

Session 1

Title: The Model Family: Family of the God Head



Let us begin the journey by learning the Grand Pattern of THE MODEL FAMILY.

Get a Glimpse of the Triune God at Work:

We hope you get a glimpse of how the God Head Family and their Attributes give the needed insight for family relationships. The deeper understanding of even the way The Triune God created humankind will help us see the deep intimacy and love between the God Head Family operational in creation.

Summary of the Video:

Which is the first family of the bible? It is mentioned in Genesis chapter 1, through this family the families of the earth were made. The first family in the Bible is “the family of the God Head”. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

We see the Triune God creating everything by His Word in Genesis chapter 1 verses 3, 10, 14, 20 and 24.

But when it came to human beings, God said, let us create mankind in our image. This was a conversation between the Triune God rather than a command to create. This conversation happened between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

In our endeavor to understand human family, it is pertinent that we try and understand the Trinitarian Family – The Godhead Family. So, let us look into four principles or attributes that we can learn as a family to imbibe from the first family of the bible- The Triune God Head family.

The First attribute of the God Head family we notice is their “Constant Communication”. This is the first principle for any family to thrive. We need to learn to communicate with one another.

Communication is like the walls that protect our home and our relationships. When there is no Communication, we can liken it to a house without walls, that gives access to all unwanted elements of nature as well. If we lack constant communication and effective listening within our family, then everything or everyone else will communicate with them except their own. So, sometimes those unwanted communications come in and mess up our relationships within our family. Here are some points to note:

Effective communication does not happen overnight, but with intentional and consistent time. The more we spend time with each other, the better it gets, and our level of trust increases. The more the trust increases, the more open and transparent we become with each other. Lack of communication and more so, lack of effective communication has become one of the major hindrances for healthy marriage relationships.

The Second attribute of the God Head family we notice is their “Consensus in action”. The “Let us make mankind”, statement shows us that there was consensus in the God head as they decided to create mankind. This is the sign of teamwork between the Trinity. They were involved in this decision making. Often in families, we see decisions made by one person without the consensus of the other family members. There needs to be consensus between husbands and wives in decision making, for example in matters of parenting. This consensus is a very important factor.

The Third attribute of the God Head Family we notice is “Creativity in their relationship”. The God head was now going to create something in their likeness, and they were talking to each other. They were not afraid to try something absolutely new. You and I are the Triune God’s product of creativity. So, we as couples can also be creative and not be stuck to old ways. Learn new things, new ways to do things.

The Fourth attribute of the God Head Family we notice is their “Combined Identity”- the Triune God – Three in One. We should be willing to fuse our identities to become “One”. This is what God expects through the covenant relationship of marriage, that the spouses become “One Flesh”. So instead of being identified as an individual we can be identified as a “Family”, one identity, for example – The Mathew’s Family, The John’s Family etc. The combined identity is a result of a deep intimacy that you experience between each other, just as the Triune God Head family.

Gain Insight & Apply:

Take time to deliberate, reflect, and ask some questions on what you just observed in this chapter prayerfully. Allow the Holy Spirit to unravel your lives in the light of the Truth of God’s Word. Here are some questions to deliberate and reflect on:

1. What are the attributes/principles you learnt about the model God Head Family?
2. Which attribute, of the four mentioned about the God Head Family, can you see in your own family? And which attribute stands out as a strength.
3. What aspects of “Communication” do you feel needs to be built in your life and in your family?

We learnt in this chapter that Time, Trust and Transparency are the three important factors that builds a healthy and meaningful communication in a family. Below are some questions that could help you deliberate and identify the areas of improvement in you and for your family with regards to this attribute.

- a. Many families struggle with lack of time, if that is your struggle too, then take time to identify some of your time stealers.
- b. The Word of God admonishes us to be truthful and also the consequences due to the lack of the same, read Ephesians 4:25 and Proverbs 16:28. Today, lack of trust and transparency hinders a meaningful communication in families. Would you take time to examine if these factors could be hindering communication in your family as well? If yes, it would be worthwhile to identify the fears behind these factors.

