



There are no
Huxtables
A SERMON BY REV. DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY, SENIOR PASTOR
@PASTORHJW

FEBRUARY 6-7, 2021 | MATTHEW 1:1-17



Sunday, February 7, 2021
Preacher: Pastor Howard-John Wesley
Sermon: There Are No Huxtables
Scripture: Matthew 1:1-17 (NIV)

CURRICULUM GUIDE



Sermon Summary

Pastor Wesley begins this Black History Month with a sermon series influenced by the American television sitcom *The Cosby Show* that premiered in 1984. In this first installment of the series, Pastor Wesley uses Matthew's account of the genealogy of Jesus to share valuable lessons about family. We are reminded that there are very few things in life that can shape who we are, and who we are not, more than our family. We learn that family can affect our health and self-esteem, shape how we define love, determine how we cope with challenges, and what we believe is possible in our own lives. And while there is a constant pressure for our family to fit a certain model, Jesus' genealogy highlights that there are no perfect (Huxtable) families, and there doesn't need to be. God is still able to do great things through you.

Key Points:

Valuable lessons about family from the genealogy of Jesus:

1. Everything you've heard may not be what actually happened.
 - a. The story of your family is always told from someone's perspective. Maturing means we understand that even how family sees its story is perspective.
2. No matter how hard we try, we cannot get our family to fit the model that others think it should be.
3. When you tell the story of a people's greatness, you have to include women.
4. Sometimes families need to talk about the things they don't want to talk about.
5. Whatever failures, mistakes, disobedience or sins that are in our families can stop with you. God is still able to do great things through us.

Notes for Facilitators:

Welcome to week 2. This week we really get to the work of moving from crowd to community. Thank you for your time and leadership in this 2021 Winter/Spring season of Village. Please encourage your Village members to complete the opening survey if you have not done so already. Please continue to update your rosters. For now, please keep track of attendance on your rosters or just make a list until the attendance tracker platform is live.

Getting To Know You Questions:

1. What are some of your favorite Black sitcom shows and why? What do you think about images of the Black family portrayed on TV today?
2. Matthew's inclusion of women in the genealogy of Jesus recognizes that you cannot tell the story of a great people and leave out women. Who would you name as the great women in your life?
3. Pastor cites C. Eric Lincoln's 5 pillars of Black culture: the Black church, Black businesses and banks, Black journalism and Black press, Black colleges and universities, and the Black family. Which pillar(s) are you the most passionate about, and why?
4. How much do you know about your own genealogy?



Into The Bible Questions:

1. Compare the genealogy of Jesus as found in Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38.
2. Matthew includes five women in Jesus' genealogy. Review these scripture references and discuss what you learn.
 - a. Tamar, Genesis 38:1-10; Rahab, Joshua 2:1-21; Ruth, Ruth 1:6-18; Bathsheba, 2nd Samuel 11:1- 4, 12: 24; and Mary, Luke 1:26-56

Life Application Questions:

1. The lineage of Jesus reminds us that there are no perfect families. In fact, Jesus' lineage reveals a plethora of sexual and violent scandals! How does this realization impact how you view your own family?
2. Our family significantly shapes who we are in a variety of ways. How has your family background positively/negatively shaped who you've become?
3. Do you believe in the concept of generational curses?
4. Is there a difference between the family the public sees and what really goes on in your family? If so, why?



"Can I Push It?"

Pastor Wesley mentioned that he does favor putting qualifying adjectives before the word "families" (i.e. blended, broken, mixed, etc.). Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

Activity:

Do you Know Your Family Tree?

How much do you know about your family tree? Can you name the members in your family tree? Discuss your thoughts with the group.



Spirit Work:

What Does My Family Say About Me?

This week, consider spending some alone time reflecting on the following questions:

- Are there any physical and/or mental health issues that run in my family? How can I attend to those issues now?
- Is there any family trauma buried that I need to address with God and/or professional support?
- How does my family upbringing shape how I define love?
- How does my family background affect what I believe is possible in my own life?

Additional Questions for Married Couples:

What has been your experience with family while married? Have there been any difficult situations or hard feelings? If so, how are they addressed?

Additional Questions for Young Adult:

Can you identify imperfect families in history? How did God use them to complete a perfect plan?

Additional Questions for Parents:

How has your ideology of your family affected the way you parent? How will you change the narrative that you portray to your children about family?

Additional Questions for Women:

While growing up, did you have a “Clair Huxtable” in your household/family? If so, what are some of her characteristics? If not, what are ways you strive to set a positive example within your household?

Additional Questions for Men:

As a man, how can you ensure that you are not silencing or erasing the voices and lives of the women in your family

Readings for This Week:

<u>Monday, February 8th</u>	<u>Matthew 1:18-22</u>
<u>Tuesday, February 9th</u>	<u>Luke 3:23-38</u>
<u>Wednesday, February 10th</u>	<u>Genesis 38</u>
<u>Thursday, February 11th</u>	<u>2 Samuel 7:8-17</u>
<u>Friday, February 12th</u>	<u>Isaiah 9:6-7</u>

Further Study: We learned this week about *Gematria*, a way of assigning numeric value to a letter based upon the letters placement in the alphabet. Learn more about [Gematria](#) here.