

Big Idea: **The direction of my house will be determined by the ruler of my heart.**

List the assets in your house. (People, things, influence, time, talent, etc.) Take time to express thankfulness to God for each asset in your house.

To what degree have you deployed these assets for the purpose of serving the Lord?

Do you spend more time worry about what is going on in the White House or your house? Why? Which do you have more responsibility for?

Discuss the balance between leading and pushing your family to serve the Lord. How have your made mistakes by trying to force your family to serve God? How have you made mistakes by failing to lead your family to serve God?

1. My house will be established by commitment.

What advantages are there to remaining single? (1Cor. 7:32-33) What are the challenges to remaining single? Is your group compassionate toward singles?

Why do you think less people are choosing to get married and stay married?

If you are married, how seriously did you understand commitment on the day you were married?

Describe the low point of your marriage. How did commitment help you get through it?

Discuss these statements: "*Marriage is the mortal enemy of selfishness. Selfishness is the mortal enemy of marriage.*"

How has God used marriage to expose and scrub off some of your selfishness?

Discuss this statement: "*Those who have sex prior to marriage tell their future marriage partner, 'I am a person who will have sex with someone I am not married to.'*" How does sex before marriage undermine trust after marriage?

2. My house will be led by conviction.

Have you led your family to embrace the convictions Joshua led Israel to embrace?

- God is holy.
- God is jealous.
- God is serious about sin.

On a scale of 1 to 10, to what degree is your house filled with these things...

- Worship
- Kindness
- Joy
- Forgiveness
- Ministry

Discuss this statement: *Marriage is a holy covenant, initiated by God, conditioned on a irrevocable promise, to pursue oneness, with an imperfect person, of the opposite sex, for a lifetime, for the glory of God.*

Are you still committed to God's definition of marriage?

3. My house will be involved in God's mission.

Onward marriage must carve out both face-to-face time and side-by-side time. How successful are you at these? What do you regularly do face-to-face? What do you regularly do side-by-side?

Do you think of your house as an embassy of Heaven? What is the purpose of an embassy?

What is the mission of your marriage?

What is the mission of your family?

Commit yourself and your group to write out a Family Mission Statement. Bring it ready to show next week in your small group.

When people think of your family, how do they finish this statement? "They are a family that really _____?"

Are you happy about that?

Additional Scripture

- Genesis 1:27
- Psalm 127
- Proverbs 3:33
- Proverbs 6:20-23
- Proverbs 14:1
- Proverbs 24:3
- Acts 16:31