- c. What steps would you take to work on the areas of improvement you identified to build the attribute of “Communication” as a family?
4. What aspect of the attribute: “Consensus in action” do you see needs to be built in your life and your family?

Sometimes social, cultural and personal belief systems influence the way families practice consensus specially when it comes to decision making. At times we can see power struggles, lack of mutual respect, or even fears become hindrances to practicing consensus in families. We learnt this about the God Head Family that they practiced a strong consensus in decision making with great outcome. Below are some questions that could help you deliberate and identify the areas of improvement in you and your family with regards to this attribute.

- a. Are the decisions made in your family taken by one person or the other family members also contribute to it?
 - b. Practicing consensus in a family especially when it comes to decision making in parenting is very vital. Do you observe that in your family the opinions of other family members are also valued and considered on any matter of decision making? Or have you observed any hindrances? If yes, make note of those hindrances and work on those areas. Read Ephesians 5:21, Philippians 2:3 and Proverbs 27:17. God has given each one a specific role to play in a family with different giftings and strengths to complement each other as a family. This when exercised in consensus can bring great outcome.
 - c. What steps would you take to work on the areas of improvement you identified to build the attribute of “Consensus in action” as a family?
5. What aspect of “Creativity in relationship” do you see needs to be built in your life and your family? Creativity is not everyone’s cup of tea they say! But we are made to be creative by a creative Triune God. The Word of God says in Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Below are some questions that could help you deliberate and identify the areas of improvement in you and your family with regards to this attribute.
 - a. Is creativity appreciated, acknowledged in your family?
 - b. What do you think stops you or your spouse or children to get creative in building relationship with each other as a family? What will help you overcome those limitations?
 - c. What steps would you take to build the attribute of “Creativity in Relationships” as a Family?

6. What aspect of “Combined Identity” do you see needs to be built in your life and your family?

The Word of God captures for us the prayer of Jesus, in John 17:21,22 where He prays, “...that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You.....”. We learnt in this chapter, God through the covenant relationship of marriage, expects the spouses to become “one flesh”. So, as a family we could also operate in a fused identity of being “One” as displayed in the attribute of the God Head Family. Below are some questions

that could help you deliberate and identify the areas of improvement in you and your family with regards to this attribute.

- a. Can you say that you enjoy oneness between you and your spouse?
 - b. One of the hindrances of experiencing a fused identity i.e., “oneness” in marriage relationship or relationships in a family, is the fear of completely losing one’s own identity after marriage and being overridden. Do you also observe there are similar fears in your relationship with your spouse or family? Read Philippians 2: 3,4, 5 and Colossians 3:14. With the help of Holy Spirit, you can also overcome those fears by following the role model of the God Head Family.
 - c. What steps would you take to build the attribute of “Combined Identity” in your family?
7. To reflect God Head family, what are some of the areas you need to prepare for marriage? (for singles)
 8. If the God Head Family is our model family, we as a family fall short of the standards set by them. How can your family grow in reflection of God’s love and intimacy? Discuss.
 9. Think about one incident, which you feel was a “God at work” moment in your life as an individual and as a family. Take time to share with each other as a family.

I WILL:

To be a faithful student of God’s Word, it is important that we are not only “Hearers” but also “Doers” of the Word. (James 1:22). Writing down “I Will” – statements are a good way to encourage ourselves to be accountable to all the actions we have decided to take. It is recommended that you set up an accountability with your spouse or any other member of the family to see the progress you have made.

Recollect all the actions you decided to take in the previous section of deliberation and write down as many “I Will” statements towards those. On a regular basis (weekly/monthly) share the progress you have made with your accountability partner (spouse or any other family member). This will help you evaluate your progress.

For example: If one of the actions you have decided to take were to spend more meaningful time with your spouse and family, then an “I will” statement corresponding to it could be: “I will make at least one-hour time every day to spend with my family, just to converse with them and hear their concerns.”

1. I Will _____

Prayer:

Father, we thank you that you have enabled us to reflect on the first family of the bible. Help us as a family, through the power of the Holy Spirit to reflect more of the Attributes of the God Head Family. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen