

Called to Belong

Why do I belong to a family?

Maslow's triangle of needs
– top most – self worth –
sense of belonging

By extension what is the church family for?

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

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.

Ma – need fam - caring rel
Single – need relatives, caring people, ch can provide great caring rel as family

Lots of **forces** – **destroy** families

What are some of the forces that destroy family?

Voices – saying – family is **finished** – out of date irrelevant

a thing of the past.

TV – fam breaking up – normal – some show – abnormal mum or dad or in law – as fun – rebellious kids as heroes - kids acts out the fantasies

Nerotic - Psycotic – psychiatrist

TV – rarely – happy fam

On television they rarely portray a happy family now days, a normal family.

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.

Many think like the **beetles** – all that we need is love

3 kids later – almost 25 - realise more

Proverbs 24:3

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

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

Wise action – decision – word

How does this new series - CALLED TO BELONG - is imppt to everyone in the church?

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

As I prepare – learning many more rev from Word

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

Understand God's purpose for the family and the larger unit of the family – the local church

What's the **family for**?

How to have a great family rel?

Many **no** idea – some – **BED** and breakfast – much more

For many people I can summarize the answer in two words: bed and breakfast. God says there is so much more to His plan for the family!

I. 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

How the family and the local church can be a shelter in the midst of storms?

God **CENTRED** family – shelter – **1286**

Read bible daily – pray together – go ch together – can see the **DIFF** God makes – God is **Key**

The divorce rate in America is now 1 out of every 2.5 marriages. The divorce rate in LA is about 1 out of two. Harvard University did a study. It was later reported in Marriage and Family magazine. They studied families where they read the Bible daily together. They **prayed** together and they went to church together and the divorce rate was one of 1,286. That's the difference God can make in a marriage. He is the glue.

All **have** storms – life is **tough** – things don't go as **planned** - rains, pours

Imperfect world – peo hurt you ... you hurt others

We all have storms in life because life is tough. It rains on us, pours on us.

tough times. Things don't always go as planned.

Family created – **shelter** in storms

The Bible says that God created the family to be a shelter in storms.

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

Failure is a storm – don't always wins

Failure is a storm. You're not always the winner in life. You lose sometimes.

F in sch – not **promoted** -

You get an "F" at school

Rejection – is a storm – most diff
Rejection is a storm. This is probably the most difficult storm to handle of all.

We hate to be rejected,

- put down, ridiculed, criticized.

Some remembered – when **growing up** - playground – kids can be cruel

Some of the most difficult rejection you had was growing up on the playground. Kids are cruel.

Divorce – painful – shelter → center of storm

That's why divorce is so painful. The place of acceptance becomes the place of rejection. The shelter from the storm becomes the center of the storm. God's ideal is that homes would be shelters in times of storm.

Change – job, shifting house,

When change comes we need a place of shelter in storms.

Things don't always go as **planned**
Genesis 31:41-42

I have been with you 20 years and you changed my wages 10 times. 42 If the GOD of my father, the GOD of Abraham, and the Fear of Isaac had not been with me, you would have sent me away empty-handed. GOD has seen my affliction and my toil and last night He made it right (judged). GWord

Again – God centred family – shelter

Can handle **ANY** storms – can come home – hugs – listening ear – care – pract help – fam praying together - Word

You can handle a lot of failure in life if you come home to hugs, where there's a shelter in time of storm.

Ecc1 4:9

Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. 10 If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him. TEV

Singles?

What about the singles? the never marrieds, the widowed, the formerly married? Two things:

You have relatives - friends

- brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers

As a Christian - part of a larger fam –great resource for caring relationship

Ch - larger fam – larger expression of what should be going on in our smaller family - commit

Ephesians 2:19

"Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family ... and you **belong** in God's household with every other Christian." LB

Just as the fam is basic unit of society – the local church is the basic unit of God's kingdom

You are called to belong and not just to believe.

Sense of belonging – no ch – no fam

You have a sense of belonging

Ch not an **organisation** – family – no church fam – like child without a father –

You have a LARGE family (your church) and a Care Group to support and encourage you in times of need.

Dear Pastor Joshua and Pastor Carey,

We have been praying for God to bless us with our 3rd child. With 13 years gap from the rest of the kids, our family was overwhelmed with joy when I am expecting.

