

Day 1 – This thing called Family

God created family. He created Adam & Eve then they had Cain and Abel. In the beginning it was perfect and then, not so much. While tragic, it is quite comforting to see that even when sin entered the family unit, God in his graciousness to mankind was still making a way. He didn't leave Adam and Even without clothes, God made the first sacrifice to fix a broken situation. As you enter the prayer journey this week, you may be in a healthy family situation – let's praise God for that. Some of your hearts may be heavy because your family does not look like you imagined or you are going through a heavy time due to a death, health issue, wayward child, or a broken relationship. God sees you and your family. He cares. He wants to heal the things that hurt so deeply. Let's take it to him in prayer.

Read: Day 1 – Jeremiah 33:6, Isaiah 43:2, Psalm 103:17-18

Reflect: Think about your current family situation. How are you feeling? What are some things on your heart as you think about your family? God put us all in a family. At times, the family dynamics can feel like a blessing or a curse. Other times, God raises up people around you to fill voids that might exist. Tell God how you are feeling about your family. Take the joys and trials to Him. Family is near and dear to His heart.

Let's Pray:

Heavenly Father thank you for family. Thank you not just for the family that we were born into but the family of Christ. Lord, bind our hearts with one another and help us to be more like-minded. Give us a powerful desire to fellowship, spend time together and nourish all those that we hold dear and near to our hearts. Let our love for each other in and outside of our families be evident to all and point back to our love for Jesus. Amen

Write out your prayer to God. Lean into your praise and worship of God, be intentional about what you are asking of God and trust that He hears you, sees you and will respond on your behalf.

Day 2 – Making God a priority in our family

There are so many things that challenge and compete for priority in our lives. As we pray for our families, let's ask God to help us make Him a priority. Let's ask God to help us be committed and undivided in our love for him. And from this commitment we trust God with how we spend our time, our money, and our decision-making.

Read: Day 2 –Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Psalm 127:1. Psalm 145:4

Reflect: When was the last time your family sat down and discussed priorities? There are times where in my head I have something as a priority, but if you reviewed my schedule or bank account it would not be seen as a priority. Discussing our priorities include things like time together, activities we choose to participate in, what our day of rest looks like etc. In the scripture today, reflect on the reminder to make God a priority and to tell our children and future generations about our faith in Jesus.

Let's Pray: Abba Father, we bless you and thank you for your goodness to us even when we are not good to you. God, thank you that you want to spend time with us and be intimately involved in all we do. Lord, give us a desire to invite you in. May our schedules, phones, free time, bank accounts and thoughts confirm that you are our priority. And Lord, for those of us that might struggle with this, we thank you for the gentle nudging of the Spirit to change our hearts and mind and align them to you. In Jesus's Name, Amen.

Write out your prayer to God. Lean into your praise and worship of God, be intentional about what you are asking of God and trust that He hears you, sees you and will respond on your behalf.

Day 3 – Prayers for our family

There is a battle raging for the family and it's not new. As a church family, let's pray for God's protection over your family and over all the families in our church. Whether it's death, divorce, or broken relationships, we can ask the Lord for protection and that His hand would be upon those that we love. You might be praying for a specific situation in your family – a child or spouse dealing with an addiction, a spouse that has yet to commit their life to Jesus, or you are just asking for protection in the battlefield of the mind and heart. Either way, the Lord is faithful, and He will help. He has given us profound scriptures that show his mighty arm of protection and his compassion for his creation.

Read: Day 3 – Psalm 91 (God's protection over you and your family), Jeremiah 32:39 (Unity with your spouse and blessing on your family), Genesis 48:9 (Parents/Grandparents praying for the children), Psalm 32:7-8

Reflect: The battle for our family and our children is real. There are so many distractions and attacks on the family unit. But we know that God has already won. Is there a situation in your family where you need God to show up and do something miraculous? I know that the answer is yes in mine, and I trust God to do just that. Sometimes it's hard to be real and raw with the Lord. If you could ask him to do the important things in your family, what would it be? Be vulnerable and communicate with God about the things on your heart regarding your family. He will never fail.

Let's Pray:

God, thank you for never failing us. Thank you for caring about our families and those we hold dear. God, we ask in the mighty name of Jesus that you would bind the things that need to be bound and release the things that need to be released. We ask you to heal brokenness and restore hope and joy. Provide and make a way for health and mental issues. We ask that you break every single chain of bondage that would lead our family members away from you. Lord, move mightily. You are able and willing. In Jesus's Name, Amen.

Write out your prayer to God. Lean into your praise and worship of God, be intentional about what you are asking of God and trust that He hears you, sees you and will respond on your behalf.

Day 4 –Peace and unity in our families

The concept of unity truly starts in the family unit. Our family can be a sanctuary in a world of chaos. There is conflict all around, but when you step back into your home it truly can be a place of comfort, rest, and security. In the family unit we learn to love, to forgive and to show compassion. The family can be a place that is united in faith and purpose with the Lord. Let's pray that we would learn how to solve conflict and love the way Jesus does. As believers, we know our peace comes from the Lord. It's not a fake peace but a deep, overwhelming calm based on the One in control. Let's pray that God would remove bitterness and strife and replace it with love, communication, patience, and long suffering.

Read: Day 4 - 3 John 1:2 (NIV), Ephesians 4:26-27, Isaiah 32:17-18, Psalm 133:1, John 17:21-23

Reflect: If we are honest with ourselves, some of us might be in a place where peace and unity seem far off. Social media, the news, conversations with friends can easily veer off course. The same with our family. There are hot buttons and topics that bring up old trauma and hurt feelings or unhealed wounds. If not careful, these things can cause us to sin in our interactions and to avoid spaces that God would have us walk into. How are you doing with your family and church family with peace and unity? Where do you need to lean in and pray more? Where is God calling you out of your comfort zone in this area?

Let's Pray:

Father God, we pray John 17 back to you today. We ask that we would be one, like you and Christ are one. We also pray that the world would know you because of the way we love and bear with one another. Lord, start with us, start in our homes, and let it overflow for your glory. Thank you, Jesus for your heart and prayers for us. Amen.

Write out your prayer to God. Lean into your praise and worship of God, be intentional about what you are asking of God and trust that He hears you, sees you and will respond on your behalf.

Day 5 – Blessing on our families

The goal of the family fully submitted to the Lord is to show the world what it looks like to love and live in community. As we build and cultivate these relationships, as we bear each other's burdens and live sacrificially, we become more like Christ every day. Let's pray for God's blessing on our families and the families in our church. Let's ask the Lord to do something new and to ignite a love for one another that refuses to be extinguished. We can ask the Lord to break generational curses because we know that God is able to make all things new. God is the giver of all good things! Our focus is not on the blessing but the One that blesses.

Read: Day 5 – Numbers 6:24-26, Ephesians 3:20, Deuteronomy 28:2

Reflect: How have you seen God work in your family? What about in your church family? Reflect on what the Lord has been doing since you started this study together. Praise God for His faithfulness.

Let's Pray:

God, thank you for your faithfulness to us. God, we know that our families are on your mind and in your heart. We know that as we hold each other near and dear, that you do as well. Lord, we ask that you keep our families together. That you unite, restore, bless, and multiply our love and joy for one another. Thank you, Father, for the blessing of family whether nuclear family or not. And thank you for the body of Christ. We love and adore you Jesus and pray in your powerful name. Amen.

Write out your prayer to God. Lean into your praise and worship of God, be intentional about what you are asking of God and trust that He hears you, sees you and will respond on your behalf.