

Series: Great Expectations

Part 2: Friendships and Family Relationships

January 17, 2016

1. On the journey...
2. Old Testament origins of family and community based living
 - a. God plan of Woman and Man and Children in a family
 - b. Responsibility for each other
3. Biblical Examples of family as inclusive
 - a. Story of Noah and the flood
 - b. Story of Abraham's call and covenant
4. Laws for Patterning Family Relationships
 - a. Honouring Parents
 - b. Prohibition on the sanctity of relationships
5. New Testament Guidance for Family Relationships
 - a. Jesus and the intention for Marriage
6. Apostle Paul on Child and Parent Relationships
 - a. "Family" coming to faith by salvation
7. Family/Community in Covenant Relationship
 - a. Relationship of "One another" commanded 59 times in New Testament
 - b. See Study Notes
8. Biblical Principles for Relationships
9. Practical Actions to foster good relationships

Study Notes

DISCUSSION

1. Who would you say is your "best friend?" Why are they your best friend? How do you value and serve them?
2. Are family gatherings happy occasions or challenging events? What do you do to positively impact family gatherings?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. The bible is loaded with "one another" references (your LIFE GROUP leader has a complete listing of them in his/her manual!). Which ones are you familiar with and how are you applying them in relationship to your friends?
4. How are siblings supposed to treat each other? While the bible doesn't say specifically – here are a few guiding verses: 1 Jn. 4:7-8; Eph. 4:32; Lk. 6:31; Ro. 12:18. What might these verses look like in your sibling relationships?
5. The bible tells us to "honor our parents" (Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:2). What does it mean to "honor your parents?" How can we honor parents who act "dishonorably" – who may be toxic or even abusive?

APPLICATION

6. Identify one "one another" to intentionally practice for a month – to make it a habit.
7. What might be a "next step" in your relationship with a sibling or parent as a person who is trying to be a "positive discipling presence" in their lives?