



How To Win At Home

Dream House

Week 1: The Foundation

01. INTRODUCTION

Hello there, My name is _____ and I want to welcome. I am so excited to kick off our new series called Dream House: Where together over the next 6 weeks we will be learning from the Bible how to win at home.

02. TRANSITION TO MESSAGE

Before we get into the message, I want to start off with some Dad jokes I was reading earlier this week.

- "Why do chicken coops only have two doors? Because if they had four, they would be chicken sedans!"
- "How do you make a Kleenex dance? Put a little boogie in it!"
- "Two guys walk into a bar, the third one ducks."
- "I had a dream that I was a muffler last night. I woke up exhausted!"
- "5/4 of people admit that they're bad with fractions."

I am so excited to kick off this series called Dream House. Doesn't that just sound good? – You know we titled this series Dream House but how many of you know that it doesn't matter how big or spacious your house is, if there's all kinds of issues with the people living there, it doesn't feel like a dream!?

Here's the Big Idea for this series:

God wants us to win at home and the Bible shows us how.

We all want the same thing in our homes: more peace, less tension and genuine connection with the people we care about the most, our family...

When we get into this kind of message there's at least 3 kinds of people who are going to hear this 3 different ways.

1. There are the empty nesters in here who have already built the kind of family you wanted. Here's what I'll say to you. God's not finished. What you have learned, it's time to share. And this message series will give us a framework and common language to build family God's way.
2. Maybe you're in here and either you've not started a family yet, or you had a family that blew up and you're back to square one. There's no better time than now to learn how to build family God's way. So pay attention over the next 6 weeks. Take a lot of notes, and pray for God to bring the right person who will build with you, God's way.
3. Many of you are in the thick of it. You've started building your family, but there's a long way to go. This series is going to help you tremendously if you'll stay close, pay attention to what we teach and put it into practice.

PERSONAL: You don't understand, my situation is dire, you're a pastor, it must just be perfect. **Listen: I** have an almost 10 year old, 6 year old, 4 year old and 2 year old and to be honest sometimes I think: Can I just get a little peace? Can I have a little space? Please?

Truthfully this series is going to bless me and my family too because the grass isn't greener but God is in control and He's given us what we need today! Here's the reality: **Every one of us has some level of tension in our home.**

And **Tension isn't a bad thing**, Its tension that causes our lives to grow, just like our **muscles**

Illustration: For me and Kyla, it's the tooth paste tube. It's the area around our sinks! I'm OCD, she is not. That has caused tension over the years and here's what's happened, I've grown and learned to get over myself and Kyla has become more understanding of my OCD. God blessed me with tidy, Kyla with FUN! There would be no peace in our home without Kyla!

You're probably thinking, that's funny, but my family is dealing with some series things... in all seriousness, God has an answer and there is hope that is what this series is all about.

2 Timothy 3:16 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness

03. MESSAGE

Context: **Genesis 2** – God creates the world and the pinnacle of creation was man. God puts him in the Garden, he works the land, it's perfect, there's no sin, he's doing amazing things...names every animal, and then God sees that despite his excellent work, man is alone.

- He needed someone suitable, a mate, someone just right for him.
- God's plan for this man was bigger than himself.
- He was created for relationship, to give/receive love, **He was created a family man.** So God gave him Eve.

Genesis 2:23-24 And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called "woman," for she was taken from man. 24 This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

This is the defining moment of the first story of the Bible – God has a target in His mind for how He created human beings to function.

- It's bigger than romantic love – that's part of it, but it's about loving/serving/giving/being part of something bigger than yourself.

Adam & Eve had the ultimate DREAM HOUSE – Garden of Eden...beautiful, naked & no shame...no sin/challenges...we're all chasing what they had.

Pastor, What does that have to do with my family, Mine isn't perfect, there's shame, challenges and sin?

Consider this, they had everything we think we need to be happy and yet we see later in Genesis that they still rebel against God. We see them choose something other than God's best for them.

Many of us struggle to get along in every relationship because of this first relational breakdown. You form your belief about God, yourself and how the world works between the ages of 5-7 years old.

Family is a difficult topic – this is not easy for me as a pastor. This area is so important, but it's also so painful.

