

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SEATS AT THE DINNER TABLE: Psalm 128 & The Godly Home

SERIES THEME//

In this series, we'll examine the biblical vision for family and the godly home as we take an expositional walk through of Psalm 128, looking at each of the people seated around the family dinner table.

SERMON; THE FRUITFUL WIFE | PSALM 128:3a

SUNDAY, January 14, 2018

SERMON THEME//

The literal translation of this section is that a wife "shall be as a fruitful vine on the side of your house." Does a fruitful wife simply mean a woman who bears many children? Do we nourish our wives so they can live into this Biblical picture? Do women see in this Psalm the imagery of how a godly wife covers and adorns her home with blessings? Can women be 'well-watered' without a husband? The godly wife is both a blessing in herself, but also a blessing to others.

LEADER//

Remember - be encouraging people to take notes in the journals and bring those notes to Growth Group!

Also, acknowledge up front some ground rules. 1) Give space for everyone to share and interact. 2) Keep an atmosphere where everyone is comfortable to share not just their answers, but their lives and faith. 3) Challenge everyone to keep discussion away from the quality of the sermon and focus on the content, particularly as it relates to what God would have us do in our lives with it.

OPENING UP//

Start with prayer

Start the discussion

1. What were your assumptions before hearing this sermon? What did you think it would be about vs. what was actually preached?
2. How well would a sermon like this be received in our culture at large today?
3. What about this sermon do you think is important for a 10-year-old girl to hear?
4. What about this sermon is timely given our present moment in history?

DIGGING DEEPER//

- o Begin by reading this passage out loud.



PSALM 128 (ESV)

A Song of Ascents.

128 Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways!

²You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

³*Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;*
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.

⁴Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the Lord.

⁵The Lord bless you from Zion!
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life!

⁶May you see your children's children!
Peace be upon Israel!

- Take a moment and pray over this Psalm, focusing on the first part of verse 3. Pray that conversation is seasoned with respect for women and glory to God.

SERMON DISCUSSION VIDEO//

- As you watch the sermon discussion video, take note of what you found intriguing, insightful, and challenging as you consider how to take the *Word preached* and make it the *Word lived*.

DISCUSS THE SERMON//

LEADER//

While a fair amount of processing is necessary and helpful, remember that the point of this discussion is to take the Word preached and consider how to make it the Word lived. Have a large amount of time be spent on taking God's Word and applying it to our lives.

IMPORTANT TIP: Take the questions from "What do you think about this?" to "How does that play out in your day-to-day?"



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- Were there any of Pastor Ryan's or Kyle's thoughts from this discussion video that stuck out to you or struck a chord with you?
- The opening section of the sermon was "From the Family Bible"
 - Who was the first woman in your life that you remember being a source of life - as in spiritual nourishment? What did you learn from her?
- The first three points for the fruitful wife were:
 1. The fruitful wife brings life through her FAITH
 2. The fruitful wife brings life through her SUBMISSION
 3. The fruitful wife brings life through her WISDOM
- What insight did you learn from each of these, and how will that insight play out in your life?
- A key phrase in this sermon was: fruit is produced in the power of forgiveness.
 - How true do you find that statement?
 - How hard do you find it is to forgive someone?
 - Who do you need help in forgiving?
- Pastor Ryan said the idea of submission is the most controversial. Is he right, and if so why? If not, why not?
- How do you speak of submission in the public square? Women, how is that idea received by other women who don't follow Christ? How can we help them to understand God's plan in the midst of that?
- Pastor Ryan discussed how a wife's submission to her husband is reflective of the Son's submission to the Father. Is that a new notion for you? Was it helpful? If so, why?
- Who is the wisest woman that you know and what has she taught you through her life and words?
- In the section, "For the Family Blessing," three points were discussed
 1. The fruitful wife blesses her CHILDREN when her IDENTITY is in CHRIST
 2. The fruitful wife blesses her FAMILY when her PRIORITY is her HUSBAND
 3. The fruitful wife blesses her HOME when her ACTIVITY is the GOSPEL
- What encouragement do you have for women whose identity is wrapped up in her children? Is that something you fall prey to?
- If a family is blessed when a wife makes her husband her priority, how is that a blessing to the children?



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- How can a woman make the gospel her “activity” in her home? What could you be doing to be making your home more gospel active?
- How is the gospel the story of the one who saved the world through personal submission? And of what encouragement is that to you? How does that spur you on to go and make disciples?
- Who in your life needs to hear the gospel message? How can this group encourage you to share that message and hold you accountable to it?
- Finally, have you been doing family devotions? Can you commit to having family devotions at least one time before the next Growth Group meeting?

CLOSE IN PRAYER//

LEADER//

As you close in prayer, take some time to receive prayer requests from your group. Try to gather a number of these.

Take the time to pray over two specific areas (and to facilitate a deeper sense of community, encourage everyone to pray.)

1. First, your time of prayer should be a time of lifting up each other’s needs and prayer requests to the Lord.
2. Second, your growth group should pray to thank God for his Word and ask for his help as you seek to be *doers* of the Word and not hearers only.

