

How does understanding that you are made in the image of God change the way you view yourself and interact with family members who may frustrate or disappoint you?

In what ways have deception, distraction, and division manifested in your own family, and how can recognizing these tactics help you combat them spiritually?

When Adam remained silent as Eve was tempted, he became complicit in sin. Where in your life might silence or passivity be allowing sin to take root in your home?

What practical steps can you take this week to move Jesus from the periphery back to the center of your daily family life?

How does the busy schedule described at the beginning of the sermon reflect your own life, and what might need to change for your family to prioritize spiritual formation?

Jesus said that anyone who loves father, mother, son, or daughter more than Him is not worthy of Him. How do you reconcile this command with being a devoted spouse or parent?

In what ways have cultural definitions of family, marriage, or success deceived you into drifting from God's original design?

How does the promise that Jesus redeems broken stories offer you hope if your family situation does not match the ideal presented in Genesis?

What relationship in your life needs repair, and what is preventing you from taking the first step toward reconciliation and forgiveness?

How can the church family serve as a source of strength and accountability as you work to make Christ the foundation of your household?

Family Under Fire: Small Group Guide

Based on Genesis 1-3 & Matthew 10, 19

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Begin your time together asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and to give wisdom as you discuss what it means to center Christ in your families.

Icebreaker (5-10 minutes)

Question: Share one word that describes your family's typical week. Why did you choose that word?

Sermon Recap (5 minutes)

This message walked through three key movements:

1. **God designed the family on purpose** (Genesis 1-2)
2. **The enemy disrupts the family** (Genesis 3)
3. **Jesus redeems and restores families** (Matthew 10, 19; Mark 3)

The core challenge: What or who is actually running your family? Whatever runs your family is shaping your family.

Discussion Questions

Part 1: God's Design (15-20 minutes)

1. **Read Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:18-24 together.** What stands out to you about how God intentionally designed the family?
2. Before you are a spouse or parent, you are an **image bearer of God**. How does remembering this change the way you view yourself? How should it change the way you treat others in your home?

3. The sermon said, "God didn't just command them to multiply the population. He intended for them to multiply His image throughout the created world." What does it look like practically to raise children (or influence others) who reflect God's image?

Part 2: The Enemy's Attack (15-20 minutes)

4. **Read Genesis 3:1-7.** The enemy's pattern is **deception** → **distraction** → **division**. Can you identify examples of this pattern in your own family or relationships?
5. The sermon noted that Adam was present but passive during Eve's temptation. Where do you see passivity (in leadership, protection, or spiritual engagement) showing up in families today?
6. After sinning, Adam and Eve experienced **shame, hiding, and blame**. How do these same patterns show up in our homes today? What would it look like to break these cycles?

Part 3: Jesus' Redemption (15-20 minutes)

7. **Read Matthew 19:4-6.** When asked about marriage, Jesus pointed back to Genesis. Why is it important that we look to Scripture—not culture—for our understanding of family?
8. **Read Matthew 10:37-39.** These are challenging words from Jesus. What does it mean practically to love Jesus more than even your closest family members? How does putting Jesus first actually help our families thrive?
9. **Read Mark 3:33-35.** Jesus expands the definition of family to include all who follow Him. How has the church family been a blessing to you? How can you be a better member of God's household?

Key Takeaways

✓ **Marriage and family are God's design, not human invention.** They were created with intention, order, and purpose.

✓ **Sin breaks everything**—not just rules, but relationships. The enemy uses deception, distraction, and division to destroy what God designed.

✓ **Jesus doesn't just improve families; He transforms them.** He reaffirms God's design, reorders the family around Himself, and expands family to include the church.

✓ **Your past doesn't disqualify you from God's grace.** Jesus meets us in our brokenness to restore us, not shame us.

✓ **A home centered on Christ doesn't happen by accident**—it requires intentional decisions.

Practical Application

Three Steps from the Sermon:

STEP 1: Is Jesus the center of YOUR life?

- Have you surrendered your life to Jesus as Savior and Lord?
- If He's your Savior but hasn't been your Lord lately, what does repentance look like for you this week?

STEP 2: Recenter Jesus in your HOME

- **Challenge:** Set aside 10 minutes this week with your family (no phones, no distractions) to:
 - Read God's Word together
 - Pray together
 - Talk about what it means

For singles or those without children at home: Consider how you can be more intentional in spiritual conversations with roommates, friends, or extended family.