- I have to balance the tension between what God says is possible, and the reality of where many, many people live.

You know it's always been difficult to get along with one another: even back to the time of Adam & Eve. But it's never been harder than it is today.

In our remaining time together, I want to give 5 house rules, These 5 principles are foundational to a DREAM HOUSE.

SIX HOUSE RULES

1. Embrace God's Design.

Proverbs 24:3-4

A house is built by wisdom, and it is established by understanding; 4 by knowledge the rooms are filled with every precious and beautiful treasure.

There are a lot of voices telling you how to build. In every area of life we have more options & access – this makes choosing and being content far more difficult. **We're also exponentially more aware of what everyone else is doing** – *envy, jealous, coveting, desire.*

The grass always seems greener but It rarely is. And if it is, it is because of one thing: water. Your grass can be greener if you water it! (my neighbor, Tony)

Illustration: Your spouse doesn't complete you. You are complete in Christ. Your spouse, your mom, your brother, your sister, **Your family compliments you.**

We get information faster & earlier – knowing about something and being able to do it are not the same thing.

- We want to be great immediately.
- Most people get discouraged if they're not really good at something and quit before they even have time to practice.

It takes time to build a dream house.

2. Don't Think Like a Consumer.

A consumer keeps all their options open. They think:

- "I deserve the highest value for the best possible price."
- "The customer is always right."
- "I'll take my business elsewhere."

Here's where we get into trouble: *Who do you process with? Who are you listening to?*

Proverbs 27:6 The wounds of a friend are trustworthy, but the kisses of an enemy are excessive.

When you go to social media, your friends, people with hurts instead of to God, the way you interpret what's happening gives you bad information.

That advice is coming from a totally different set of plans.

3. Discern the Difference Between Personality and Personal Growth.

Proverbs 19:20-21 NAS (leave version) Listen to advice and accept discipline, So that you may be wise the rest of your days.
²¹ Many plans are in a person's heart, But the advice of the Lord will stand.

Trying to make the other person who you want them to be doesn't work. Personality and character are not the same thing – we all have strengths & weaknesses.

Early wedding photo (Stephen & Kyla) – What made me fall in love with her was her principles...but when those principles started trying to change me, I didn't like them as much.

Why would you change the things that made you love them in the first place? Encourage them to grow in their character while becoming more of who they are. [This same principle applies to every family relationship.](#)

4. Make Time to Talk Daily.

If you were to go to a counselor, roughly **75% of what they would have you focus on would be communication.**

Speed kills communication. [Our pace of life DOES NOT lend itself to this approach](#) – you have to be counter-cultural, stop adding things to your already busy calendar, and take the time to talk

through how you're doing/where you're really at. This is true for your spouse AND your kids – all your relationships.

Ephesians 4:26-27 Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, and don't give the devil and opportunity.

Example: Chair Time with Kyla, Dinner Time with Kids

5. Ask for Help. Look around. This is the purpose of the Church, not to be perfect but to help each other grow up and mature.

Exodus 3:14-15 14 God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM.[a] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." 15 God also said to Moses, "Say this to the Israelites: The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.

God's covenant name, He is the God of children, parents & grandchildren. This is his family name.

Every healthy family has active 3 Generations. Why? Because we need each other... The Church, the family of God, needs people of every stage: [Children need stability](#), [Parents need wisdom](#), [Grandparents need purpose](#).

04. CLOSING & PRAYER

6. Hold on to Hope.

If you watch enough of these home makeover shows, you realize they can rebuild any house.

Illustration: **DREAM HOUSE metaphor**

HGTV – Fixer Upper, Flip/Flop, etc...all the other shows...there's no house that can't be restored. They strip total dumps/shacks down to the foundation and rebuild them into beautiful, desirable homes.

- ***We don't look at relationships the same way because it's too painful.*** When you strip a relationship down to the studs, the holes/damage represents so much emotional pain.

You've got to hold on to hope. You've got to believe it can get better. When it feels like your home is a disaster and everyone else's life looks perfect, just keep taking simple steps.

Romans 8:28 We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

You may not be able to see it, but all around you, God is constantly fixing up homes, He is the God that redeems what we think we lost and makes it better, His Best.

Let's Pray