



SESSION

12

MY IMPERFECT FAMILY

*CARRYING
GOD'S IMAGE
INTO THE WORLD*

INTRODUCTION

So what now? What if our own families seem so messed up that we don't feel ready to deal with anything larger? How can we, in our fallen state, possibly get involved in the battle for God's kingdom, which includes defending the family in our community and nation? Scripture has some practical answers.

Watch the DVD
and record your
thoughts here.

Let's turn to the ultimate authority, the Bible, for our starting point. Read individually or as a group:

Now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ... Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.

—Colossians 3: 8-10, 12-15

You might also want to read:

1 Corinthians 13:7

Ephesians 4:1-3, 32

Philippians 2:5-8

James 5:9

Use the blank lines below the discussion questions to record your initial thoughts, questions, and whatever God might be saying to you through the video, so you can review and reflect on all of this later.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Does the truth that there are no perfect families give you hope or make you feel hopeless? Why? Why do people pursue the mythical perfect family?

2. Do you think our romantic notions about past family life are mere fiction, or was there indeed something that's been lost? What was your family like when you were growing up?

3. How realistic is the Bible in describing the sort of relationships that should exist between God's people in and outside the home?

4. What are some of the issues that contribute to the ill health of Christian families? In what areas would you like to see your own family improve?

5. What impact can stable but imperfect families have on society? How is your family reaching out to others in the church or community? Tell us about families you know who have adopted children or done something else redemptive.

I CAN TAKE
TOMORROW

Think of and write down at least one practical thing you can do tomorrow as a result of today's session.

[illegible]

WRAP-UP

Thanks for taking the time to go through The Family Project. We hope you found it both informative and inspirational. Now begins the real work! May God bless you as you strive to make your own family all that God intended it to be, and as you reach out together to heal a hurting world.

Remember that for more resources on Christian worldview and God's plan for the family, you can visit **familyproject.com**.