



Part 2: Commitments

APPETIZER: Family Life

In the Bible, family is life.

1. It starts with God, who is family (**Ephesians 3:14-15**).
2. God makes humans in his image and likeness, so he makes us through families to live within families and to make more families (**Genesis 1-4**).
3. Family then becomes the paradigm for healthy spiritual community (**1 Timothy 5:1-2**).

Family is God. Family is life. Family is faith.

Married or single, life is about family.

DINE IN: Jesus and Family

Mark 3:31-35; 10:28-31

Matthew 19:27-30 // Luke 18:28-30

TWO EXPRESSIONS OF FAMILY:

1. Biological
2. Spiritual

Jesus uses the structure of one to be a model for the health of the other.

John 19:25-27; 1 Timothy 5:8

We are all called to live within “family” at all times. Being single, like Jesus and Paul, simply allows for more time and energy to focus on our spiritual family. (See **1 Corinthians 7:32-35**.)

- Married is good.
- Single is better.
- The worst thing is to be married and trying to do everything you could do if you were single.

TAKE OUT: Family Time

1. Our family is our first experience of “church”. If you don’t have time to pray and read Scripture as a family, say no to some good things so you can have time for the best things.
2. Be on mission as a family. Decide what your purpose is *as a family*. (e.g., “The Birch family helps people.” “The Cavey Clan welcomes people who need family, peace, and rest.”)
3. Commit to the spiritual practice of “togethering” as family.
 - a. The Meeting House
 - b. Home Church
 - c. Huddles
 - d. Family-styled friendship households / Intentional community
 - e. Fellowship meals, movies, and celebrations (**Luke 14:12-14**)
 - f. Etc!

HOMEWORK: Life Together

Talk together as a family (biological or spiritual) about the patterns of your life. Use the last couple weeks as a starting point to help you be specific. What is healthy? What needs to change? What good things do you need to say no to in order to say yes to something better? Talk about specific next steps.

PS: How are you doing on the 30 day minimalism challenge?
FOR MORE INFORMATION – Review our teaching series *Modern Family*.

NEXT WEEK: *The Radical Reformation*

Next week we begin our new series about our Anabaptist history and identity.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about what ideas stood out to you or any questions that remain. Take your time with this – there is lots to talk about!

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **Mark 3:31-35; 10:28-31; John 19:26-27.**
 - a. What ideas stand out to you? Why? (Take time to discuss.)
 - b. In a sentence or two, what was Jesus' approach to the idea of family?
 - c. Why would Jesus' own family not believe in his identity as the Messiah? What helped his skeptical brother James eventually become a believer? (See **1 Corinthians 15:7.**)
 - d. What have you sacrificed or left behind in order to follow Jesus?
 - e. How does a Christ-follower gain more homes and family in this life? What exactly might that look like? Talk about examples.
 - f. Are you doing your homework?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. Use your regular huddle questions to help you talk about your lives and prepare you to pray for one another.

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Quotes

Welcome to the second week of our two-part miniseries on simplicity. Today we talk about simplifying our schedules to make room for what matters most.

In the Gospel of Mark we read about Jesus and family...

Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat.

When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

"Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."