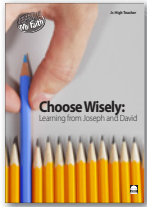


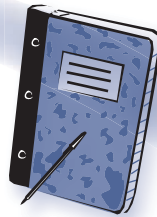
Choose Wisely: Learning from Joseph and David

Each day you are faced with many choices. Choices are very important! Do you make the right choices with the right motives? Do you desire to glorify God in the choices you make? This quarter, as you study the lives of Joseph and David, you can learn how to choose wisely and please God in doing so.



The *Living My Faith* Devotional Bible Study is designed to help you dig into God's Word. Each lesson offers devotions for Monday through

Saturday, along with worksheet to be completed during your group study and articles that will help you better understand and apply God's Word.



Journal: Purchase a journal or notebook to record your personal thoughts and prayers. Bring your journal and student book to class

each week so that you can take notes during the lesson or write any special insights you gain from a particular activity. You may also use the journal for sermon notes or for prayer requests.



Bible study tools: In order for you to dig into God's Word, consider using a Bible dictionary and a concordance. If you are not familiar with these helpful guides, ask your pastor or youth leader for a recommendation. Or visit an online Bible tools Web site, such as www.blueletterbible.org. This site offers commentaries, maps, and many other tools to help you in your Bible study.

Regular Baptist Press is not responsible for the contents of any book, periodical, or Web page referenced in this publication. Reference in this publication of any Web site, product, process, service, or company does not constitute its endorsement or recommendation by Regular Baptist Press.

Living My Faith Student Book • Summer Quarter 2016 • Vol. 17, No. 4 • Published quarterly by Regular Baptist Press • 3715 North Ventura Drive • Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004-7678 • Alex Bauman, editor Copyright 2010 by Regular Baptist Press • Printed in U.S.A. • All rights reserved.

Fruitful Families

Monday

- 1 Name your family members.
2. How well do you get along with your family members?
 - a. great
 - b. okay
 - c. rotten
 - d. depends on the day

Read Colossians 3:12–15. Paul originally wrote this to church members, but the same principles apply to you and your family members.

3. List the godly qualities you should demonstrate to your family.

Now circle at least one quality that can be improved this week and ask God to help you practice this quality.

Tuesday

Joseph's family experienced problems because of bad choices that were made.

1. Read Genesis 37:1–4. What did Joseph's dad do that angered his sons?

Jacob's choice to show favoritism created a lot of problems with his sons. He had learned favoritism from his own family.

2. Read Genesis 25:28. Who favored Jacob when he was growing up?

3. Read Genesis 27:42–44. Describe the result of Jacob's parents' favoritism.

Family life becomes very difficult when someone disobeys God's instructions. There may be times when you feel like you've been treated unfairly by your family members. In spite of how you may feel, remember that God never plays favorites with His children. He treats each of us fairly and lovingly.

Wednesday

1. Read Genesis 37:12–17. What did Jacob ask Joseph to do?

2. Do you think it would have been easy or hard for Joseph to obey? Why?

3. How much effort did Joseph put into obeying his father? What shows his effort?

Ask God to help you do what your parents ask, even if the job is hard or unpleasant. Work on memorizing this week's memory verses, Ephesians 6:1–3. These verses are a command, not a suggestion. But the great thing is that you will be rewarded for your obedience, and that's a promise!

Thursday

1. Read Genesis 37:17–35. How did Joseph's brothers respond to their father's favoritism?
2. What other plan did Reuben suggest?
3. When Reuben was away, Judah suggested a third plan. Describe it.

The brothers chose to get even when they felt hurt.

4. Read Romans 12:17–21. What does God want us to do when we are wronged?

Nobody's family is perfect, and how you respond to each member of your family is up to you. Like Joseph, his dad, and his brothers, you have a choice to make each day.

Friday

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 and list the descriptions of love.
2. How can you show a 1 Corinthians 13 kind of love to your parents?
3. How can you show a 1 Corinthians 13 kind of love to your siblings?

