

Sermon Guide – July 11, 2021 – Broken and Blessed

God as Home-Maker

This week we begin a series about families in the Book of Genesis. The word “genesis” means “origin.” The biblical book of Genesis begins with the words “in the beginning” and tells of God’s creative work in preparing a place for us human beings. Think of how a family prepares a space to welcome a new baby into their home – getting the nursery ready – preparing a space for the child. Welcoming a pet into your home requires preparation, too. What experience do you have in preparing (creating) a space for someone (including a pet)?

Jessica Lagrone is the author of our study book *Broken and Blessed*. She writes about love in the family: “Family may be the clearest image of the love of God that we can ever have, because they love us before we ever do anything to deserve it... Believing that God could love us at face value, without any deserving act on our part, takes practice. We are assigned a group of people at our point of entry on earth primarily for that task, to love us *because they have to*, and because *they get to*.” (*emphasis mine*)

I definitely understand that not every baby is born into a family that offers unconditional love, or any kind of love for that matter. That is so unfortunate and sad. That’s why it is important for other kinds of “family” to step up to be “family” for them. Grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles, church family, work family, Scouts, 4-H, ball teams, etc., can help to provide the love that each of us needs.

Think about your family of origin. What does your experience look like? What other experiences of “family” do you have?

For whom have you been “family?”