




Lord of the Rings: Great Families

 Nehemiah 4:14b (NLT) “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”


Great families **enjoy life with one another.**

 Ecclesiastes 8:15 (NIV) “So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun.”

 Ecclesiastes 9:9 (NIV) “Enjoy life with your wife...”


 Psalm 127:3 (NLT) “Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.”

Great families **encourage growth in one another.**


 Luke 2:52 (NIV) “...Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”


Lessons learned at home:


1. We learn how to **express ourselves.**
2. We learn how to **handle conflict.**
3. We learn how to **deal with loss.**
4. We learn how to **filter the world.**
5. We learn how to **behave in this world.**


 Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (Msg) “Write these commandments that I’ve given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you ⁷ and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night.”


Great families **take care of one another.**

 Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV) “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

 Psalm 127:4–5 (LB) “Children born to a young man are like sharp arrows to defend him. ⁵ Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. That man shall have the help he needs when arguing with his enemies.”


 Ephesians 6:1–3 (NIV) “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—³ “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”


 Psalm 71:9 (NLT) “And now, in my old age, don’t set me aside. Don’t abandon me when my strength is failing.”

 1 Timothy 5:4 (NIV) “...if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.”

Great families **care for others.**

 1 Corinthians 10:24 (ESV) “Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.”

 Acts 10:1–2 (Msg) “There was a man named Cornelius who lived in Caesarea, captain of the Italian Guard stationed there. ² He was a thoroughly good man. He had led everyone in his house to live worshipfully before God, was always helping people in need, and had the habit of prayer.”

 1 Corinthians 16:15–16 (Msg) “Would you do me a favor, friends, and give special recognition to the family of Stephanas? You know, they were among the first converts in Greece, and they’ve put themselves out, serving Christians ever since then. I want you to ¹⁶ honor and look up to people like that: companions and workers who show us how to do it, giving us something to aspire to.”

Digging Deeper: Is there a family that you especially admire? What is it about them that makes them so great? Does what they do coincide with what we talked about today? Would others say that you have a great family? What did you learn from your family growing up that you want to pass on to your family? What did you see growing up that you don’t want to duplicate? What needs to change at home? Are you a member of God’s family? —if you’re not sure, would you be willing to talk to a pastor about that?