

a place called
HOME





**WEEK
ONE**

**HOUSE
VS
HOME**



October 5, 2026

DAY 1: More Than A House

Psalm 127:1 NLT

Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the LORD protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good.

There are houses you never forget. Maybe they weren't large. Perhaps the furniture didn't match, a door had to be lifted slightly to close it, the table had marks on it, and the armchair showed the wear of the years. But there was something there that couldn't be bought in a store. It felt like home.

For me, one of those houses is the house where I grew up. When I think about it, I inevitably think of my parents, my siblings, and so many moments we shared together as a family.

I remember the conversations around the table.

The familiar voices.

The smell of the food.

The laughter.

The stories told over and over again.

The simple moments that seemed ordinary then, but over the years became extraordinary.

My parents built something there that I value much more today than I could when I was a child. They built a true home.

Not because everything was perfect. Surely there were difficult days, worries, disagreements, and moments when things didn't turn out the way we expected. We were a normal family. But that was the house we all wanted to return to.

And now I understand that it wasn't only because of the house.



It was because of what my parents had planted inside it. They had built a place where we all knew we belonged. A place where the people we could always count on were, and a kind of security that is difficult to explain but easy to feel: we called it home.

Over the years, each of us left, grew, went our own way, started our own families, and began writing our own stories. But there was still a place to return to.

And I think that is one of the most beautiful things a family can build: a place our children can leave to face life, but where they always know they can return.

Now I understand something I couldn't understand as a child. My parents weren't simply paying for a house, maintaining it, or making sure we had what we needed. While they were doing all of that, they were building something much deeper.

They were building memories.
They were building belonging.
They were building security.
They were building bonds.
They were building a home.

Maybe that's why the words of Psalm 127:1 NLT have special meaning to me today: "Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. ..."

The psalmist reminds us that we can work hard on the construction and still forget the Builder. We can put up walls. We can fill rooms.

We can make sure our family has everything it needs. But there are things money cannot buy and our hands, by themselves, cannot build.



I'm talking about belonging, closeness, peace, genuine faith, and memories that leave healthy impressions on the heart.

Those things are built. And we need God to learn how to build them.

Maybe when you think about the house where you grew up, your story is different from mine. Perhaps you have beautiful memories and can thank God for them today. But maybe some people don't. Maybe there are memories that still hurt. Perhaps there were things you needed and never received. Words you waited for and never heard. A closeness you longed for that never came.

We didn't all have the same kind of house. But we can all decide what kind of home we will begin building from today forward.

You cannot go back and change the house where you grew up. But with God's help, your past story does not have to become the blueprint for your future.

Maybe you are raising children now.

Maybe your children have already grown.

Maybe you are starting a family.

Maybe you live alone.

Maybe you are trying to rebuild relationships that have grown cold over the years.

Wherever you are, you can still build.

You can begin with a conversation. With a different word. With a few minutes of being present. With an apology. With a prayer. With a decision to do things differently.

You don't need a perfect family to build a home. You need a heart willing to say, "Lord, begin with me and teach me to build



with You.”

Someday, the people who share our lives today will also look back. They probably won't remember how much the furniture cost, what model of television we had, or whether our house was always perfectly organized. But they will remember something much more important.

They will remember what it felt like to live with us.

So take a moment to look at the people God has placed beside you. Maybe the house still needs some repairs.

Maybe there is furniture you want to replace someday. Maybe there are projects you still haven't been able to finish.

Don't worry too much. There is a much more important construction project happening right now. While you are building a house for your family, make sure you are also building a place their hearts will always want to return to.

REMEMBER

Home is not measured by the things it contains, but by what it plants within us.

THINK

When the people you love look back, what would you want them to remember about what it meant to live with you?

APPLY

Today, don't try to change everything. Do one thing that communicates to someone in your family: This is your place. You are loved here. You belong here.

Take time to sit down and talk, listen without rushing, express gratitude, give a hug, call one of your children, or simply give a



few minutes of your presence. Sometimes the things that build the most in a home are the things that cost the least.

