

## **Children of God**

**John 1:1-18**

### Introduction

- The big excitement in our family this week: Started a new year of school
  - Jackson in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and Avery in 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - We have had a few years now to get used to the routine and expectations
  - Lots of excitement and nerves about the first day
  - Both kids got out of bed, got dressed, ate breakfast, packed their bags and were ready for the bus without much hassle.
  - Plenty of time to take all the “first day pictures”
  - It makes for such a better start to something new!
  - In my mind, I was going through how rough school mornings have been in the past. And yet, it was like this year the kids had rehearsed the same memory and decided this year will be different!
  - It’s only been the first week. I don’t want to jinx it, but I’m really optimistic that some form of our parenting has actually worked!
- New sermon series: “All In: The Family of God”
  - Hope to strengthen your family as well as our church family
    - Sermon Series
    - Fall Church Activities
    - Sunday Family Nights “Come to the Table” beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Your family maybe in transition mode
    - Summer to Fall
    - Vacation to School
  - Hope you consider your extended family; the church
    - Ministries will start to rev up
    - Opportunities will become available to serve and participate
    - There are always People within our church family that you can reach out to and encourage
- John 1
  - Starts out very familiar
    - “In the Beginning” from the Book of Genesis
    - However it offers an insight that we may not have considered from the Genesis account.
    - Behind all the creating; Jesus, the Son, was actively participating in all that was going on.
    - In fact, the life that was created, was more than mere breath breathed into the nostrils of Adam and Eve, but it was Jesus’ eternal life that was sustaining and continues to sustain humanity.
  - We know how the story in Genesis goes
    - Everything is good for a very short time
    - Then Adam and Eve disobey God, and everything goes south

- So then why does John decide to tell the story again, but this time making a point to make Jesus the center of the story?
    - Could it be that he wants us to see the story with a fresh perspective?
    - Could Jesus offer something new to the story?
- Children of God
  - Go back and think about how Genesis 1-3 unfolds
    - Creation
    - It is good
    - Sin
    - Creation Tainted
  - Now take John 1 and lay it over Genesis 1-3, how does it change things?
    - It should give us hope
    - It should signal to us that despite sin and brokenness there is still the opportunity to begin new
    - This is what it means to be a Child of God-God takes the brokenness of who we are and sets us apart from the old and restores something new
- Application for your Family
  - As parents there's a good chance that we all have regrets, or have thought "if I could do that conversation or situation over again I would have done it differently"
  - My kids are still too young for me to have major regrets like this, however I've become aware the older they get how conversations or actions can effect them.
  - It's usually after the fact, before I have a chance to think about what I'm about to say or make a choice that seems right in the moment but after reflection I didn't consider all the facts.
  - It's in those moments that I'm thankful for **John 1:16, "For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace (ESV)."**
  - Let me offer you some hope today as you consider your family
    - Young or old- You may be so busy or even clueless to have considered Jesus "in the Beginning" of your story
    - BUT, Jesus has always been there and is still there
    - **John 1:10, "He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him (ESV)."**
    - In the midst of all our activities we need to be sure that Jesus is the focus of our family story.
    - **John 1:12, "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (ESV)."**
    - It's not too late to make Jesus the center of your family.

### God's Word at the Foundation

- **John 1:1-5**
  - You could say that God's Word was the foundation to creation

- If you read through the Genesis account, creation came into being when God spoke.
  - New house being built in our neighborhood
  - Process of building
  - Creation didn't go through a process: God just spoke and things appeared.
- It's worth repeating what we talked about last week
  - Faith must be the foundation that we build our family on
  - Ask the question: Why do we do what we do?
  - If faith is at the foundation then it will direct the decisions you make as a family.
- This point becomes even clearer when we consider **John 1:14, ESV**
  - “**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**”
  - Faith is more than just a Word we say
    - Church on Sundays
    - Bible on coffee table
  - Faith has to become real and applicable
    - Reason John retells the story with Jesus at the center
    - It Could be what needs to happen in your family to retell the story; to start something new
  - Again from last week
    - **Ephesians 2:22, “In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit (ESV).”**
    - Are you creating a dwelling place for God in your family?
    - Major motivation for why we are encouraging Sunday nights “Come to the Table”
      - Strengthen families and church
      - Create a dwelling place for God in your home
- It all starts with the foundation
  - “In the beginning was the Word”
  - “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”
  - Is this how the story of your family is being told?

