

# Mosaic

## Week 2 | Every Person Needs a Family

### BOTTOM LINE

Family is part of God's design, and God desires to bring health and restoration into our families, regardless of past or present circumstances.

### GOAL OF THE GROUP

Understand that no family is perfect, but in surrender to Jesus, every family can experience the beauty that family offers.

### SCRIPTURE

Romans 15:5, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 4:3, Colossians 3:14, Romans 12:17-18, James 1:19-20, Proverbs 3:5-6, Matthew 11:28-30

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Families come in all shapes and sizes. Share some thoughts about family:
  - Who is your favorite TV family?
  - What kinds of things create tension in the family? (Perhaps share a more lighthearted example to start, such as getting young kids to eat dinner or who gets to use the car. Then ask for more serious answers.)
  - If we're honest, we all have some level of unhealth or dysfunction in our families. When think about our current family situations and think about the families around us, what are some of the lies we are tempted to believe?
- Unity in the church was a theme in the writings of Paul, and we believe God's desire for unity in the church has some roots with unity in families. Read the verses below. What words or common themes do you hear?
  - "May God ...give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus."** (Romans 15:5)
  - "Aim for perfection ... be of one mind, live in peace."** (2 Corinthians 13:11)
  - "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit."** (Ephesians 4:3).
  - "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."** (Colossians 3:14)
- Ultimately, God wants to restore relationships. He wants to come alongside us as we make the first moves toward reconciliation. **Read Romans 12:17-18**
  - Do you have a "whatever it takes" mentality when it comes to resolving conflict? Why or why not?
  - What makes it difficult to live out these instructions?
- "God's ideal for the family is evident in scripture, but an ideal model family to imitate is not" - Ron Deal. Families throughout scripture are tainted with jealousy, competition, hurt feelings, chaos, anger, bitterness, favoritism...Sound familiar? Every family has hurts and pains. When we are hurt we tend to hurt back. Jesus steps in and says there is a biblical way to work through the complications. **Read James 1:19-20** Who in your family is hardest for you to be "quick to listen"?
- Read Proverbs 3:5-6** When it comes to family, we can never be all that our spouses or children or siblings need. We need supernatural help, supernatural love, and supernatural patience to remain calm while allowing our families to grow. Will power alone will not get you there but the power of Jesus Christ in you and in me fills in the gap between our will power and our ideal. Who or what is hardest for you to trust God with?

## TRY THIS

*In the desire for family and community, do you ever feel like it's just an uphill journey? Rest in this truth of Matthew 11:28-30. How does this verse apply to your personal family relationships? Pray about this question and ask God to speak to you. Understanding that no family is perfect, ask Him to reveal the unique beauty that your family offers.*

## MORE RESOURCES

Bible Study: The Smart Step Family | Ron Deal |

[rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/342041](http://rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/342041)

Podcast: Family Life Blended | Ron Deal |

[familylife.com/podcast/familylife-blended-podcast/](http://familylife.com/podcast/familylife-blended-podcast/)

Building Love Together in Blended Families | Gary Chapman and Ron Deal

131 Conversations for Stepfamily Success | Jed and Jenny Jurchenko

The Remarriage Checkup-Tools to Make Your Marriage Last a Lifetime |

Ron Deal and David Olson

## Week 1 | Every Family Needs a Joy Plan



### BOTTOM LINE

Everyone needs a plan for joy.



### GOAL OF THE GROUP

True joy is found in the presence of God and choosing Jesus. Form an intentional plan for building habits that create joy in our relationships.



### SCRIPTURE

Psalm 16:11, Philippians 4:4, and Nehemiah 8:10

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Joy is a magnet and people are naturally drawn to joyful people. To get started this week, share ways you experience joy
  - Do you have a video you've watched recently that made you laugh out loud or just brought you a lot of joy? Watch 1 or 2 together. (Ex: Baby laughs at paper: [youtube.com/watch?v=RP4abiHdQpc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RP4abiHdQpc))
  - Share about a moment when you experienced the kind of joy that is difficult to put into words.
  - Who is the most joyful person you know? What do you believe is their source?
2. Read Psalm 16:11 **"You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."** and Discuss:
  - a. This scripture tells us that joy is found in God's presence. Where or in whom have you looked for joy and not found it, or been disappointed when it didn't last? (Ex: job, money, pleasure, Netflix, a relationship, etc.)
  - b. Happiness is a feeling. Joy is a choice. Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. Read Philippians 4:4 **"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"** and Discuss:
  - a. Did you know that the author Paul was in prison when he wrote this? Paul believed and modeled for us that joy comes from choosing Jesus. Can you think of a time when you felt so depleted, empty, or sad, and how Jesus brought you joy in the ways only He can?
  - b. What are some of the likely joy killers in your home or relationships? (Ex: stress, calendar, kids' behavior, etc.)
  - c. Do you picture God/Jesus as joyful? Why or why not?
4. Read Nehemiah 8:10 **"The joy of the Lord is your strength."** and Discuss:
  - a. From "Desiring God" by John Piper – "It's a remarkable point delivered to Nehemiah and a people who were ravaged by war, weakened by insecurities, and constantly reminded of their own fragility. This is where we find our strength: for life, for pain, for trials, for marriage, for child-raising, for everything. The strength we need for this life is found in the essential joy of God."
  - b. When we believe God is the source of joy (not our circumstances), we can begin to make choices in our everyday lives to let His joy overflow INTO our circumstances and relationships. In your own life, what circumstances could you release in exchange for God's joy and strength?
5. Pray as a Group: "Lord, YOU are the giver of joy, the source of the full and abundant life that we all long for. We confess that we sometimes look to other sources for our joy... forgive us for when we have looked to our jobs, our spouses, our kids, or our circumstances to fill a role that only You can. Draw us into your presence – help us to choose time with you to fill our hearts and renew our joy. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

WHEN JOY IS  
A HABIT,  
LOVE IS A  
REFLEX.  
~Bob Goff



## TRY THIS

*Everyone needs a joy plan. We know how habits have the power to change us, and habits form through repetition. Did you know that after 30 days of a habit, your brain begins to rewire? And after 60 days, a new pathway is fully formed in your brain. We have to build habits that create joy in our relationships! Bob Goff says, "When joy is a habit, love is a reflex." Brainstorm ideas for how you can intentionally pursue and encourage opportunities for more joy in your home and relationships. Create a list and choose one to implement this week.*

### More resources:

The 4 Habits of Joy Filled Marriages | Marcus Warner & Chris Coursey  
This is Your Brain on Joy | Dr. Early Henslin