

Called to Belong

What's the family for

Why do I **belong** to a family?

Maslow's triangle of needs – top most – self worth – sense of belonging
Psalms 68:5-6 5 A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. 6 God sets the **solitary** in **families**; He brings out those who are bound into **prosperity**. NKJV

Pros – any limit – 3 or 7
Family – God's **idea** – building **blocks** for society – cell - for body – cancer
(greatest killer) call multi abnormally

family was God's idea. It's His institution so it will always be around because it is the building block of society.

Lots of **forces** – destroy families

News: Not finished – fragile – needs strengthening – God has not given up **hope** – **Mal 4** God is the **key**

It is not finished. It is simply fragile so it needs strengthening.

Proverbs 24:3

3 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established.

Not **accident** – chance – not natural or intuitive

New series – overcome forces that destroy rel and fam - how God re-establish fam

Ma – **For you** – need God – not fall – strengthened

Fam beaking – for you – key to restore

Broken – won't happen again
Single – for you – **experience**
fam living – Psa 68 – God in His Holy habitation

Businessmen – your business is as strong as your family

Purpose – fam – local ch – basic unit

Of society Of the kingdom of God

What's the **family for**?

1. A family is a shelter in the storms of life

Prov 14:26 Reverence for God gives a man deep strength; his children have a place of **refuge** and **security**. TLB

Many many: financial, moral, emotional, physical – illness - death

Failure – rejection

Gary – excited – baby kicked when speaker place on belly – but me to tears

2. A family is a learning center for life

Prov 6:20 My son, obey the COMMAND of your father, and do not disregard the TEACHINGS of your mother.

Songs 3:11 Look at his crown, the crown his mother placed on him, his day of joyful delight.

Mothers crown kings!

Your mothers' support ensures your CROWNING success.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Wisdom - intellectual growth;
stature - physical growth;

Favor with God -- spiritual growth; and **favor with man** -- social growth.

Relate – char – **value**

God - **key** to pros

Prov 9

10 For the reverence and fear of God are basic to all wisdom. Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding. TLB

Oh – I don't want impose

Sounds modern - miss

Why is God not an option?

– you need God to **stay** together – **marry** believer!

Many places in **US** – 1 in 2 Late stage – bless – out of grace but – well

Philippians 3:8

Everything else is worthless compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord.

Church – like a big family is a place to **learn** – **priority** – becos of only **limited** oport and hours (once a week)

“Oh got **tuition** class” – I don't condemn you but feel very very sad

for YOUR kids, they are missing – great moulding force for you kid
“Oh – kids crying – cannot sent to Sunday sch”

I don't condemn you but again feel very very sad, your kids miss the opport to learn in the church like in the family, learn how to relate (in a bigger setting – 20 to 30 peo), learn correct value, dev char ...)

Youth leaders to help mentor kids years later

Exp teachers and trained teachers in the Sun Sch

Jesus: And I will give you the **Keys** of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Exp **heaven on earth!**

How ? **Rev** – **truth** – **heavenly living**

WORD - truth

John 8:32 Then you will **know** the truth, and the truth will set you **free**.

On **light** – darkness goes
Deli - Actually going through **deliverance** – without knowing it

*Why must I go through **RLC's** Kingdom Keys?*

Psalms 133

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! 2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. ... For there the LORD commands his blessing, even life forevermore.

Unity brings in God's **commanded** blessings in every area of our lives.

*So flow in line with the **vision** and purpose of the church.*

Acts 2:42

*They **devoted** themselves to the **apostles'** teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

NIV

These are the **tools** you will need to be familiar with as you serve in RLC.

Doc – tools - familiar
new hosp – familiarise with new equipment

3. A family is a place to play

Ps 127:3

3 Behold, children are a **heritage** from the LORD. The fruit of the womb is a **reward**. 5 **Happy** is the man who has his quiver full of them; ... NKJV

Kids are **gifts** - to be **enjoyed** - Never meant be a **burden**

Aiya – nowadays – very hard raise kids – why? – treat home – **boot** camp – father drill sergeant

*(Like the guy on **Sound of Music** before Julie Andrews got hold of him. He'd blow a whistle and the kids would march in and march out.)*

- send – tuition, piano

Kids are to be **enjoyed** – fun – play (mahjong?No) marble

Risk – **heart** attack – happy family not heavy like scrabbles

Learn many things thru games
Happiness of not about wining but enjoy the process

Parenting is the **joyful** and **consistent** application of God's **Truth** to kids at the level of the kids' comprehension.

