

Your Family Story notes

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Week 2
Family Tension
April 25 & 26, 2009
Pastor Steve Davidson

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ... God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:7-11 (NIV)

Family Tension is *God's Sandpaper*
to Make Us *Like Christ*
to Make Us *Less Self-Centered*

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

1. See Tension as an Opportunity to Grow in Love

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For even Christ did not please himself...

Romans 15:1-3 (NIV)

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:9-10 (NIV)

2. Jointly Establish Your Family Priorities

...choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served... or the gods... in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15 (ESV)

Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.

Ephesians 6:4 (MSG)

...whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

Mark 8:35-36 (NIV)

3. Manage the Messiness of Life with Wisdom & Grace

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine... but be filled with the Spirit,

Ephesians 5:15-18 (NRSV)

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)