# DAY 4

# Man in the House

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. …

Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 5:25–26; 6:4

**Leadership Affirmation**

*Those who know me best respect me as a leader because I routinely reflect the character of the indwelling Christ before them.*

Men and women are designed by God to lead in the home, but in complementary ways. As the leader of his home, the Lord held Adam responsible for sin entering the world. In a similar way, as leaders in their homes, husbands and fathers will one day give an account to the Lord for how they modeled godliness to their families.

*Men are designed for leadership through spiritual direction* in their homes. Men, you are called to set the tone for your family by being spiritual leaders of your household. Joshua declared, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Spiritual leadership means modeling the sacrificial love of Jesus for your wife and children (Ephesians 5:25).

*Men lead through material provision* in their homes. Fathers are responsible for providing for the physical and emotional needs of their families, ensuring their well-being and security. Paul boldly addressed the strong work ethic fathers must model: "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Timothy 5:8). In many families, the wife and mother earns more than her husband. That's perfectly fine. Women have a valuable role in business and financial affairs. But a man is designed to support his household through his work.

*Men lead through loving correction* in their homes. The writer of Hebrews compares our Heavenly Father with earthly fathers: *For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?* (Hebrews 12:7). Fathers are called to discipline their children with love and wisdom, helping them to grow in righteousness and maturity.

**Prayer for Protection**

*Dear Lord, protect me from accepting leadership responsibilities that lead me to take for granted those I love most.*