

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 beginning at 15:04 this week and continuing to the end of the video.

INTRODUCTION

We continue this episode, in which we 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:

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

(last week) **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. Family is a blessing meant to be shared with others.

Foundations of Family and Foundations of Society: Healthy, flourishing families create healthy flourishing societies by providing loving and supportive environments for growth. Clearly, "healthy and flourishing" doesn't mean perfect. God is the redeemer, the one who redeems even our broken families to become environments for growth and love to others. He entered this world not to condemn, but to bring life!

Healthy Soil: All of life starts with healthy soil. Healthy soil nourishes plants. Loving families that seek to bless their communities create abundance for those living around them. In whatever form and state your family is in, do you have intentions to bless others?

Discussion Questions

1. Team Z, the Zwyghuizens, had an intentional plan with their family to live lives that love, encourage, and bless. What intentions might your family identify as purposeful values?

2. How does God work through the church to transform the world?
Is the accommodation approach similar to putting your gift of salvation under a bowl? Matthew 5:16 says, “let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
3. How is family unromantic, humble, or even the “school of love”?
How is the entire church a family? How might the church as a family be “pointed out” to bless the world with unique gifts, expressed freely and creatively?
4. Why did Jesus enter our spiritual exile and identify with us as humans?
(See *Foundations of Family and Foundations of Society*)
1 Corinthians 12:27 says: “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” How are we to be his hands and feet, extensions of his love and sacrifice in the world?

Landing the Lofty Discussion

What does “one step at a time” look like in your life? What are some small, everyday steps you might take in your life to be *pointed out* as a blessing for others?

(Remember Team Z intentionally aiming at _____ *in all the small things*).
Identify your blank.

Do you actively think of how you might share or “pour out” your family (and your church) for the life of the world? What does that look like?

Prayers for Your Journey

Thank you Father that you work all things for the good in the lives of your children and still, even with brokenness, you powerfully use our families to bless the world with your gifts. Give us your eyes to see how we may bless others.

Lord, we want to live ‘pointed out’ as a blessing to others. Family life can be a mundane and messy business. We ask for eyes and ears that are sensitive to the needs of those you have placed in our lives. Empower us so that we may live as life for the world.

Close in Prayer for One Another

