

The Life and Lessons of Joseph, August 21-24

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? *Circle Two Opportunity...*

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

God’s Bigger Purposes in Family Matters

Objective: do relationships God’s way.

Everything is **always** about God’s Kingdom purposes first.

That ONE STATEMENT can clear the fog from most situations

And it is the often the hardest thing to figure out and to live by, especially in relationships

God’s Kingdom: where God is King by obedient relationship & partnership

Matthew 6:32–33 (ESV) ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Idols... anything we choose over obeying God

God’s original plan:

PICTURE: Facing God in relationship and partnership, shoulder to shoulder with loved ones.

Then turning to face spouses, children, family and friends in relationship and partnership

◆ Relationship and Partnership with Him for His Kingdom purposes

Genesis 1:26–28 (ESV) (pew Bible page 1)

Genesis 2:15 (ESV)

Genesis 3:8 (ESV)

◆ Relationship and Partnership with one another for God’s Kingdom purposes

Genesis 2:18 (ESV)

Genesis 3:4–6 (ESV)

Relationship Idols:

Eve’s idol: the serpent’s promise of power – to be like God

Adam’s idol: Eve – to please a loved one instead of pleasing God

Idol or Assignment?

Family is a very common, covert, camouflaged, even spiritualized idol for American Christians.

TRUTH: we must recapture God’s design for the family to truly “be God’s Church,” but it will require that we reconstruct what it means to love as Jesus loves.

Getting back to God's original plan for relationships

1. Loyalty and Obedience to God as first priority always

REALITY: we cannot love people as we should... as God designed unless we put God first, especially when those around us want something else

Romans 12:1–2 (ESV) ¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Luke 9:23–25 (ESV) ²³And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

Matthew 10:34–39 (ESV) ³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Luke 14:25–33 (ESV) ²⁵Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Ephesians 5:15–21 (ESV)

2. God's love for family members in His way

Ephesians 5:1–2 (ESV)

Ephesians 5:22–33 (ESV)

Ephesians 6:1–4 (ESV)

Hebrews 12:8 (ESV) If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Takeaways:

