

Family Matters

doing life together.

Week One Group Guide Challenges Facing The Family

Open With Prayer

Have someone in your group open with prayer.

Icebreaker

Share a personal high point and low point that occurred since your group last met.

First Group Discussion: The Sunday Message

Every Sunday, a different teacher(s) will explain the most helpful ideas and practices they have found for the purpose of creating healthy, loving families. These ideas from the morning message cover a wide range of themes and situations. They do not follow the focus of the devotional guide. Part of your group discussion can involve talking about any of those ideas and practices from the morning message that are personally helpful for building a stronger family.

Second Group Discussion: The Challenges Facing the Family (from the devotional resource)

The Family Matters devotional resource (digital version and hard copy available at <https://lwccyork.com/familymatters-devo/> and also on the church app) has six sections, with each section devoted to a major theme. Your group can use the daily devotionals on the topic and talk about that topic in your group. Read the devotionals for the week. What did you learn? How does it apply to your family? What change can you make in light of what you have learned?

Third Group Discussion: Your Own Experiences and Learning About Family

Using the model of best ideas and practices, take turns sharing your own best ideas and practices learned over the years on the theme of the week. These best ideas and practices are wide open and do not have to be on the sermon or the weekly devotional. It is powerful when spiritual friends encourage and teach one another with their own best ideas and lessons learned.

Closing Prayer

For this Family Matters series, your group can focus on praying for your families on a regular basis—specific needs and for general blessings.

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Week Two Group Guide *One Another Passages*

Open With Prayer

Have someone in your group open with prayer. Pray especially for the families represented in your group.

Icebreaker

Can you recall your favorite family vacation? It could be from your family when you were growing up, or your family now. Was there an especially great vacation? Was there a terrible vacation? (Sometimes these make for the best stories!) Did you have a solid week of rain at the beach? Did you brother break his leg when your family went hiking? Have a couple of your group members share.

First Group Discussion: *The Sunday Message*

Every Sunday, a different teacher(s) will explain the most helpful ideas and practices they have found for the purpose of creating healthy, loving families. These ideas from the morning message cover a wide range of themes and situations. They do not follow the focus of the devotional guide. Part of your group discussion can involve talking about any of those ideas and practices from the morning message that are personally helpful for building a stronger family. This week, we heard from Pastor Garrett Lowe. Was there something from his sermon that stood out to you?

Second Group Discussion: *One Another Passages* *(from the devotional resource)*

The Family Matters devotional resource (digital version and hard copy available at <https://lwccyork.com/familymatters-devo/> and also on the church app) has six sections, with each section devoted to a major theme. Your group can use the daily devotionals on the topic and talk about that topic in your group. Read the devotionals for the week. They focused on the “One Another” passages. What did you learn? How does it apply to your family? What change can you make in light of what you have learned?

Third Group Discussion: Your Own *Experiences and Learning About Family*

Using the model of best ideas and practices, take turns sharing your own best ideas and practices learned over the years on the theme of the week. These best ideas and practices are wide open and do not have to be on the sermon or the weekly devotional. It is powerful when spiritual friends encourage and teach one another with their own best ideas and lessons learned.

Closing Prayer

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Week 4 Group Guide

Honoring Your Parents

Open in Prayer:

Have someone in your group open with prayer. Pray especially for the families and the marriages represented in your group.

Icebreaker:

Would you rather travel back in time to meet your ancestors or to the future to meet your descendants? Why?

Or simply use a very general "High and Low Point for you since we last met..." This helps to keep you connected and up-to-date with your ongoing stories as you follow Jesus together.

First Group Discussion:

The Sunday Message

Every Sunday, a different teacher(s) will explain the most helpful ideas and practices they have found for the purpose of creating healthy, loving families. These ideas from the morning message cover a wide range of themes and situations. They don't follow the devotional guide.

Part of your group discussion can involve talking about any ideas and practices from the morning message that are personally helpful for building a stronger family.

This week the focus was on *Honoring Your Father and Your Mother*.

How did God speak to you in the message?

Second Group Discussion:

The Devotional Resource

The Family Matters devotional resource (digital version and hard copy) has six sections, with each section devoted to a major theme. Your group can use the daily devotionals on the topic and talk about that topic in your group. What did you learn?

Third Group Discussion:

Your Own Experiences & Learning

Using the model of best ideas and practices, the group can take turns sharing what are their own best ideas and practices learned over the years on this week's theme – *Honoring Your Parents*.

A Final Reflection & Exercise:

How can we bless and honor our parents today? What if we've been wounded by one or both of our parents? How can we realize our mothers and fathers are just human – and then as followers of Jesus – choose to bless where we've experienced curse and choose to honor where we've known shame?

