

## WEEK 4: Family Matters

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### FACILITATOR'S NOTE:

- ✓ Start your group discussion with the “Check-in” question to help your members reflect back on their week and follow up on last week’s application challenge.
  - ✓ Review the “Big Idea” to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week’s message and focus your group’s discussion towards a clear direction.
  - ✓ Read this week’s scripture passages together and guide your group through the “Discuss” questions to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week’s message.
  - ✓ Move your group discussion to a deeper level by leading them through questions in “Apply”. Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the needs & dynamics of your group.
- NOTE:** You do not have to cover all the questions provided in “Discuss” and “Apply”.
- ✓ Connect with God together as a group through this week’s “prayer practice”, which can be in the form of a prayer exercise or some guidance on what to pray for in relation to the message or application.

<b>CHECK-IN</b>	In what ways have you been intentional in leaving a spiritual legacy behind?
<b>BIG IDEA</b>	We are the family of God, and we are called to live true to this. We are called to encourage those who lead amongst us, to worship together in a committed manner, and to pray for on another.
<b>DISCUSS</b>	<p><b>Read Ephesians 2:4-7, 13, 9-22 and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why did Paul address his audience as “brothers and sisters” so frequently in 1 Thessalonians 5? What does it mean to relate to one another as followers of Christ, in such a way?</li> <li>2. What does the term “family” mean? Who do you consider your family, and why?</li> <li>3. Pastor Brian outlined some responsibilities we have as the family of God, in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Encourage those in leadership roles.</li> <li>2) Worship together.</li> <li>3) Pray for one another.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>How are you doing in these areas, individually, and as a lifegroup?</p>



## APPLY

How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?

1. Which responsibilities resonate most with you, within the body (family) of Christ? If you are in leadership, what might God be saying to you about how you relate to others? If you are not in leadership, what might God be saying to you about your role within this family?
2. How can you contribute to this family of God? In attitude, and in actions?
3. The way we see the church affects the way we respond to it. How has this message affected the way you see the church? How has it challenged you to assume more responsibility towards Christ's passion, the family of God?

## PRAYER PRACTICE

### Facilitation Notes:

*You may find that some weeks, prayer requests and praying itself become rushed. This week's prayer practice will free up time during lifegroup, and will help give some focus to prayer time throughout the week. Include your group in the planning process - it will take about 15 minutes to brainstorm together. Remember, prayer is a form of application.*

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Set up a **Prayer Chain**. Ask group members to sign up for a day of the week, and have them pray for those in leadership. Brainstorm together a list of people and ministries they can pray for. This is an opportunity, following last week's message of leaving a spiritual legacy, to include any children in praying for the Bridge community by praying as a family, and modelling this prayer practice to them.

E.g. Monday: one family can pray for Pastor Brian, in leading his team of staff towards the vision of the Bridge. Tuesday: another family can pray for Pastor Sam Chung and his team, as they disciple the young adults. Wednesday: etc.

Visit the Bridge website: <http://thebridgemarkham.com/leadership/> and divvy up the leaders, board members and various ministries. Pray for them each by name. Be creative! Consider encouraging members to email the leaders as well, to let them know that they have been prayed for.