

- **What ideas or images come to mind when you hear the word *fear*? Why?**

**Psalm 128:1-4** *Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.*

- **What do these verses teach about healthy families?**
- **How would you define what it means to fear the Lord?**

**Deuteronomy 5:16** *“Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”*

**Proverbs 20:20** *If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness.*

- **Was your home a place of respect when you were a child? Explain.**
- **As parents, how can we know when our children respect us?**
- **How can we help our children respect us?**

**Proverbs 14:26** *In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.*

**Ephesians 6:1-4** *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

- **What does it look like when family members don’t feel safe within their homes? What happens in those situations?**
- **What steps can we take as fathers to make sure our homes are places of safety and refuge?**

**Deuteronomy 6:6-8** *“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.”*

- **What are the different types of situations described in these verses?**
- **What do these situations look like in our lives today?**

**Proverbs 6:20-23** *My son, keep your father’s commandment, and forsake not your mother’s teaching. Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.*

- **How can you teach your children about God in your current situation?**

**Colossians 3:19-21** *Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

**James 1:19-20** *Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

**Proverbs 29:15** *The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.*

- How would you describe your experiences with discipline as a child?
- How do we disciple our children without lashing out in anger?

### — Homework —

1. Make a list of everything you appreciate about each of your children. Be as specific as you can.
2. Is there any person in your family with whom you have a difficulty communicating? Who?
  - a. What can you do to remove barriers with that person?
  - b. What can you do to improve communication?
3. What are some ways you have provoked your children or lashed out in anger?
4. What steps can you take in the coming weeks to guide your children in a godly way?

## Malachi Dads The Heart of a Father

### Lesson 8 Questions

#### *“Fathering – Part I”*

#### Memory Verse

*In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence,  
and his children will have refuge.*

(Proverbs 14:26)

- **What’s the most important relationship within a family? Explain.**

**Matthew 19:4-6** *He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

**Deuteronomy 24:5** *“When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.”*

- **What do movies and TV shows teach about the relationship between husband and wife?**
- **What do they teach about the relationship between parents and kids?**

**Psalm 127:3-4** *Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.*

**Malachi 2:15** *“Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.”*