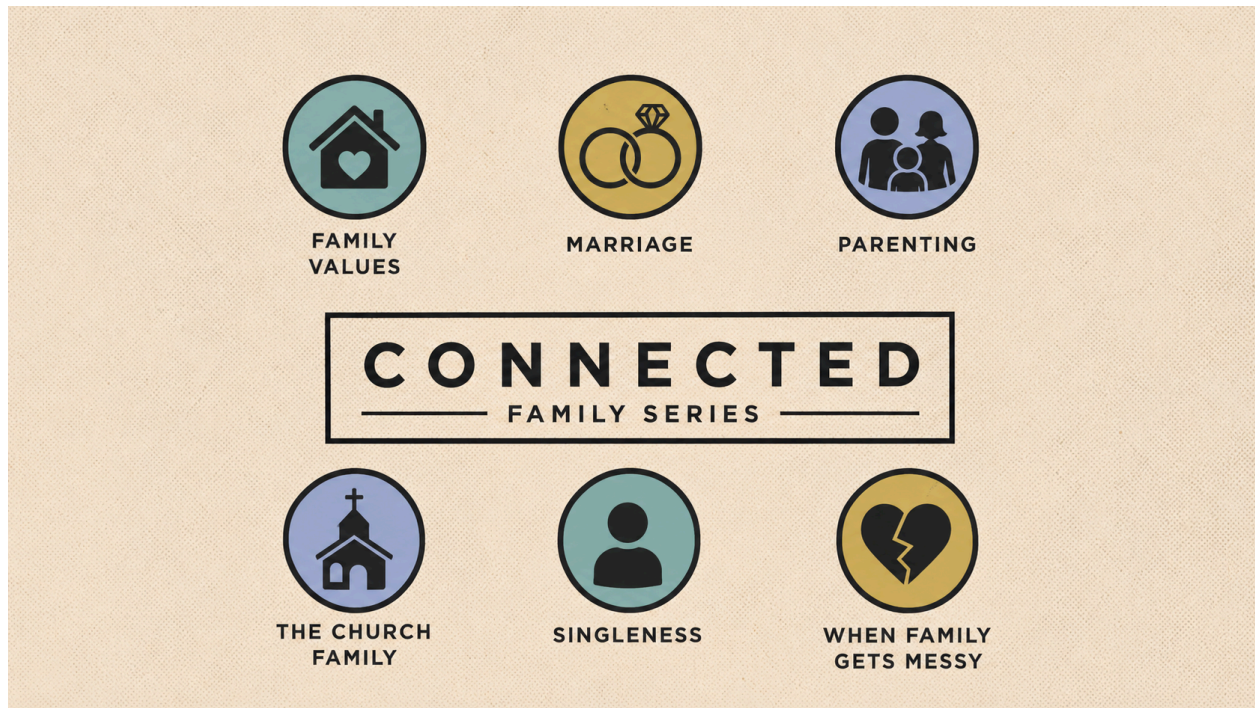




August 16, 2026
Connected Family

Pastor Trey Hildebrant
Marriage

Main Text

Genesis 2

Discussion Questions

Belong: Icebreaker

(You can ask one or both questions during your time)

What is one quality you have seen in a healthy marriage or relationship that you admire?

What is the best relationship advice you've ever heard? Was it actually good advice?

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 2:18-20

Throughout the creation narrative (Genesis 1), we repeatedly hear the phrase, “And God saw that it was good” spoken over some aspect of creation. In this passage, God says something is “not good.” What is it? Why do you think God says this? What does this reveal about God and the way He created us for relationships? What does God provide in response to this situation?

Read Genesis 2:21-25

This passage tells how God created Adam’s helper, but it also introduces the marriage covenant. What is a covenant? How is a covenant different from a contract? Why do you think God designed marriage as a covenant relationship rather than simply a contractual one?

Take a closer look at **Genesis 2:24**. (Read it in various translations or look up the definition to bring clarity).

What does it mean to hold fast?

“Marriage is a HOLD FAST relationship!! This type of holding fast is what keeps us close going when LIFE tries to take us out. When the arguments are overwhelming, when finances are scary, when you sin against one another, when the kids dominate your time and you miss going on dates, when the romance has worn thin and you want that spark back. HOLD FAST

*Even on the hardest days, hold onto one another no matter what AND no matter how you feel... Marriage is a relationship **sealed by a love** that doesn’t let go. “ Pastor Trey Hildebrant*

What does it look like to hold fast in everyday life? Are there practical steps you have taken (if you are married) to hold fast?

Genesis 2:25 says Adam and Eve were both naked and felt no shame. Why do you think they were able to be completely known and yet unashamed?

Look at Genesis 3 (a quick glance will do) and note: what entered their relationship once Adam and Eve sinned? How did that impact their marriage relationship?

Become:

Read Ephesians 5:22-33

According to the Apostle Paul what is marriage a picture of? What does a godly marriage reflect to the world?

Looking back at the idea of marriage being a covenant relationship, how does Christ's love and sacrifice for us model this perfectly? What did He do for us? Did we hold up our end? What do we continually need from Him?

Let's remember:

“Draw a circle around yourself. The only person you can control is the person inside of that circle.” Pastor Trey Hildebrant

This applies to all of us—no matter if we are married, engaged, desire to be married, or are single.

Marriage requires a lot of humility and getting **over ourselves**. We need to love and serve one another daily. It doesn't start with our spouse, it starts with us. And we can always work on ourselves first.

If you are married, what is one area where God may be calling you to grow personally that could strengthen your marriage?

If you are not married, what is one area of your life or relationships where God may be calling you to grow in humility, love, service, forgiveness, or communication?

Could YOU...?

- Communicate better
- Have more patience
- Serve more
- Forgive quicker
- Take the first step
- Be romantic!!! (for the married folks)
- Pray more for your spouse (or others in your life)

- Listen better

How could taking that step positively impact your relationships?

Closing:

- Reminder: **Group Leader Training** today 8/16/26 at 5:00 PM in the backstage.
- Spend time praying together for marriages. (yours, your family, your group, our church, etc)
- The NEW First Orlando App is here!
 - All you have to do is follow these 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.