STEP 3: Repair a RELATIONSHIP

- Is there a conversation you've been avoiding?
- Who needs to hear "I'm sorry," "I forgive you," or "Let's talk"?
- If this feels impossible, who could you ask for help (pastor, counselor, trusted friend)?

Group Activity (10 minutes)

Option A: Have each person share one specific action they will take this week based on one of the three steps above. Write them down and commit to checking in with each other next week.

Option B: Pair up and pray specifically for each other's families, asking God to help recenter Christ in your homes.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Pray together for:

- Families represented in your group
- Strength to resist the enemy's schemes of deception, distraction, and division

- Courage to have hard conversations and repair broken relationships
 - The Holy Spirit's guidance in making Jesus the center of your homes
 - Singles in your group to find their place in God's family, the church
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Before Next Week

- Complete the 10-minute family time challenge at least once
 - Journal about what happened when you tried to recenter Christ in your home
 - If you took a step to repair a relationship, be ready to share (as appropriate) how it went
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Additional Resources

- **For Marriage:** Consider reading *The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim Keller
 - **For Parenting:** Explore *Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles* by Paul David Tripp
 - **For Biblical Counseling:** Don't hesitate to reach out to church leadership for recommendations
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"Where the enemy brought deception, Jesus brings truth. Sin divides, but Jesus restores."

Family Under Fire: A 5-Day Devotional Journey

Day 1: Created With Purpose

Reading: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25

Devotional: Before you were a spouse, a parent, or a professional, you were created as an image bearer of God. This truth transforms how you view yourself and every person in your home. God didn't randomly create families; He designed them with intention as the primary place where His image would multiply throughout the earth. Your family isn't just a social unit—it's a sacred trust. Today, look at each family member and remember they carry God's image. How does this change the way you speak, listen, and love? When you recognize the divine dignity in those closest to you, ordinary moments become opportunities to honor God's design.

Day 2: The Enemy's Strategy Exposed

Reading: Genesis 3:1-13; John 8:44

Devotional: The enemy's attack on your family follows an ancient pattern: deception leads to distraction, distraction leads to division, and division destroys what God designed. Notice how the serpent didn't begin with destruction but with doubt: "Did God really say?" Today, families still face these same tactics—lies about what makes us happy, distractions that pull us away from what matters, and divisions that fracture our unity. The enemy hasn't changed his playbook because it still works. Awareness is your first defense. Where are you believing lies about your worth, your marriage, or your family? What distractions are stealing your attention from God and loved ones? Confession and truth are your weapons against these attacks.

Day 3: Jesus, Our Redeemer

Reading: Matthew 19:4-6; 1 John 1:9

Devotional: Where sin brings shame and hiding, Jesus brings grace and restoration. Your past failures, broken relationships, and imperfect family story don't disqualify you from God's grace—they're exactly why Jesus came. He doesn't just improve families; He transforms them from the inside out. When the Pharisees questioned Jesus about marriage, He didn't create new rules; He pointed back to God's original design while offering radical grace. Whatever brokenness exists in your home today, Jesus meets you there—not to condemn but to restore. Confession opens the door to healing. Is there sin you're hiding that needs to be brought into the light? Jesus is faithful to forgive and purify when we confess.

Day 4: Reordering Around Christ

Reading: Matthew 10:37-39; Mark 3:31-35

Devotional: Jesus must be first—not just in theory, but in daily practice. This isn't about loving your family less; it's about loving Jesus most so everything else falls into proper order. When Christ is the cornerstone of your home, your marriage has a solid foundation. When He's the center, your parenting has divine wisdom. When He's Lord, your priorities align with eternal purposes. But Jesus won't share the throne. He calls us to take up our cross daily, to lose our lives to find true life. What competes with Jesus for first place in your heart? Your career? Your children's success? Your comfort? A Christ-centered home doesn't happen accidentally—it requires intentional surrender every single day.

Day 5: Practical Steps Forward

Reading: Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 127:1

Devotional: "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." You cannot drift into a healthy, godly family—but you can drift into dysfunction. Restoration requires intentional action. This week, commit to three practical steps: First, ensure Jesus is the center of your personal life through daily surrender. Second, invite Him into your home by opening Scripture together as a family—even just ten minutes without distractions. Third, repair a broken relationship through confession, forgiveness, or reconciliation. These aren't complicated steps, but they require courage and consistency. Your family is under fire, but you're not defenseless. With Christ as your foundation and the church as your family, you have everything needed for restoration. What will you do today?