

WEEK 4 – Care Giving

Brian Coles

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WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Is He Worthy** (*UPPERROOM*)
- **Living Hope** (*Bethel Worship*)
- **It Really Is Amazing Grace** (*Phil Wickham*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- 1 Timothy 5:8
- 2 Thessalonians 3:10
- Ephesians 4:28
- Romans 8:14-16
- John 17:21-23
- 1 Peter 2:9-10
- Exodus 20:18-20
- 1 Samuel 8:6-7

OPENING PRAYER

ICE BREAKER

When you were growing up, what was one thing someone in your family did that always made you feel taken care of—even if it seemed small at the time?

OVERVIEW

This week's sermon explored the theme of care giving as it begins in the home. Pastor Coles walked through three dimensions of provision that God calls families to embrace: physical and financial, emotional and relational, and spiritual. Together, these form a picture of what it means for a household to reflect the character of God in practical, everyday ways.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Providing for your household is not optional — it is a direct expression of living faith.
- Honest, purposeful work is a biblical value that enables both personal stability and generosity toward others.
- The home is meant to be a place where people experience belonging, unity, and freedom from fear — mirroring the relationship between the Father and His children.
- Spiritual leadership and priesthood are not reserved for church buildings or ordained clergy — they begin at home.
- When people outsource spiritual authority — to institutions, leaders, or systems — rather than embracing it themselves, they repeat a pattern God has consistently warned against.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1: Physical and Financial Provision

(1 Timothy 5:8, 2 Thessalonians 3:10, Ephesians 4:28)

1. Paul states in 1 Timothy 5:8 that failing to provide for your household is a denial of the faith. Why do you think Scripture frames financial responsibility in such serious spiritual terms?
2. The principle in 2 Thessalonians 3:10 connects willingness to work with the right to benefit from provision. How does this challenge a culture that often separates effort from reward? Where do you see this tension in your own home or community?
3. Ephesians 4:28 moves from the command to stop stealing to the purpose of working — so that you have something to share with those in need. How does generosity change the way we think about why we work? Is generosity a regular part of how your household thinks about money?

Section 2: Emotional and Relational Provision

(Romans 8:14-16, John 17:21-23)

4. Romans 8:14-16 describes the Spirit replacing a spirit of fear with one of adoption and belonging. In what ways should that reality shape the emotional atmosphere of a Christian home? What does a home free from fear actually look like in daily life?

5. Jesus prays in John 17:21-23 that His followers would experience the same unity that exists between Him and the Father. What does that kind of unity require from family members practically? What tends to break that unity, and how can it be restored?
6. Who in your life modeled emotional and relational provision for you? What did that look like, and how has it shaped the way you care for others now?

Section 3: Spiritual Provision

(1 Peter 2:9-10, Exodus 20:18b-20, 1 Samuel 8:6-7)

7. 1 Peter 2:9-10 describes believers as a royal priesthood and God's special possession. How does understanding yourself as a priest — someone who represents God to others and others to God — change how you approach your role in your home?
8. In Exodus 20, the people asked Moses to stand between them and God because direct encounter felt too dangerous. In 1 Samuel 8, they asked for a king rather than trusting God's direct leadership. What do these two moments have in common, and how do we repeat the same pattern today — in families, in churches, or in our personal lives?
9. What does it look like practically for a home to be a place of spiritual formation rather than leaving that work entirely to the church? What barriers make that difficult, and what would need to change?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

Consider choosing one of the following to work on individually or as a household before your next group meeting:

1. **Financial Audit of Faithfulness:** Review your household budget through the lens of 1 Timothy 5:8 and Ephesians 4:28. Are your spending and giving habits aligned with the values of provision and generosity?
2. **Atmosphere Assessment:** Have an honest conversation with the people in your home about whether your household feels like a place of safety and belonging. Identify one specific thing you can do this week to reduce fear and increase connection.
3. **Reclaim Spiritual Leadership at Home:** Identify one spiritual practice — prayer at meals, reading Scripture together, regular conversation about faith — that your household could begin or restore. Start small and be consistent.
4. **Examine Your Outsourcing:** Reflect personally on areas where you have handed off spiritual responsibility to someone or something else. Bring that before God in prayer and ask Him what it would look like to take ownership of it.

Closing Thought and Prayer

Close your group time by praying together over these three areas — physical, emotional, and spiritual provision. Ask God to reveal where your household is strong and where it needs His grace. Pray specifically for the courage to lead and care well in all three dimensions, beginning at home.

Next Week — Week 5: Civil War. Pastor Brian Flewelling will be sharing on how the Kingdom of God gets down and dirty in addressing difficult situations. How do we navigate conflict and personality differences in a way that reflects God's Kingdom?