



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 2

Life and Action
Family

Bible Readings

Genesis 5

Matthew 12

Romans 8

Galatians 4



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the theme of family in the Bible.
- Express the theme or story in your own way.
- Apply your learning from the story to your own life and community.

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question What does the Bible say about family?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

Share about the people in your family and what you think of them.

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Galatians 4:1-7 & Matthew 12:46-50

Family. It a word that can conjure up so many mixture emotions: love, joy as well as frustration, or even stronger feelings. The Bible certainly doesn't paint a picture of ideal biological families: brother murdering brothers and a son making his naked father a public joke (and that's just in the first 10 chapters of the first book of the Bible).

Genesis 5 shows that the Bible takes family very seriously, keeping records of people's connections with each other. Because being family means responsibilities and obligations. Families have to watch out for each other.

But with Jesus' arrival in the New Testament, we have a significant change in how God's followers should view family.

Read Matt 12, Romans 8 and Galatians 4.

- How has Jesus re-defined family?
- How should that change our view of people around us, especially fellow believers?
- What should our expectations be of others and their expectations of us be?

This led to a radical shift in how fellow believers lived with each other (Acts 2:44–45) and for the church community to put such a high priority on the caring for widows and orphans (James 1:27) who normally would rely on biological relatives to look after them.

Explore – Integrate

Brainstorm: How do you define family?

Then: What can you rely on your family for? (Positives and negatives) List as many as we can on a whiteboard, butcher/poster paper (A3 or larger).

Think of a personal example for each point.

“What do you think of Jesus’ redefinition of family? How would that be for you personally? What do you think would be different about life if that was truly the case?”

Other questions you might like to consider:

- If every Christian community was truly like a family with the same (if not stronger) expectations and responsibilities, how do you think that would affect people in the wider community?
- What would it do to society?
- Who do you think it would affect most?
- How would it affect people at our school?
- What stops a Christian community from living this out in reality?
- What do we need to change in order for this to really happen?

- What do I value about my family?
- If family is about certain expectations and responsibilities, what do I do for my family? What gets in the way of me carrying these out?
- What can I do about changing how my family is currently to be more like the family I would like it to be like?
- How can I practically and tangibly be more like family to someone outside of my biological family? Who in my elev8 group can I do this more for?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Pray for one family member and ask God for one thing specifically for them

Give thanks for the family that God has placed me in (or for help to see something worth being thankful about my family)

Pray that I see with God’s eyes who I can in action be more like family to.