

**Pastor Will Sohnchen**  
**Sermon Outline – June 6, 2010**  
**Building Healthy Families– Part 1**  
**“Seeing the Big Picture”**

**Canadian Attitudes on the Family:\***

- 78% of Canadians say that the family is undervalued
- 83% of Canadians want governments to make “encouraging strong families” their number one priority.
- Most Canadian families say that their greatest stress points relate to economic issues, including balancing work and family. (Higher stress rate among women than men.)
- Most Canadian parents view children as a positive contribution to their family.
- On average the preferable family size in Canada is 2.6 children
- Discipline – 75% of Canadians want to keep “spanking” as a legal option for families, however most families say they use other forms of discipline more often than spanking.
- On the question of divorce it was a 50/50 split on whether Canadians believe that divorce does not harm a child as long as they know their parent loves them.
- The attitudes of Canadians under the age of 40 tend to differ from those Canadians over the age of 40 who believe that, “*divorce is the best solution for couples who can’t work out their marriage problems.*” The younger the respondent the greater the disagreement.

\*2002 Focus on the Family National Survey.

**Six Qualities of a Strong Family:\*\***

1. Appreciation and Affection
2. Commitment
3. Positive Communication
4. Enjoyable Time Together
5. Spiritual Well-Being
6. Successful Management of Stress and Crisis.

\*\*Studies done by Nick Stinnett (University of Alabama) and John DeFrain (University of Nebraska), with over 17,000 family members from 27 countries.

**The Story of Ruth:**

- Naomi and family flee to Moab because of famine.
- Naomi’s sons marry Moabite women – Ruth and Orpah
- Naomi’s husband and sons die.
- Naomi is heart broken – decides to go back to her homeland.
- Ruth goes with Naomi while Orpah stays in Moab.
- Ruth meets Boaz and falls in love.
- Boaz fights for Ruth to become his wife.
- Boaz and Ruth marry. They have children, their great grandson is David, King of Israel. Their descendant 32 generations later is Jesus, the Son of God.

**This is a story that begins in tragedy and ends in triumph.**

The story of Ruth gives us a very important building block for healthy families...

**A Healthy Family**

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- They have a \_\_\_\_\_ for their family, in spite of the obstacles they may face along the way.
  
- They have a \_\_\_\_\_ for their family, which keeps them centered.
  
- They know that \_\_\_\_\_ no matter what might appear to be happening at the time.