

Making Your Home a Refuge: Practical Examples

Your husband passes by many billboards, signs, bars on his way home—other places he could choose to go. Make him glad he is coming home to you—that his home is a place of comfort and security for him—in short, a refuge.

A lot of these things you are probably already doing. If so, congratulate yourself and rejoice in the home you are creating. Then choose one thing you want to implement and begin doing it.

Notice: key word is “plan.” Things don’t just happen on their own. They must be consciously planned for.

Change/add things to fit your family’s needs.

How to’s:

List with your husband special things he remembers about his home from childhood and see what you can duplicate in your own home.

Plan errands for one day a week or plan to have at least one day without errands to focus on home projects—be rested and children having had a quiet day at home—before your husband returns.

Plan menus for the week. Keep an ongoing grocery list as you notice what you need from the store. It saves much time, energy and worrying about what to fix for supper. Planned meals are usually healthier and more complete than what you throw together at the last minute.

Organize your housework according to the days of the week—i.e. wash on Monday, clean the bathroom on Tuesday, etc.

Plan to be home when your husband gets home from work—even if it means reworking your own schedule.

Make your home and family a priority, even over work. Be available to attend children’s sporting events, concerts, and to

supervise homework. Plan to finish work so you can be available to talk, help your husband in the evenings.

Have dinner together as a family every night. There will occasionally be a night where this is not possible, but if you aim for every night, that will be the exception rather than normal.

It's okay to plan time for yourself, but work hard to meet your family's needs. Limit activities away from home to a maximum of one night a week. Perhaps you can plan your own activities during the day when your husband is at work and your children are at school.

Plan evenings with your children. Establish a regular routine with them for activities/homework, bath, storytime, prayers, bedtime. This is a great time to teach them how to do their own chores.

Decide on a plan for straightening up the house with your children—before meals, before dad comes home, before bedtime, etc. Clear toys, clothes, anything that makes clutter.

Plan a romantic evening with your husband—children in bed or away for the night, special meal, candles, music, etc. It will make him feel special and he will enjoy you taking the initiative.

Greet your husband at the door with a smile and a kiss—not a list of things gone wrong in your day, or what the children have done wrong! Give him a few moments' peace to "re-enter" home life from the frenetic activity of work, traffic.

Ask him about his day. Notice him and let him know you're glad to see him. It's so easy for us to take each other for granted.

Prov 7:11 – Home is not a refuge when the wife is boisterous and rebellious and “her feet do not remain at home.”

Prov 14:1 – The wise woman builds her house; the foolish tears it down with her own hands.

Prov 21:9 – It is better to live in a corner of a roof than with a nagging, argumentative woman.

Prov 31:12 – She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.