

A City on a Hill - Family Discussion Guide #2

Around the Home: an Atmosphere of Grace

Sunday's Bible Passage: Colossians 3:12-17

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Read Together: Ephesians 4:29

Why this passage? Paul reminds us that God's grace should shape the way we speak, forgive, and care for one another. Our words have the power to either strengthen or weaken the atmosphere of our home.

Questions for Discussion & Reflection:

1. How would you describe the culture or atmosphere of our home?
2. When friends or guests come into our home, what words would you hope they would use to describe the atmosphere?
3. What helps our home feel peaceful, joyful, and safe?
4. What are some things that can quickly damage the atmosphere in our home?
5. Paul says our words should "build others up." What are some examples of words that encourage?
6. Is it easier for you to forgive someone or to ask for forgiveness? Why?
7. Has someone in our family shown you grace recently? What happened?
8. What is one way each of us can help make our home reflect God's goodness this week?
9. Is there someone in our family you need to encourage, apologize to, or forgive today?

This Week's Challenges

- ✓ Encourage one family member with specific words.
- ✓ Say "thank you" often.
- ✓ Be the first to apologize when you're wrong.
- ✓ Be quick to forgive when someone asks.