

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS
FAMILY MATTERS SERIES
"Blended Family"
Exodus 34:6-7
Week of May 2, 2021

CENTRAL TRUTH: The blended family is equally loved and equally precious to God as the traditional nuclear family.

GETTING STARTED

1. SOAP TIME: Share your most meaningful SOAP entry from this past week (one or two people share).
2. What is the best thing about your home/family right now? What gives you life, energy, and joy?

DIGGING DEEPER

3. If you are in a blended family, what has been your greatest joy and your greatest stress? Or, if you are not in a blended family, what joy and stress do you imagine blended families experience?
4. Read this actual comment from "John," a brother who was spiritually paralyzed by his past. Then, answer the questions below.

"I just never thought I could go back to church again, after the divorce and all. And to top it off, I went and got remarried. Everyone knows stepfamilies are not considered whole, just mended parts of what's been broken."

- a. How would you describe what John is feeling? What would you say to him in response? How has the church contributed to making him think and feel what he does?
 - b. How do you balance a biblical view of the permanence of marriage (Matthew 19:3-6) with an emphasis on grace for those who have gone through the pain of divorce?
5. Read this quote from the sermon. Then, answer the questions below.

Blended families are equally loved and equally precious to God. There are no second-class Christians, marriages, or families to God. He blesses the stepfamily just as much as he blesses the biologically intact family. At ANCC, our role and responsibility as a church family is to love and encourage every family.

- a. How can our church love and encourage those who have gone through the pain of a divorce?
- b. How can our church support blended families and be a safe place for all families?
What do you sense God is calling you to do personally to make this happen?

TAKING IT HOME

6. What one insight from Sunday's message or today's discussion seems most personally significant to you right now? What action can you take in the next week to start putting this into practice?