

STUDY GUIDE:

For The Life Of The World | Episode 2 - Love Part 1 of 2

We are breaking this episode into a two week study by stopping at 15:04. This will leave just over an 8 minute video for next week to continue the discussion.

INTRODUCTION

In this episode, we will meet some fellow strangers in a strange land who reflect on their unique journeys in f-a-m-i-l-y. Multitudinous definitions for love, marriage, family and community pile up like options on a long menu. Is there an original design or purpose we have forgotten? Why did God create family? What does this mean for Christians in the context of living in exile?

KEY IDEAS from the video:

God's Design for the Family: Family design reflects the nature of the trinity, pouring out abundance for the life of the world.

Saying Yes: In saying yes to your beloved, to marriage, to family, we say yes to walking by faith and living a life of offering, our priestly calling to be gift-givers in the world.

Discussion Questions

1. How does our culture define marriage and family?
Do these definitions vary with God's design and purpose for family?
Read Genesis 2:15-25
How do you approach others who have different views of marriage and family? Do you criticize, avoid topics, or tell people to do what is right in their own eyes? What is a God-glorifying response to non-Christian views about family and relationships?
2. Is marriage more than a contract?
The church often behaves the same as secular culture regarding sex, marriage, and family. We blend in. Do we understand the deeper meaning of marriage and the purpose God has designed for family? Have you thought of your family as a blessing to be shared for the welfare of those around you? What does that look like (even with our grand flaws)? What if spouses have different beliefs? How is the Christian spouse to live out God's design for family then?

3. How is compost similar to family?

How does family design contribute to flourishing in the places we live? As a family, do you keep to yourself, or do you enter “the city” and encounter those who do not share your faith? Our God is the redeemer, and he is in the business of redeeming broken things... How can God use my broken family (with all it’s “*&%\$compost”) as light in “the city”?

4. No one has seen God, and no one can fully fathom the Trinity. “For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength” (1 Cor. 1:25). Our finite metaphor for the Trinity in this episode — three beings joyfully and perfectly completing each other, pouring out love and creative power in the creation of a family — underscores the inability of our minds to fully comprehend an indescribably infinite God. A God who is complete in himself. Yet God desires that we know him, and one day we will see him face to face.

As we seek to know our Creator, for what purpose did he make us male and female? And what is the nature of the Trinity that is reflected in family? Does the church live as a reflection of the trinity?

Landing the Lofty Discussion

What is a healthy family, a healthy soil? What attitudes and habits create flourishing for those around you for the long term? How do we unwittingly limit the positive growth of gifts in ourselves and in others? Do you nourish others with encouragement and love by the power of God’s truth? How will this “prepare the way of the Lord” for others as we live our lives on earth?

Close in Prayer for One Another

