

Family 30

Week 3 Abstract

Series Overview:

Your Best Family in 30 Days!

The bible has much to offer as to how the family is to be nurtured and developed. Often in the business of contemporary culture we lose sight of the priority and importance of maintaining our families. This series identifies many issues today's families face and offers sound Biblical principles that are accessible and attainable. While we may not be able to correct everything at once, we can make a choice that will change the atmosphere of our homes and chart a course toward a successful and thriving family.

Abstract:

Blended, Mended and Extended Families

Although God intended marriage to be a "till death do us part" covenant; dysfunctional families are a reality for the church. Using the model of Joseph, Mary and Jesus parameters are established based on Joseph's example. Practical tips are identified for dealing with contemporary blended families, while a variety of specific examples are framed out with a biblical perspective. The role of the extended family is defined in relationship to all examples and a final invitation is given to be a part of God's family.

Key Scriptures:

- Matthew 1:18-25
- Matthew 12:25
- James 1:27
- 1 John 3:1

Main Points:

1. Joseph's Response to his Blended Family
 - a. He had honor and respect for his family: this is critical
 - b. He had deep faith following God's ways: be committed
 - c. He makes great sacrifices: Battle selfish feelings
 - d. He has patience: This process takes time
 - e. He shows great outcomes are possible: God is redemptive
2. Practical tips
 - a. God first: establish a foundation
 - b. Love permeates: let children love both parents, be positive
 - c. Put order in first place: discuss rules and consequences as a family
 - d. Value unity: honor first, obey second
 - e. Be consistent: follow through every time
 - f. Give grace: strive to live in and point family members to God's best
3. Extended Family
 - a. Gives History: tell stories, bigger than me
 - b. Models unconditional Love: Love your family, set the example
 - c. Gives the family Better Perspective: now vs. long game

- d. Helps manage busy lives: with money, time and resources
- 4. God is still extending His family opportunity
 - a. Accept salvation and be adopted into His family

Response:

It was and is a great love that God could love us and want to forgive us and call us His own sons and daughters. For those of us who know this forgiveness, believe it. For those who don't know this forgiveness, this is what you can become: family, forgiven, sons and daughters of God.