

## Family: The Ultimate “This Is Us”

Pastor Darcy Siggelkow

**Question:** How would you describe what a “family” is?

Ruth 1:3-5

The story starts with a nuclear family but because of death, “Naomi was left alone.” Widows were often taken advantage of, ignored or abused. Oprah and Ruth experienced loss as well. 10 years and no children.

**Question:** What has been your assumption or experience with the subject of infertility?

1 in 4 women experience a miscarriage. 1 in 6 couples experience infertility. Infertility is a grieving experience similar to the death of a loved one.

How to help:

- Be careful with your words. Asking when they are starting a family, complaining about our own kids, or pregnancy challenges, free advice are hurtful.
- Learn to listen.
- Practice empathy.
- Offer prayer and support.
- Understand that **all** families should be honoured by everyone.

**Questions:** Which one of these suggestions do you find most enlightening and why? Which one do you find most difficult?

Don’t let a narrow understanding of what it means to be a family limit the blessing of what God wants you to receive and give.

Ruth 1:14-19

This moment with Ruth and Naomi on the road was the formation of a new family.

Family is ...

- about commitment to another
- a place where you belong and are known
- a place where you share, help and care for one another

**Questions:** Is looking at a family this way helpful? Why or why not?

Family was designed by God to point to something beyond itself. God is a Father, Jesus the Son and our brother ...

**Question:** How do these Scriptures enlarge your understanding of family beyond biological relationships?

1 John 3:1

Matthew 12:48-49

Psalm 68:5-6

**Question:** Who is God calling you to embrace to include as part of your family? What is one step you will take to begin to see this become a reality?