

STARTING OFF: GOD'S DIRECTION FOR THE FAMILY

- I. **The family is intended by God to reflect His character and His rulership! (Genesis 1:26-27)**
- A. God's image is a family-community image!! (Gen. 1:26-28)
- God created man
 - He created him
 - He created them
- B. God's design is to put the family at the nucleus of creation! (Genesis 1:28)
- II. **God designed the family to be a network of covenant relationships.**
- A. Covenant relationships are, by design, intended to cultivate grace, empowerment and intimacy!
- B. A closer look at the New Covenant that Jesus followers belong to:
1. Covenant - (Jeremiah 31:31-33).
 2. Grace - (Jeremiah 31:34).
 3. Empowerment - (Ezekiel 36:26-27).
 4. Intimacy - (Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:28).



- C. How "covenant relationships" are to work in the family:
1. Covenant →
 2. Grace →
 3. Empowerment →
 4. Intimacy →
- D. What is this "marriage covenant"? (Genesis 2:18-25)
1. God is the arranger of marriages.
 2. Men and women were designed to complement one another in their differences.
 3. The husband is called to be a protector of the family.
 4. The wife is called to be the helper.
- E. What is the difference between a covenant and a contract?

Questions for July 19

1. Read through Genesis 3 five times this week.
2. Contrast Genesis 2:16-17 with Genesis 3:1-5 → observe the differences in the details from what God told Adam and what Eve communicated to the serpent.
3. In Genesis 3:6, there were three things that made sin appealing to Eve—what were they? What does that look like in your world?
4. In Genesis 3:7-13, we see the breakdown of the original harmony in God's creation. What are three things that you see happening here? How do you see this in your world?
5. Is there any significance to why God called out to Adam, instead of Eve (or both of them) in Genesis 3:9? Does this say something about God's design of the family?