



GOD'S 5G FAMILY PLAN

1. See if you can briefly summarize all of our 2021 sermon series up to this point!

Hey everyone, before I tell you about our new original series, let me bring everyone up to speed on what God has been downloading to our Church from the beginning of 2021. March of 2020 was when it all started: the pandemic, riots, cancel culture, the country more divided than we've ever seen. But before that, we fasted and prayed and the Lord gave us a vision for a series that would start New Year 2021. Who can remember our one-word theme for this year? That's right! ONE. We're taking the whole year to sit at the feet of Jesus together so He can teach us to love Him and stay united. Who knew that this would be the most powerful thing we could focus on for such a time as this? Only the Spirit of the Lord! After our ONE series we immediately set out to become ONE CHURCH. Who remembers the name of that series? Very good! ONE TEAM. In that series we learned that here in the Church, the ultimate win is to discover each other's superpower, work together, and stand united. How do we know we've won? We're ONE! Then, that led us into the biggest Easter Celebration in the history of our Church. We estimate that somewhere between 1,500 and 2,000 people joined us for Easter 2021. Why? Because WE STAND AS ONE CHURCH, ONE TEAM--and it makes a cool t-shirt too. And take a wild guess what our message was to all those people who joined us for Easter? Of course! There's only ONE WAY to the Father, and a powerful series exploring that Jesus is THE WAY. And that brings us to today.

On this Mother's Day, as you saw, we not only want to bless and honor all our precious moms, but with Mother's Day and Father's Day as our bookends, we're going to continue our fight to be ONE in Christ; but now, it is in, what is beyond any doubt, the most critical battlefield of all--YOUR FAMILY. Today we start a brand new original series that will help you guys become ONE FAMILY. We're calling it "God's 5G Family Plan." Next to God Himself the most important thing in our lives is family. Let me put it this way: Have you noticed that if something bad happens in the news, or school, or even work, you push on, you get over it, you dust off and keep going. But if something happens to your family, your whole world comes to a halt. You call the boss and tell him you can't come in. You skip school. You cancel all your plans because suddenly, it's all hands on deck, full-court press to take care of your family.

Reminds me of a time when Mark was little. He was with me at work, running around the office, playing. But just then I hear this "bang" and Mark screams. I run over to him, and there he was on the floor holding his head crying. And I thought to myself, "Oh, he just bumped his head, like he's done many times before. He'll be fine." But when I picked him up and put my hand over his head, it was wet, and I looked at my hand and there was blood all over my hand. Oh man, I immediately switched into emergency dad mode. All our work froze in an instant. Nothing else mattered. Didn't even call the boss. If he needed me, he would have to come find me as I rushed my son to the hospital. I thought he split his head open! But it turns out when he fell, he hit his head against a screw that had popped out of an office partition. Since it was a head wound, there was a lot of blood. Painful, but not serious. So now he's got a little scar on his head--used to be covered by his hair, but now that he's going bald you can see it.



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Family. Other than God Himself, there is nothing more important to us. It didn't need to be an injury. It could've been a question, help with homework. When it comes to family, we will make the time. At least that's how it should be.

2. Describe how important family is to you in comparison with other things in your life.

At the beginning of this year, remember I said that the key to a great family life is getting into God's 5G Network? I told you the story of how I was doing a youth mission with high school teens on Lana'i. And I was trying to call my wife, Mona, on my flip phone. That's not a phone for Filipinos. Back then you actually had to flip your phone open to use it. But, no more diiii signal on my plip pone, and I miss my wive. I miss her so muts. I wanted to hear her boice so badly, but no more di signal. Well, turns out the only way I could get a signal was to walk out to the middle of the field outside the old Hotel Lana'i (nope, not Koele Lodge). I remember it was a beautiful night filled with stars, and there was a nice clearing in the midst of the pine trees. There, I was able to get just enough signal, and I could hear the voice of my angel on the other side, "Eh, what took you so long fo call? You having fun on Lana'i wit out me, eh, you buggah?"

The most important thing about family is our connection with God. We're not seeking God just so we can have a great family. We're seeking God because He is King of kings and Lord of lords. He sits on the throne of the universe, and the throne of our lives. We don't worship family. We worship Him! We don't say, "God, we will follow You IF you bless our family." uh-uh. We say, "God, You are our King. We exist to love and serve You. Show us how to love You and each another. See the difference? This is why we need God's 5G Family Plan. Just like your family has a cell phone plan that allows you to communicate with each, we need a plan that will help us connect with God so we can connect with each other. Doing it God's Way is how our families become ONE with God and ONE with each other. God's 5G Family Plan is about experiencing the faithfulness of God to the 5th generation (5G) as we love Him and stick to His plan. In God, we see the perfect blueprint for family – God the perfect parent, Jesus the perfect husband to His Church, and the Holy Spirit the perfect comforter to brothers and sisters in Christ. Imagine if our homes were filled with the kind of unconditional love, grace, and intimacy God demonstrates! In this series, we will discover God's family plan to unleash His blessing in your home for generations to come.