PRAY

Lord, thank You for the people who made a house a home for me. And where my story had empty places, thank You that with You I can build something different. Work first in my heart. Teach me to love, listen, be present, and plant good memories in those You have placed beside me. May our house be a place where Your grace, Your love, and Your presence are experienced. Lord, begin with me and teach me to build with You. Amen.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, text, or other markings on the page.



October 6, 2026

DAY 2: Check The Foundation

Matthew 7:24–25 NIV

***24** Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

When we first walk into a house, we almost always pay attention to what we can see. The exterior. The layout. The kitchen. The furniture. The colors. The details. We can walk through the whole house admiring every space without stopping to think about one of the most important parts of the construction. The foundation.

Perhaps because it is hidden. It doesn't attract attention. It doesn't appear in photographs. No one invites friends over to show them the foundation of their house. But there is something interesting: everything we can see depends on what we cannot see.

Jesus used a similar picture at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. He talked about two men. Both built a house. Both heard His words. And both faced a storm.

At first glance, their houses may not have looked very different. Until the storm came. Then something that had been hidden from the beginning was revealed.

One house was on rock. The other was on sand.

The storm did not create the foundation; it simply revealed what they had been building on.



Something similar happens with our families.

There are seasons when everything seems to be going well. We have work. We are healthy. The children are doing well. Plans are moving forward. The bills can be paid. Life seems stable. And it is easy to confuse good circumstances with a good foundation.

Until something changes.

An unexpected phone call.

An illness.

A financial difficulty.

A crisis with one of our children.

A conflict in the marriage.

A loss.

A door that closes.

Suddenly, the wind begins to beat against the house. And then we discover what was holding it up. Sometimes, without realizing it, we build our security on good things that are nevertheless unable to carry the full weight of our lives.

Money can help us, but it can disappear.

Achievements can make us happy, but they cannot sustain our identity.

Feelings are important, but they change.

Favorable circumstances are a blessing, but we are never guaranteed that they will remain the same.

We cannot ask something that may change tomorrow to hold up what we want to remain for a lifetime.



That is why Jesus directs our attention to a different foundation. He says the wise person “hears his words and puts them into practice.” That is the difference. It is not enough to listen.

We can hear the Word every Sunday.
We can have Bibles in every room of the house.
We can know Christian songs.
We can know what God says.

But building on the rock begins when what Jesus says begins to determine how we live day by day.

It determines how we speak when we are upset.
It determines how we respond when someone hurts us.
It determines how we manage what God has given us.
It determines how we treat our family.
It determines how we make decisions when we don't know what to do.
It determines how we respond when life doesn't turn out the way we expected.

The rock is not simply a truth we know. It is a truth we choose to live by as a family.

Listen to the Word.
Obey it in the small things.
Pray with your family.
Make Christ part of your decisions.
Learn to trust Him before you desperately need to.

Because Jesus never promised that the house built on the rock would not receive rain. The rain fell. The rivers rose. The winds beat against it. But the house remained.

So if the wind is beating against your house today, don't give all your attention to the storm. Look at the foundation.



Remember who is holding you up.

And if the sky is clear today, keep building deep. There will be seasons you cannot control. But you can decide today what you are building on.

REMEMBER

Storms do not decide what remains; they reveal what we have built on.

THINK

If your circumstances changed tomorrow, what would remain holding up your home?

APPLY

Think about a decision, concern, or situation your family is currently facing. Before asking only, “What do I want? What is best for me? What do I feel?” ask a different question: “What does Jesus say should guide the way I respond to this?” Find that principle in the Word and take one simple step today to obey it.

PRAY

Lord, examine the foundation I am building on. Show me where I have placed my security in things that can change. Teach me not only to listen to Your Word, but to live it. If I am going through a storm, remind me that You are still faithful. And if I am living through peaceful days today, help me build deeply. May our family remain firm because we have learned to listen to You, obey You, and trust You. Amen.



October 7, 2026

DAY 3: The Little Moments

Deuteronomy 6:7 CEV

Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home or when you are away, when you are resting or when you are getting up.

Many of the best moments in our family happened around a table.

In those years, sitting at the table was about much more than sharing food. Whether it was breakfast in the morning, lunch in the afternoon, or dinner at night, what mattered was not only what was on the table, but who was around it.