### Light in the Darkness

- **John 1:6-9**
  - Story of what I do to wake the kids up by turning on their light
    - After asking several times
    - Blankets over heads
    - Turn on the lights and they can't hide from it
  - “Against this background, Jesus as the ‘light’ brings to this dark world true knowledge, moral purity, and the light that shows the very presence of God.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *ESV Study Bible*, Wheaton: Crossway Bibles, 2008. Pg. 2017.

- Darkness in our lives or in our families
  - Hide it
  - Regrets
  - Kids have become adults, now what?
- As painful and as scary as it may seem, we need to let the light of Jesus shine on those areas
  - Reconsider-what can we do now?
  - Identify and surrender the things that may not be beneficial
  - Restart-tell the story differently with Jesus at the center
- Story of Israel
  - Children of God
  - Be a blessing-mission of every family
  - There's was a story of regrets, disappointments, and of sin
  - Jesus was their opportunity to start new
    - It was painful
    - It was embarrassing
    - Many refused
    - Others rebelled
    - Some believed and allowed the light of Jesus to start a new beginning
  - Example from Luke 7, Centurion's faith
    - "Not worthy to enter my house"
    - Sick servant
    - "No one in all of Israel with this kind of faith!"
    - Jesus healed the servant without entering the house simply by the faith of the Centurion.
    - Jesus changed the story of the Centurion's Household through faith.
- How might Jesus shed light on your family story?
  - Correction? Maybe
  - But grace is what he really comes to offer; not as an excuse but as an invitation to start new
  - Let Jesus' light shine into your darkness

### Rebirth through the Will of God

- **John 1:10-13**
- Biking with Avery
  - Marietta Trail
  - 6 miles
  - Conversations about school, snack, etc
  - Became tired around mile 4- "How much longer?"
  - Finally got back and she's completely exhausted
  - Laid across her bike with her eyes closed as if she was sleeping

- I took a picture, and it reminded me of how her face looked when she was an infant
  - How does this girl of 7 years ride for 6 miles when she started out as an infant that couldn't even walk?
- This is the kid who was unplanned at least in timing
  - Plans mapped out
  - Greater will of God
  - Child of God
    - Greater meaning than how we often use it today
    - Covenant language-sense of belonging
  - Rebirth
    - A passage from how the story began to something new; John 1 becomes personal- this is why Jesus entering into your story matters
    - John 3 Nicodemus' struggle to understand
      - It becomes clear to Nicodemus the more he reconsiders his Jewish upbringing
      - Witness of Jesus
      - Something new must take place, and it wasn't something that Nicodemus could do on his own
      - He had to watch Jesus go to the cross, die for his sins, before he could really understand the kind of new life Jesus was talking about
      - The Word had to become real
- In order for our kids to know Christ, it is important that we know him.
  - A change must take place in us
    - Faith has to become the foundation of our lives
    - Word becomes real in our lives
    - Example we set
    - Foundation we build
  - Don't expect the church to teach your kids everything!
    - You have a responsibility; and God is holding you accountable
    - You've got to grow with them
    - You've got to provide the dwelling place for God
    - God has made himself known to us through Jesus
      - We've got to allow him to lead our lives
      - Lead our homes
      - Renew and Restore our story

## Conclusion

- Emphasis of retelling the story
  - We all have regrets, we all have weaknesses- there may be even some dark spots

- If you were to put Jesus at the center of your family, how would the story change?
- Opportunity through Jesus
  - [John 1:16](#)
  - Life
  - Family
- God's Word as the Foundation, building a dwelling place for God
- God makes a covenant with you as a child of God
  - Rebirth to start new
  - Grace to cover regrets
  - Hope to retell the story
- Let the Word become real today!