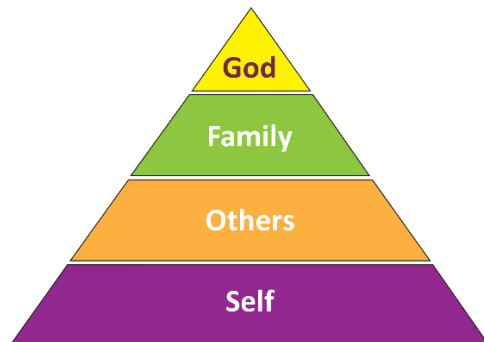


**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

## **The 10 Commandments – Love Your Family**

*Jesus taught us how to be a family  
Jesus taught us how to be a family  
Different faces, different race, He made us one  
Jesus taught us how to be a family*

1. How different is your family to the other people in the group?
2. Has 'family' life changed during your lifetime? If so, how?
3. What are some of the gifts (physical, experience, example etc) that your family has given you? What are/were some of the challenges in your family?
4. On Sunday, we looked at a triangle showing how the 10 commandments might be structured. If we accept this diagram, we see that family has an important part to play in society. If so, why is family so important and how can we support it?



5. Based on the Exodus story, under the umbrella of love, we identified 5 qualities that God modelled and that a family might give: A Family

- Gives freedom
- Gives protection / care
- Gives direction
- Gives sustenance
- Gives hope

What other qualities does a family give?

- A Family gives .....
- A Family gives .....
- A Family gives .....
- A Family gives .....
- A Family gives .....

6. What are some of the challenges that families face today?

7. What is more important, the structure of a family or role that it plays in nurturing and modelling love?

8. They say that we should look after our children as they will choose our Old People Home. What sort of OPH do you think your children will pick for you?

9. Are there any problems in your family that you need to resolve? Perhaps the group could help with some words of wisdom, support or encouragement.

Digging a little deeper:

Read:

Exodus 20:12 - *Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.*

Ephesians 6:1-4 - *6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* <sup>2</sup> *“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—* <sup>3</sup> *“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”* <sup>4</sup> *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

10. Who are the father and mother figures in your life? What qualities did/do they have?
  
11. Is honour conditional or unconditional?
  
12. Given that some have/are having difficult family lives, are there times when it is not possible to honour your biological father and/or mother?
  
13. Throughout the Old Testament there is a theme that the family is a place for religious instruction. This is picked up by Paul – *‘bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.’* How easy is it to model Christianity to those who know us so well? How can we ensure that we get the balance right between being completely over the top to being completely laissez-faire?
  
14. If you are a parent, would you do anything different? We are all children, is there anything you wish your parents did differently?

Read:

Exodus 20: 14 – *You shall not commit adultery.*

Matthew 5:27-30 <sup>27</sup>*“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.*

15. Why is adultery wrong? What harm does it cause? Who does it hurt?

16. Jesus tells his followers on the Sermon on the Mount, that adultery is committed when we look at someone ‘lustfully’. Is adultery more than just a physical act, or about forming overly close relationships with other people? If so, what harm can this cause?

17. With the advance of technology, is there a greater risk ‘adultery’ or the forming of ‘close relationships’? Is this something that we need to aware of when logging on/downloading apps etc.

18. Random question – should Christians wear sunglasses, as they can allow our eyes to linger maybe too long without being seen!?

Spend sometime praying for our families and our relationships, so that they are God honouring and model God’s love.