



Digging Deeper Study Guide

For Small Groups or Personal Bible Study

WEEK 3: IMPERFECT FAMILY

Nov. 24 & 25, 2007

Small Group Icebreaker

1. We just celebrated Thanksgiving ... What were a few things you were especially thankful for this year? (Think beyond the normal friends/family/health blessings.)

Opening Prayer

Discussion Questions

2. When you think of your own family (or your family of origin) what are the typical ways you handle(d) conflict? Pastor Ben gave examples he called the Jerry Springer Method or the Gucci Method — either of those come into play in your home?
3. Pastor Ben gave us three things that we could do to allow our family members to be imperfect. Which comes easily to you? Which is most difficult?
• Alter my attitude • Remember my ministry • Regift forgiveness
4. Family conflict has been around forever, but that doesn't mean we have to continue in it! Take a look at the following Scriptures to see what may be at the root of conflict, and what steps God may be asking us to take in resolving it:

EastLakeNotes

EastLake Church

“EastLake Church exists to help people find and follow Jesus Christ.”

1 What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? 2 You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. ... Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. 3 And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. ... 6 But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, “God opposes the proud but favors the humble.” 7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

James 4: 1-3, 6-8, 10 NLT

Sources of conflict: _____
My action step: _____
God's promise: _____

12 “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

Matthew 7: 12 NIV

Source of conflict: _____
My action step: _____

19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

James 1: 19

Source of conflict: _____
My action step: _____

5. When we have been wronged by our family, God gives us special instruction as well. What does He say to do?

Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. 4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. 5 Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you. 6 He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun. 7 Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.

Psalms 37: 3-7

Closing Prayer