

Slide 1

## All in the Family

For the next 5 Sundays, we have a series on home and family. Today we'll have an overview of family, then, as you see in your bulletin, we'll have teaching about fathers, mothers, children. We'll even have a baby dedication on June 27 for the 4 new babies that have been born into our fellowship over the last year.

Slide 2

On one hand we want to learn about God's plan for the family.

On the other hand, it's obvious we don't live in an ideal world. None of us live the ideal. The good news is that God takes us where we are, and seeks to bless and nurture that – to move us toward his better way. Last week, we concluded with a covenant pledge of ourselves to Jesus – acknowledging that life is messy. It rarely goes according to plan. God comes to save us,

rescue us, and bless us  
in the midst of that  
mess.

Slide 3

We can live  
with a guilt trip  
that our families  
are not ideal.

We may have grown up  
with the dream of a  
Christian family as a  
nuclear family – Mom,  
Dad and children –  
where everything is  
warm and fuzzy. The  
children drinking in the  
knowledge and wisdom  
like hot chocolate from  
their parents.  
Everything going  
smooth. Often it just ain't  
so, Joe.

We can take heart, in  
that even Jesus had  
trouble with his family.

# The Son of God's

family  
thought  
he was  
crazy at  
one point.

Slide 4

**John 3:31-35** <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him. They stood outside and sent word for him to come out and talk with them. <sup>32</sup> There was a crowd sitting around Jesus, and someone said, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you."

Slide 5

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."

Slide 6

**Ironic** → Jesus as the Son of God had a family who was trying to do an intervention to help him!

You would think that Mary and Joseph would understand.

**Bottom line:** Jesus was living in a family that looked to be dysfunctional. Not your perfect ideal family! In a fallen world, there are not perfect families!

**God is not afraid to dive into family struggles;** He works with us, no matter what. In a fallen world → family, marriage, etc... are tough, not perfect or ideal.

**Reality of situation** → most of us, to some degree, have situations

that aren't what we thought they would be (less than ideal).

Slide 7

**John 7:5 (NIV)**  
For even his brothers didn't believe in him.

Can you imagine growing up with Jesus as your older brother? Talk about trying to live up to expectations. Some of you grew up in families where your parents thought your sibling was perfect. In Jesus case, its actually true. Okay, who broke the pot? Of course, it's never Jesus! Talk about pressure.

Since the fall, the family isn't ideal'. there will be conflict, warfare. After the fall, Caan and Able start to have problems. Problems don't surprise God. In a fallen world, they are the norm. But the good news – they

are also God's  
SPECIALITY.

God **wants to work  
with us**, through the bad  
things.

Slide 8

**Reality** → God works  
with us by not just  
holding up an ideal; He  
also wants to dive into  
the muck, become a  
part of it, and help us.

We are in a fallen world  
and God meets us  
where we are, no matter  
how yucky that is. We,  
as a church, need to be  
better at showing grace  
toward imperfection in  
families, etc... Instead  
of saying "you ought to  
be this, do this, etc..."

Slide 9

**There are no  
second class  
Christians.**

The ideal can wrongly  
torture people (e.g., you  
messed up and can't  
ever set a good  
example).

God works with people  
no matter what they've  
done! We aren't perfect  
and we shouldn't be  
judged because we  
aren't.

Slide 10

**You didn't choose  
your blood family  
because you were  
born into it, but you  
choose your  
spiritual family.**

We need to extend unconditional love toward other people as God extends unconditional love toward us.

The body of Christ is the ultimate family where you are loved.

Reach out to others; develop relationships; be a spiritual family where God can work to heal you.

Yesterday, at the bake sale we had some time to sit around the table and just enjoy talking.

The New Testament has more to say about being the family of God than about natural families. Our church family can help nurture our family at home, whatever that may be.

Slide 11

“We are a  
multicultural family,  
seeking to grow in  
love of God and  
neighbor . . .”

Slide 12

### The Family Covenant

- From Conditional Love to Unconditional Love
- From Shame to Grace
- From Control to Empowering
- From Lack of Feeling to Intimacy

Slide 13

