

It's Not the Same Without You – Bible Study Lesson

Family was the first institution God established, even before the church or government. God gave Adam and Eve the mandate to be fruitful, multiply, and take dominion (Genesis 1:28). This shows that families are God's plan for carrying out His purposes on the earth. Additionally, family is the training ground for love, forgiveness, leadership, and faith.

Family is a force designed by God to teach, support, encourage and push you into the purpose He destined for your life.

Romans 12:4-5 (NLT)

4 Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function,

5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

One important lesson we all must grasp is how important we actually are to our families and the plan of God. Knowing we belong in a natural family and ministry family is foundational to our identity, our confidence, and our calling. Learning our proper position and importance allows us to walk in security knowing God didn't make a mistake, receive strength from the community of family, and encourages us to walk in purpose and power. With this in mind, let's examine: **It's not the same without you.**

Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

God created us for community. No matter how introverted or shy we may be, none of us is an island. God designed us for relationships from the very beginning. Isolation was never His intent for us. We can't give or receive with closed hands or hearts. **Remember: We don't fit everywhere. But we do fit in this family.**

1. Without you, our community is deficient.

John 13:34-35 (AMP)

34 I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too are to love one another.

35 By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love and unselfish concern for one another.”

One of the purposes of family is to reflect God’s love to the world. The way we love in family and community is how the world sees the love of Christ. We all have love to give. But we cannot give it until we have first learned to receive it. **All the love we need has been deposited in this family.**

2. Without you, our love is lacking.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NLT)

9 Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.

10 If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.

Unity is the foundation for strength. We are stronger together. In family and community, we find strength, support, and help in times of weakness. The Bible teaches us that two are better than one. And three are even better. We can accomplish so much more collectively than any of us can individually. **We can’t be the one who fails to hold up his/her side.**

3. Without you, our structure is leaning.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (AMP)

24 and let us consider [thoughtfully] how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds,

25 not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ’s return] approaching.

Realizing where we belong is vital to us fulfilling the plan of God for our lives. Learning to bloom where we’re planted is crucial to our growth and

development. Community encourages spiritual growth and keeps our faith active and alive. Helping us to mature is one of the hallmarks of a healthy family and community. **OUR FAMILY CAN'T GO UP UNLESS WE GROW UP.**

4. Without you, our growth is limited.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (MSG)

19-22 That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

The family of God is comprised of a myriad of unique individuals. However special we are separately; it pales in comparison to who we are together. In Christ, we are adopted into God's eternal family where true belonging is found. When we play our part, we make up the Body of Christ. When we fail to show up for our assignment, our family is not the same. **We must not be the missing piece of the puzzle.**

5. Without you, our family is incomplete.

One important lesson we all must grasp is how important we actually are to our families and the plan of God. Learning our proper position and importance allows us to walk in security knowing God didn't make a mistake, receive strength from the community of family, and encourages us to walk in purpose and power. Remember: **It's not the same without you.**

