

Today's Message: **FIRST FAMILY**
Various Scriptures
Series: All in the Family
Pastor Gary L. Stump

Don't we all struggle with family conflict?

Issues: Wrong priorities, Emotional Distance, Communication, Arguments, Resentment, Rebellion, Favoritism, Sibling rivalries

How do we navigate these tensions to produce healthy families? What can we learn from our "First Family?"

A godly mother

Luke 1:26b–28 (NLT) God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee,²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

A godly father

Matthew 1:18–25 (NLT) This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly... he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.²⁵ But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Jesus' Circumcision (*Brit Milah*)

Luke 2:21 (NLT) Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.

Purification after childbirth (Lev. 12, Exo. 13)

Luke 2:22 (NLT) Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

Four growth categories: Intellectual, Physical, Spiritual, Social

Luke 2:52 (NLT) Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

Family faithfully worshipped the Lord

Luke 2:41–42 (NLT) Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival.⁴² When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual.

Jesus received His Father's blessing

Luke 3:21–22 (NLT) One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened,²² and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."

Joseph must have died before Jesus' ministry

John 2:12 (NLT) After the wedding he went to Capernaum for a few days with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples.

Jesus' family: Joseph, Mary, James, Joseph, Jude, Simon, plus sisters

Mark 6:1–3 (NLT) Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown.² The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, "Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?"³ Then they scoffed, "He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us." They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. Yaakov, Yosef, Yehudah, & Shimeon

Mark 6:4 (NLT) Then Jesus told them, *"A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family."*

Brothers and sisters in Christ might be your closer family

Mark 3:31–35 (NLT) Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him. They stood outside and sent word for him to come out and talk with them.³² There was a crowd sitting around Jesus, and someone said, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you."³³ Jesus replied, *"Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?"*³⁴ Then he looked at those around him and said, *"Look, these are my mother and brothers.³⁵ Anyone who does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."*

His brothers didn't believe in Him

John 7:2–5 (NLT) But soon it was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters,³ and Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see your miracles!⁴ You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!"⁵ For even his brothers didn't believe in him.

His family thought Jesus was a lunatic

Mark 3:21 (NLT) When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said.

Jesus didn't trust His brothers

John 19:26–27 (NLT) When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, *"Dear woman, here is your son."*²⁷ And he said to this disciple, *"Here is your mother."* And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

Jesus appeared to James after His resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:7 (NLT) Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.

Becoming committed followers of Jesus healed His family

Acts 1:14 (NLT) They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

James met with Paul

Galatians 1:19 (NLT) The only other apostle I met at that time was James, the Lord's brother.

James a pillar of the church

Galatians 2:9a (NLT) In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church...

James a servant of Jesus

James 1:1a (NLT) This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude a slave of Jesus and brother of James

Jude 1a (NLT) This letter is from Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James.

The brothers of Jesus:

- Eusebius says James was called camel-knees because of the time he spent in prayer.
- Josephus says James was martyred by Jewish leaders in 62 CE on charges of breaking the Jewish law
- Hegesippus mentions a Simon or Simeon (the names are equivalent) who became leader of the Jerusalem church after the death of James (most probably Jesus' brother)
- Eusebius preserved a record from Hegesippus about the grandsons of Jude who were still active as leaders of the church. Domitian (81-96 CE) brought them before him for questioning. . . "When they were released they became leaders of the churches, as was natural in the case of those who were at once martyrs and of the kindred of the Lord. And, after the establishment of peace to the Church, their lives were prolonged to the reign of Trajan." (98-117 CE)

Observations:

- Family can be frustrating
- Spiritually divided families can create friction
- Favored children create sibling rivalries
- Family tensions create conflict
- Unsaved family members may think believers are radical
- Family spiritual foundations produce strength
- Unconditional love in the family is powerful
- Spiritual consistency has tremendous force
- Jesus' resurrection changes everything for families

SO WHAT? How is your family?

Have you chosen to serve the Lord?

Joshua 24:15 (NLT) choose today whom you will serve... But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD."

Are you singularly focused on producing godly children?

Malachi 2:15 (NLT) Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth.

Are you training them in the ways of God?

Proverbs 22:6 (ESV) Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Are you practicing Christ-like behavior?

Ephesians 4:32 (NLT) Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Are you loving your family unconditionally?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT) Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

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ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022

1. ONWARD'S NEW LOCATION ANNOUNCED—We are thrilled to announce that Onward Church will be moving to our new facility at 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers (131st & SR 37). Our planned move will be August 14, 2022. We will be renting our facility from Mission Christian Academy led by Shawn Moore.

2. YOUTH CAMP JUNE 22-26 at Walnut Ridge Retreat Center in Morgantown, IN. Grades 6-12. Cost is \$269/pp. Signup is at www.missionchristianacademy.com/camp See Pastor Jerry for more information.

3. YOUTH TONIGHT—6-8pm at new building (13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers)

4. FAMILY CAMP—SEPTEMBER 9-11. Blue Gate Inn, Shipshewana. Save the dates. More info to come.

6. 2022 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR—OCTOBER 18-29, 2022. Cost of the tour will be approximately \$3,850 per person (double occupancy). A deposit of \$500 will hold your spot. For more information, please write Pastor Gary at gary@garystump.org. Vaccine Mandates have been lifted for travelers to Israel.