



## LESSON 2 // DISCOVERING THE DIVINE DESIGN—PART 2

**Big Idea:** No matter what your family life is like, or your experience in family life has been, it's important to understand what God designed the family to be. He created family to be a place of safety, security, love and nurturing where we're growing and maturing. God designed the atmosphere of family life to be peace, harmony, support and encouragement. Family is also to be a place of affirmation and grace, a place to discover our God-designed purpose and identity, and to create a meaningful spiritual heritage and legacy.

**Matthew 3:16-17 (NIV)** *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

**Luke 15:21-22, 24 (NIV)** *The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ... For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.*

**Romans 8:15-17 (NLT)** *So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.*

**Psalms 127:3 (NIV)** *Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.*

### Start Talking:

What heritage or legacy would you like to leave with your family and/or others who know you?

### Start Thinking:

**Read Matthew 3:16-17.** What do you learn from these verses about the value of affirmation and approval in family relationships?

**Read Luke 15:20-24.** Why is grace such a vital part of healthy, godly families and relationships? What happens when God's grace is not freely experienced and shared in a family?

**Read Romans 8:15-17.** How do these verses speak to you about your identity in Christ as part of God's family? What is the value of a positive, affirming identity of each member in a family?

**Read Psalm 127:3.** Why is a godly heritage so important in family life?

### Start Praying and Doing:

Pray that God will enable you to share His grace in meaningful ways in your family and other relationships. This could be in terms of forgiveness, kindness, patience, affirmation or other expressions that honor the Lord and represent His heart. And take note of how God will work through you by His grace!