There we talked about what had happened during the day. We shared our accomplishments. We shared difficulties, laughed, and listened to the stories of the day.

Sometimes we talked about important things, and other times about things that probably weren't important at all. But we were together.

And now, looking back, I realize that while we were sitting around that table, something was happening that none of us fully understood. We were building great memories while sharing small moments. At the time, it was simply a meal. Today I understand that it was much more.

It was time.
It was conversation.
It was closeness.
It was family.



And those meals that seemed so ordinary began to occupy a very special place in our memory. That is the beautiful thing about little moments: we almost never know how much they will mean while we are living them.

Perhaps that is why I am moved by the way God spoke to His people in Deuteronomy 6. After telling them that His words were to be first in their own hearts, He asked them to teach them to their children. But when I look at the moments God chose, I am sure those moments were not chosen by accident: “When you are at home. When you go along the road. When you lie down. When you get up.”

In a very literal sense ... God was saying, in essence: make Me part of your everyday life. Don’t wait only for the big moments. Talk to Me and talk about Me while you live.

Because faith is also passed on around a table, during a drive, at the beginning of the day, or in a conversation before bed.

Our children learn much more than we imagine simply by living close to us.

They watch how we react when something goes wrong.
They hear how we speak when we are worried.
They see what we do when we make a mistake.
They discover whom we turn to when we don’t know what to do.

And little by little they discover whether God is simply someone we talk about on Sundays or someone with whom we live every day.

Maybe today you feel that you need to do something extraordinary for your family.



Perhaps you think you need more time, better vacations, a special occasion, or a less complicated schedule.

But possibly what your family needs from you today is not something extraordinary.

Maybe it simply needs you to be present.

To listen to the whole story.

To stay a few more minutes at the table.

To ask a question and wait for the answer.

To laugh with them.

To pray with them.

To enjoy the moment in front of you.

Don't wait for life to become less busy before you begin enjoying the people God has placed beside you. The life we will one day miss is the life we are living now.

Look around.

Maybe that rushed breakfast, that conversation in the car, that simple dinner, or that voice calling you again from another room may seem like small things today. But don't be in such a hurry.

You may be living one of the memories you will someday wish you could experience again.

REMEMBER

The greatest moments in a family often happen on the most ordinary days.

THINK

What everyday moment with your family are you living today that you may one day wish you could experience again?



DAY 4: Share Life

October 8, 2026

1 Thessalonians 2:8 NIV

So we cared for you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. Surely you became dear to us!

There is a question we ask almost every day. How are you?

We ask it when we get home. On the phone. In a message. As someone walks past us. And almost always we receive the same answer: Fine. Then we move on. But sometimes, behind that “fine” there is much more.

A concern that hasn’t been shared yet.
A decision they don’t know how to make.
A disappointment they are trying to process.
A dream that is just beginning to take shape.
A battle no one else knows about.

And what is surprising is that we can live under the same roof with someone and not know it. Know their schedules without knowing their worries. Know where they are without knowing how they are.

We can share the table, the bills, the responsibilities, and even many years of our lives, and little by little stop sharing our hearts.

Because in the end, physical closeness does not always mean emotional closeness.

Paul wrote something beautiful to the believers in Thessalonica. When remembering the relationship he had built with them, he said:



“So we cared for you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ...”

Paul was talking about his relationship with a church, not specifically about family. But his words reveal something deeply human about love: when we truly love someone, we don't just give them things; we make room for them in our lives.

That is also true at home.

Our family needs what we provide.

It needs our effort.

It needs responsibility.

It needs us to keep our commitments.

But it also needs us.

It needs our attention.

Our listening.

Our presence.

Our story.

Our questions.

Our heart.

Sometimes we are so busy trying to give our family a good life that, without meaning to, we stop sharing life with our family.

The house keeps functioning. But the heart can begin to grow quiet. And perhaps that is why some relationships don't need a big solution first. They need a good conversation. A question asked without rushing.

And then, something that seems simple but can be very difficult for us: staying quiet and listening.



Without looking at the phone.
Without interrupting.
Without immediately correcting.
Without preparing our response while the other person is still talking.

