

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Great Things, Great Is Thy Faithfulness, Build My Life

## WELCOME

What is the most beautiful design you've seen? What makes it beautiful?

## WORD

### GENESIS 1:25-28

<sup>25</sup> God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."<sup>27</sup> God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.<sup>28</sup> God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

### PSALM 78:4, 6-8

<sup>4</sup> We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done...<sup>6</sup> That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, That they may arise and tell them to their children,<sup>7</sup> That they should put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments,<sup>8</sup> And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

During our 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, we were reminded of our mission to make disciples. However, not many people realize that discipleship begins in the family. Many years ago, **John Unwin** discovered that when the family deteriorates, so does civilization. **Edward Gibbon** wrote about the 5 major reasons for the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. The first one was the **breakdown of the family**. Current statistics show: that **85%** of youth who are in jail, **63%** of youth suicides, **75%** of substance abuse cases, and **71%** of those who did not finish schooling all come from broken or dysfunctional families. A Washington Post article in 1999 by **David Blankenhorn** also states, "**the most important predictor of criminal behavior is the father's absence**".

Why is family so important? It affects all of us. We are all part of a family where there is relationship and influence. We need to discover God's design to maximize the joy of family, experience God's blessings, and be a blessing to others. In this study, **we will focus on how to discover God's design for the family:**

### 1. TO SHOW GOD'S GOODNESS

God's greatest creation is the family. The family has 2 essential components – **man** and **woman** (**Genesis 1:26-27**) made in His image and given responsibilities to oversee creation. God made us unique and unlike animals, we are not just physical beings but spiritual beings too. We have intellect (can think), emotion (can feel), and will (can choose or decide). We have a soul or spirit that enables us to connect with God.

In the context of God's design, we understand what LOVE is and what GOD is like through family. True love is a commitment. It

is unconditional and sacrificial. God created the family for us to experience His goodness through it.

**Genesis 1:28** implies the value of family, with the commandment to be fruitful and multiply—this is where parenting comes in. Every family has a special calling. We are given an amazing task to represent the Creator and the King of kings to manage His creation! He created the family for our good. **Genesis 2:15, 18, and 24** give glimpses to the wonderful design God had for the family. God invented marriage and family. His design for the family is to reflect who He is and how He wants to relate to us. For example, God is our Father—He provides our physical needs, emotional needs, and social needs. **God's goodness is therefore revealed in the family. It is a picture of how God wants us to know Him – that He wants what is best for us!** God's design is meant for our good, our protection, our provision, and our enjoyment. However, Satan wants to attack the family because he does not want us to experience God's goodness and blessing.

### 2. TO PASS ON GOD'S LEGACY

In **Psalm 78:1, 3, and 4**, we are given a picture of how God's design for the family is not just for one generation. God's goodness has to be passed on. He has commanded the passing on of His legacy down the generations (*not just parenting, but even grand parenting*). The greatest blessing you can pass on is **KNOWING GOD**. Further in **Psalm 78:7-8**, we are also told to commit to obey His Word and do His works and not be like those generations who were stubborn and rebellious against Him.

## WORD (cont'd)

God's design is for parents to teach their children to put their confidence in God. Parents should tell their children stories where God has been so real in their lives, so that they will have stories to inspire their children into knowing God too.

Discipleship begins in the family. The family has to be in the center of discipleship. Whatever your role is in the family, you have many aspects to develop in character—physical, relational, and spiritual. Even children can influence parents. You may not be able to change the past, but you can do something positive to influence your current and future family.

### 3. TO FULFILL GOD'S ASSIGNMENTS

People don't realize that every family has a special calling. Marriage for the sake of love is not enough: you must consider **GOD'S PURPOSE**. What keeps relationships going strong is never ourselves, but it is the centrality of God and His purpose for our lives. The best example is Abraham. In **Genesis 12:2-3**, Abram (*Abraham*) was promised to be used as a blessing for all the families in the entire world. **Genesis 18:19** emphasizes the assignment and benefit for Abraham to disciple his household. Abraham was particular about whom Isaac was going to marry, and the same goes with Isaac towards Jacob.

Many parents are ignorant about their roles. They usually delegate parenting to others—but while they can delegate, they can't abdicate their roles. God has given parents responsibilities that are meant to be fulfilled by them. They are stewards of their family.

Also, many fail to realize that **God's design is to pass on a spiritual legacy**. An example of this is in **1 Samuel 1:3** – the sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, serving as priests yet they were called "*worthless men*" in **1 Samuel 12:2** because "*they did not know the Lord*". **Verse 22** gives us a clue: when Eli was very old, then and only then did he learn about what his sons were doing. He was so busy serving God in the temple, that he neglected his sons' character formation and building their foundation for knowing GOD. God held Eli responsible for his sons behavior (**1 Samuel 3:12-13**). The consequences of failing to do God's assignments has immediate and long-term consequences.

It is never too late to discover and learn God's design for the family. Appreciate your family. Be a blessing to your family. **The greatest influencers for family members are FAMILY MEMBERS. BEGIN TODAY!**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

1. How has your family influenced you, in positive and negative ways? How has the family been a blessing to you?
2. What are some things you know you've done that did not help build strong family ties? Confess these to God; what steps towards reconciliation will you take to rebuild family relationships?
3. How can you positively impact others (family, small group, friends)? What steps are you willing to intentionally do and commit to doing?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that God will work in you and your families. Show Christlikeness towards family members through words and actions. Watch MOTIVATE series of messages with family and find opportunities to share the gospel to them.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends