

BEING HUMAN:

Week 1 Discussion Guide:

FAMILY:

Pastor Jeremy opened with a story about different storms and disasters he and his family have experienced. These storms often come with fear—fears over safety, security and control. In *The Storm-Tossed Family*, Russell Moore observes, “Bound up in a storm is both a blessing and a curse...the blessing of rain and the peril of the storm. In a storm, we lose all of our illusions of control. Family is like that too: the source of life-giving blessing but also of excruciating terror, often all at the same time...families of ours can be filled with joy, but will always make us vulnerable to pain.”

INITIAL DISCUSSION:

Think about your family, either your immediate family or your family of origin—Where have you seen both the blessing of family? Where have you felt the sting of family?

Why do we hide the hard things about our family?

Why do we try and promote a better image of our family?

Pastor Jeremy said, “If something is awry with our family, we are afraid that people will conclude that something is badly wrong with us.”

Why do you think we carry the weight of family so heavily?

Pastor Jeremy said that, “All of us are failures at family...because all of us are fallen.”

How does that statement make you feel?

Do you agree or disagree with Pastor Jeremy? Why or why not?

THINKING THEOLOGICALLY:

How do you experience family as a field of spiritual warfare?

Jesus came to show us what it means to live in relationship with God (love God with all of your heart, mind, soul and strength) and to live in relationship with others (love your neighbor as yourself). We call this the greatest commandment. Pastor Jeremy read this from Mark 12:28-34.

What does the Greatest Commandment look like in your family?

How does the Cross teach us how to live out this Great Commandment?

APPLY the WORD:

Galatians 5:1 reads "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Which freedom Pastor Jeremy concluded the sermon with today do you most need to experience in your family?

Freedom from Comparison

Freedom from Control

Freedom from Image

Freedom from Insecurity

Complete this sentence twice:

I think Freedom from _____ could make the following difference in our home. Being free from _____ would allow our family to love God by _____

and to love each other by _____

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