

It's A Bonus – Bible Study

<Screen> Family is the foundation that God uses to support the structure of your life by helping you adapt to life's ever-changing circumstances. <Screen>

Matthew 1:18-25 (NLT)

18 This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

19 Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

20 As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

The reason the enemy fights us so hard in our families is because he knows the power we possess when we are unified. God said, **"When they all speak the same language, nothing will be impossible for them."** During this series, we have been talking about the importance of family and building strong and healthy family relationships. One of the most challenging families as it relates to connecting is a **Bonus/Blended Family.**

Bonus Family – a family in which one or both spouses have a child or children from someone other than their current husband/wife.

We must realize that there are degrees to bonus families. One spouse may have a child or children. Both may have children. There may be multiple fathers/mothers. There are degrees. So how we handle things is very important. With much prayer and guidance, a bonus/blended family can be

a blessing to all who are a part and a blessing to the world. With this in mind, let's examine: **It's a Bonus.**

Luke 12:48 (NLT)

48 But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

Joseph was trusted to marry Mary and then entrusted to raise God's son. If we're going to have a successful family, especially a bonus one, we must be willing to give all of ourselves to the family's success. When God knows He can trust you, He gives you more responsibilities. A bonus family is a lot to be entrusted with. Here's a question we must answer. **ARE WE WILLING TO DEAL WITH ALL THAT COMES ALONG WITH THIS FAMILY?** For singles, this is a question you must ask. Married folks, it's too late.

1. **It's a bonus to be given a greater assignment.**

Esther 2:5-7 (NLT)

5 At that time there was a Jewish man in the fortress of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair. He was from the tribe of Benjamin and was a descendant of Kish and Shimei.

6 His family had been among those who, with King Jehoiachin[b] of Judah, had been exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar.

7 This man had a very beautiful and lovely young cousin, Hadassah, who was also called Esther. When her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her into his family and raised her as his own daughter.

Mordecai raises his cousin Esther. He takes her in potentially saving her, not knowing that one day she will help to save the entire world. **When she saves Israel, she is saving the bloodline of Jesus.** He's the Savior of the world. This is impossible without the Savior of Israel. And Esther can't be the savior of Israel if Mordecai doesn't save Her first.

2. It's a bonus to help preserve a destiny.

Exodus 2:5-10 (NLT)

5 Soon Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her.

6 When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This must be one of the Hebrew children," she said.

7 Then the baby's sister approached the princess. "Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" she asked.

8 "Yes, do!" the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby's mother.

9 "Take this baby and nurse him for me," the princess told the baby's mother. "I will pay you for your help." So the woman took her baby home and nursed him.

10 Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses, for she explained, "I lifted him out of the water."

When the princess adopted Moses, like Mordecai she saved the potential savior of God's people. Part of our responsibility as parents is to discern potential gifts and talents in our children and nurture them to maturity. Nothing happens by accident. God does everything on purpose. **God allows them to be nurtured in our houses because there's something in our houses that they need.**

3. It's a bonus to nurture and discern potential.

1 Kings 19:19-20 (NLT)

19 So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away.

20 Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, “First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!” Elijah replied, “Go on back, but think about what I have done to you.”

Elijah was God’s man. He knew there was no success without a successor. Elisha was not one of the Son’s of the Prophets. He wasn’t in line to receive the prophet’s blessing. However, Elijah invites him to become one. He says, “Think about what I have done to you.” It is imperative to instill in your children what means to be a part of your legacy. **WE MUST TELL THEM, “YOU’RE HERE SO THAT WHEN I’M GONE, I’LL STILL BE HERE.”**

4. It’s a bonus to expand your legacy organically.

Romans 8:15 (NLT)

15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.”

The best bonus family of them all is the Family of God. God is so great that we all can be adopted into His family. The reason the legacy grows organically is that God won’t force us to join His family. We must accept His love, forgiveness, and family. **When we are adopted, we are authorized to receive everything available to our brother Jesus.**

5. It’s a bonus to be adopted by God.

One of the most challenging families as it relates to connecting is a **Bonus/Blended Family**. So how we handle things is very important. With much prayer and guidance, a bonus/blended family can be a blessing to all who are a part and a blessing to the world. Remember: **It’s a Bonus.**