

October 10 – 16, 2009
CONNECTING WITH FAMILY

In this lesson you will learn the importance of connecting with the natural family and with the family of God.

- I. How society has changed in the last fifty years.
 - A. People are more transient.
 - B. Because of divorce more people have disconnected with their family.
 - C. Abuse, alcohol, and drugs cause families to disconnect from each other.
 - D. Greater value has been placed on things, and family has not had a role of importance.

- II. We need relationships.
 - A. Need relationship with God.
 - B. Need relationship with other people. Genesis 2:18 – “And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone’”....
 - C. Need relationship with our family – Webster’s definition of “family” is a social unit consisting of parents and children.
 - D. Need relationship with God’s family – Consists of all those who believe upon, confess, and receive Him and His Son Jesus as their Lord and Savior (Ephesians 3:15).

- III. How to value relationships.
 - A. What you value, you care for, protect, love, speak well of, and don’t depreciate.
 - B. God intended for families to care for one another. Ruth is a great example of caring for family (Ruth 1:16-17).
 - C. Today many people are self-focused, but we need to be people who care for others.
 - D. Caring is out of selflessness. It requires having an awareness of others and not just your own needs. Caring is having sensitivity to God and others. When you are in a family, you are there for each other. Caring requires giving time, abilities, and resources.
 - E. Be supportive by the words you speak and with your presence at the events of your family members (Ephesians 4:29).

- IV. Parents need to be an example – 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7.
 - A. Nurture – “Nurture” means to give tender care, protect, and encourage them to grow, develop, and be successful.
 - B. Guide – To show the right way and be an example they can follow (1 Timothy 4:12).
 - C. Be truthful – Set the example not to lie or hide things.
 - D. Create an atmosphere that allows them to communicate openly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share how you are working on connecting more with your family.
- Share how you are working on connecting more with the family of God.
- Would your family and church family consider you a caring person?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

This week contact a family member and someone in the family of God to reconnect.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE: 1 Timothy 4:12 – “...Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”