

Impress (Week 4)

May 3rd, 2026

“Closing the Gap: God's Plan for Restoration”

REVIEW: What we have discovered so far...

- God’s plan: Abide in Christ, you are a part of a spiritual family, there is a designed plan for the home sphere so that we can defeat the enemies in our life.
- **Proactive and Reactive:** If the home sphere is broken, what do we do now (*this week’s message*)?
- **We have been given the plan but because of sin in the world there are gaps.**

Gap examples:

- Single parenting.
- Divorce.
- Marriage when the other isn’t a believer.
- Being unequally yoked.
- Kids with parents who are not believers.
- Grandparents are raising their grandchildren.

The enemy loves to fill gaps with lies so that the gaps grow and destroy you.

- It’s too late.
- I can’t do anything if other parties don’t do their part.
- I can fix it all myself—I will do every ones part.

John 8:44–45 (NIV) *44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!*

What do I do when there is a gap in my home sphere?

Remember: when I see there is a gap it’s an invitation to come to Him and change.

1. Confession: I am wrong. Jesus is Lord which leads to forgiveness.

- ✓ I will humble myself before the Lord and accept His forgiveness.
- ✓ **1 John 1:5-2:2 (NIV).**

2. Repentance is a change of direction for yourself—closing the gap (2 Corinthians 7:8-11 NIV).

- ✓ If I have wronged others I will seek reconciliation.
- ✓ If I have been wronged, I will forgive and move forward to close the gap.
- ✓ With God’s help, I will step into the gap back toward His plan.

3. I will allow God’s gap fillers (*His people*) to help me fill in the gap.

- ✓ I will allow God’s gap fillers into my life...His people, His church.
- ✓ I will ask for help from other believers (*wise counsel, support, even accountability*). It takes time to make changes in patterns.

4. When I see a gap in other people’s lives (*I don’t judge or passively observe*) I step in to be a gap filler. This is God’s plan.

- ✓ I will make myself available to minister to others. I will choose to become a gap filler for others.
- ✓ **1 Peter 4:8-11; James 1:27; Romans 12:16-21 (NIV)**

Ezekiel 22:30 (NIV) *30 “I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.*

Galatians 6:2 (NIV) *2 Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. 3 If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.*

The church gave and served individually and collectively (Acts 6:1-6 NIV).

Acts 2:42–47 (NIV) ⁴² *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* ⁴³ *Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.* ⁴⁴ *All the believers were together and had everything in common.* ⁴⁵ *They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.* ⁴⁶ *Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,* ⁴⁷ *praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

What do I do with my specific issue?

1. A person who is unequally yoked.

- Pray.
- Accept support from other believers who step into the spiritual gap with you.
- **1 Peter 3:1-6 (NIV).**

2. A single parent or grandparent.

- Notice that Lois and Eunice took on the role of living out faith.
- Notice Paul's part in the life of a fatherless young man.
- A single person is also a valuable resource.

2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) ⁵ *I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.*

1 Timothy 1:2 (NIV) ² *To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

3. You become a Christian later in life and you didn't raise your children in the Lord. Start now sharing what you are learning and what you regret.

- Become known for something else over time.
- Step into the gap when you see one.
- **Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV); James 3:17-18 (NLT); Colossians 3:12-14 (NLT).**

FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

Opening Question: Have you ever tried to build something without plans or with poorly written instructions? How did it go?

Main Point: There is often a gap between the model for family we see in scripture, and the reality we find ourselves in. God provides a spiritual family within the church, designed to fill those gaps.

Main Scripture: **Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 1:1-2 (NIV)**

Head Questions

- How did the church step in to care for the widows in **Acts 6**? What role do you think the church plays in filling in the gaps?
- Why does Paul refer to Timothy as his "*true son in the faith*"? What do you think their relationship was like?

Heart Questions

- Who has invested in you that is not a part of your immediate family? What did that relationship mean to you?
- Did you grow up in a traditional family? How have your family experiences shaped your view of family?

Hands Questions

- What is an area that you could benefit from asking for help from the church family?
- How can you stand in the gap for other people in our church?

Additional Scripture: **Philippians 2:1-4, John 13:34-35, 1 Peter 4:10, Matthew 25:40 (NIV)**