

God and Family 10-04-09  
Genesis 1-6, Psalm 8

- I. The story of creation is a story of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Out of all that God created, Humanity was special, crowning achievement (1:26)
  - b. Relationship – God with humanity/humanity with God (3:8-9)
  - c. Humanity with each other (2:18ff)
  - d. The highest expression of human relationship is the relationship between man and wife (2:24)
  - e. God designed and \_\_\_\_\_ the family
- II. The \_\_\_\_\_ is designed to bring glory to God and growth to his Kingdom
  - a. Westminster Shorter Catechism, “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.”
  - b. 1:28-31 – dominion and governing the earth brings glory to God
  - c. 1:28 – be fruitful = more relationships in unity with God is a great thing
  - d. Leaving and cleaving is God’s design for man and women (2:24)
  - e. Monogamy is God’s plan (2:24)
  - f. Children, as God blesses (1:28, Psalm 127:3)
  - g. These are the parameters God designed and what he designed he designed on purpose.
- III. \_\_\_\_\_ changes Everything (Genesis 3)
  - a. Individual choice and disobedience of God’s clear directive creates separation with God and separation with each other.
  - b. Disobedience always damages relationships [trust of a father and son]
  - c. Note what happens in the Garden
    - i. Natural order is disrupted (3:15)
    - ii. Family bliss is warped (3:16)
    - iii. Peace with God is broken, blood sacrifice initiated (3:21)
  - d. In our family relationships, disobedience to God damages relationships
    - i. There is no such thing as “private sin”
    - ii. Sin always has consequences for those involved
    - iii. Those consequences are inevitable and long-lasting
- IV. As a result of sin, we have \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 4, 6:5)
  - a. Broken people
  - b. Broken families
  - c. Broken Marriages
  - d. Broken societies
  - e. Broken morals

(the intervening scriptural accounts deal with broken humanity and a reconciling God)

- V. God \_\_\_\_\_ the family
  - a. Restored relationship with God is possible through Jesus
  - b. Restored relationships with others come about the same way
  - c. But consequences are still inevitable!

**Questions for going deeper...**

Getting to Know You...

1. What image best describes your family life right now, a ticking time-bomb or a flat, calm lake? Is there another image that better fits?
2. Try to narrate a brief history of your family from your grandparents until today.
3. What is your most pleasant family memory?

Getting into the Word...

1. In Genesis 1, God creates everything, including humanity. Notice how the words used to describe this in 1:26-31 seem a little different than the other descriptions of things God created. What seems important to you about the creation of humanity from this text?
2. Have you thought much about how much God must love the family as he designed it? As you consider it now, are you beginning to think of your own family? Do you feel like you are fulfilling the design of God?
3. What do you think God means in Genesis 2:23-24 as he talks about a man leaving his parents and uniting with his wife?
4. Pastor Sam mentioned the Westminster Shorter Catechism Sunday. It says that the chief end of human kind is to “...glorify God and enjoy him forever.” Spend some time thinking about that? What would it take to glorify God? What would it take to enjoy God? Do you agree?
5. What has sin done to ruin our families? Read back through Genesis 3 and see what universal truths you can glean from this text about human nature. What does sin do to the relationship with God? Between the Adam and Eve? What is it’s effect on all humanity? How do we experience these effects today?
6. Pastor Sam asserted that sin always has consequences. What examples either scriptural or from your experience can you site to back up his statement? Do the consequences of sin go away with our decision to follow Christ?
7. Think about how broken our relationships are as a result of sin. What can we do to restore these relationships? What role does Jesus play in restoration? Read Hebrews 10:19-25. What reflections do you have on this text?

Application

So what can I do with all this? Remember the basic truths of Sunday's sermon:

1. God loves the Family, 2. The family is designed to bring glory to God,
3. Sin changes everything, 4. Sin brings brokenness and consequence,
5. God still loves the family and through Jesus reconciliation happens.

We are so quick to form opinions and even judge others around us. But Jesus has shown each of us forgiveness and love and great compassion. If Jesus can show these to everyone, shouldn't I be showing this to others around me? If Jesus can restore relationships, shouldn't I be open to allowing that? If others have been deeply broken by relationships, shouldn't I show them the compassion of Jesus?

As you prepare your hearts for next Sunday, here are some texts to study:  
Hebrews 4: 12-16, Mark 10: 17-31, Amos 5: 6-15, Psalm 22: 1-5

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  - d. In our family relationships, disobedience to God damages relationships
    - iv. There is no such thing as "private sin"
    - v. Sin always has consequences for those involved
    - vi. Those consequences are inevitable and long-lasting
- IV. As a result of sin, we have brokenness (Gen. 4, 6:5)
- a. Broken people
  - b. Broken families
  - c. Broken Marriages
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Close:

1. We will fight for every relationship and marriage we can [LOVE AND RESPECT CLASS]
2. Every ministry this church has ultimately is designed to aid the family
3. Compassionate, remembering that Jesus loves and forgives all who have experienced the agony of brokenness—at every level, including divorce.