

BETTER THAN

current point series

#betterthan 



Discussion
Gu'de

“thicker than water”

11/15/15

The Point:

Pursuing Jesus is Better Than Pursuing Family...because Jesus is the only one who can fulfill you

Discussion Generators

**Don't forget to make announcements to your group
AND discuss the plans for your 5th Sunday Shelter Services project**

- ➔ Go around your group and have each person share a God Moment from the past week (God Moments are how you have seen God working, either in your life, or in the life of another).
- Be looking for how you see God working, so that you have something to share next time.

- Have you ever been a part of any crazy shopping moments (Black Friday, storm prep, limited edition item, etc.)? Share it with the group.
- In the Point, we discussed the concept of shelf "facing" in grocery stores. Summarize that concept in your own words. [moving supplies to the front of the shelves to fill the empty spots]

- What things do people try to use to "face" their own lives—to fill the emptiness that they feel inside?
- ➔ Read Acts 17:22-27. In this passage, the Athenians have made an altar "to an unknown god". How does Paul's explanation of this altar tie into the idea of "facing" (see v. 27)?

- In what ways do people try to get fulfillment from family and friends?
- When/how have you seen this succeed?
- When/how have you seen this fail?

- Read Ephesians 5:22,23; 6:1,4. What do these verses say about the importance of family?
 - Read Matthew 10:35-37. The Bible repeatedly talks about the importance of family, yet in this passage Jesus seems to say the opposite. How does this make you feel? Does the Bible contradict itself?
 - Read Luke 9:59-62. What about this passage? Is Jesus just cruel and heartless, or is there something deeper going on here?
- You see, Jesus isn't anti-family, He just realizes that we as humans will try, and try, and try to fill the emptiness inside with things...and experiences...and people, hoping to find our fulfillment in them. Jesus is reminding us that He is the only source of true fulfillment.
- With this in mind, what can be the problems with *pursuing* family?
- So what about you? Are you seeking fulfillment in your family? Do you find satisfaction in pleasing your kids? Do you spend more intentional time with your spouse than you do with Jesus? Take a hard look at yourself—share one way that your family has taken priority over Jesus (and no BUTs allowed; see Luke 9:59, 61).

And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life

-Matthew 19:29

- Jesus promises that pursuing Him first will result in reward for us; we just need to trust Him. Close your time this week individually praying in silence: Confess your moments of pursuing family (and other things) over pursuing Jesus. Pray that God will help you make pursuing Him the most important priority of your life—*better than* everything else.!

Bible Verses

Acts 17:22-27 (NIRV)

22Then Paul stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus. He said, "Men of Athens! I see that you are very religious in every way. 23As I walked around, I looked carefully at the things you worship. I even found an altar with 'to an unknown god' written on it. Now I am going to tell you about this 'unknown god' that you worship. 24He is the God who made the world. He also made everything in it. He is the Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples built by hands. 25He is not served by human hands. He doesn't need anything. He himself gives life and breath to all people. He also gives them everything else they have. 26From one man he made all the people of the world. Now they live all over the earth. He decided exactly when they should live. And he decided exactly where they should live. 27God did this so that people would seek him. Then perhaps they would reach out for him and find him. They would find him even though he is not far from any of us."

Ephesians 5:22,23; 6:1,4 (MSG)

22Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ...25Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting...1Children, do what your parents tell you. This is only right...4Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them.

Matthew 10:35-37 (NIV)

35For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household." 37Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Luke 9:59-62*read full passage in Bible