



Bigger...

Part 3: Bigger Than My Broken Family Study Guide

Families are full of people, so they are naturally just as messy as we are as individuals. It's not a matter of *if* our family will break, but when and how. The real question is how we react to it and where we get our strength. This week, Mike spoke about how we can be the change we want to see in our family, but we must trust that God is bigger than the situation we find ourselves in. In this study, we will focus on identifying and making decisions that will help heal the brokenness in our families.

What Do You Think?

- If you don't mind sharing, what is your experience with a family "breaking" and how was it handled?
- Why do you think families consistently go through issues like these? Do you think it is getting better or worse? Why?

“I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.” 2 Timothy 1:3 (ESV)

What Does God Say?

- **Read 2 Timothy 1:2-3.** To see change in our families, it begins with a change in our hearts. We can communicate warmly and express gratitude, which will be inspired through consistent prayer. Talk about each of these elements and how you can use them to “set the tone” for your family.
- **Read 2 Timothy 1:4.** Paul feels Timothy's pain. How does the change in perspective we just talked about help us to do this and identify with someone else's struggle?

“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.” 2 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)

- **Read 2 Timothy 1:5.** Discuss the importance of being openly encouraging throughout family difficulty. What role does reminding others of the past play in this?
- **Read 2 Timothy 1:6-8.** Challenging people in our family can be a difficult thing to do, even if it is just encouraging them not to give up. In the message, Pastor Mike talked about both being prophetic and being willing to challenge. Discuss how our previous discussions in this study can pave the way for these things.

What Will You Do?

- Who in your family do you aspire to be like? What can you do to inherit some of their traits?
- Is there a person or group within your family that you will commit to pray for consistently? Can your group hold you accountable to follow through?
- Is there an opportunity you need to take with someone in your family to confess, forgive, or challenge? What do you think that conversation will look like?