Joy – **growing** together – sharing - exp God's love together

It is for this reason that it is OK to adopt a kid even when you are believing one

It may not carry your gene but parenting is the privilege of sharing God's love – whether your gene or not

Joy of growing together with them

Joy to express God's love – OK to adopt

Joy not stop but intensifies – diff seasons

Fun, party, kick, relax
Enjoy love and blessings of God – not **work** – got angels - **evening**

That's missing in a lot of homes. Ecclesiastes 9:9

9 Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love ...

Prov 5:18 So be happy with your wife and find your joy with the girl you married.

TEV

Family prays together – right – play – stay together

You've seen these bumper stickers: "The family that prays together, stays together" -- I tell you ALSO that the family that plays together, stays together. The family that has fun!

Relax – lighten up!

So many homes the basic problem is they need to lighten up! It starts with the parents. Lighten up and have fun with your kids. Relax and enjoy.

Do you have FUN w kids?

Do you have fun with your kids? Do you enjoy your family?

If don't - kids won't care to come **back**

If you don't have fun with your kids, don't be surprised

that when they grow up they don't care to come back and visit. Kids want to be where the fun is.

I can't – got **WORK** to do – my work never finished – will never but **season**

Oh' so **MESSY** – one day – you wish more messay – so cold and lonely

Realise – **season** – make full use Always **have** days to do **other** projects - career

kids are only here for a season. They're not going to be around for very long. Make full use of it. Make it count. There are always other days to do other projects. But you only have your kids for a short period of time, a season of life.

There is time for careers and other things at other points in your life. If God's given them to you,

What are some of the ways to have creative funs with your kids?

Creative ideas – to have fun – break routine

one day dad – walk up kid missdle of nite – sch day – eat pizza – miss ch? OK to miss one day – kids going to remember for life

Church **also** place for fun – Jesus party

Look at some of the fun – even by reading the **Bulletin** – misprints – lighten up

So today, to improve your health, I thought I'd read some church bulletin bloopers -- actual misprints in church bulletins.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

This being Easter, we've asked Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

At the evening liturgy tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is hell?" Come early and listen to the choir practice.

Next Sunday Mrs. Vincent will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience".

Pot luck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

Today's there is a very special **massage** by Pastor Joshua

May the **grave** of the Lord Jesus be with you

4. A family is a great **team** for ministry

Not made to **serve** – got angels – **enjoy** his love – blessings

But when touched – serve – without **realising** it's **sacri** – joy – Mary – bottle - extravagant

1 Corinthians 16:15

Stephanas and his family were the first to become Christians in Greece and they are spending their lives helping and serving Christians everywhere. LB

Serving together is one of the ways – **keep** the fam together - **thot?** - 133

Have you thot of that – KEY: **keep** fam together - **serve** together → 133 - united same **vision**, **purpose** – **commanded** blessing

What are some of the ways that you can serve as a family?

Romans 12:13

13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Turn family into a **ministry team**. How? - invite meals – care group

Dedicate home – care gp Galatians 6:10

Acts 20:24

"The **most important thing** is that I **complete my mission**, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me – to **tell** people **the Good News** about God's grace." (NCV)

Greatest - many - do – heaven **Church** is also a family – **serve as a family**

1 Cor 12:27

All of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a **separate** and **necessary** part of it. LB

(1) **Separate** - unique

(2) **necessary** - **impt** – only healthy - **liver**

Jer 1:5 Before I made you in your mother's womb, I chose you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a **special** work. NCV

1 Corinthians 12:7 A spiritual **gift** is **GIVEN** to each of us as a means of helping the **ENTIRE** church. NLT

SAY - your are **gifted**

Eyes sparkles

Gifted – help entire ch

What is this - jig saw **puzzle** – no – a piece - **meaningless**

Each piece – beautiful – **meaningless** unless – all put together – make a beautiful picture.

