

This week we continue our series THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH with *This Will Be the Blessing* focusing on Psalm 128 as Dr. Baucom shares his vision for Columbia as we move toward a more integrated family ministry.

1. Have you ever considered yourself '**blessed**'? How did you feel? What happened that you felt blessed? How does being a part of a family (nuclear, extended or family of faith) bless your life?
2. **Read Psalm 128.** Sit with this passage for about 5 minutes. Then **reread it** again, listening for key words or phrases that might stand out to you. Sit with it for another 5 minutes. **Reread it** again allowing the Spirit to speak to you. Sit with it again for 5 minutes. Now spend time in prayer speaking back to God thanking him for the insights that he gave to you and asking them to penetrate your heart, mind and life.
3. "*Blessed are all who **fear the Lord**, who walk in obedience to him.*" What do the following passages say that would help you understand "*fear of the Lord*"? How might you be blessed?
 - Proverbs 1:7
 - Proverbs 8:13
 - Proverbs 10:27
 - Proverbs 14:26-27
 - Proverbs 16:6
 - Proverbs 19:23
 - Proverbs 22:4
4. **Psalm 128:2-4** references several ways that those who fear the Lord will experience His blessing. What do you understand these folks to experience?
5. In verse 3, the image is very striking and would be sure to present itself to the mind of every one living in the olive country. Young olive plants spring up around the parent stem. *The Psalmist intends to suggest the idea of young people springing up around their parents, even as olive plants surround the fine, well-rooted tree. How beautiful to see the gnarled olive, still bearing abundant fruit, surrounded with a little band of sturdy successors, any one of which would be able to take its place should the central olive be blown down,*

or removed in any other way. Here we have the vine and the olive blended—joy from the fruitful wife, and solid comfort from the growing family; these are the choicest products earth can yield: our families are gardens of the Lord. C.H. Spurgeon

- How does this quote impress you or help you to gain a better understanding of this Psalm?
6. **Psalm 128:6** indicated that another blessing will be to live to see our children's children. **Read 2nd Timothy 1:5 and Acts 16:1-3.**
 - What was the impact that Lois and Eunice had upon the Christian church?
 - What do we know about Timothy's father?
 - What can we learn about families from this passage?
 - What can we learn about our responsibility as a church to children who have a parent who is not a Christian?
 7. Lois & Eunice had an amazing impact on the life of Timothy, who impacted the birth and nurture of the first century church and, therefore, each one of us.
 - What impact can we have on the generations to come by focusing on the spiritual nurture of our children and the children around us?
 8. Spend some time reflecting on specific relationships you are building that will impact the future of the Kingdom.
 - Be ready to share with your group how you are blessed through these relationships.
 - What do you see as the potential for making a difference in the kingdom through these relationships?
 - If you could not name specific relationships, invite your group to help you dream about new relationships you may build, places you may invest yourself.

Spend time this week with your group praying about your relationship with your family members, particularly your parents and your children, if you have any. Ask God to help you see children as his gift. Consider what you can do to help others who may be struggling in their family relations.