

# GOD LOOKS ON THE HEART

## Family Devotion — Lesson 47

### MEMORY VERSE — PROVERBS 14:34

*“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”*

- *Righteousness* — to follow God’s will and obey God’s ways; living in a way that pleases God  
*Exalteth* — to lift up; to honor; to esteem; to promote  
*Nation* — a group of people who are divided from other peoples; certain nations are known to have a set standard for law, a certain belief about God, a particular language, and a defined location  
*Sin* — breaking God’s commandments; anything we say, do, or don’t do that displeases God  
*Reproach* — disappointment; disgrace; dishonorable
- In God’s eyes **righteousness** will exalt a person, a family, a neighborhood, a city, a state, or even a nation. This is both because of the natural consequences of righteousness and because of God’s active response of blessing.
- **Sin** is a reproach to any group of people. When a nation rejects righteousness and chooses sin, it will bring reproach, shame, and negative consequences.
- Nations reap what they sow, just as individuals reap (Gal. 6:7).
- The heart of the issue is the heart!
  - A clean heart will lead to righteous living and God’s blessings. Read Psalm 73:1.
  - A dirty heart will lead to sinful living and reproach. Read Mark 7:21-23.

### QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Do you think America is promoting righteousness or sin? Explain.
- How does the Great Commission affect other nations?
- Have you ever been a reproach?
- How important do you think it is to search your heart for sin? Why is this?



### PRAYER TIME

- Ask God to cleanse your heart of sin and keep you clean.
- Pray for America to be a nation that pleases God. Pray for our leaders.
- Ask God to help you be an example of righteous living and to glorify Jesus.



### CHALLENGE

- Find out how many nations are in the world today.