

LESSON 7



THE FAMILY AT BETHANY

Scripture Texts: Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-45

In this lesson we look at ways that we can allow Christ to be the center of our home activities. Did you ever see the motto that hangs in many American homes which reads, "Christ is the Unseen Guest in Our House"? Christ is just that in many homes—"an unseen guest." He is not only unseen, in many homes He is uninvited, unread about, un-talked to, and unthought of unless trouble of some kind arises. May we bring this unseen Guest into our homes and help Him to be seen by those who have not seen Him!

MEMORY VERSE: *"She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world."*

John 11:27

We Can Use Our Homes to Teach Respect for Law

The home is the world's oldest and most important institution. As goes the home, so goes the world. When discipline breaks down in the home, good government departs from the world. Parental law is the first code of ethics to which a child is exposed. If parental law is lacking, it becomes easy for the growing child to disobey civil and moral law.

According to the law of God "every transgression and disobedience receives a just recompense of reward." The home should be used to teach respect for all kinds of law—parental, civil, and divine. Children should be taught to recognize and obey the moral laws written into their consciences.

We Can Use Our Homes as Centers of Christian Training

Growing children need careful guidance in matters of conversation, conduct, and practices. They need to be coached in what to say and how to say it, what to do and how to do it. The home should be used as a school in which to teach the basic principles of honesty, sharing, fair play, cooperation, and unselfishness. "Do" is a more appealing word to children than "don't" when it is accompanied with patient instruction and right example.

We Can Use Our Homes as Centers of Worship

There should be a daily gathering together of the family for prayer and Bible reading. Children should be taught to love and respect their pastor and all men of God. The home should supplement the work of the church in teaching about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the church, and Christian service.

We Can Use Our Homes to Lead Others to Christ

By inviting others into our homes for a meal or for an evening's visit, we allow them to see by example how a Christian home operates. Is your home open to your children's friends so they may observe a Christian home in operation? How does your home compare with the Bethany home?

Just a Thought

**"America was a better place when people
opened meals with a prayer instead of a can opener."**