

# What Have They Seen in Your House?



Collegiate Quarterly

## Teacher's Guide

### Surveying the Source

Gen. 18:1–8; 2 Chron. 32:25, 27; Ruth 1:16; Isa. 39:1–4; 1 Pet. 2:9; Gal. 5:22–26

### Plotting the Course

#### The students will:

- ▶ Acknowledge God as the one true Architect of our lives.
- ▶ Understand that a transformation of the heart, leads to a transformation of the home.
- ▶ Discover God's plan for our homes as Spirit-filled, training grounds, and mission fields.

### Preparing to Lead

God wants to set His chosen people apart in every way. He desires for our house to stand out on the block. However, we have confused this and allowed pride and vanity to overtake God's true design for our homes. He is the One true Architect and His plans are revealed

through His Word and His Spirit. As His servants, we must understand His design and submit to His master plan in order for our homes to serve their true God given purpose. We must let God transform our hearts, to transform our homes.

### Getting Started

**A.** Decorating a home is an exciting endeavor. Whether it is our first home or not, we make the necessary plans to make it look just the way we want it. However, before we begin choosing paint, do we consider what God wants our homes to look like? His design goes beyond the kitchen cabinets—God wants our hearts to be transformed by His presence, thus filling the entire home with the fruit of His Spirit. This gives the home a mission, with God as the Designer.

**B.** Often times, a house can look great on the outside. However if one were to peak into it, the true character of its residents would be revealed. God looks into our hearts and our true sinful nature is revealed. It manifests itself especially in our homes and with the people we are closest to. God has a plan for reconstruction and redesign of our soul's temple. Then our homes will reflect His presence on the inside and the out!

### Materials

Reproducible Activity, Bibles

## Delving Into the Word

**A. Say:** “Our hearts are like temples. Our heart temples, much like our real homes, are prone to hoarding clutter. There is often no room left for the things that really matter. God desires to dwell in our hearts through His Holy Spirit. However His presence is often crowded out by pride, vanity and selfish ambitions. Consider the hearts of the men of old, and how their spiritual temples manifested into their physical temples.”

Using the texts from “Surveying the Source” ask the students to contrast the stories of Abraham and King Hezekiah. They may work in groups or individually. With the Reproducible Activity, allow students to choose, cut, paste, and design the home that they think is in alignment with the heart home God would design. Compare homes and underscore the idea that God’s design is best. Consider the process of intentionally choosing what we put in and what we leave out.

**B. Say:** “God has a master plan for our hearts that requires our obedience. The evidence of our lack of submission to God’s influence is seen in the breakdown of relationships, especially in our homes. When we understand that our homes are a direct reflection of our souls’ conditions, we can see the issue at its core. Allowing God into our hearts is a daily intentional act. We must be willing to let go of our design and choose His design.”

Use texts from the “Surveying the Source” section. Ask students to contrast the stories of Abraham and King Hezekiah. They may work in groups or individually. With the Reproducible Activity, allow students to choose, cut, paste, and design the home that they think is in alignment with the heart home God would design. Compare homes and underscore the idea that God’s design is best. Consider the process of intentionally choosing what we put in and what we leave out.

## Discussing the Ideas

1. How can we intentionally seek out God’s plan for our homes?
2. What can you add to your daily routine to align yourself more closely with God’s plan?
3. What things or attitudes do we collect that can obstruct God’s presence in our homes?
4. How does the world’s ideas of family contrast with God’s plan?
5. What habits could you cultivate in

order to cooperate with God’s plan?

6. Does seeking God’s design mean that there will never be conflict in the home? What does conflict resolution look like in His plan?

7. What does Christian hospitality look like and is this something we should be concerned about?

8. First impressions matter. What would you like other’s impressions of your home to be?

## Closing the Activity

*Say,* “In His Word God has revealed to us that we can place our trust in Him. Life can be so fast paced, that we don’t realize the true state of our hearts and homes. Thankfully, God is willing to help us remove what is not of Him. It’s up to

us to decide whether we want to live the best lives we can for ourselves, our families and those who will be blessed by our witness. He’s waiting for us to open that door, and let Him come in. Ask yourself what people see when they come in.

**Khaffi Beckles, Arima, Trinidad and Tobago**

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# What have they seen in your house?

Using the furniture below and your knowledge of God's intense design for our homes, build your own!



