



August 9, 2015

Family Strong “Game-changing Question”

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus raises the bar, gives us the strength to accomplish it, and provides grace when we blow it! The “it” is *family strong*. Jesus raises the bar for what *family strong* looks like, gives us the strength to accomplish *family strong* and provides grace when we blow *family strong*.

DISCUSSION:

1. We are all part of a family. Recall three things all families have in common. Name the positions you hold in your immediate, and extended, family. What is one strength you contribute? What is one area where you can grow stronger? What do families and small groups have in common? What do families and the church have in common? How will self-focus destroy any family?
2. Pastor David used **Matthew 5** and **John 13** as strong examples for how Jesus raises the bar. Discuss the truths in both chapters, reading each if needed for a fruitful discussion. Share Old Testament examples of dysfunctional families. Discuss how these examples reveal grace provided when they blew family strong.
3. Read Ephesians 5:22-6:4. Identify the 4 people Paul discusses in Ephesians 5:22-6:4. Summarize each call to action for a strong family to exist. Why was Paul’s teaching so revolutionary in the first century? Which verse(s) would be yours to commit to memory as you are called to action in contributing to a strong family? Practically lived out, what does it mean for Jesus to give us the strength to accomplish a strong family?
4. Pastor David stated Ephesians 5:21 as the overarching principle for family strong. Why is the word *submission* seen as an ugly word in our culture? How is the biblical view different from the worldly view? How would you explain true biblical submission in the context of family strong? How has this week’s message challenged your perspective toward submission for a strong family?
5. Read **Genesis 3**. As part of the curse for failing to obey Him, God tells the woman in verse 16, “Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you” (ESV). The word “for” can also be translated “against”, which brings out the meaning better. In Ephesians 5:22-33, Paul calls wives to submit to their husbands and husbands to love their wives. In spite of our sin, how are we able to obey Paul’s commandments to us?
5. Read **Deuteronomy 5:16** and **Exodus 20:12** as referenced in Ephesians 6. We are all children to someone, and as children we are commanded to obey and respect our parents, no matter the age. How does obeying and respecting our parents help us *enjoy long life on the earth*? Apply **1 Peter 4:8** to the truths of Deuteronomy and Exodus, looking at it from a child’s perspective and a parent’s.
6. Mutual submission is leveraging your resources, time, and power for another. How did Jesus leverage His resources, time and power for us, thus raising the bar? Discuss two possible reasons we may resist the game-changing question moving us toward a strong family. What other reasons hold you back? How will strengthening your personal relationship with Christ help you overcome these reasons?

CLOSING:

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most would not be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed His great love by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners! **Romans 5:6-8**