This week we are praying for our Long-Term Missionaries, the Shirleys, serving in Kenya. We are also praying for Brook Hills teams in New York City, Southeast Asia, and East Asia.*