

Study Guide - 25 Apr 2021

Series: Family

Text: Gen 1:26-28, Matt 28:18-20



This guide will help you facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Look at the Big Idea and Takeaway for our CGs sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the [text notes](#) on the passage.

Overview

Series Overview

This is a 5-weeks series exploring how God desires for our natural families to help us grow in the faith, and how his church is the family we are all part of regardless of our natural families. Starting with a biblical theology of the family, we will then move on to explore two Old Testament scriptures on natural families, and subsequently two New Testament scriptures on the church family.

The goal of this series is to show how family is central to the mission of God, and is not an end in and of itself. We want to see how our earthly families are a gift God has given us to serve Him, and how the church is then given to us to be our truer and lasting family, that doesn't diminish our earthly families but actually empowers us to love and serve them even better.

Big Idea

God is redeeming families through Christ.

CG Takeaway

To rejoice that we have been adopted into a spiritual family that is real and eternal, and to consider and be moved to our role in our natural and spiritual families and how God is calling us to His purpose of restoring and redeeming families.

Fallen Condition Focus

- Distorted view and purpose of our natural families: Not allowing God's view and design for family to shape our view, desires or perception of family (e.g. instead of viewing

them as part of God's design and purpose for His glory, to see our natural families as an end in itself)

- Not basing our primary identity in our spiritual family (not loving, serving)
- Not trying to reconcile our natural and spiritual families
- Not seeing our natural families as a crucible in which the gospel is worked out (called there to do ministry)

Gen 1:26-28

26 Then God said, ^o"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Study Guide

1. How would you map out God's purpose and plan for the family throughout history and scripture?

- a) What were God's instructions given to Adam and Eve and how were they supposed to go about completing it? (Genesis 1:26-28)
- b) What was at the heart of the serpent's temptation and how did it work against God's design and purpose for the family? (Genesis 3)
- c) How did God set into motion His plan of redeeming humanity into His own family in Israel? (Genesis 12:3)
- d) How did God set into motion His plan of redeeming humanity into His own family in Christ? (Reference: Matthew 28:18-20)

2. How have we ourselves believed the serpent's temptation concerning God's design for our families and the church?

3. "God's family (our spiritual family) is the new and greater family that God calls to fulfill His mission and purposes." What is our current attitude toward our spiritual family in Christ? Are we:

i) Idolising them?

ii) Apathetic toward them?

ii) Avoiding or disliking them?

i) Idolising them by:

- *Preferring them and prioritising them over our natural families?*
- *Expecting them to satisfy all our needs?*

ii) Apathetic toward them:

ii) We avoid or dislike them:

4. "God's mission for us to make disciples is renewed within our natural families." What is our current attitude toward our natural families? Are we:

i) Idolising them?

ii) Apathetic toward them?

iii) Disliking or avoiding them?