



STUDY GUIDE

December 4, 2022

**Message Series:**

Family Matters

**Message Title:**

The Family Man

**Teaching Pastor:**

Brian Hughes

**Warm-up/Icebreaker:** (10 min)

Share your favorite Christmas movie?

**Pray:**

Dear Lord, we approach You with humility and confidence, knowing that You want us to come to You; You care for us more than we could ever comprehend. Help us to seek You and draw from Your strength, not our own. We ask for Your help in setting aside anything that distracts us from You so that we can hear Your voice and gain clarity in what You want for our lives when it comes to our families. It's in Jesus' name that we pray. Amen.

**Get Started:** (20 min.)

- Share a recent family high and low. Meaning, share a fun family moment and also a current struggle.

Talking about the movie *FAMILY MAN*:

*“Jack had immersed himself in...well...himself. He suppressed the longing for connection and embraced something far less satisfying. The call from Kate is startling - almost jarring him out of his self-indulgent coma. And for a moment, he remembers what it was like to have others in his life who he cared about. That moment is fleeting though. It's almost like he deliberately pushes away the thought. He has more money than he can spend, but it's never enough. And deep down, there is a longing for something more.”* -Pastor Brian Hughes

**Read Hebrews 13:5 & Matthew 6:24.**

- At the end of your life what would you like to be able to say about your use of income/wealth?
- How can you know if you are serving God or money?

**Watch and Discuss Video:** (running time 9:25 min./15 min. discussion)

**Read Ephesians 5:15-16.**

Four practical steps in considering time with your family:

1. **Plan** for it.
2. **Respond** to it.
3. **Serve** them.
4. Be **Present**.

- In light of the 4 ways that Pastor Brian challenged us to consider our family time, which area do you feel you handle well? Which one needs improvement? What is one step you can take this week to move in the right direction?

**Reflect and Commit:** (15 min.)

*“I knew that the most important thing that my family needed from me was me. No amount of money could replace me as a parent. I worked hard, for sure. And it took me a few early parenting years to get my priorities right. But once I realized that this trip would be short and that my most precious gift to my family was time, I gave them all that I could of it. That’s what it really means to be a family. It’s more than a biological relationship. It’s not about DNA. It’s about time together.” -Pastor Brian Hughes*

**Read Psalm 37:3–4.** (Consider reading all of Psalm 37)

- How do you personally take delight in the Lord? How can doing this impact your family experiences?
- Share a desire of your heart when it comes to family.

*“May your family get all of you. May you lean into the strength of God, who never gets tired. May you claim God’s perseverance, because He never gives up. And may you find resolve and peace in this moment, with your family, right now. Amen.” -Pastor Brian Hughes*

**Gather prayer requests and pray.** (5-10 min.)

On Sunday the band played the song - **Peace, Ben Rector**. Consider playing this song or portions of the song during your group and allow for some personal prayer time.

**Pray:**

Heavenly Father, You are the designer of our families and we give You praise for Your abundant grace and faithfulness in helping us to navigate our family experiences. We humbly ask for increased peace and contentment in all of those relationships, making sure that family is prioritized well. Please remove anything that is causing stress and strain in our lives so that we can be in the moment now, communicating well, honoring You and living into the love You want us to have for each other. This is increasingly important as Christmas approaches. We love you and it’s in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.