

of the time. They may be two families, both of whom are hard-working, honest, with strong values. But if we look carefully we will notice the difference when the storms of life show up and things get rough. That's when the foundation of building your house on the rock of Jesus Christ will really make a noticeable difference.

Ruth and Rick were a young couple in the first church that I worked in. They had two children, a girl who was 5 and a boy who was 7 years old. Both Ruth and Rick were school teachers and dedicated Christians looking forward to a long and happy life together. That is, until the day they found out that Ruth had cancer. For 18 months the family worked hard to fight this disease that finally took Ruth away from the husband and children who loved her so dearly. Rick especially was devastated over the loss of his wife. But while many may have become bitter and angry at God, Rick instead praised God for his goodness to them. He counted the blessings they did have. He counted as a blessing the 10 years of marriage the two had shared together. He counted as a blessing the two wonderful children they had. He counted as a blessing the church family who lovingly came around him and the children, assisting Rick in adjusting to single parenthood. Rick and the children did go through all the stages of grief and their home life was not perfect. But in the tough times they chose to stand strong and depend on God to get them through, because, as newlyweds, Ruth and Rick had chosen many years earlier to make sure that God was the foundation on which their home was built. That firm foundation did not crumble in the face of life's challenges.

Are you able to stand strong in the face of life's challenges, because you have built your home on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ?

**Our children get a Christ-centered makeover when:**

- A. God is the foundation of our families.
- B. We understand God provides and protects.
- C. We realize they are a blessing to us and a legacy from us.
- D. Families stand strong in the face of life's challenges.

Excerpts taken from Mark Holmen and David Tiexeira "Take it Home; Inspiration and Events to Help Parents Spiritually Transform their children" Gospel Light, 2008, pg. 231-232

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**Child Makeover - Part 4**  
**By Rev. Rose-Marie Litwin**  
**August 7, 2011**  
**Psalm 127**

Our children get a Christ-centered makeover when families stand strong in the face of life's challenges.

*"They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate."*

Psalm 127:5b

In Old Testament times the "city gate" was the place where business was conducted, where judgments were made much like a courthouse today, and where people often met their adversaries. Families today have a few adversaries too, such as parents needing to work long hours, separation of extended family, divorce, drugs, sex, alcohol, television and video games. All of which can cause isolation, distractions and conflict in the home, pulling one another away from what really matters in life.

Kids see real character when problems arise. Anyone can be a good role model when things are going smooth. But, how does your family do when facing a challenge? When you get lost on vacation? When a pipe breaks and your upstairs bathroom floods? When schedules conflict? When you're running late for church?

Having no children and no husband, my life is often much freer from many of the pressures that doing life together as a family can have. Much of my time is my own and I have the ability and privilege of being able to dive deeply into work that gives me much joy and pleasure. Nonetheless, even I need to remember to stand strong in the face of challenges. When I forget why I'm doing what I'm doing and whom I'm doing it for. When I run ahead of God and forget that everything does not depend on me, but rather, that I must depend on God, it's at those times that I can become easily irritated, frustrated and grumpy!

In Matthew 7 Jesus talks about two kinds of houses or "families". There are those built on the rock and those built on the sand. Families built on God and families that aren't. These two houses may not look that different most



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