



*Walking in the Spirit of Excellence*

# THE *Church* MESSENGER

*Mount Moriah MB Church*

August 2024 Edition



## Welcome to The Messenger!

Greetings, Mount Moriah Baptist Church family! We are delighted to bring you another edition of **The Messenger**, your go-to source for church news, encouragement, and inspiration. In this issue, we are focusing on the importance of family and health, both vital aspects of our spiritual and physical lives.

You'll find two insightful articles on family: "Family: God's Divine Plan and Structure," which explores the biblical foundation and purpose of family, and "Embracing God's Divine Family Plan as Kingdom Representatives," which encourages us to live out our roles within our families as reflections of God's love and unity.

We are also highlighting National Immunization Awareness Month with an article that underscores the importance of vaccinations and how they align with biblical teachings on caring for our bodies and communities.

And last but certainly not least, don't miss **In The Spotlight: MMMBC Praise Team**, where we celebrate the wonderful ministry of our Praise Team and their commitment to leading us in worship.

We hope these articles inspire and encourage you in your walk with Christ. Enjoy reading, and may God bless you and your family!

MMMBC Newsletter Ministry

## WE ARE KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVES



Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: let God change you from enemies into his friends!

2 Corinthians 5:20 (GNT)



# Family: God's Divine Plan and Structure

## Family: God's Divine Plan and Structure

The concept of family is woven throughout the Bible as a central element of God's divine plan for humanity. From the creation of Adam and Eve to the covenant promises made to Abraham, family plays a crucial role in the unfolding story of God's relationship with His people. As we explore the biblical understanding of family, we can see that it is not just a social institution, but a sacred design intended for our growth, support, and reflection of God's love.

### The Divine Origin of Family

The foundation of the family is established in the very beginning of the Bible. In Genesis 1:27-28, it says, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.'" This passage highlights that family was part of God's original creation and purpose for humanity. It was God's intention from the start that men and women would come together in a marital union, forming a family that would multiply and fill the earth.

The creation of Eve from Adam's rib, as described in Genesis 2:22-24, further underscores the intimate and sacred nature of the marital relationship: "Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.' That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh." This unity, described as "one flesh," reflects the deep bond and mutual support that marriage and family are meant to embody.

### The Family as a Reflection of God's Love

Family serves as a reflection of God's love and covenantal relationship with His people. Throughout the Bible, we see metaphors of God as a father who loves, protects, and disciplines His children. In Psalm 103:13, it says, "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord

has compassion on those who fear him." This comparison shows that the family is a mirror of God's compassion and care.

The New Testament continues this theme by describing the church as the family of God. Ephesians 2:19-20 states, "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone." Here, the concept of family is extended to the spiritual community, showing that through Christ, we are all adopted into God's divine family.

### Family as a Place of Nurturing and Teaching

God's plan for the family also includes it being a primary place for nurturing, teaching, and passing on faith from one generation to the next. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 emphasizes the importance of teaching God's commandments within the family setting: "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." This passage highlights the role of parents in spiritually nurturing their children, ensuring that the knowledge and fear of God are passed down.

In Proverbs 22:6, it is written, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." This proverb underscores the formative role that family plays in shaping the character and faith of children. Through family, children learn the values of love, respect, obedience, and faithfulness, all of which are fundamental to a life that honors God.

### Challenges and Restoration in the Family

While the family is part of God's divine plan, it is not without challenges. The Bible is filled with stories of family strife, betrayal, and dysfunction—from Cain and Abel to Jacob and Esau, and Joseph and his brothers. These stories remind us that families are made up of imperfect people

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# Embracing God's Divine Family Plan as Kingdom Representatives

## Family: God's Divine Plan and Structure

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who are prone to sin and conflict. However, they also show us the possibility of redemption and restoration.

One of the most powerful examples of family restoration is found in the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. In this parable, a father welcomes his wayward son back home with open arms, illustrating God's endless mercy and forgiveness. This story reminds us that no matter how broken a family may become, God's grace offers a pathway to healing and reconciliation.