However, a traumatic nine months of the pregnancy shook us to our cores. Our trauma started 6

weeks into the pregnancy and I was admitted for bleeding to hospital 10 times. On each admission, the doctors would say our baby is gone and asked my husband to prepare me for the worst due to the excessive bleeding. We trust and leave the situation to God. On the 22nd weeks of pregnancy, the doctor had given up and asked us to abort the child as the womb has endangered my life with excessive bleeding. He said throughout his career, he has not come across such a case. He looked for my husband to sign the approval papers but could not find him because he has gone back. We believe it was God's divine arrangement so that the gynae can't get him to sign and miraculously the bleeding stopped. At one time, the doctor said the baby may have "increase risk of down-syndrome " and there were moments of uncertainties whether to abort the baby. Doctor could not find the cause of bleeding and do not know how to treat my condition. All of them said that Zoe will be born premature after all the excessive bleeding and doubt whether she has enough nutrients to survive. Everyday, we continue to proclaim God's promises and claiming Psalms 139:13,14 "Our God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there is nothing He can't do.." Our children have been strong and continued to intercede for their sister. On the day, the labor pain came, indeed God is in control. The baby was normal, weighed 6.35lbs, indeed Zoe is a miracle baby and our God is a miracle working God. Our heartfelt appreciation to Pastors Joshua and Carey, our Care Group leader Datin Lily Yam, Pastor Elisa, Care Group members, intercessors, friends and family members for their care, encouragement, and prayers, otherwise we may not pull through

this episode - God's way. He was in our midst throughout our whole ordeal, ministering to us through the members of the church. **We listened to your new healing scriptures CDs over and over again** throughout the whole pregnancy. We put headphones over my belly for Zoe to listen too. She kicks every time she hears you and when Pastor Elisa and Lily Yam laid their hands and prayed for her! We were reminded of the key verses from the CDs each time we were at the **brinks of defeat**. Your **daily manna** also arrived at strategic moments to quench the fiery darts of the enemy and encouraged us. Pastor Elisa's **many** visits to the hospitals and our home exudes the love, anointing and presence of God that soothed our weary and tensed emotional, physical and spiritual states. Lily Yam has shown **unwavering care and concern** throughout. Among many things, she **cooked** for us, went to hospitals with us (once she rushed over to help send me to the hospital), even calls to check on us while **overseas**. **Care group members** like Luni, Bridget and Nancy also shown exceptional care. Sister-in-Christ

Because of care groups, the church can be as large as it can be but also the smallest
Matthew 16:18

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this **rock** I will **build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the **keys of the kingdom** of heaven.

The main purpose of Christ's coming is to build His church.

Not merely – schools, hospitals
All these important – primary – strong churches

114 – 90 – real – promises - warnings – **strong ch** with strong family

2. A family is a **learning center for life**

Gen 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they KJV

Anti Christ voice - fashionable to be rebellious

Kids: Fathers are divinely **called** to set the **boundaries** – along with it - divine **auth** - set **house rules** – time in – car – net – homework. **Rebell?** Walk out

the **key** reason why Abraham was chosen – he will command

Proverbs 19:18

Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

Willing party to his death

- **give him everything** – never learn No positively

he wants (he wont learn to take NO positive, in fut, in the work place – he will throw tantrum at boss that say No – there goes the end of his career)

Willing party – you never train to take **resp** – princess – dead to marriage

(don't know handle household chores – quarrel with spouse – end of marriage)

Willing party – you pick up all his **mess**. Kids get up late – laugh – avoid telling –

One day – won't able – go jail for him – give excuses to teachers. One day – you wont be able to pick up the mess

Laugh at him when he uses bad words when he is a small kid – thinking it is cute.

Avoid telling him what is wrong or right as you don't want a guilt complex in him.

Pick up everything he messed up.

But **SINGLE** mothers – unique situation

– God will give you grace to do both roles

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

What's the difference between the role of the father and the mother?

Whereas fathers are called to **command** & set the **boundaries**; mothers play the unique role of **EXPLAINING** the boundaries with **practical** applications and **MOTIVATING** them with the **blessings** and the **why's** of the commandment.

So it may even be a more challenging role .

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.

To whom are these commands addressed and what are we to teach?

Deut 6:6-7

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. NKJV

"You" -- this is not talking about the government, a school, a club, even the church.

It's talking about you if you're a parent. You are primarily responsible to prepare your kids for life, not some preschool or anybody else.

"You shall" - must -- this is not an option.

People – Oh – not impose rel or sp value – let them decide

Have you ever heard, "I'm not going to impose my spiritual values on my kids. I'm going to let them decide for themselves."

Baloney! - implies: **God is an option**

The foolishness of that is that it implies that God is an option. And He's not!

Part of job description
The Bible says that if you are a parent that's part of your job description -- teaching values.

These are not suggestions - COMMANDMENTS

"You must teach these commandments" They are commandments, not suggestions. God didn't give us ten suggestions. He said these are commandments you are to do. As parents there are three areas we especially have to be concerned with in raising kids, helping prepare them for life.

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

"Teach - When you sit – walk – lie down – rise"

Why are we not proper teaching? Don't sit w Word, instead

Average – 1000 hr a year - TV 18 – 18000 hr on TV

Because we don't walk along the road, lie down, get up.... we watch TV. The average child watches television about 1000 hours a year.

