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PRAYER

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

-Church of England, Prayer for Family Life

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

If you could have a meal with a fictional family from a book, TV show, or movie, which family would it be and what would be the meal?

NOTES

WORD

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. . .

²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. . . ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

EPHESIANS 5

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

When God builds his Kingdom in the earth, he models it in both his people and in biological family relationships.

Here in these Ephesians passages, God shows his design for how we should build our lives:

1. **vs. 17 - it is God's will for us to walk in family.**
2. **vs. 20-21 - we should walk in thankfulness and submission towards one another. This forms a cyclical pattern of thankfulness and selflessness within the culture of your family and within God's family of believers.**
3. **vs. 22-27 - wife's role of submission to the husband; husband's role of sacrificial servant-leadership.**

4. **vs 33 - husband to love his wife; wife to respect her husband.**

This is the model of God's family pattern.

5. **6:1-4 - children to obey and honour parents in the Lord, so that life may go well. Parents must create an environment for guidance and instruction whereby honour and obedience are easily nurtured.**

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale of 1-10, how do you rate how easy you find it to honour your leaders? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. How can we honour our parents? How easy or hard is it for you to personally do this in your family?
3. Why might it be easier in some cultures and families than others to honour and submit, like scripture instructs here?
4. How might these Ephesians verses work in your own family? What might need to change? How can your Life Group and trusted Christian friends pray to see God move in your family?

If you do not yet have a relationship with God, would you like to have one? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer with them:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.