Saturday

Are you selfish? That's kind of a blunt question! But think about how many times your comfort, convenience, and feelings play a part in the choices you make. Read Philippians 2:3 and 4.

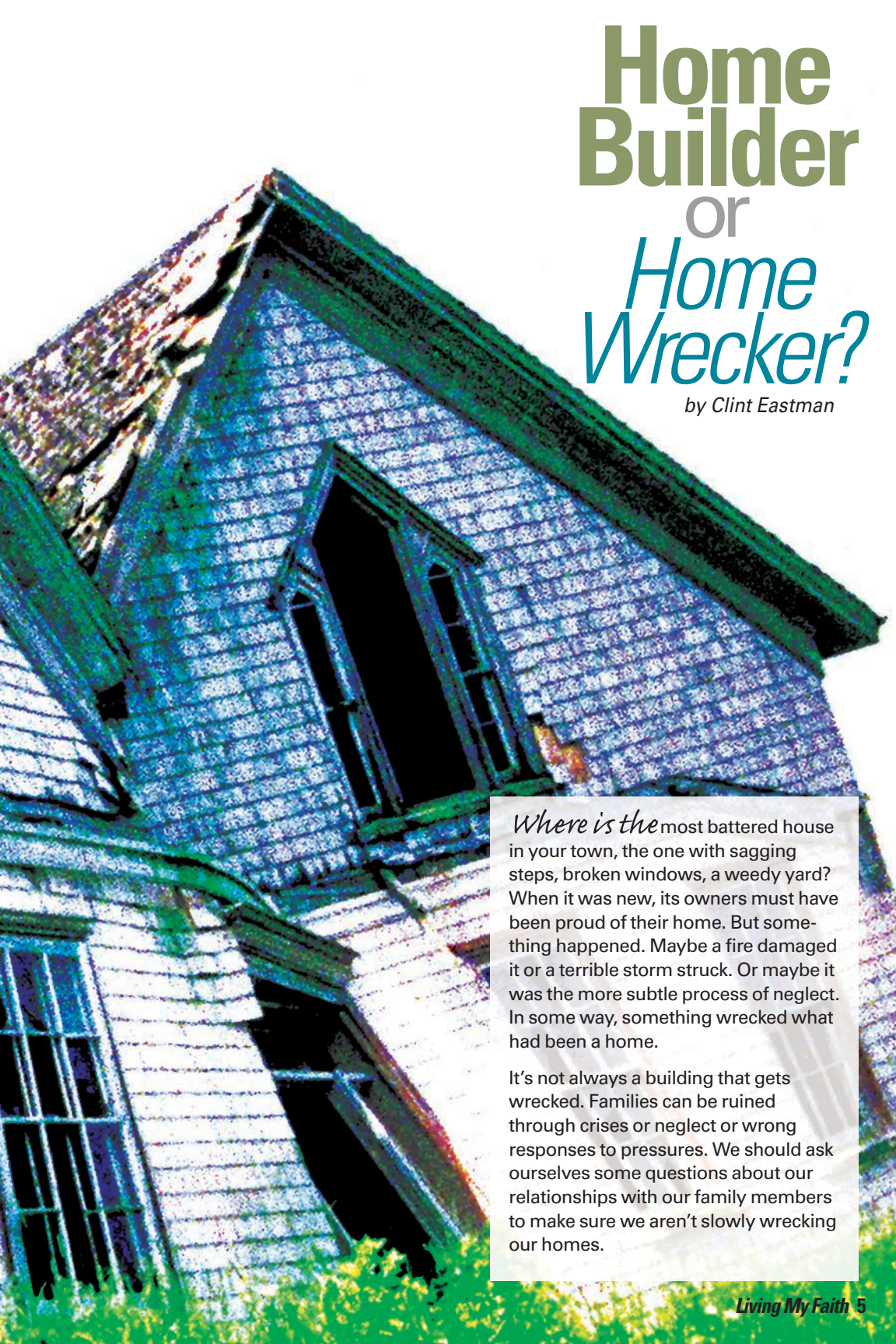
1. What is the opposite of selfishness?
2. What does a selfless person do?
3. How does this apply to your relationship with your parents?
4. How does this apply to your relationship with your siblings?

