

PICTURE PERFECT

REFRAMING YOUR FAMILY STORY

Picture Perfect Series

Part 2 - "Reframing Our View"

Small Group Material

November 4th, 2017

Leader Guide

Bottom Line: *Redemption is the reality that God uses everything. But, you have to let Him use it.*

Study Verses: *Deuteronomy 6:1-9*

Define The Win: *Participants would understand the three components of the family are identity, authority and legacy. They would reflect on how they are stewarding the authority they've been given to influence their family and the next generation. Group members would pinpoint where they are reluctant to trust in God's redemption and whether they have made an idol out of their family.*

Key Points

- *Identity is who you are created to be.*
- *Authority is the power of God in and over your life.*
- *Legacy is the stewardship of God's promised future.*
- *The family was established so that your children's children know God as God.*
- *When you know what the family does, you'll know what to do.*
- *Idolatry crushes the thing you worship while breaking your heart in the process.*
- *You can't move into the future looking backwards.*

- *The context of a relationship built on trust allows our authority as parents to be imperfect.*
- *Without the family you have no basis for authority.*
- *We long to know who we are. The family establishes an identity before anything else.*

ENCOUNTER

- **When you were born you were given a name. How does the family provide us with a sense of identity? What emotions and thoughts come to mind when you think about the name/family you were born into (ex. Smiths, Jones)? Why is this your initial reaction?**
- **What is the difference between authority and power? Which one is rooted in trust?**
- **How does one know when they've made an idol out of their family? What are some warning signs that should alert someone that this has taken place?**

FORMATION

- **Read Deuteronomy 6:1-2. According to this passage, why did God establish the family?**
- **Read Deuteronomy 6:3-6. How does our own walk influence what we pass down to our children, the next generation and those that come after us?**
- **Read Deuteronomy 6:7-9. How can this passage be misused in the way authority is stewarded from parents to children? What does it look like to "impress" God's commands on your children? Where and when should this take place?**

EXPRESSION

- **How can you trust God's promise to redeem your future without attempting to control it?**
- **In what ways have you made an idol out of family? What are you looking for it to fulfill or meet for you? How is this creating pressure for you and others that are involved?**
- **In regard to your family, where have you lost sight of a legacy mindset and instead focused on your individual wants, desires and demands?**

LEADER INSIGHT: *If we're not careful, we can very easily use the family as a way to complete, project or redeem ourselves. The world begins to revolve around us and we pull everything into its orbit. Our attention is focused on ensuring that our needs, wants, desires and demands are met.*

This is a normal reaction, but it is simply not sustainable. Your family cannot be about YOU. The family was never designed to be centered around a single person. By creating an idol out of our family, we place it on an unreachable pedestal. The pressure becomes suffocating for all parties involved. Idolatry crushes the thing we worship (our family) while breaking our heart in the process.

Rather than trusting God to redeem the future of our family, we attempt to control the situation and dictate its outcome. We hold on tightly to the old story of our family and resist letting go of it so God can write a new one.

When we lose our connection to a larger identity, we shrink God's design of the family to be all about us. Yet, the family system was created so that our children's children would know God as God. By being part of a family, we are not only given a name (identity), but handed influence (authority) that is meant to be stewarded to impact those that come after us (legacy).

We read that we are to "impress God's commands on the heart of our children" and we panic. The weight of this responsibility can feel overwhelming. We feel ill-equipped for the task at hand. How can we be concerned about the next generation and their view of God, when we are walking by faith imperfectly?

Once again, it comes down to trust. First, we trust God fulfills all our wants, desires and needs in Himself by pursuing Him and growing in our walk. Second, we trust God with the story He wants to tell through our family. And, third, we utilize our authority by displaying humility which in turn builds trust with our children. The context of a relationship built on trust allows our authority as parents to be imperfect.