

Family Day | Preparing, Celebrating, Discipling

I. Why should we observe Family Day?

- Before cities, governments, teams, and even organized religion . . . God created a family, and immediately God tasked the new family with bringing more people into the family.
- Every human being on earth is part of that Genesis family. And yet, every time a child leaves his or her parents and cleaves to his or her spouse, a unique family is created.
- The Scripture-wide doctrine of the family is complicated and glorious. It includes the miracle of procreation, but it's also the fertile soil of discipleship, and families that please the Lord are living illustrations of the trinity as well as God's relationship with His church.
- The family is truly a miraculous unit that no Christian should take for granted.
- And this is why our world is still trying to dismantle the family. They've been doing it since Cain murdered his brother, and they're viscerally trying to tear it apart today. Broken families, perverted collections of people who claim to be a family — it's the world's best attempt to come up with something better than God's original design of a married man, woman, and their kids.
- And this is why followers of Christ would do well to meditate on God's design for the family. Of course, I believe our study of the family should last far more than just one day, but setting aside the first Sunday in August for a special emphasis on serving the family and celebrating God in light of the family is a great place to start.

II. Preparing for Family Day

- Head over to CelebrationOfGod.com and download our Family Day Bible Reading. Take time to meditate on God's creation of the family, His will for the family, and His promise to give the family exactly what they need to be exactly what they need to be.
- And then spend some soul-searching time with God in prayer. Thank Him for knowing what's best. Praise Him for only giving you what you need to be conformed to the image of Christ. Talk with Him about how you can make Him the preeminent focus in your family today.
- And then put it on the calendar that you are going to worship God on the first Sunday in August.
- And — while you're at it — decorate your Celebration Wall with some key passages from the Family Day Bible Reading, pictures of your family, a prayer list of those who need the Lord, and even a bunch of family blessings for which you're thankful.
- Every family is a precious gift of God, and we should all strive to see the wonderful blessings He's given us in our family — both our immediate and extended families.
- The key to the Preparation stage is all about getting our hearts ready to truly worship God. That means we need a heart of joy, peace, contentment, and thanksgiving when it comes to our families.

III. Celebrating Family Day

- Start celebrating Family Day by going to church.
- It would be a great idea for pastors to take a day to remind the body of God's expectations for the family. It would also be an amazing day for the church to put on a community family day event.
- And even if your church doesn't take this fantastic opportunity to connect with the community, your family can celebrate God on this wonderful day. Read the family passages, thank God for His blessings in your family, play together, serve each other to God's honor and glory, and have a great time reveling in the beautiful gift that is family.

IV. Discipling during Family Day

- Think of this — when it comes to Family Day in the future, how your disciples think and act is largely going to be influenced by you. You have a chance to not only set your disciples up to really enjoy and look forward to celebrating Family Day, but you have the chance to teach them to be godward in their focus.
- How you lead your fellow disciples — whether they be your own kids or classmates or fellow church members — how you lead them in celebrating God during Family Day can have them looking forward to Family Day for years to come.
- Instead of them learning to despise Family Day, wouldn't be awesome if you taught them the best way to guarantee loving it every year?
- And the best way is to make worshipping God the goal.

The
Celebration
of God
podcast