

Focus

2010 Bible study



Family

2. Following Jesus

Study 2 – New Testament Family values.

Discuss.

Every family has conflicts. How does your family resolve conflicts? How does your family deal with conflicts? What is good and what is bad?

Priority of following Jesus

Read Mark 3:31-34 (cf. Mat 12:46-50, Read Luke 8:19-21)
According to Jesus who are Jesus' brothers and sisters?

Read Matthew 8: 18 - 22

In terms of importance how does Jesus compare with family? I.e. who is more important ?

Read Luke 12:51-53

What kind of conflict does Jesus bring and why?

Read Luke 18:27-30

What does Jesus promise to those who leave their family to follow him?

Do you think Jesus is making us choose between him and our families? If so, why ?

Do you think Jesus is being reasonable or completely unreasonable in his demands? What problems does this create with our families? Give reasons.

Case Study 1.

Pratipka from Thailand came to Melbourne to study. At uni she met a friend who invited her to FOCUS and church and she started coming along to meetings. She started reading the bible and became very interested in Jesus and the stories about him. She told her parents that she was going to church and reading the bible. Her family are strong Buddhists and were very concerned that she may become a Christian. So out of love and concern for Pratipka they forbade her to go to church or meet up with Christians. How should Pratipka respond to her parents wishes? How would you advice her?

Case Study 2

Aluan recently became a Christian and wants to get baptized but her parents who are non believers won't allow her to do so. They are also very strict and threatened to disown her if she got baptized. How should Aluan respond to her parents?

Case Study 3.

Sunny comes from a family of doctors. His father is a surgeon, his older brother is studying medicine and he feels the pressure to study medicine when he goes to uni. But his heart is more into cooking and he really wants to be a chef in a restaurant one day. When he told his father his plans, his father was not happy and said he shouldn't waste his intelligence on such fantasies. This has made Sunny extremely unhappy and he doesn't know what to do. What advise will you give Sunny?

What potential conflicts do you foresee with your family regarding:

For example : Choice of lifestyle?, Faith and religion ?, Choice of life partner?, Career choice ? etc.

How would you resolve the conflict or the tension between you and your family?

How do you think Jesus would want us to respond in these situations ?

If it ever came to a situation (and hopefully this will not happen to you) where you had to choose between Jesus and your family , who would you choose? Give reasons for your answer.

Pray.

- Courage to make Jesus first in our lives even when our parents object to it.
- People who are suffering and whose family reject them because of Jesus
- Ask God to help us love our parents unconditionally no matter how they respond to us.
- For each other's walk with Jesus