On the average, by the time you've reached 18 you have 18,000 hours of television viewing.

65 - 9 ½ yrs on TV (114 months)

If you live to be 65 as an average American you will amass 9.5 years of television viewing. Solid.

Go Sun sch or ch once a week – 65 – 4 months

If on the other hand, you drag your kids to Sunday School and they go to church once a week for 65 years, that will amass four months of Bible teaching.

Where – value? Money – sex TV – word?

Where are the kids getting their values? television or God's word. It's very important that we realize our kids are picking these things up from right source
Luke 2:52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Jesus – God in human form – growing!

Not just parents teaching – we as parents am constantly learning;

We usually think of parents teaching kids, but I'm learning constantly from my kids.

If you're not learning from your family, you're missing a lot to learn.

We learn - skills for life: how to walk, talk, eat
If not - missing

Growing up with 4 ladies – man you better learn how to eat – pass food without touching the naan bread

Parents: Greatest resp prepare Kids for life

Jesus grew four ways in life:

Wisdom - intellectual growth; **stature** - physical growth; **favor with God** -- spiritual growth; and **favor with man** -- social growth.

In the family we learn how to relate

Rel skill - key to happiness – worth saving

Your happiness depends on your ability to relate to other people.

You got that skill from home.

Relationships are worth saving,

Work on it – ask forgiveness quickly

we work on them, we talk out our problems, we ask forgiveness quickly

In the family we develop character – caught not taught

– much what you are – caught not taught

Much of what you are you basically picked up from your parents. "Like father like son." . You can't help it, you just picked it up.

– don't tell - honest

Character is caught not taught.

You don't tell your kids, "Always be honest," and then when the phone rings, "Tell them I'm not home." They watch your actions, not what you say.

In the family we pick up the correct values in life

Where get values? – work sex time money play relate to people - fam

Amazed how much we like our dad. The older I get,

the more I become like my dad

Hate dad? Catch: More you talk – more you are like him

In the family we develop a relationship with God

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

Philippians 3:8

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

How is the local church a teaching center too?

Church – like a big family is a place to learn – priority – bec of only limited oppor and hours (once a week)– compare with the kids' time on TV

"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. What ?

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

It is the truth that you know that you will set you free.

People attending the Kingdom Series are **delivered** from rejection, poverty, insecurity, inferiority, sickness, fear without even conscious it. They find **direction** and **vision** in life, have great **breakthroughs** in finance, relationship, emotion and health.

Dear Pastor Joshua and Pastor Carey,

*I would like to thank and praise the Lord for He is truly an awesome and amazing God. My husband, my 3 children and I joined RLC in January 2008 and we have been **Sounding the Jubilee ever since. We have been attending Kingdom Keys, Care Group meetings and are prayer partners with Pastor Joshua and family. These are the miracles that has taken place for us as a family from the onset of 2008:***

1) *We bought a new house-we never had a breakthrough for 7 years to buy a house.*

2) *My husband got a new job as a Director with a salary increase of 50% and a company car. I really wanted a second car and could not afford it and God has blessed us with a company car with petrol, parking and toll paid for.*

3) *My two sons' BM grades have improved after attending **tutorials on Saturdays** at RLC. My sons are now serving in various ministries in RLC.*

4) *My greatest testimony is on my relationship with my mother. I was an unbeliever and one day when faced with a tremendous problem, the Lord Jesus appeared in front of me. I knew in my spirit that He was God. In April 2001, my husband, my three children and I were baptized. My mother completely ostracized me from her and ALL family members. I tried to call, write letters, send flowers and even visit but all my attempts had been futile. This went on for 7 years. During the **Special Anointing Prayers held on 16 March 2008**, Pastor Carey released the word that 'strained relationships will be restored through love.' Soon after that on 12 April 2008, I was reconciled with my mother! It had happened so suddenly as Pastor Joshua had preached: "Hezekiah and all the people were overjoyed because of what God had done for the people. Everything had happened so suddenly" 2 Chron 29:36. I am awed and overjoyed with Abba our Father who had made a way 'suddenly'. Finally I could call my mum on this Mother's Day and wish her. I would like to express my gratitude and thank God for bringing us to the right church with the right teaching, Pastor Joshua and Pastor Carey for their teaching and prayers, Pastor Sally-our Zone Pastor for her support,*

love, prayer and guidance, Ms Judy Samuel-our Care Leader who is like family to us, Ms Abigail for her untiring efforts in providing transport for our sons, Ms Irene for guiding our sons in the BM tutorials and for Pastors Patrick and Edwin for teaching us Kingdom Keys. Thank You, Lord. Sister-in-Christ

The Kingdom Series is taught on Saturdays and Sundays as well as in the **SVG** (*The School of Vibrant Growth*).

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