Review Ephesians 6:1–3; then write a short letter that describes what you appreciate about your parents. To really make their day, show it to them!

WEEK 1

Memory Verses

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth” (Ephesians 6:1–3).



Home Builder or Home Wrecker?

by Clint Eastman

Where is the most battered house in your town, the one with sagging steps, broken windows, a weedy yard? When it was new, its owners must have been proud of their home. But something happened. Maybe a fire damaged it or a terrible storm struck. Or maybe it was the more subtle process of neglect. In some way, something wrecked what had been a home.

It's not always a building that gets wrecked. Families can be ruined through crises or neglect or wrong responses to pressures. We should ask ourselves some questions about our relationships with our family members to make sure we aren't slowly wrecking our homes.



Am I Respectful?

As part of the Ten Commandments, God said, "Honour thy father and thy mother" (Exodus 20:12). This rule is imperative to family life. Honor, or respect, is most clearly seen in our words and actions. When was the last time you asked your parents for advice and then followed it? When did you last thank your parents for taking care of you?

While respect shows in our actions, it starts in our hearts. True respect is responding agreeably in our hearts to our parents' instruction instead of following their rules with a bad attitude. True respect is also choosing to think kindly of our parents.

The word "honour" in Exodus 20:12 also means "to bring honor." Not only should we be honoring our parents, but our words and actions should also cause others to respect our parents. Are you ever tempted to talk badly about your parents when you're with friends? Have you ever tried to impress your peers by disobeying or acting like you don't care about your parents' rules?

At times teens may see faults in their parents. Some teens then resist the principle to honor their parents and ask, "How can I respect a person who doesn't act right?" This predicament is difficult. But when we can't honor the person's behavior, we must at least honor the person's position.

Do I work hard?

In the small kitchen area of a workplace hangs a sign that says, "Clean up after yourself. Your mother doesn't work here."

It appears that in many families the parents are working harder and the kids are working less. In addition to their jobs, parents have other responsibilities such as church activities, family relationships, community involvement, and school roles. Want to be a home builder? Help out at home to relieve some of the pressure that your parents face in just keeping up with daily chores.

Am I obedient?

Ephesians 6:1 clearly tells children to obey their parents. Obedience is a command, not an option. Many teens, however, slowly tear down their families with disobedience. They make excuses like, "My parents are old-fashioned" or "They're unreasonable in their demands."

Our parents are much more experienced than we are. They are usually more perceptive about the consequences of our actions. We should trust our parents and obey them, even if we don't understand why or if we don't agree with their advice.



Do I love my family?

I once heard this saying about true love: "Love always shows itself in sacrifice toward the objects of its affection." Loving isn't easy; it is work, and it demands sacrifice. When a teenager loves his or her family with true, godly love, this selfless love affects his or her actions, attitudes, and words.

Love changes our actions. Love gives us the desire to help our parents or siblings. We open a car door for Mom and put away our clothes. We behave better and make our homes more cheerful places to live.

Love changes our attitudes. It causes our smiles and positive attitudes to become contagious. The atmosphere in our homes lightens up as we act with a loving attitude.

