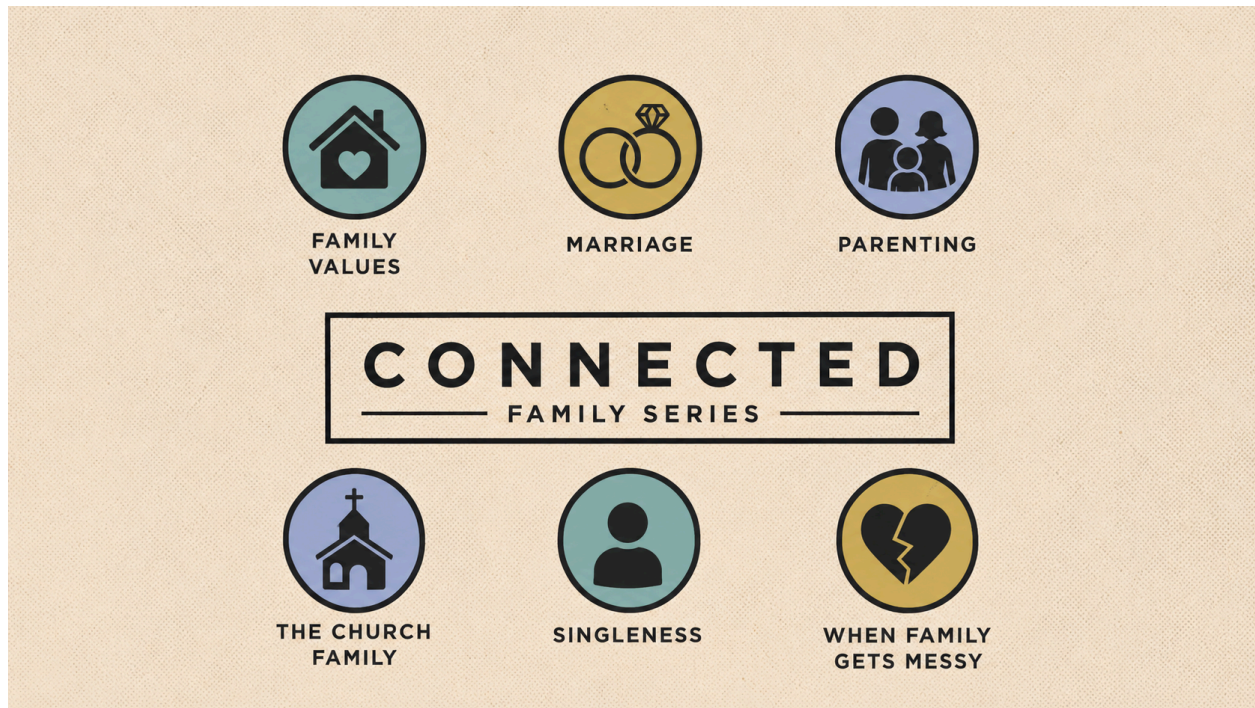




September 6, 2026
Connected Family
Main Text

Pastor Jarian Felton
When Family Gets Messy
Genesis 28:15; Genesis 35:3

Discussion Questions

Belong: Icebreaker: (Choose one to answer)

What is your favorite food dish at a family gathering? Who makes it, and how fast does it get eaten?

What is one well-known family story that always makes your family laugh? How often does this family story get retold?

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 8/9/26

- Marriage 8/16/26
- Parenting 8/23/26
- Singleness & The Family of God 8/30/26
- When Family Gets Messy 9/6/26

Believe:

Today, we're talking about what happens when our family story is messy.

How would you define the word dysfunction when it comes to "messy families"? Do you think God can work in dysfunctional families? What evidence do you have to support your answer?

Read Genesis 28:15

What three things does God promise to Jacob in this verse? Why do you think these promises were important, and how do you think this impacted Jacob as he set out to start his own family?

Read Genesis 28:16-22

When Jacob woke up from his dream, what did he believe? What action does he take? Why do you think this moment matters?

Jacob's Family:

Read and/or summarize Genesis 29:16-30

How might this situation create a messy family dynamic for Jacob?

Read and/or summarize Genesis 29:31-35

What dysfunction do you see at work in Jacob's family? Where do you see God at work in the middle of it?

Read Genesis 30:22-24

What does God do for Rachel? Does the birth of Joseph solve the family's problems? What do you know about Rachel's son and the role he will play in this family's story?

This is only part of Jacob's messy family story. Why do you think God includes messy family stories like this in the Bible? How does it make you feel when you see real families depicted in God's Word? How does it affect the way you view your own family story?

Become:

Read Genesis 35:1-15

Where does God tell Jacob to return? What instruction does He give him? How do you think Jacob felt bringing his entire family back to the place God had made His promise to him years before?

In some ways, this is a full-circle moment for Jacob. Have you ever experienced a full-circle moment in your own family story? How have you seen God bring something good from a difficult season?

What does God change for Jacob? What does He promise him this time? How does Jacob respond?

Keep this in mind:

1. Dysfunction can be found in every family, even in the Bible.
2. God's faithfulness (love) can meet you wherever you are. (Genesis 28:15)
3. God can redeem dysfunctional families. (Genesis 35:3)

What part of this message speaks the most to your heart and to your family situation?

Closing:

- Spend time praying together for families at First Orlando.
- Be sure to pick up your free book today called *One More*. You can find it in Welcome Center A, B, or the Gathering place. This devotional will be the basis of our next sermon series!
- 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.