

In The Beginning, God...

- **Genesis 1:1, 31 KJV** - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good...*
- **QUOTE:** *God is good, and everything good in our lives begins with God.*

Week #3: IN THE BEGINNING GOD...CREATED FAMILY

- **INTRO:** God has always been interested in family. It's what God always wanted - not servants, but sons & daughters. **Our main mission as the Body of Christ is to enlarge the family of God.** From the beginning, God has called families to bring about His plan in the earth. When humanity was facing extinction, God called a family to build an Ark. Later God called Abraham to start a family that would become a series of nations and, **Genesis 12:3 KJV** - *...in you all the FAMILIES of the earth will be blessed.* When it was time for Jesus the Savior of the world to be born, God chose a family. It mattered to God that Joseph, the stepdad, didn't walk away. And it mattered to God that Abraham & Sarah's marriage was fruitful – He didn't accept that they were too far gone. God did a miracle with them, and He's still doing miracles in families!
- **QUOTE:** *Family mattered IN THE BEGINNING, and it still matters to God!*

1. Families COMMUNICATE

- **Matthew 18:15 ISV** – *If your brother sins against you, go and CONFRONT HIM while the two of you are ALONE. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.*
- *Confront – meet (someone) face to face with hostile or argumentative intent.*
- *Confront – face up to and deal with (a problem or difficult situation).*
- **QUOTE:** *Dysfunctional families act out what really needs to be talked out*

2. Families SPEND TIME TOGETHER

- **Psalms 68:6 NLT** – *GOD PLACES THE LONELY IN FAMILIES; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy. But he makes the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.*
- **QUOTE:** *Time for undivided attention is the necessary ingredient for everything that's important in marriage. ~ Dr. Williard F. Harley, Author of His Needs, Her Needs*

3. Families HAVE EACH OTHER'S BACK

- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NLT** - *Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. 10 If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. 11 Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? 12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*
- **QUOTE:** *Families are supposed to fight back-to-back not head-to-head*
- One of the most important things the members of your family need to know is that you're for them, not against them. Even if they fall, you will be there to pull them up.

- **Ezekiel 36:9 NKJV** – *For indeed I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown.*
- **Romans 8:38a NLT** – *And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love...*
- **QUOTE:** *It is possible and appropriate to apologize when we've said or done something hurtful, but we must also realize there is some damage that is not undone even with an apology.*