

# Family

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The people God has put around me to take care of and help me in my journey; household, relatives, tribe.

## **Held Together**

Love holds everything and everybody together, and makes all these good things perfect. Let the peace of Christ have power over your hearts. You were chosen as a part of His body. Always be thankful.

(Colossians 3:14-15 NLV)

## **Made For Each Other (John 17)**

Jesus' Holy Spirit invites us into God's eternal family. God the Father adopts us as his sons and daughters, and we will live with him in heaven. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to cherish and care for our human family here on earth. Jesus' prayer in John 17 reveals God's heart for intimacy and communion. Jesus is God's Son, so his family is the Father and the Spirit. Jesus came to earth and made a way for us to join his family. When we decide to believe in and follow Jesus, we become part of his Body, the Church, which is one family of every disciple in every generation from every tribe, nation, culture, and language. The Spirit teaches my family how to be his ambassadors to lost families.

## **Discipleship & Prayer**

- How has God used my family to bless and teach me?
- Why do our deepest wounds come from family?
- Holy Spirit, help me love and care for my family.

**Abraham's Blessing** > “I, the LORD, have sworn by myself that because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your beloved son from me, I will bless you with incredible blessings and multiply your descendants into countless thousands and millions, like the stars above you in the sky, and like the sands along the seashore. They will conquer their enemies, and your offspring will be a blessing to all the nations of the earth: all because you have obeyed me.”  
(Genesis 22:16-18 TLB)

**Baby Dedication** > Led by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he received Him in his arms and blessed God and said: “Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word; for my eyes have seen Your Salvation which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a Light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your people Israel.” (Luke 2:27-32 MEV)

**Believe & Belong** > God also decided ahead of time to choose us through Christ according to his plan, which makes everything work the way he intends. He planned all of this so that we who had already focused our hope on Christ would praise him and give him glory. You heard and believed the message of truth, the Good News that he has saved you. In him you were sealed with the Holy Spirit whom he promised. This Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will receive our inheritance. We have this guarantee until we are set free to belong to him. God receives praise and glory for this. (Ephesians 1:11-14 GWT)

**Build & Protect** > Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the LORD protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good. It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones. Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him. Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands. (Psalm 127:1-4 NLT)

**Family First** > Whoever does not care for his own relatives, especially his own family members, has turned against the faith and is worse than someone who does not believe in God. (1 Timothy 5:8 NCV)

**Falling In Love** > You've captured my heart, dear friend. You looked at me, and I fell in love. One look my way and I was hopelessly in love! How beautiful your love, dear, dear friend, far more pleasing than a fine, rare wine, your fragrance more exotic than select spices. The kisses of your lips are honey, my love, every syllable you speak a delicacy to savor. Your clothes smell like the wild outdoors, the fresh scent of high mountains. Dear lover and friend, you're a secret garden, a private and pure fountain. Body and soul, you are paradise, a whole orchard of succulent fruits. (Song of Solomon 4:9-13 MSG)

**Flourish Locally** > This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: "Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! And work for the peace

and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.” (Jeremiah 29:4-7 NLT)

**God’s Family Members** > You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV)

**Hannah’s Heartcry** > Crushed in soul, Hannah prayed to God and cried and cried inconsolably. Then she made a vow: “Oh, God of the Angel Armies, if you’ll take a good, hard look at my pain, if you’ll quit neglecting me and go into action for me by giving me a son, I’ll give him completely, unreservedly to you. I’ll set him apart for a life of holy discipline.” (1 Samuel 1:10-11 MSG)

**Heavenly Father** > After three days of searching, they found Jesus in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening and asking questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.” “Why were you searching for me?” Jesus asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he was saying to them. (Luke 2:46-50 NIV)

**Honor & Support** > Don't be harsh or verbally abusive to an older man; it is better to appeal to him as a father. And as you minister to the younger men it is best to encourage them as your dear brothers. Honor the older women as mothers, and the younger women, treat as your dear sisters with utmost purity. The church needs to honor and support the widows, especially those who are in dire need. But if they have children or grandchildren at home, then it is only proper to let them provide for the ones who raised them when they were children, for kindness begins at home and it pleases God. (1 Timothy 5:1-5 TPT)

**Jacob's Blessing** > Jacob went over and kissed his father, and Isaac breathed in the scent of the outdoors on Esau's clothes. Then he gave Jacob the blessing, passing on the promise of God's covenant. "Ah, the smell of my son, Esau, is like the smell of a field the Eternal One has blessed. Therefore, may God grant you gentle showers from heaven and the fertile soils of the earth, and rich harvests of grain and wine. May many peoples come and serve you, and may nations bow down to you. May you be the master of your brothers, and may your mother's sons all bow down before you. May anyone who curses you be cursed, and may everyone who blesses you be blessed!" (Genesis 27:27-29 VOICE)

**Jesus' Family** > Jesus' mother and brothers came and stood outside. Then they sent someone with a message for him to come out to them. The crowd that was sitting around Jesus told him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside and want to see you." Jesus asked, "Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" Then he looked at the people sitting around

him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who obeys God is my brother or sister or mother.” (Mark 3:31-35 CEV)

**Joseph’s Forgiveness** > Joseph’s brothers wept too, fell down in front of him, and said, “We’re here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I God? You planned something bad for me, but God produced something good from it, in order to save the lives of many people, just as he’s doing today. Now, don’t be afraid. I will take care of you and your children.” So he put them at ease and spoke reassuringly to them. (Genesis 50:18-21 CEB)

**Love At First Sight** > In the early evening Isaac went out to walk in the field, and looking up he saw camels coming. Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she got down from her camel and asked the servant, “Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?” The servant answered, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. Then the servant told Isaac everything he had done. And Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah and took Rebekah to be his wife. Isaac loved her, and he was comforted after his mother’s death. (Genesis 24:63-67 HCSB)

**Marriage Design** > There was no helper found that was right for Adam. So the LORD God put the man to sleep as if he were dead. And while he was sleeping, He took one of the bones from his side and closed up the place with flesh. The LORD God made woman from the bone which He had taken from the man. And He brought her to the man. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She will be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother, and will be joined to his wife. And they will become one flesh. (Genesis 2:20-24 NLV)

**Sons & Heirs** > When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:4-7 ESV)

**Treasure Companionship** > There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless: a miserable business! Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:8-12 NIV)

**Wholeness Prayer** > Jesus prayed, "I pray not only for them, but also for those who believe in me because of their message. I pray that they may all be one. Father! May they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be one, so that the world will believe that you sent me." (John 17:20-21 GNT)