It could be a beautiful and redemptive expression of love to write a letter saying thank you, blessing your father or mother for what they got right. Maybe this could also be a good way to ask them for forgiveness for the times when you haven't valued them, honored them, or shown them mercy.

After some discussion, close in prayer together.

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Week Five Group Guide Getting Marriage Right

Open With Prayer

Have someone in your group open with prayer. Pray especially for the families represented in your group.

Icebreaker

Share a personal high point and low point that occurred since your group last met.

First Group Discussion: The Sunday Message

Every Sunday a different teacher(s) will explain the most helpful ideas and practices they have found for the purpose of creating healthy, loving families. These ideas from the morning message cover a wide range of themes and situations. They do not follow the focus of the devotional guide. Part of your group discussion can involve talking about any of those ideas and practices from the morning message that are personally helpful for building a stronger family.

This week, we heard from Brian and Becky Rice on the theme “Getting Marriage Right.” Was there anything from the sermon that stuck out to you? Discuss this with your group.

Second Group Discussion: (from the devotional resource)

The Family Matters devotional resource (digital version and hard copy available at <https://lwccyork.com/familymatters-devotional/> and also on the church app) has six sections, with each section devoted to a major theme. Your group can use the daily devotionals on the topic and talk about that topic in your group. Read the devotionals for the week. What did you learn? How does it apply to your family? What change can you make in light of what you have learned?

Third Group Discussion: Your Own Experiences and Learning About Family

Using the model of best ideas and practices, take turns sharing

your own best ideas and practices learned over the years on the theme of the week. These best ideas and practices are wide open and do not have to be on the sermon or the weekly devotional. It is powerful when spiritual friends encourage and teach one another with their own best ideas and lessons learned.

Closing Prayer

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Week 6 Group Guide

Joining God in the Renewal of Our Families

Open in Prayer:

Last week was a tough week in America.

Someone in your group open in prayer. Pray especially for the suffering families who have been devastated by the tragedy in Uvalde, Texas.

After the prayer, share how this tragic news has been talked about in your family.

Icebreaker:

Ok. A question for each person.

When was the last time you tried a food item that was completely new to you (maybe it was a type of cuisine from a different country or culture)? What was the experience like?

Or simply use a very general "High and Low Point for you since we last met..." This helps to keep you connected and up-to-date with your ongoing stories as you follow Jesus together.

First Group Discussion:

The Sunday Message

This Sunday's focus was *Joining God in the Renewal of Our Families*. How did God speak to you in the message?

Second Group Discussion:

The Devotional Resource

The Family Matters devotional resource (digital version and hard copy) has six sections, with each section devoted to a major theme. Your group can use the daily devotionals on the topic and talk about that topic in your group. What did you learn?

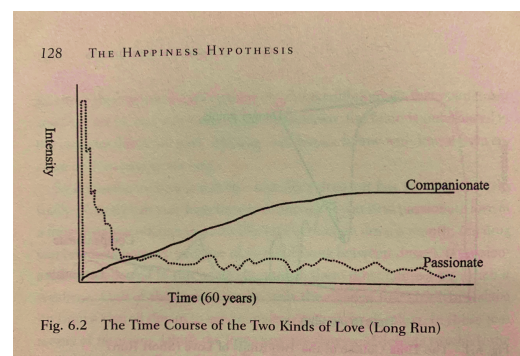
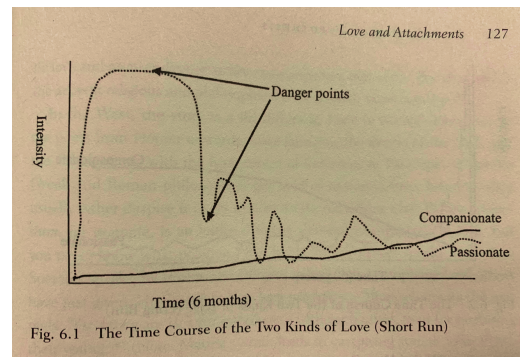
Third Group Discussion:

Your Own Experiences & Learning

Take turns sharing what are their own best ideas and practices learned over the years on this week's theme – *Joining God in the Renewal of Our Families*.

A Final Reflection:

In the message on Sunday, Pastor Aaron talked about the difference between "Companionate Love" and "Passionate Love" (see the charts below) from Jonathan Haidt's book *The Happiness Hypothesis*. If you are married, how have you seen the blessings of Companionate Love in your marriage?



After some discussion, close in prayer together.