3. What do we mean by "God's 5G Family Plan?"

Let's read this passage together. Ready go:

"⁹ Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands" (Deuteronomy 7:9).



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There's a LOT to unpack in this seven-week original series, but here's the overall flow, or transformation arc, for our 5G plan. This is Week 1 where I will explain the 5G plan. But then in week 2 we will speak to the heads of our families--husbands--in a unique and powerful way. Then in week 3, we'll speak to the wives. Then in week 4, parents and kids. Week 5, singles. So basically we will explain God's 5G Family Plan, starting with the head of the family all the way through to the kids. In week 6, we'll show you how to troubleshoot when something goes wrong. Then in week 7, we're going to try something new--a panel discussion to answer questions from the congregation. So start coming up with questions you'd like us to answer, because we will collect your questions in advance. In order for this series to have the greatest impact on your life, come every week, because you will most likely go through every life stage that we're talking about in this series. So from Mother's Day to Father's Day, let's look at the special features of God's amazing 5G Family Plan.

At the heart of God's 5G Family Plan is, well, God! The beauty of God's family plan is that you don't need to get creative. You don't need to come up with your own plan. God has everything perfectly worked out. We just need to listen to what He says and live in simple obedience. Everybody say, "simple obedience." So if God says the most important thing in family is to love Him first with everything you've got, then what do you do? Yup. If God says teach your children to love Him first with everything they've got, what do you do? That's right. Kids, if God says honor and obey your parents, what do you do? Exactly. See? Simple obedience. Don't need to get creative. Just remember K-I-S-S, KISS--keep it simple, stu..., er, I mean, saint! Tell the person next to you, "Keep it simple, saint." Now give them a kiss. Just kidding.

4. How does God's 5G Family Plan work exactly?"

Let's read this together:

"⁴ Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord. ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶ Always remember these commands I give you today. ⁷ Teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 6:4-7a NCV).

What we just read is the greatest commandment in the Bible. More on that in week 4. But as you can see, it's talking about a 5G connection with our Father in Heaven. According to the Bible, how exactly does this work? Do we read the Bible? Go to Church? All those things will definitely help, but we're talking about something more. We're talking about personally communicating with God. You're going to talk with God and He's going to talk with you. That's what we mean by God's 5G Family Plan.

5. Why is there no idol or statue on God's shrine, the Ark of the Covenant?



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In the time we have left, let me leave you with a picture of how we were all designed to do this. Remember how in the ancient Temple, the Ark of the Covenant was in the Holy of Holies? That represents the point of contact between us and God. That's where God and Moses would speak face to face. It's actually an ancient shrine in honor of Yahweh, the God of Israel and King of the Universe. Now, in the ancient world, when you build a shrine, you place an idol there that represents your pagan god. If you're a Canaanite it's Ba'al or Asherah. If you're a Philistine, it's Dagon. You get the idea. But notice when it comes to the people of Yahweh, He tells them, "Make no graven image of Me." So if you look at the Ark of the Covenant, in that space between the bowing angels, there's nothing! There's no idol, no statue. It's just an empty space. Why is that? Listen very closely now. The reason there is no idol of Yahweh on His shrine is because God has already created the perfect image of Himself. What is the image of God on the Earth? The image of God on Earth is you.

6. What happens exactly when we encounter God face to face?

Your Father in Heaven is saying, "Put no graven image of Me on My shrine because nothing created with human hands could ever compare with the image of Myself that I created with My own hands. Nothing made by your hands could ever compare with the amazing, beautiful, magnificent image that I made with MY own hands. And that amazing creation is you, My child. Nothing in the universe compares with you. So can you see that if you put something else in that space and worship that thing, that is beneath you! That thing you put in that space, whatever it is (money, sex, power, entertainment, work) will never empower you to reach the potential that I, Your Father, have planned for you." So instead the Father says, "I want you to meet Me here every day, between the angels, and I will reveal MYSELF to you. I will speak to you. I will show you My face. And the more you sit in My Presence, the more you will look like Me." It's like looking into a mirror, but the face staring back at you is Jesus. The more you focus on Jesus, the more like Him you become.

