



Group Leader Guide

“Family Is Messy” – The Perfect Li(f)e

November 9-10, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

Teaching pastor **Ben Foote** kicks off the new series called “**The Perfect Li(f)e**.” Throughout this series, we will look at our relationships with those closest to us: our families. We live in a world where perfection is expected. Platforms like social media heighten our insecurities and pressure us to portray a perfect life, even though that isn’t our actual reality. This week, we learn that Jesus says that it is ok to be messy. It is ok not to be perfect, because He will be perfect for us. He will use the messy, broken parts of our lives to create something beautiful. Jesus calls us out of our hypocrisy and into a life of authenticity. He doesn’t want the fake versions of ourselves. He wants the real us – broken parts and all (**Psalms 51:17**).

// Biblical Background: Dysfunctional Families

Ben mentioned several families throughout the Bible that weren’t picture perfect. I have provided a quick summary of each one and where to read the stories for yourselves in the Bible.

Adam and Eve (Genesis 2-3): These were the first people God created. Their lives were picture perfect for awhile. However, they committed the first sin by listening to the serpent in the garden of Eden and eating from the tree that God had told them not to eat from. This was the cause of the curse on

humanity and the world.

Cain and Able (Genesis 4): Cain and Able were the first two sons that Adam and Eve had. When they were grown up, Cain became jealous of Able, because Able had given a better offering to God, and ended up murdering him in a field.

Abram and Sarai and Hagar (Genesis 12:10-20; Genesis 16) ca. 2000 BC: Ben mentioned that Abraham (still Abram at this point) “pimped out” his wife. When they were traveling to Egypt, Abram tells Sarai (later her name is changed to Sarah), his wife, that because she is so beautiful, they will tell everyone there that she is actually his sister, so “it may go well with me because of you.” The reason for this was probably so that, as her brother, he could deny any suitors she may have. As a husband, he would be at risk of being killed instead of honored as her husband. This backfires, however, and she is taken into the house of Pharaoh to be his wife anyways. However, Pharaoh makes Abram very wealthy because of Sarai. Eventually, Pharaoh finds out that Abram is actually Sarai’s husband, and she is returned to him.

Some years later, God promises Abram that he will have a son. Sarai is too old to have children, however, so they devise a plan for Abram to impregnate one of their servants, Hagar, which he does. Sarai then regrets this decision, and all sorts of issues arise in their family.

David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1-12:23) ca. 1000 BC: One day, King David notices a bathing woman, Bathsheba, on a rooftop and finds her extremely attractive. Even though she is married, he ends up sleeping with her and getting her pregnant. Her husband is a soldier in David's army, who is off at war. David has him come home so that it may be thought that Bathsheba was impregnated by him, but he refuses to sleep with his wife while his men are still on the battlefield. David then comes up with plan B, which involves having Uriah intentionally killed on the battlefield. He then marries Bathsheba, and she gives birth to a son. However, God is very displeased with David's actions and causes the son to die as punishment.

Solomon (1 Kings 11:1-13) ca. 950 BC: David and Bathsheba went on to have more children. Solomon was one of their sons. He became king after David. He is known as the wisest man to ever walk the earth, as well as one of the wealthiest. However, he married tons of women. The Bible says he had 700 wives and 300 concubines, and that these women turned his heart away from the Lord. They influenced him to worship their foreign false gods. Because of this, God later divided the kingdom of Israel into 2 parts, taking half of it away from the descendants of David and Solomon.

// **Biblical Background: Jesus' Genealogy**

Ben mentioned the two family trees of Jesus in the Bible. These can be found in **Matthew 1:1-17** and **Luke 3:23-38**. Ben quickly references the types of people that can be found in these lists, including drunks, adulterers, incest, prostitutes, and murderers. The most notable drunk to be found is Noah, who got wasted after the flood, resulting in possible incest between his son and his wife (**Genesis 9:20-27**). Adulterers include the stories of Abram and David from above. As for murderers, there was David, obviously, from the story above. There were also Ahaz and Manasseh, who sacrificed their own sons to false gods (**2 Kings 16:3 and 21:6**). Rahab, one of the few women mentioned in Matthew's genealogy, was a prostitute who helped the Israelites in before the destruction of the city of Jericho (1500-1400 BC). This story can be found in **Joshua 2**.

// **References**

Walton, John H., et al. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. InterVarsity Press, 2004.



Discussion Questions

“Family Is Messy” – The Perfect Li(f)e

November 9-10, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Matthew 23:25-28; Psalm 51:17

// Community Questions

1. Who in the group has the most dysfunctional family?

// Core Questions

1. Where in your life are you comparing yourself or your family to others?
2. Where in your life are you hiding your messiness?
3. What drives this hiding? Insecurity? Fear? Something else?
4. Would the immediate members of your family describe you as a safe person to bring their messiness?
5. Do you feel like the people you depend on in your family are safe enough to bring your messiness? Would they meet you with mercy?
6. What is one thing you can do to make your home a “safe place to be messy”?

// Challenge

The holidays are right around the corner, and with them, a lot of family time. This series is intentionally happening right now. No one’s family is perfect. This series is aimed at helping you see that that is ok. It is also aimed at showing that there is hope that it doesn’t have to be absolutely awful all the time, especially with your immediate family – the people who live under your own roof. Ben helps us see that just like God shows us mercy in our shortcomings, we can do the same thing with the people closest to us. So pray that this holiday season you can be a catalyst for mercy in your home and in your family. Look for opportunities to showcase your “safeness.” When you would usually respond with fear, anger, or frustration, try to respond with mercy instead.