



Moment Two: Families of Faith

Friday: Our World Family

Keywords:

FAMILY
WIDER FAMILY
CHALLENGE
INDIVIDUALISM
INDULGENT
COMPROMISE

W

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ntdhDYhcJk (2 mins 58 secs)

D

Discussion

What does the term 'family' mean to you?

R

Reflective Exercise

Amoris Laetitia

Amoris Laetitia, and also *Laudato Si'*, talk about Christians being 'sons and daughters' and 'brothers and sisters'. The family is the place where 'we learn to live as one' (194). In fact, *Amoris Laetitia* goes on to say that 'growing up with brothers and sisters makes for a beautiful experience of caring for and helping one another' (195). The role of the family is to teach us how to be brothers and sisters. 'Children do need to be patiently taught to treat one another as brothers and sisters' (195).

In your copy:

- Outline the blessings associated with having and being brothers and sisters.
- Outline the challenges associated with having and being brothers and sisters.
- Write a short passage on how we would treat others if we saw them as our 'brothers and sisters'.

D

Discussion

What are the challenges facing the family today?





W

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOQtdjkhmZo (4 mins 14 secs)

D

Discussion

What do you understand as our 'wider family'?

Amoris Laetitia

Amoris Laetitia states that 'the nuclear family needs to interact with the wider family made up of parents, aunts and uncles, cousins and even neighbours' (187). This view of family allows us to identify people who might 'need assistance', 'companionship' or 'consolation' (187). If our view of family is too limited, it causes isolation and 'such isolation, cannot offer greater peace or happiness; rather it straitens the heart of a family and makes its life all the more narrow' (187).

W

Watch: www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/it-could-happen-to-you/miracles (3 mins 28 secs):
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOZ-l5blCnA (4 mins 33 secs)

D

Discussion

After watching these videos, in groups, identify and discuss the value and importance of the wider family.

R

Reflective Exercise

Write an account of a time when you experienced support from your wider family.

D

Discussion

Amoris Laetitia states that one of the challenges facing families is 'extreme individualism which weakens family bonds and ends up considering each member of the family as an isolated unit' (33).

- Discuss examples of extreme individualism that could occur within a family. List examples on the board.

R

Reflective Exercise

What can you do to play your part in avoiding extreme individualism within your family? Write your answer in your copy.



Activity

Read 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13 from the Bible. This letter from Paul is known as the ‘Hymn to Love’. In a very explicit way, it tells us that no matter what we possess, even faith and hope, the greatest thing that we can possess is love.

Read the following extract from the ‘Hymn to Love’.

Love is patient, love is kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Amoris Laetitia discusses this passage in chapter four, ‘Love in Marriage’. In the context of *Amoris Laetitia*, this passage is used to show couples what love ought to be, but this description of love is a message for each and every one of us.

In order to fully understand what this biblical passage is saying, complete the following activity.

From your experience of love in your family:

Give an example of a time when you showed patience.

Give an example of a time when you showed kindness.

Give an example of how love could be jealous or boastful.

Give an example of how love could be arrogant or rude.

Identify the word that highlights how real love does not insist on its own way:

Sharing

Compromise

Caring

Give an example of how love could be irritable or resentful.

Give an example of how love might rejoice in right.

Explain how love ‘endures all things’.



Reflective Exercise

In your copy, rewrite the 'Hymn to Love' in your own words.



Discussion

Divide into groups of three or four. Each group reads one of the following biblical passages.

Luke 15:11–31	Luke 10:25–37
John 4:1–27	Luke 19:1–10
Matthew 5:1–12	John 13:1–20
Mark 12:28–34	Mark 10:13–16

- Share the details of the biblical passages with the other groups in the class.

These stories remind us of the kind of person Jesus was. *Amoris Laetitia* states that 'God's indulgent love always accompanies our human journey; through grace, it heals and transforms hardened hearts, leading them back to the beginning through the way of the cross' (62).

- In your groups, discuss how using Jesus as our role model could help us in our family life.



Watch: www.trocaire.org/whatwedo/wherewework/east-africa-crisis (59 secs)

This is an example of how we can reach out to our wider family. We cannot simply sit back and watch these disasters on the news and do nothing. As Christians we are called to 'act with justice'.



Activity

Divide into groups of three or four. Choose one of the following topics and research facts associated with it. Explain how, from a Christian viewpoint, our world family should respond to these issues.

Famine in East Africa	War in Syria	Human trafficking
Treatment of prisoners	Terror attacks	Environmental issues