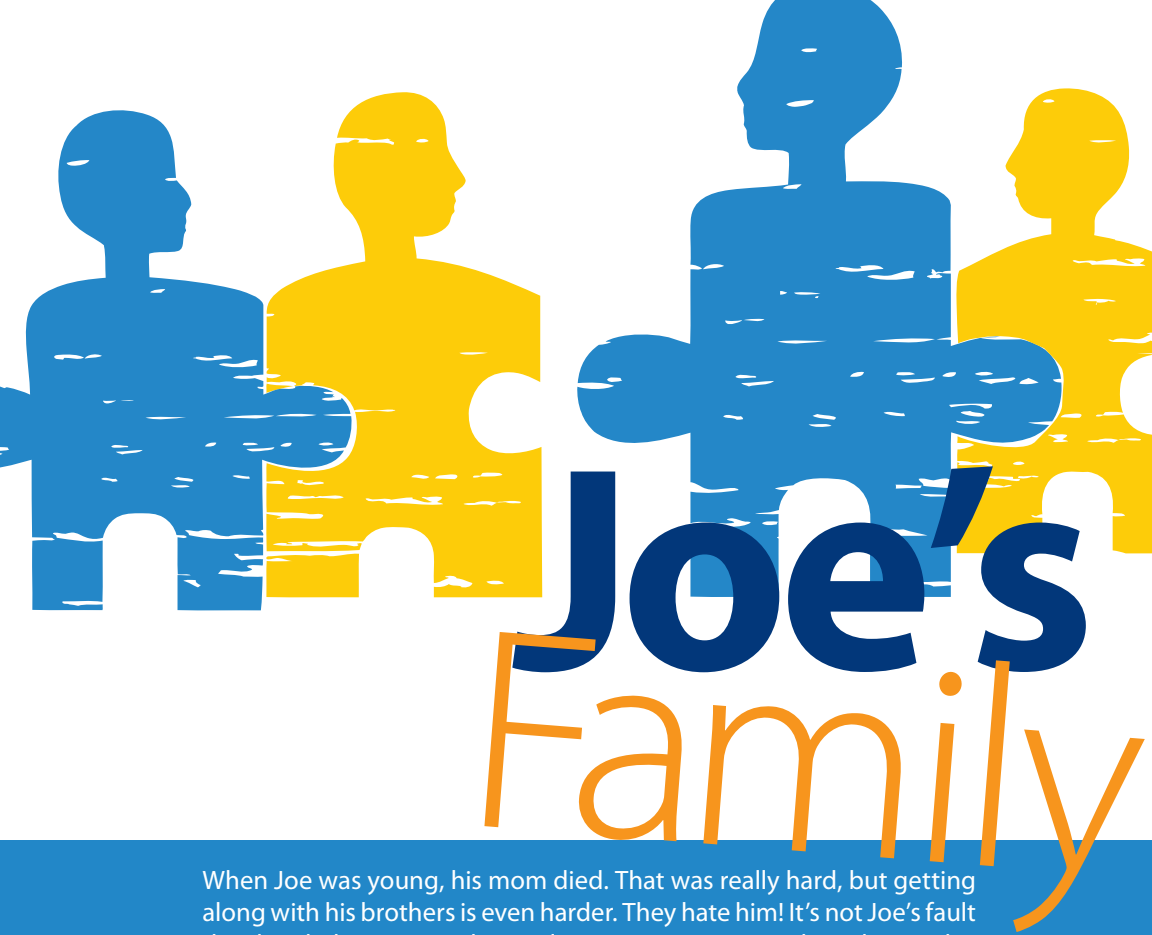
Love changes our words. We use words like "thank you" and "please" more often. We say, "I love you." Fighting and bickering decrease.

I have a Christian friend who is happy, active, and energetic, although she's old enough to be my grandmother. One day I heard her talking on the phone to her daughter. When she hung up, she smiled like someone had just given her two million dollars. "My daughter always says, 'I love you,' when we talk on the phone," she explained. "That means so much to me!"

Each of us should frequently ask these four questions to be sure we're in tune with God's will for building up our families:

- Am I respectful?
- Am I working hard?
- Am I obedient?
- Am I showing love?

Or am I a home wrecker? Am I slowly chipping away at the foundation of my family? Am I a home builder? Will my family stand strong because of my contributions?



When Joe was young, his mom died. That was really hard, but getting along with his brothers is even harder. They hate him! It's not Joe's fault that his dad seems to show a lot more attention to him than to his brothers. Joe tries to be kind, but whatever he does seems to bug his brothers. On top of that, his dad questions him about how his brothers act away from home. Since the news isn't good and Joe tells the truth, he gets into even more trouble!

What parts of Joe's family life are like yours?

What parts of Joe's family life are different from yours?

What advice would you give Joe for getting along with his brothers?