Today we know that the Temple of Yahweh is our bodies. And the Ark of the Covenant is here (heart) and here (mind). Now listen, when you have these daily encounters with God, remember what He shows you! Let's read this passage:

"²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like" (James 1:23-24 NIV).

So when God shows you who He is and who you are, remember that! Don't forget it. And live it out. Simple obedience. Keep it simple, saint! If you're a husband or wife wondering how to be the best spouse you can be, look into God's face. He's the perfect spouse. If you're a mother or father this morning, wondering how to be the best mom or dad, look into God's face! He's the perfect parent. He'll show you. We all need this relationship with our Father to transform. We all need to turn to the Lord and talk it over with Him.

7. Why did Moses wear a veil or mask over his face?

Now let's read this together. Ready go:

"¹⁶ But whenever a man turns to the Lord, the covering is taken away. ¹⁷ The heart is free where the Spirit of the Lord is. The Lord is the Spirit. ¹⁸ All of us, with no covering on our faces, show the shining-greatness of the Lord as in a mirror. All the time we are being changed to look like Him, with more and more of His shining-greatness. This change is from the Lord Who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:16-18 NLV).

Ok, so what is going on here? Back in Exodus 34, the Bible says that Moses was spending a lot of time in the Presence of God. How many of us know that the word "glory" means to "shine?" Well, when you spend that much time face to face with God, like Moses did, you take on to yourself the GLORY of the Lord. Moses' face literally started to SHINE! Like, seriously SHINE! So sisters, if you want perfect skin, no need buy all those expensive Korean skin creams! Just step into the Presence of God! Moses would come out of the Presence of God and his face was glowing like the burning coals in your Hibachi! Can you imagine if you had a friend like Moses? He would come in real handy if you lost a contact lens or something. Moses! Bring your face, I think it popped out right around here somewhere. Must've been hard for Moses to chill in his tent, cuz people be like, "Moses, answer the door. I can see right through the canvas that you're home!" Actually, it wasn't a funny thing for the people of Israel. It was the opposite. The people could not handle looking at his glowing face. They were like, "Whoa, Moses, take it easy, bro, you're scaring the children!" But this was a real thing. Moses was so immersed in the Presence of God, that the skin on his face started to radiate--and the people were terrified. So to solve that problem, Moses covered his face with a veil. See? You not da only one who stay come Church with one mask! Each time Moses came out from the Presence of God, he wore that veil. But eventually, the shine wore off. Moses' face STOPPED glowing. Maybe this is something like when you first come to Christ, you're super on fire. But after a while you fizzle. The point is Moses' face wasn't shining anymore, but here's the thing: He kept on wearing the veil! But NOW he wasn't wearing the veil to cover his glow, Moses wore the veil cuz he no mo da glow! Do you see what's happening here? At first he was wearing the veil to be humble. NOW he's wearing the veil because of his pride. The veil, which was once worn out of grace and humility, was NOW used to hide his shame and embarrassment.

8. Why should we remove our veils of shame when we encounter God face to face?



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But the Bible says, whoever turns to the Lord has that veil of shame taken away. You no longer need to hide your sin because, on the cross, Jesus has set you free from your shame and embarrassment. God already knows everything about us, so you can take the veil off. You don't need to pretend you've got it all together. We can be honest when we encounter God face to face. When you wear a veil in God's presence, you're still trying to hide. You're saying you're good, you've got it all together, you don't need to change. But if you wear a veil in God's presence, what happens? Now YOU cannot see God in the mirror! You cannot see Him clearly because of that stupid veil! And that means you cannot see what you're supposed to become, how God wants you to change. You can't see Jesus clearly because of your pride and shame. Instead of going from glory to glory, you're going from sorry to sorry, or worse yet, gory to gory. Learning about God's 5G Family Plan could be the most important series we'll ever do as a Church. Because no matter how great things are going at school, work, or even church, if your ohana is not ONE, not living in love and unity, then life is not so great. But if we get mom and dad on the plan, all the kids, the whole family, into God's 5G Family Plan, your family will be ONE. Each of you will be free of your guilt and shame, gaze into the face of God every day, and His face will be for you a mirror of the person HE wants you to become. Someone with his Father's eyes, Jesus' gracious smile, and the Spirit's loving personality. Your lives will shine with God's glory. And together your family will reflect the image of God to each other. And THAT is God's 5G Family Plan!

9. What did God reveal to you about His 5G Family Plan? How will you step out in obedience?