

D Group Lesson – “Family”

Sermon Series: American Idols #1

Scripture: Luke 14:25–27

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Big Idea

When family becomes more important than Jesus, it becomes an idol. We honor and love our families best when Jesus is first in our lives.

HOOK

Icebreaker Questions

1. What is one family tradition or memory that means a lot to you?
2. Growing up, what was emphasized most in your family—success, sports, education, church, fun, achievement, etc.?
3. Why do you think family can sometimes become more important to people than God?

Opening Thought

Family is one of God’s greatest gifts. Scripture values family deeply. But even good gifts can become idols when they take God’s place in our hearts. Jesus challenges His followers to love Him above everyone and everything else—even family.

LOOK

Read the Passage

Read Luke 14:25–27 aloud together.

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.”

Observation Questions

1. Who was Jesus speaking to in this passage?
2. What shocking word does Jesus use?
3. What do you think Jesus meant by “hate” in this context?
4. According to this sermon, what is an idol?
5. Why is family especially easy to idolize?

6. What were some examples from the sermon of people placing family expectations above God?
 7. What happens when we expect family to give us what only God can provide?
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Teaching Points

1. Jesus Must Be First

Jesus was not teaching hatred toward family members. He was teaching supreme devotion to Him. Compared to our love for Christ, every other love should come second.

We do not love family less—we love Jesus more.

2. Family Makes a Terrible God

Family is a blessing, but it cannot carry the weight of our identity, security, joy, or purpose.

When family becomes our god:

- We tie our happiness to relationships or outcomes.
- We fall into despair when family disappoints us.
- We pressure others to fulfill unrealistic expectations.

3. Idolatry Hurts the Family We're Trying to Protect

When parents idolize family:

- Kids feel pressure to perform.
- Spouses feel impossible expectations.
- Relationships become conditional.

Healthy families are built when Jesus is the center—not when family itself becomes ultimate.

4. Our Greatest Calling Is Spiritual

The goal of parenting is not popularity, success, athletics, or achievement. Our greatest assignment is helping our families follow Jesus.

Questions shift from:

- “Are they successful?”
to
 - “Are they walking with Christ?”
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TOOK

Personal Reflection Questions

1. What tends to compete with God for first place in your heart?
2. Have you ever tied your joy too closely to a relationship or family situation?
3. Which statement hits closest to home?
 - “I can’t be happy unless I get married.”
 - “I can’t be happy unless I have children.”
 - “I can’t be happy if my family struggles.”
4. Have you placed unhealthy expectations on someone in your family?

5. What would it practically look like for Jesus to be first in your family this week?

Action Steps

Choose one this week:

- Spend intentional daily time with Jesus before giving attention to other priorities.
 - Pray specifically for each member of your family's spiritual growth.
 - Release one unrealistic expectation you've been placing on a spouse, child, or parent.
 - Have a spiritual conversation with a family member.
 - Serve someone in your home without expecting recognition.
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Challenge

Complete this sentence honestly:

“If I lost _____, I don't think I could go on living.”

Ask God to reveal whether that thing has become more important than Him.

Prayer Focus

Pray together:

- For hearts fully surrendered to Jesus
- For freedom from idolatry
- For healthy marriages and families
- For wisdom in parenting and relationships
- For joy rooted in Christ alone

“Lord, help us love our families well by loving You first.”