



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** Biblical Homes – Faith@Home

**SPEAKER** Ps Low Kok Guan

**THEME** Strengthening Foundations

**DATE** 24 & 25 Sep 2022

# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

This sermon concludes the *Strengthening Foundations* series of messages which includes *Biblical Witness*, *Biblical Worldview*, *Biblical Love* and now, *Biblical Homes*. Ps Kok Guan begins his sermon by defining a biblical home as one that is not perfect. It faces the same challenges as any non-biblical homes yet it is one that seeks to put Jesus in the center of everything. As long as we have a home and there is a Christian in it, we can make it a biblical one.

## BIBLICAL HOMES

Through the lives of the two kings - King Hezekiah and his son Manasseh in 2 Kings 20:12-21, we learn that a biblical home that bears the name of Jesus can be established if it is planned, prioritised and prayed for.

King Hezekiah flaunted his treasure house and all the precious things in his storehouses, leaving nothing unrevealed to the Babylonians (v.13). Despite the additional fifteen years that the Lord had added to King Hezekiah's life after his bout of sickness, pride had seeped into his heart. While he had lived to witness Manasseh's birth, King Hezekiah's concern was only about the peace and security that would be enjoyed in his own lifetime, not that of his children and the generations after.

Even though he knew that it was his responsibility to teach his children and the generations after them the laws and the works of the Lord (Deut 4:9), King Hezekiah had failed to pass on his faith to his children and his grandchildren. Consequently, when King Hezekiah's son, Manasseh, took over the throne when he was twelve years old, he became one of the worst kings of Judah.

### 1. PLAN

Taking heed of the warning from Hezekiah's life, he who fails to plan plans to fail. If we want to establish a biblical home that can withstand the challenges in the world and one which the devil is all ready to steal, kill and destroy, we need a plan.

While the whole church has to come on board to support and disciple the next generation, the home is still where day-to-day discipleship takes place as it is where most time is spent with the family. Each of us as individuals is also responsible for our personal relationship with the Lord.

God has a plan for each of our children. And His plan is always perfect. We should actively plan to incorporate spiritual disciplines, spiritual discussions and spiritual directions in our homes to grow their faith.

## 2. PRIORITISE

What we value motivates our priorities. King Hezekiah valued his own security, comfort and peace. He missed building the faith of his children and their descendants. There is a wide variety of programmes offered in BBTC and various para-church organisations to build up our families. We can plan and prioritise to attend these programmes for our growth. Still, programmes do not disciple people. It is people who disciple people. Our end goal is to be more like Jesus. The cultivation of faith starts from the biblical values that are prioritised and actively modelled at home.

## 3. PRAY

There are many factors involved in raising up a child. It is all by the grace of God and that is why we need to pray. While Manasseh had a bad start in his reign, he sought the Lord in his times of distress when he was taken prisoner in Babylon (2 Chronicles 33:10-13, 16) and the Lord was moved by his plea. The memory of his own father praising the Lord after recovering from his sickness (Isa 38:19) may have impacted Manasseh after all. As such, there is hope. We must persevere in prayer.

## CONCLUSION

Our motivation to build a biblical home is for God's name. We bear the name of Jesus to our pre-believing loved ones. It is for God's name that we plan, prioritise and pray for biblical homes to be established for the salvation of those who have yet to know Christ in our midst. May we have a passion for God's name to be a biblical witness, adopt a biblical worldview, pursue biblical love and build biblical homes.

Links as resource and reference: <https://youtu.be/kpnblslI2Mg>, <https://www.cru.org/sg/en/train-and-grow/familylife.html>, <https://www.family.org.sg/>

# QUESTIONS

1. Values motivates our priorities. Share some values you impart to your family, or that your family members have shared with you. How does that affect your current priorities in life?

2. Ps Kok Guan emphasised the importance of having spiritual disciplines, spiritual discussions and spiritual directions as part of your plan to build a biblical home. What discipline, discussion and/or direction can you establish/strengthen in your home?

3. Explore the programmes offered by BBTC and the other organisations mentioned in the sermon. Which pique your interest, and how do you think participating in them will help in you and your family's journey to become more Christ-like?