A SHORT BIBLE STUDY

Living My Faith at Home

Living It Out · Book 2



Love, leadership, and responsibility in the family

Andrew Dominguez

Trinfinity Enterprises

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A Note on the Bible Translation Used in This Book

My preferred Bible for personal study, teaching, and research is the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB). I chose it because it is a word-for-word translation in today's language, built on the ancient Scripture sources: the Hebrew and Aramaic of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament. I prepared the SLB myself, and the Scripture in this book is taken from it.

Where a literal phrase would mislead an English reader, the SLB gives the writer's meaning in plain words. Words added for sense are set in bold italics so you can see what is in the original and what is not.

The complete Steadfast Literal Bible is free to read, search, download, and print at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb. If you want to check a verse in its full setting or read the translation's preface and principles, that is the place to go.

Above all, my desire is not to promote one translation over another, but to faithfully teach the Word of God, encourage careful examination of the Scriptures, and help readers grow in their knowledge, understanding, and relationship with the Lord.

May every page of this book direct attention not to the translation itself, but to the truth of God's Word and the One whom it reveals.

Introduction

Faith should affect the people who live closest to me. A household sees the words, reactions, and habits that an audience may never see. I want to take that responsibility seriously. The passages in this book speak about marriage, parenting, obedience, and a life strengthened in the Lord. They call for more than a title. They call for a faithful example.

My wife and I met in 1988 and have been married 36 years. Faith at home has never looked like a staged picture. It has meant hard seasons, owning my mistakes and showing up for our two daughters and our granddaughters. Real faith is tested behind closed doors more than on Sunday morning. I wrote this book to share plain habits that keep Christ at the center of a home.

1 Leadership shaped by Christ

> *Husbands, love your own wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.*
> **Ephesians 5:25 (SLB)**

First Corinthians 11:3 (SLB) and Ephesians 5:22-33 (SLB) give direction for responsibility in the home. I read those passages together with their commands about love and care. Authority in a Christian household cannot be separated from accountability to Christ.

Ephesians 5:25 (SLB) directs husbands to love their wives "even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her." That is a high bar. It directs a

husband toward sacrifice rather than the protection of his own comfort. A claim to leadership should never become an excuse for intimidation, neglect, or refusing to listen.

The passage continues with the care a person gives his own body. A husband is called to nourish and cherish his wife. I should not use one part of the chapter to escape another. The Lord I answer to sees how I treat the wife He has entrusted to my care.

In practical terms, leadership includes noticing responsibilities instead of waiting to be reminded about everything. It includes listening when a concern is raised and acknowledging when I am wrong. A family should be able to see the connection between what I say about Christ and how I respond when my preferences are challenged.

Work taught me to organize teams and hit deadlines. Leading at home is different. Christ showed me that spiritual leadership in the home means serving first and humbling myself when I am wrong (Ephesians 5:25). It puts the good of your wife and children ahead of your pride.

2 Parenting with purpose

> *And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in **the** discipline and admonition of **the** Lord.*
>
> **Ephesians 6:4 (SLB)**

Ephesians 6:4 (SLB) gives fathers both a warning and a responsibility. They are not to provoke their

children to anger, and they are to "bring them up in the discipline and admonition of the Lord." The way I correct and teach my children should look like the Lord I am teaching them about.

Correction should be clear enough for a child to understand. Anger that changes the rules from one day to the next creates confusion. I need to distinguish a child's disobedience from my own frustration. A child can need correction while I also need to correct the way I deliver it.

Teaching happens in conversation and in example. Children notice whether an apology is possible in the home, whether truth is valued when it costs something, and whether people are treated with dignity. I cannot ask them to take my faith seriously while treating repentance as something only they need.

Parents also need to recognize the person in front of them. Age, understanding, and circumstances affect how instruction is received. Patience does not remove responsibility. It helps me carry out that responsibility in a way that teaches rather than simply releases my irritation. The goal is a child learning to understand and respond to the Lord.

Raising two daughters taught my wife and me that kids watch what we do far more than what we say. Parenting with purpose means guiding children toward Christ by daily example, not leaving it to the church.

3 Learning obedience together

> *Children, obey your parents in **the** Lord, for this is right.*
> **Ephesians 6:1 (SLB)**

Ephesians 6:1-3 (SLB) calls children to obey their parents in the Lord and connects the instruction with honoring father and mother. The passage belongs in a household where the adults are also hearing the commands addressed to them. Christian responsibility should not run in only one direction.

Honoring another person does not mean that every human demand becomes right. The words "in the Lord" matter. Scripture should never be used to require participation in wrongdoing or to conceal harm. The same Lord who calls for obedience also calls parents to exercise their responsibility faithfully.

The family can practice obedience in ordinary responsibilities. Keeping a promise, helping with a task, and telling the truth are opportunities to learn faithfulness. These habits should be encouraged for their connection to character and love, rather than only as ways to avoid punishment.

Adults remain learners too. I may need to change a habit I have defended for years. I may need to receive a concern from someone younger without dismissing it. A home where everyone is accountable to God can become a place of growth. That requires enough humility to admit that being older does not make every response wise.

In my lowest season, I had made choices that hurt my marriage and the people closest to me. Since May 29, 2020, recovery has taken humility from me and grace from my wife as we rebuilt trust step by step. Doing right today does not mean everyone has forgiven you, and I have had to leave that with God. Obedience becomes real in a home when a family walks through repentance and grace together.

4 Habits that support a faithful home

Faithful responsibility at home grows through attention to Scripture, prayer, fellowship, a life pleasing to God, and the armor of God. These are not extras added on top of leadership. They shape the person who is trying to lead.

Psalm 1 (SLB) describes delight in the Lord's instruction, and Psalm 119:105 (SLB) presents His Word as a lamp and light. Regular attention to Scripture gives a household more than a collection of rules. It gives us a place to return when our preferences differ and our patience is thin.

I read the NASB 1995 for my own study. Simple habits like an open Bible in the house and time in Scripture keep a home steady. None of them are flashy, but small habits built around God's Word hold a household together when storms hit.

Prayer can be simple and honest. Bring a real concern before the Lord, give thanks for His provision, and ask for help with a responsibility. I should not turn a family prayer into an indirect lecture aimed at the person sitting beside me. Prayer

should express dependence on God, not become another method of control.

Fellowship matters too. A family that stays close to a local church has other believers to encourage them and to speak up when something is wrong (Hebrews 10:24-25, SLB). And a life pleasing to God is the point of all of these habits. Scripture, prayer, and church are not boxes to check. They are how a household learns to walk in a way that pleases the Lord (Colossians 1:10, SLB).

Ephesians 6:10-18 (SLB) calls believers to stand in the Lord's strength, with truth, righteousness, the readiness of the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, God's Word, and prayer. The people in my home are not the enemy named in that passage. I want to remember that when a disagreement becomes difficult. A faithful home grows through people who remain willing to obey, serve, repent, and seek the Lord together.

Living My Faith at Home

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The people closest to me see my faith more than anyone else does. This book covers leadership shaped by Christ, parenting with purpose, learning obedience together, and the habits that support a faithful home.

Husbands, love your own wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

Ephesians 5:25 (SLB)

Book 2 of 10 in the collection Living It Out

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