



## VALUES TO LAST A LIFETIME — YOURS AND YOUR KIDS

with Billy Blanchard

### ▶ FOCUS VERSES

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.  
Ephesians 6:4

But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
Joshua 24:15b

### ▶ DISCUSSION

- Billy speaks of his father as someone who came up with a definite vision and repeated it as often as he needed to for the people he was leading—whether it was his employees or his family—to understand. (See *Proverbs 29:18*.)**
  - Did your own parents have a vision like that, a set of values that they communicated to you regularly?
  - What did that teach you about what was important to them?
- A central component to Billy's story is his difficult decision to leave Synovus, the company his father led, and how his father's blessing for that change made him feel like a great burden had been lifted. (See *Deuteronomy 5:16*.)**
  - Have you ever had a difficult choice in your life where you wanted your parents' blessing or approval?
  - What was their response, and how has that shaped your life since then?



- 3. One of the most important things Billy says he and his wife have tried to do for their children is make their home a safe place where the kids can “take off the armor” they have to wear to face the challenges of the outside world. (See Proverbs 1:8-9.)**
- Was your childhood home a safe place like that?
  - What made it feel safe?
  - If it wasn't that kind of place, was there somewhere else where you felt like you could feel safe and relax?
- 4. Billy relates an incident from when one of his sons was seven years old that taught him he needed to stop protecting his kids so much—they would benefit more from being taught the values they needed to protect themselves. (See Proverbs 20:17.)**
- Looking back, were your own parents protectors, teachers, both, or neither?
  - How has that influenced your personality and parenting style?
- 5. Think about the values you'd like to pass on to your own kids.**
- How did those values become important to you?
  - Did your parents teach them to you, or did you get them from somewhere else?
- 6. Billy relates a recent sermon that talked about the throne we each have in our lives—it's designed for God to sit in it, but sometimes we try to push Him aside and sit in it ourselves. (See Proverbs 3:11-12.)**
- Who would you say is sitting in that throne now?
  - Are there certain times or circumstances when you recognize that you try to take the throne for yourself?

