

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

QUESTIONS PROVIDED BY APRIL YAMASAKI

1. How would you describe the family you grew up in? Who is your family today?
2. The Ten Commandments teach us to honour our father and mother (Exodus 20:12). Jesus honoured his mother by caring for her needs (John 19:26-27) and clearly valued parents and children (Mark 10:13-16). In what ways has Christian faith strengthened your family life?
3. Faith in Jesus can also lead to division in families (Matthew 10:34-39). In what ways has Christian faith challenged your family life?
4. In what ways is the church like a family?
5. The teaching time highlighted mutual submission within the family and church family because “we belong to the Lord” (Ephesians 6:1). How was/is this different from the culture of the New Testament and from our culture today? How might this transform family dynamics?

PRAYER:

MARCH 28, 2021

REAL RELATIONSHIPS *with April Yamasaki*
Valuing Family

January 24: Forging Friendship in a Lonely World

February 28: Honouring Singleness and Marriage

March 28: Valuing Family

CHANGING FAMILY DYNAMICS

FAMILIES IN SCRIPTURE

JESUS VALUED PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.

Mark 10:14

Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3

JESUS TAUGHT RESPECT FOR PARENTS

Honor your father and mother.

Luke 18:20

Exodus 20:12

“Dear woman, here is your son.” And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.”

John 19:26-27

JESUS CHALLENGED THE BIOLOGICAL VIEW OF FAMILY

Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?

Matthew 12:48

Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!

Matthew 12:50

Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?

Luke 2:49

*I have come to set a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.*

Matthew 10:35

If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine.

Matthew 10:37

You are members of God's family.

Ephesians 2:19

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21

Wives to your husbands.

Ephesians 5:22

Husbands, love your wives.

Ephesians 5:25

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them.

Ephesians 6:4

*Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—
this is God, whose dwelling is holy.*

God places the lonely in families....

Psalm 68:5-6