### The Eternal Significance of Family

In the end, family is more than just a temporary arrangement for earthly living. It is a picture of our eternal relationship with God. In Revelation 21:3-4, we read, "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" This vision of eternity reveals that the ultimate family we belong to is God's family, where we will experience perfect unity, love, and joy forever.

### Conclusion: Embracing God's Design for Family

Family is indeed God's divine plan and structure, created for our growth, joy, and spiritual development. As we strive to build strong, loving families, let us be guided by the scriptures and the example of God's own love and compassion. Let us remember that family is a gift from God, designed to reflect His love and serve His purposes in our lives and in the world. By embracing God's plan for family, we honor Him and experience the fullness of His blessings in our lives.

## Embracing God's Divine Family Plan as Kingdom Representatives

God's divine family plan is a beautiful design meant to reflect His love, unity, and purpose

for humanity. As Kingdom representatives, we are called to embrace this divine plan, living out our roles within our families in ways that honor God and advance His Kingdom. The Bible provides clear guidance on how families can serve as a powerful testimony of God's love and grace to the world.

### Understanding God's Family Plan

From the beginning of creation, God established the family as a fundamental unit of His divine plan for the world. In Genesis 1:27-28, we read, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.'" This passage reveals that God's intention for family extends beyond mere reproduction; it encompasses the nurturing and guiding of future generations in His ways.

The family is meant to be a reflection of God's own nature and character. The unity between husband and wife, and the loving relationships between parents and children, mirror the communal and relational nature of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 5:25-27, husbands are instructed to love their wives "just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy," showing that the love within a family should mirror Christ's sacrificial love for His church.

### The Role of Families as Kingdom Representatives

As Kingdom representatives, families are called to embody and express God's love, truth, and righteousness. This means living in ways that reflect God's values and principles to the world around us. In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus tells His followers, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your

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## Family: Father And Mother In Love with Yahweh

### Embracing God's Divine Family Plan as Kingdom Representatives

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good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Families, as the building blocks of society, have a unique opportunity to be this light in the world.

By demonstrating love, forgiveness, and unity within the family, we provide a powerful testimony to God's transformative power. Colossians 3:13-14 exhorts believers, "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." This passage underscores the importance of embodying Christlike qualities in our family relationships, which can be a powerful witness to others.

### Raising Kingdom Citizens

An essential part of God's family plan is the upbringing of children who will grow to be Kingdom citizens, representing God's rule and reign in every aspect of their lives. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 instructs parents, "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Teaching children God's Word and guiding them to live by His principles is a critical responsibility of Kingdom families.

Proverbs 22:6 further reinforces this responsibility: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." As Kingdom representatives, families are tasked with nurturing the faith and character of the next generation, equipping them to be faithful followers of Christ and positive influences in the world.

### The Family as a Witness to the World

When families live according to God's divine plan, they become a powerful witness to His goodness and grace. The Apostle Paul describes this dynamic in Ephesians 5:31-32, stating, "For this reason, a man will leave his father and moth-

er and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church." The unity and love within a Christian family reflect the unity and love that Christ has for His Church, serving as a living parable to the watching world.

The early church understood this powerful witness, often meeting in homes and viewing their fellowship as an extension of their family life. Acts 2:46-47 describes this vibrant community: "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people." Their joy, generosity, and love for one another drew others to the faith, demonstrating the powerful impact of living out God's family plan.

### Overcoming Challenges and Maintaining Unity

Even within God's divine family plan, challenges and conflicts arise. However, as Kingdom representatives, we are called to handle these difficulties with grace and a commitment to unity. Ephesians 4:2-3 encourages us to "be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." This scripture reminds us that maintaining unity requires intentional effort and a Christlike attitude.

When conflicts do occur, families are called to practice forgiveness and reconciliation. Jesus teaches in Matthew 18:21-22 that forgiveness should be boundless: "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" By embracing forgiveness, families can overcome divisions and maintain their role as Kingdom representatives.

