



## Blueprints

Adapted from “Flip this House” series by Sam Rijfkoogel

When we were building our church buildings, we did not just walk outside and start building. The process required a wait of four to six months while an architect drew a detailed set of blueprints. Those four to six months seemed like a long time that was wasted when we could have started seeing results immediately. After all, we had builders in the church who could build, why would blueprints be necessary? Consider this article regarding the necessity of blueprints:

Can you imagine a world without *blueprints*? Nothing would be done correctly and buildings would be off balance and unsafe. When it comes to remodeling your home, this seemingly boring looking piece of paper is all the difference in a job well done and one you wish you had left alone entirely. Before you get started with your dream plans, there are a few things it will be handy to know about blueprints. Just about everyone has a rough idea of what blueprints are. They are the designs and plans for your future remodel, addition, or the original building of your home or business. They contain vital information about the size, numeric equations involved, and scope of the type of construction you are doing. They are incredibly important to ensure that measurements are correct and that the structure will be sound and well built.

If you are planning to go it alone with your remodeling plans, you will have to know how to read these detailed sheets of paper known as *blueprints*. After spending all of that time and money on a project, it is very important to get it right the first time. Of course, if you opt to call in a professional contractor, one would hope that he or she already knows how to read a blueprint and to make modifications if necessary. Most people look to a professional architect or experienced contractor to draw up the plans for their addition or remodel. This is the best way to ensure that things are done correctly and you or your hired team will be able to successfully and safely complete the project. Some plans can be purchased online or in other publications. You will have to modify them yourself to be sure they will work for your home. Regardless of the route you take in



making your remodeling improvements a reality, make sure your blueprint plans are thorough and well done for the best results and most satisfying outcome.<sup>1</sup>

With a little effort, houses can be changed. However, only God can change a home. God sees value in you and has a vision for you and your family. Just as every building begins with a blueprint, God has given the family a blueprint. His word is our blueprint.

---

<sup>1</sup> "The Importance of Blueprints," Reliable Remodeler, June 13, 2017, <http://ideas.reliableremodeler.com/Article.aspx?Title=the-importance-of-blueprints&ID=1261> (accessed July 7, 2017).

## COURAGE

**C1:** Have you ever been involved in a building or rebuilding project? Describe your experience.

**C2:** Do you think there is a difference between a house and a home? What would those differences be?

**C3:** Read and answer the following.

**Deuteronomy 6:1–3 (ESV)** Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

- What are three things you glean from these verses about God's blueprint for families?
  
- From these verses, write out a prayer and for thirty days pray this prayer over your family.

## STRENGTH

**S1:** God's blueprint for a strong nation was and is strong families. Successful parenting always begins with the dad's own relationship with God. Read and answer the following.

### Deuteronomy 6:1 (ESV)

- Take a few moments and circle the pronoun "you" in this verse. What must first happen in the home if the home is going to be strong?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate how well you live for God in your home. Write out a plan to improve.

**S2:** Read and answer the following.

### Deuteronomy 6:2 (ESV)

- When you read the words "fear the Lord your God," what comes to your mind?
- What does "honor" mean to you? How do you teach honor to your children?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very high and 4 being not very high, rate yourself on your honor quotient in the following areas:
  - Mind (thought life)
  - Marriage (spouse)
  - Morals (way I live)
  - Money (tithing and giving)

- Mouth (speech and attitude)
  
- Write a plan to improve in each of these five areas.

**S3:** Read and answer the following.

**Deuteronomy 6:3 (ESV)**

- From this verse, what three things does living for God bring to your home? What would that mean for you today?
  
- Write out a plan detailing how you can walk out and lead your family using Deuteronomy 6:1-3 as a guide.

## ENDURANCE

**E1:** Doctors recommend your child get vaccinated for certain diseases. The doctor gives the patient a very small dose of that disease which in turn helps your body build up an immune system to fight the real thing, so the disease itself should never effect you. Too many parents give their children just a small dose of Christianity, just enough to make them immune to the real thing. These children watch their parents go to church and go through religious motions, but the children do not see a passionate love for God. Read and answer the following.

### Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (ESV)

- Circle or highlight the word “all” in these verses. What implications does this word have in your relationship with God?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very much and 4 being not very much, rate yourself on how well you live out these verses? Write out a plan to improve.

**E2:** The primary responsibility for educating children does not lie with the school system or with the church. It lies with the home.

### Deuteronomy 6:1–2 (ESV)

- From these verses, what two important lessons in life should parents teach their children?
- If you are a father, on a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you have taught your children to love God and to love others. Write out a plan to improve.

- In the next thirty days, find three young dads to share your plan to love God and to love others. What did you glean from these conversations.

### **Psalm 68:6 (ESV)**

- If you do not have children, what does this verse mean to you regarding family, being a model, or mentor?

**E3:** Read and answer the following.

### **Deuteronomy 6:6–9 (ESV)**

### **Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)**

- From these verses, what do you glean about responsibility with your children?
- Look up the word “train” in a Bible dictionary. What does this word mean?
- In the next ninety days, find three creative ways to affect the spiritual taste in the lives of your children.
- From verses 8-9, what are four implications and applications for you today when you train your children?