Simply listening. Maybe it has been a long time since you knew what was worrying one of your children. Perhaps you know your husband's or wife's responsibilities, but you haven't asked about their dreams in a long time. Maybe someone you love is going through something, but has learned to answer "fine" because no one has stayed long enough to listen to what comes next.

Sometimes loving simply means letting someone know: What is happening inside you matters to me too.

Ask a question. Stay a little longer. Listen to the whole answer. And don't be in a hurry to fill the silence. There may be a heart behind that simple "I'm fine" waiting to find a safe place where it can say, "Actually, I need to talk."

REMEMBER

Sharing a house keeps us close; sharing our hearts keeps us united.

THINK

Is there someone in your family whose life you knew very well, but over time you have stopped knowing deeply?

APPLY

Find someone in your family today and ask, "How are you really?" Then listen. Don't interrupt. Don't correct. Don't immediately try to solve what they tell you. Before you finish, you can ask, "Is there anything I can pray with you about?" You may not be able to solve what they are going through, but you can remind them that they don't have to go through it alone.



PRAY

Lord, thank You for the people with whom I share my life. Forgive me for the times I have been physically close but far away in my attention and heart. Teach me to listen, to ask questions, and to sincerely care about what is happening inside those I love. Make our home a safe place to talk, listen, walk alongside one another, and pray for each other. Help me not only to be close to my family, but to truly share life with them. Amen.

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October 9, 2026

DAY 5: What Does It Feel Like to Live With Me?

Colossians 3:12 NLT

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

There is something curious that can happen to us without realizing it. We can be very patient with people outside our home.

We smile at a stranger.

We treat our coworker with respect.

We listen carefully to someone who needs to talk.

We answer a call kindly.

But then we get home. We are tired. We are hungry. The day was difficult. We are still thinking about problems we left at work.

And then someone in our family asks a question at the wrong moment and we respond impatiently. One of our children makes a mistake and our tone changes. Our spouse wants to talk and we barely look up from our phone.

It doesn't mean we don't love them. We love them deeply. But sometimes the people we love most end up receiving the most tired version of us.

Perhaps because at home we let our guard down, because there we can be ourselves. And that is okay, because home should be the place where we don't have to pretend. But there is something we must guard:



Being ourselves should never become permission to treat the people we love most badly.

Paul wrote to the believers in Colossae and used a simple image. "...clothe yourselves..." And then he mentions the clothing that should distinguish those of us who belong to Christ:

Compassion.

Kindness.

Humility.

Gentleness.

Patience.

I like to think about that picture. Because ... every morning we decide what clothes we are going to wear. What if we also consciously decided what attitude we would have as we interact with our family?

Today I will clothe myself with patience. Today my children will not receive only what is left of me after a difficult day.

Today I will clothe myself with kindness. Today I will pay attention not only to what I say, but how I say it.

Today I will clothe myself with humility. If I make a mistake, I will admit it. If I hurt someone, I will ask for forgiveness.

Because our family doesn't only hear us when we say, "I love you." They also experience our love in the way we treat them. In our tone. In our responses. In our patience. In our ability to listen. In the way we react to their mistakes.

And that brings me to a question that isn't always comfortable, but is necessary: What does it feel like to live with me? How does my family experience that love when they live with me every day?



Maybe in your case, someone feels safe beside you. Maybe they know they can make a mistake and still find grace. Maybe your words encourage them. If so, thank God and keep planting those things.

But in other cases, perhaps the Holy Spirit is putting His finger on something different as you read these lines.

A tone you need to change.
An impatience that has become too frequent.
Words that come out too quickly.
A harshness that wasn't there before.
Difficulty admitting when you are wrong.

Don't read this thinking first about how others should treat you. Read it honestly, and ask yourself: What do they see in me through the way I treat them?

You cannot control how everyone else behaves today. But with God's help, you can decide what kind of person they will encounter when they meet you.

REMEMBER

The love we feel is demonstrated by the way we treat others.

THINK

If you could experience for one day what it feels like for your family to live with you, would there be anything you would want to change?

APPLY

Choose one word from Colossians 3:12: Compassion — Kindness — Humility — Gentleness — Patience.