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# National Immunization Awareness Month: A Time for Health and Healing

## Embracing God's Divine Family Plan as Kingdom Representatives

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### Conclusion: Living Out God's Divine Family Plan

Embracing God's divine family plan as Kingdom representatives means living out our roles in ways that reflect God's love, unity, and purpose. It involves nurturing and teaching the next generation, maintaining unity and forgiveness, and being a light to the world. By following God's blueprint for family, we not only strengthen our own relationships but also bear witness to the transformative power of God's love. As we commit to living out this divine plan, we become powerful instruments of God's Kingdom, demonstrating His glory and grace to all the world.

## National Immunization Awareness Month: A Time for Health and Healing

August is National Immunization Awareness Month, a crucial time to focus on the importance of vaccinations and the role they play in protecting our communities. Immunizations have been a powerful tool in preventing the spread of infectious diseases, safeguarding the health of individuals and families across generations. As we reflect on the importance of vaccinations, it is also a time to draw inspiration from Biblical scripture, which speaks to the themes of health, protection, and caring for others.

### The Biblical Call to Protect and Heal

The Bible is filled with passages that emphasize the importance of caring for our bodies and the bodies of others. In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, the Apostle Paul writes, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." This verse reminds us that taking care of our health is not just a personal responsibility but also a spiritual one.

Vaccination is a tangible way to honor this

scripture by taking proactive steps to protect our health and the health of those around us. By getting vaccinated, we are participating in a communal effort to prevent the spread of diseases, much like the Biblical call to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31). Vaccinations demonstrate love and responsibility, especially toward the most vulnerable in our communities, such as children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems.

### The Power of Prevention

The Bible also teaches us about the wisdom of planning and prevention. In Proverbs 22:3, it says, "The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty." This verse underscores the importance of foresight and taking preventive measures to avoid harm. Vaccinations are a modern-day application of this wisdom, helping to prevent the spread of diseases before they can take root and cause harm.

Just as we take refuge in God's promises and protection, we can also take practical steps to protect ourselves and our loved ones from illness. Vaccinations are one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and have saved countless lives over the years. By choosing to vaccinate, we are making a prudent decision to protect our health and the health of our communities.

### A Community Effort Rooted in Faith

The Bible speaks of the power of community and the strength that comes from unity and collective action. In Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, we read, "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." This passage reminds us that we are stronger together and that our actions can have a profound impact on the well-being of others.

National Immunization Awareness Month is an opportunity to come together as a community, guided by our faith and shared values, to promote health and wellness. By encouraging

## National Immunization Awareness Month: A Time for Health and Healing

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vaccination, we are not only protecting ourselves but also helping to lift up those who might otherwise be vulnerable to preventable diseases. It is an act of love, compassion, and communal responsibility that reflects our commitment to care for one another, as Christ cares for us.

### Conclusion: Faith in Action

As we observe National Immunization Awareness Month this August, let us be reminded of the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Vaccinating ourselves and encouraging others to do the same is a way to serve and protect "the least of these" in our society. It is a powerful expression of our faith in action, demonstrating our commitment to health, healing, and the well-being of all God's children.

Let us embrace this opportunity to promote health and healing through vaccination, guided by our faith and the teachings of the Bible. By doing so, we honor God, care for our communities, and demonstrate the love and compassion that is at the heart of our Christian faith.

## In The Spotlight: Appreciation for the MMMBC Praise Team

The MMMBC Praise Team continually uplifts and inspires us with their heartfelt worship and dedication. Their passion and energy resonate deeply within our congregation, setting a tone of reverence and joy for every service. Week after week, they pour their hearts into leading us in praise, creating an atmosphere where we can connect more deeply with our faith.

We are incredibly grateful for each member's commitment, talent, and love for the Lord. Thank you, MMMBC Praise Team, for your unwavering dedication and the beautiful ministry you bring to our church. Your contributions truly make a difference, and we are blessed to have you!

## WORSHIP SERVICES AND CLASSES

Life Class	Sundays	10:00 a.m.
Worship Service	Sundays	11:00 a.m.
Noon Day Bible Study	Wednesdays	12:00 p.m.
Bible Study	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m.
Power Hour of Prayer	Saturdays	8:00 a.m.
Holy Communion	First Sunday of Each Month	

## THIS NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY — THE MMMBC NEWSLETTER MINISTRY

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