

session 2 study guide

family roles and goals

starter

GOOOOOOAL! Answer the following questions on your own, and then share some of your responses as a group.

Three goals I have for the next week are . . .

Three goals I have for the next year are . . .

session 2: family roles and goals

Three goals I have for my life are . . .

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I tend to set goals that are related to my . . . (circle up to three that are most applicable)

education/school

faith

impact on others

money

sports/exercise

talents

appearance

family

health

friends

One goal I've set in the past that I've accomplished is . . .

One goal I've set but haven't been able to accomplish is . . .

message

Our society is driven by goals, and people set goals for all the different roles they play in their lives. Basketball players set a goal of making 10 free throws in a row. Students set a goal of acing

the next math test. Pianists set a goal of being able to play Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata." Writers set a goal of having a story or article published. But have you ever thought about the role you play in your family? Have you ever set goals for your role as a son or daughter, a sister or brother?

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul states that although the Church is made up of many different parts, just like the human body, all of those parts are important and have a role to play. The same is true of your family. Whether it is just you and your mom or a collection of more step-siblings than you can count, each person has an important role to play in his or her family.

As you read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26, think about the following questions: (1) Do you view yourself as an important part of your family? How about your parents? Your siblings? (2) What role does God want you to play in your family?

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

dig

1. What does this passage say about how the different parts of the body should view and treat each other?

2. Do you think of yourself as an important part of your family? Do you view your parents this way? Your siblings? Why or why not?

3. What role has God called you to play in your family?

4. According to this passage, what is the most important part of the body?

5. What happens if one part doesn't fulfill its role?

6. Reread the final line of the passage: "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." How does this relate to how a family ought to interact?

apply

If you are a student, play on a sports team or have a job, you understand the concept of having assignments and responsibilities that you need to accomplish for a given purpose or goal. You work on writing an essay at night so you can earn a good grade in English. You scoop ice cream all weekend to earn a paycheck. You do that drill one more time in practice in order to have extra endurance during the game.

But what are your responsibilities to your family, and what is the end goal? Most often it is the end result—the goal—that makes a task worth doing. Keeping your room clean or making it home by curfew might not be enjoyable, but if you already have in your mind the goal of honoring your parents and their rules, then the tasks are easier to accomplish.

At the beginning of this study, you wrote goals for this week, for this year and for your life. Now, think about some goals for your family. What kind of family do you want to have? What kind of relationship with your parents and siblings do you want to have? What kind of interactions?

1. In the following table, write down goals for your family in the left-hand column. Then, on the right, write down one specific action you could do to help accomplish each goal.

Goal	Action
Improve my relationship with my sister	Invite her to come shopping with me
Have more fun with my family	Set up one night a week to go out and do a family activity

2. The Bible gives us instructions on maintaining relationships with our parents. Read through the following verses to see what goals God wants us to set for our relationship with our family.

Exodus 20:12 _____

Proverbs 13:1 _____

Matthew 10:37-38 _____

1 Timothy 5:8 _____

3. You are an important and integral part of your family. God has placed you—specifically *you*—in your family. You may be an athlete, a musician, a friend and a volunteer, but you are also daughter or son, a sister or brother. In the following table, write down a list of the different roles that you play in your life. Think about all aspects of your life.

Example from Jim Burns's life:

Goal	Action
<i>Christian</i>	<i>Surrender my life to Jesus Christ and follow Him daily</i>
<i>Husband</i>	<i>Love my wife; court her; treat her with honor</i>
<i>Dad</i>	<i>Spend quality time with my children; model Christianity to them</i>
<i>President of HomeWord</i>	<i>Lead ministry; seek to help families</i>

Your roles and goals:

Goal	Action

4. How does Philippians 2:3-5—“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others”—apply to families?

5. What do you do for your family? How do you help so that things run smoothly, jobs get done and joy is spread in your family?

6. What might be the consequence or impact on a family if the following goals aren't striven for?

The family never does fun activities together:

The kids don't honor their parents:

Two sisters fight all the time and never get along:

There isn't any time in the day for the family to sit down and talk to each other:

reflect

1. What is one aspect of your relationship with your family that you are proud of?

2. What is one thing you need to work on with your relationship with your family or siblings?

3. What are the key principles that are a part of God's design for families?

4. Why do you think families in our world struggle so much with carrying out God's principles for the family?

5. What if someone has parents who don't follow Jesus? How should that person respond to his or her parents?

6. What does 1 Peter 2:13-17 say to people in this situation?

7. Families go through difficult times, and no family is perfect. What hope does God give in the following verses?

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Colossians 1:15-18

Philippians 4:10-13

meditation



Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.

PROVERBS 16:3