



Discussion Guide for “God is Not a Family Man”

God is Not... Week 4

Today’s churches are often built around and center the nuclear family - Dad, Mom, Wally and the Beav. Why is that? Jesus was single. So was Paul. And the so-called ‘traditional family’ didn’t exist until the last century. How can we avoid creating an idol out of the family? What is God’s vision for family? And how is that vision good for all of us, no matter what our families look like?

Scriptures for Further Reading

Genesis 31:25-27, 43-50; Psalm 144:3-4, 12-15; Matthew 12:46-5; 1 John 4:13-20

[Click here](#) to read all scriptures

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. Get a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week’s sacred reading is [Psalm 144](#). (What would it look like to read this psalm while recentring Bathsheba, David’s victim?)

Questions for Discussion

1. Do you consider yourself a ‘family person’? What does family mean to you?
2. Where in our culture do you see family functioning as an idol?
3. Consider the relationship between Jacob and Laban. Why do you think it got so fraught? Can you relate to a toxic family system? (Either personally or a friend you know.)
4. Why was it good for Jacob and Laban to part? What does that tell you about the priority God sets for families in light of calling?
5. Consider the story of Jesus’ family coming to get him. Would you have been surprised by his response?
6. Read 1 John 4:13-20. What is the relationship in the New Testament between our spiritual families and our biological families? Do you find this encouraging? Challenging? Offensive?