



## Life Group Study Notes

### “We Are Family: The Original Family”

Sr. Ps. James Lowe - August 5, 2018

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- How big was your family (household) as you grew up?
- If all of your family (including uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents, great grandparents, parents, siblings) gathered together for a family reunion, how many people would come together?
- How close were you as a child to your grandparents?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

#### **Key Quote:**

Genesis 2:7-8, 15-25 ESV

*[T]hen the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed... The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

*Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.*

*So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of*

*Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

Genesis 1:26-28 ESV

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

God's original plan and purpose for humanity on this earth centered on the family. The family is fundamental to our design and well being.

### 1. Spiritual Connection

The first humans were created and designed to have a spiritual connection with their Creator. Adam is himself referred to in the Bible as the son of God (Luke 3:38). Humans were created in the image of God, which includes our spiritual dimension. From the beginning we were intended to be a spiritual family with God as our Father.

### 2. Maintained Connection

The first human is portrayed as being engaged in divinely delegated, meaningful work even before he was joined to his wife. Adam engaged God even as he engaged his work. God wants humans to be connected to him in every aspect of our lives. He wants us to maintain an ongoing spiritual relationship with him as we journey through every aspect and season of life.

### 3. Natural Connection

Humans were designed by God to not only be in deep relationship with our Creator, but also with other humans in the context of family. The family was intended by God to bring forth more living images of God, sons and daughters. Together they were called, privileged, and empowered to fill the earth with God's glory. They were to explore and cultivate the entire earth, creating culture that would be glorifying to God, good for themselves, and beneficial for the creation. We are called to do the same to the best of our ability with God's gracious help.

## **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- What do you do to cultivate your spiritual relationship with God?
- What do you do to cultivate your family relationships?
- How does your family contribute to the glorification of God in the earth?

## **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for his gift to you of your family.
- Ask God to move powerfully in your family, drawing each member into deeper relationships with himself and one another.
- Ask God to guide your family to have a greater godly impact in this world.