

DISCOVERY

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

May 10 and 14

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PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Jeremiah 31:29-34 and Exodus 34:6,7

QUOTES FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE COMPLETED GENOGRAMS

I grew up believing that because I was a woman, my strength and leadership were a sin and something to shrink. The message I heard in my head was, "You are too much." During a time of theological shift about women and leadership, my genogram showed me I come from a long line of strong and feisty woman. This became something I was and am quite proud of and helped me embrace my gifting.

The insight I gained was how my view of family and devotion was shaped. I am the only one in 3 generations in my family that have stayed married and not been divorced. Also, I am the only one in that time that was a follower of Jesus. The things I hold dearest, are things I had no model to emulate. I never realized why that as before. I also never realized how it negatively affected me psychologically.

I was able to see a lineage of mostly absent biological fathers and 1 mother, but more importantly other men and women stepping into care for and love unconditionally children as their own no matter the circumstances. This confirmed that I was carrying on the strength of men in our family through foster care and adoption rather than the shadow of abandonment/distance. Most of what I found helped me recognize or reinforce the childhood vows that I had made. There was a long line of substance abuse in my family that had led to my childhood vow of never partaking in alcohol or the like so that I did not fall to the traps my father had. Also the separation of families has given me resolve to keep my own family together.

I learned that image has been important in my family for generations. The good stuff is hyped up and exaggerated, the bad stuff is not talked about to the point where some truth is lost because it was never discussed. Even in the way I realized that I drew my genogram reinforced that- I made each family unit so pretty and put together and left out things that I couldn't figure out and make fit!

One trait I inherited was caring for and serving others, this has passed through my family especially through the oldest born child of each generation. I always thought that was part of my personality, but seeing that trait travel through the generations helped me realize it was learning behavior.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is a trait that has been handed down to you that is an asset in your life?
2. What is one that is a liability?
3. Can you name any 'family propaganda' that you've had to shake. (Family propaganda is assumptions about the world, about how your family operates, values etc that are rigidly held)
4. How was faith displayed or not displayed in your family?
5. What do you see in Abraham's generational traits that is interesting to you?
6. Have you seen the gospel heal or strengthen anything handed down from your family?
7. Would anyone like to try a genogram in the future?
(LG Leaders: contact renae@dc2.me if someone would like to present a genogram)
8. Read Jeremiah 31:29-34,
"In those days people will no longer say, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.' Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—their own teeth will be set on edge."
What does this mean to you? Where have you seen the gospel break generational issues?
9. Choose a family member and pray for them. Express thanks for who God has put in your life for your good.