Talents - Relevant/**meaningful** if fit – right place

Make ch vision your vision

Each piece finds its meaning – fitted in the right place

Not just my personal vision – only relevant – if fit – understand and flow – vision of ch

Make the ch vision your vision

Own the vision – not just the pa

You discover and develop and confirm your gifting in the local church.

After Paul saved, 13 yrs, long period – Antioch – **confirmed** - launch out

Acts 13:1-2

1 In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Why?

Why is the local church God's way of developing and confirming your ministry?

In the local fellowship, you develop your life, character, leadership and relationship skills.

1 Cor. 3:9 We **work together** as partners who belong to God." (NLT)

God is **MORE INTERESTED** in the **relationships** you **build** when you **serve together** than the service itself

God is **MORE INTERESTED** in the **Char** - dev through **rel** - rub - love - kindness - patience - **Jacobs**

Char dev through **relationships** - iron - give me love - mix with people - **rub**

No char - wont last in min

Error: spiritual growth is a private matter

Truth: character needs relationship to grow

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

Lord - help me dev love - patience - kindness

... develop when we mix with people

Rub shoulders - grow

It is important to be in a church that provides the proper Word and model

Why is it important to be in a church that preaches grace?

Used to think - any ch - as long - believe in Jesus - actually d also believe - what - gd news

Not look for a **perfect church** - church that preaches **grace**

Luke 13:10-16

Woman - 18 yrs - **heard word** - not healed - why

Not words of grace - law - There are six days on which **men ought to work**; why heal on sabbath

How was she healed? - words of **grace** - amazed - Luke 4:19; 22

Luke 4:19-20

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." He closed the book (vengeance)

Luke 4:22

22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

What **taught - can bring Bondages** - or INC - vision OR poverty - sickness

Bondages or healing

Inc or false contentment

Greater vision or second best

(Eliasab)

Poverty or abundance

Sickness or health

Preaching is God delivery system - life transformed - pros - breakthrough released - vision enlarged

1 Corinthians 1:21

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

It is a great privilege to serve together

Why is it a privilege to serve and not a sacrifice?

Privilege not a sacri - 5000, 12 saw miracle in operation

Remember, Jesus fed 5000

With 5 loaves and 2 fishes

5000 being fed but only disciples saw the miracle

Experience miracles!

Not just Forgive - forget - uses

- all kinds of people - look at the human ancestry of Jesus - Christ must embarrass to use these people

Past - not stand

Past need not stand in the way

Rahab - Ruth - Tamar

Create **environ** - not **pretend**

perfect - super - **mistake** - don't run

If perfect - don't joint that min - you will spoil it - with you **perfection** - dominating

Environment of grace

mistake - don't hide

Don't run - run to grace

Greater effectiveness - real and transparent - not pretend to be perfect or superspiritual

One way - serve in Youth min

- team - transport - mentoring - teaching - 79 yrs old - greatest youth worker

The Vision for **Youth Ministry**

Malachi 4:5-6

5 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers."

1. **Youth have tremendous potential and are under severe attacks**

Joseph 17; David teen; Jer lad

Joseph was only 17, when he had the dream and vision for his life

David was only a teen when he wrote the amazing psalms that speak of his intimate relationship with God.

Jeremiah was only a youth when he was asked to speak to the king:

J Edward, 13 Yale, 21 pastor

Jonathan **Edward** entered Yale

University when he was 13 years old. By the time he was 21, he was pastoring one of the most prominent churches in America.

God used this young man to spark

the great awakening that brought thousands into the kingdom.

3. **Youth are open, flexible and easily mouldable** Once - 19

Youth between 10-19 are not set in their ways. They are very mouldable and flexible.

Youth are willing to try new things, new ideas, crazy hairstyles, funky hairdos, hair of different colours.

Don't look at their openness as a problem. I look at it as an opportunity. Young people are open to the gospel of Jesus Christ - if **presented** as relevant and not archaic.

4. **Youth are our future and our legacy**

60% of the whole world are aged 24 and under.

In Malaysia and Indonesia, 1 in 3 are youths. 90% of all Christians receive Jesus Christ into their heart before they ever turn 30 years of age. When you reach the youth, you are touching the future of the world

5. **Youth, in addition to adults, are also the instruments to be used mightily in the last days.**

Acts 2:17

'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your **sons** and your **daughters** shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

Joshua 24:15

15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.