Ask yourself: Which of these does my family need to receive more from me? Make that word your decision for today.



DAY 6: Lord, Build Your House

October 10, 2026

Psalm 127:1 NIV

Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

There are jobs around a house that seem never to end. We fix one thing and something else appears. We paint a wall. We repair a door. We replace something that stopped working. We move furniture. We clean. We organize.

And when we think we have finally finished, we discover another detail that needs attention. Maybe homes are a little like that.

There is always something God continues to build in us.

This week we have talked about foundations, little moments, sharing life, and the way we treat those we love. And possibly, as you read, God put His hand on something.

Maybe it was a conversation you need to have.

A relationship you have neglected.

A moment you need to begin enjoying.

An attitude you need to change.

A word you need to say.

Or simply a part of your family life that needs God's presence again.

When that happens, our first reaction may be to think: I have to do better. I have to be more patient. I have to be more present. I have to listen more. I have to change this. I have to correct that.



And surely there are decisions we are responsible for making. But there is something we cannot forget. The week began with these words: “Unless the LORD builds the house ...” And I want it to end in the same place.

Because God never called us to build alone. Psalm 127 is not an invitation to cross our arms and wait for God to do what we are responsible to do. It is an invitation to recognize that there is a work our own strength can never produce by itself.

We need His wisdom.

We need His grace.

We need Him to change things in us that we have been trying to change for years.

We need Him to heal what we do not know how to heal.

We need Him to teach us to love when we are tired, to listen when we are in a hurry, and to respond with grace when our first reaction would be different.

We need God in the building.

Maybe your family is living through a good season. Enjoy it. Give thanks for the laughter, the conversations, the people you can still hug, and the moments that seem ordinary today. And keep building.

But maybe your reality is different. Perhaps when you hear the word family, not everything that comes to mind is beautiful.

There is distance.

There are wounds.

There are unfinished conversations.

There is someone who is no longer here.

There are children who took paths you never imagined.



Or perhaps you simply look at your home and think: I don't know how to fix some of these things.

Maybe you can't. At least, not alone. And perhaps that is precisely the prayer God was waiting to hear.

Lord, I need You to build with me.

You cannot go back and change the house where you grew up.
You cannot erase every word you said.
You cannot recover every moment you let pass.
You cannot control the decisions of every person in your family.

But you can still give God what you have in front of you today.

Your heart.
Your words.
Your decisions.
Your relationships.
Your family.

And you can begin with the only heart for which you have direct responsibility: your own.

Maybe for a long time you have prayed: "Lord, change my husband. Change my wife. Change my children. Change this situation."

Today, try beginning another way and say: Lord, begin with me. Show me what I need to change. Teach me what I need to recover. Help me recognize what I am doing well and should continue. Give me courage to ask for forgiveness when necessary. Give me wisdom to build differently. And do in me what I cannot do by my own strength.



You don't need to finish this week with a list of twenty things you have to fix. Maybe you simply need to place your home back into the hands of the Builder. God is still working. The house is still under construction. So are you.

So today you can place what you love most back into His hands and pray a simple prayer: Lord, here is our house. Here is our family. Here I am. Begin with me. Build this house.

REMEMBER

God does not need a perfect family to build a home; He needs hearts willing to let Him work.

THINK

After what God has shown you this week, what is one thing you need to begin, change, or recover in your home? Don't think first about what someone else needs to do. What can you begin?

APPLY

If possible, gather your family for a few minutes today. You don't need to prepare a study or do anything complicated. Ask each person to mention: One thing they thank God for about their family. One thing they would like you to care for or strengthen together.

Then hold hands and pray. If you are alone today, think about the names and faces of the people who are part of your story and present them before God.

End with a simple prayer: Lord, build this house.

PRAY

Lord, thank You for my family and for everything You have planted in us. You also know our wounds, our weaknesses, and what still needs to be built. I don't want to try to do this only with my own strength. Work first in me.



Teach me to be present, to listen, to love, and to treat with grace those You have placed beside me. Be the foundation and center of our home. Here is our house. Here is our family. Here I am. Lord, build this house. Amen.

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