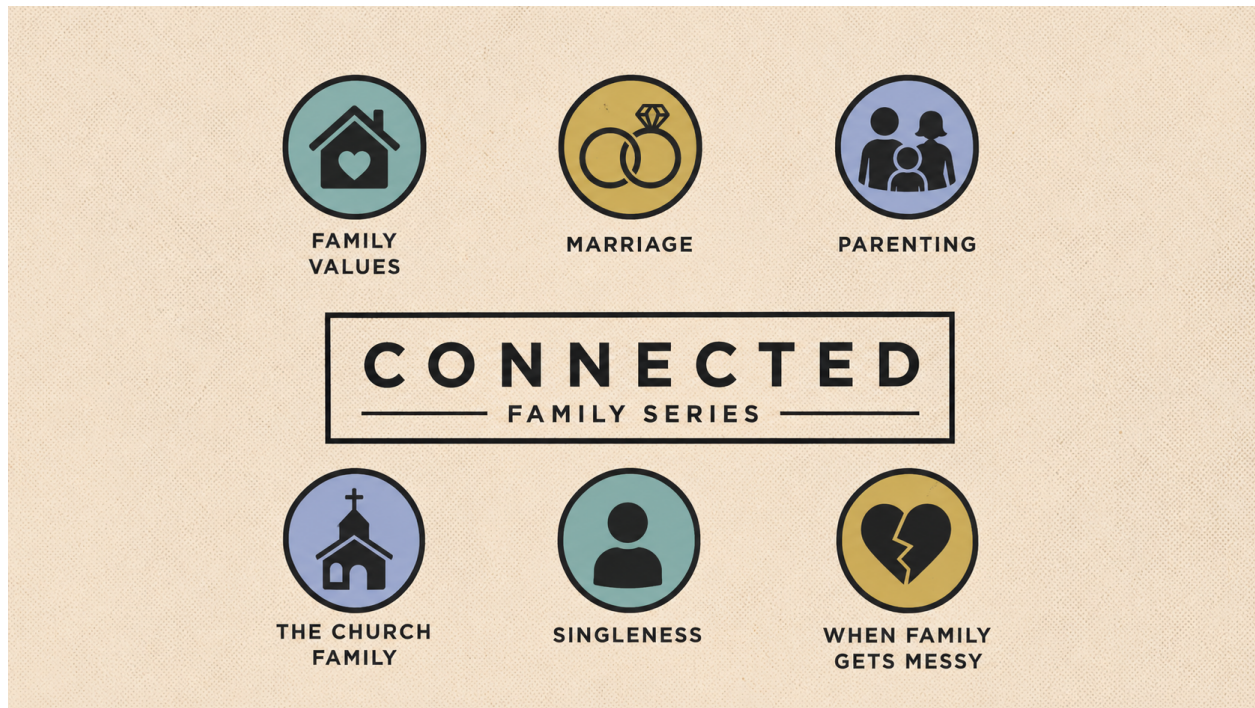




August 9, 2026
Connect Family

Pastor Trey Hildebrant
Family Values

Main Text

Genesis 1:26-28

Discussion Questions

Belong: Icebreaker

What was family life like growing up? Share one memory, tradition, vacation, or family pet that still makes you smile.

Welcome to the “Connected FAMILY Series”. We believe God has created us for connection with others, and the most meaningful connection happens in the home. Families are God’s plan for life-long, intimate connection and relationships.

This is what we are calling a **“kitchen table” series**. We want to get to conversations and life questions that are on your mind. In this “Connected” series, we’ll dig into the foundations of a Godly family and how to build a healthy home. Over the next few weeks we will discuss:

- Family Foundations
- Marriage
- Parenting
- Singleness & The Family of God
- When Family Gets Messy

Believe:

Read Genesis 1:26-28

What does it mean that every person is made in the image of God? In what ways do we reflect His character, and how does this speak to every person's value and dignity as those made in His image?

In verse 26 it says "Let us..." and "in our...". What does this reveal about God? How is God's relational nature apparent in who he created?

Why do you think Scripture specifically says God created us "male and female"?

*"God created everything on purpose, and for a purpose, and we see those specific purposes revealed **in how He literally made us**, including with our biology and the first ever human relationship."* Pastor Trey Hildebrant

God "blessed" Adam and Eve—meaning, he gave them a certain kind of authority. What authority did He give them? What is God's instruction to the first family?

Note: This instruction is referred to as The cultural mandate. It is God's foundational directive to humanity. To literally make culture by filling the earth and leading it towards God. TOGETHER, we have the call from God to fill the earth with MORE IMAGE BEARERS who make much of God.

This passage points to God's design for family. What are some practical ways we can strengthen and honor families in our church and community?

Note: Answers might be having biological children, adoption, fostering children, supporting foster and adoptive families, including singles and widows into our families.

What is one intentional way your family (or the people closest to you) could bless the world this week?

Become:

Read Matthew 28:18-20

Note: This passage is often called the spiritual mandate and contains Jesus's instructions to his followers when he ascended into heaven after his resurrection. It "mirrors" the cultural mandate (which is the physical filling of the earth with image bearers) and calls us to fill the earth spiritually with those who love and follow Jesus.

How does God instruct his followers to build and honor his spiritual family? How have you seen your spiritual family grow recently?

"From a Christian family, the glory of God radiates, the light of Christ blazes out into darkness, and the love of God gets hands and feet, and we experience greater joy than we could ever experience apart from family. Our good AND God's glory. What a promise!" Pastor Trey Hildebrant

What are some of the biggest challenges families face today that keep us from living out God's design for the family?

How can we seek God's high view of family together in the middle of those challenges?

Currently, what is one prayer request you have for your family, or someone you consider family?

When you hear the word "family," what emotions or experiences come to mind? How does God's design for family offer hope, healing, or encouragement?

How is God inviting your family to bless the world spiritually?

Closing:

- Spend time praying together for your families.
- Today is **Back to School Sunday Funday!** Join us as we share some exciting opportunities coming in the fall and launch NEW resources to help your family make the most of the school year!
- The NEW First Orlando App is here! We're celebrating our launch in the best way we know how—with free donuts!!
 - All you have to do is follow these three simple steps.

-  **Download the First Orlando App.** You can search "First Orlando App" in any app store or click the link below to take you straight there.
-  **Sign in to your new dashboard.** You can use your phone number or email to log into existing accounts or follow the steps on the app to create a new profile.
-  **Show us your personalized dashboard!** Visit any of the Genius Bars located around our John Young campus this Sunday, show us your downloaded app, and receive a t-shirt!