

Lesson 9 / August 2, 2009

# Room for God?

for use as

## STEP 1

Lesson 9

### Focus:

Fill your home with  
God.

Lesson 9

### Bible Basis:

Deuteronomy 6:6–9,  
20–21, 24

**Your class will learn that while God should be present in their homes, He desires most to live within their hearts.**

#### Supplies needed:

- (Optional) Device with Internet access like a computer, laptop, or smartphone
- (Optional) Dominos
- Paper and pencils

**Y**our home is a sanctuary—it's supposed to be a shelter from the outside world. But a home is much more than just four walls and a roof. A home is something that you and your loved ones create and share. It's a place for storing and making memories in.

- ▶ **Think about the pictures of family and friends you have hanging up in your home. Those pictures remind us of the people we care about each and every time we see them. What are some ways you can leave daily reminders of God in your home?** (Suggested answers: Hanging up verses on your bedroom walls or putting a verse in a spot you pass by all the time are great ways to remind yourself of God's presence in your life. Leaving your Bible on your nightstand or dresser is another easy way to help yourself remember to worship God each day.)
- ▶ **When friends or outside guests come to visit your home, do you clean up your room in a hurry to hide your clutter? Since your heart is the place that God desires to dwell in, how often do you clean up your life for Him?** (Suggested answer: The best way to keep clutter from building in your heart is to have a sincere heart and daily devotions.)
- ▶ **What are some steps you can take to make sure your heart is a clean place for God to dwell in?** (Suggested answer: The first step is salvation, asking Him to enter your life and change you from the inside out. After salvation, daily devotions, prayer, and church involvement will help keep you on the right path.)

Having a place to call “home” involves a lot of work. If the only thing you ever did at your home was relax on the couch, imagine the clutter that would pile up! Stacks of cups and paper plates, shoes scattered across the floor, papers haphazardly balancing on the edge of the coffee table. Cleaning isn't usually fun, but it is necessary. And often, doing one chore leads to another (i.e. You clean the dishes and notice that the trash is full. After taking out the trash, you

## Lesson 9

# Memory Verse

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

—Deuteronomy 6:6–7

notice that the laundry room needs some desperate attention ... and on and on the list goes). Like dominoes, one small area will affect the rest of the home. It is the same with our lives. When one thing is messed up or out of order, it will affect other areas like our testimony, relationship with God, or ministry.

If you have access to the Internet, show your students the video about human dominoes: [<http://video.msn.com/?mkt=en-us&vid=859e5695-4407-4aa8-9fd7-d6fa2bcbab20&playlist=videoByUuids:uuids:356803ff-64c0-4309-97bf-d07ee853b350%2C70f34618-efa6-44c0-acac-3e0da60d9472&from=MSNHP&tab=m137&GT1=42007>]. If you don't have Internet access in your classroom, set up a quick demonstration of the domino effect with real dominos.

Just like the dominos affect each other, our lives affect other people who are watching to see if our relationship with Christ is real. Distribute paper and pencils and have your students write down a list of people they have an impact on (friends, siblings, etc).

- ▶ **Why does sin have a “domino” effect on our testimony? Can you think of any recent public figures who have sinned, and subsequently, have damaged their reputation?**
- ▶ **How can we prevent ourselves from damaging our testimony and hurting those around us? (Suggested answer: On our own strength, we can't prevent ourselves from doing wrong. God alone can supply us with the strength to keep from falling. This is why it is so important to make sure that we have God living in our hearts. By drawing closer to Him, we will become stronger in our Christian walk.)**
- ▶ **Why does one sin create so much havoc in other areas of our lives?**

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your High School Teacher's Guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

for use as

STEP 4 

## Lesson 9

**Focus:**Fill your home with  
God.

## Lesson 9

**Bible Basis:**Deuteronomy 6:6–9,  
20–21, 24**Supplies needed:**

- Stopwatch or timer
- Two chairs
- Score sheet or notepad

**H**ave your students pick two people who are the most talkative. Have those two students position their chairs to face each other. Tell them to list off the things they have in their homes that they treasure the most. Set the timer for two and half minutes and tell them to list as many things as possible (without stopping or taking long pauses to think). Have two other classmates keep track of how many things each person has listed off. At the end, tally up the scores. Whoever listed off the most household objects/items within the allotted time limit wins.

**▶ Why do we have so many things that are important to us? If you lost everything in your home, how would you react?** (*Suggested Answer: Job lost everything, his home, wealth, personal health, friends, and family. Yet, he still held on to God, knowing that when everything was gone, his faith could never be taken away. God should be our focus, to the extreme that if we did lose all of our earthly possessions, it wouldn't matter as long as we still had the riches of Christ in our hearts.*)

*Clean House* is a popular TV show that takes cluttered homes and turns them into beautiful spaces for the family to enjoy. Often, the show requires families to give up possessions that have been piling up. Yet, the families usually want to hold onto their things. They want the clutter-free lifestyle, but they don't want to pay the price. When God moves into a life, a lot of secret sins have to be thrown out. And often, people don't want to clean up their lives if it means they have to give up something they would rather hold onto. Yet, God wants to make our hearts a beautiful place.

**▶ Is there anything in your life that you value above God? What rewards does God promise if we trust and surrender control of our lives to Him?** (*Suggestion: Your students may feel more comfortable writing their answers down on a piece of paper instead.*)

End with prayer: Dear Father, you've said in your Word that you are preparing a place for us in Heaven for all those who have given their lives to you. Please make our hearts a dwelling place for you, and may our earthly homes

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reflect your love as well. You are the builder of our hearts, and we ask that you will continue to work in our lives each and every day. In your name, amen.

For more information about Clean House, go to [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clean\\_House](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clean_House)]

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