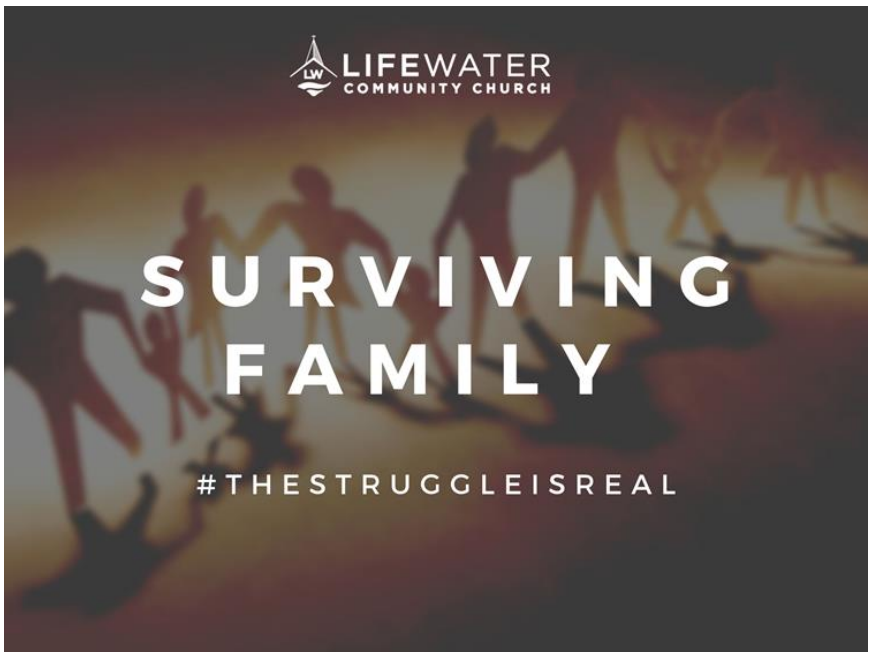


LifeGroup Sermon Series Study

2019-2020

Series Two



**SURVIVING
FAMILY**

#THESTRUGGLEISREAL



LIFEWATER
COMMUNITY CHURCH

“Surviving Family #The Struggle is Real”



The American family is in trouble. Consider the divorce rate; the number of grandparents raising children; violence in the home; high school dropout rates and bullying in schools; teen statistics on drug use, pregnancies, and suicides; autism; child behavior problems, and the number of parents rejecting God. We are seeing the family self-destruct right in front of us.

Many of society’s problems are because the family unit is not functioning correctly. Blame it on time pressure, priorities, or circumstances ... our families are suffering.

The Bible has plenty to say about how families should function and great advice about how to raise children. In today’s culture we have parents raising children and we also have single parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and even friends taking on that responsibility.

So how can you raise children today in an environment that is healthy, disciplined, and Christ centered? How can you care for difficult children with patience and love? How do you raise children when the pressures of work are enormous? How does one parent create a healthy environment without a spouse?

These and many other questions will be answered in this next series “Surviving Family #The Struggle is Real.” We will be looking at raising children and creating a healthy family environment from a Biblical perspective. We will deal with discipline and abuse. We will discuss how to raise children in a Christian environment and the responsibilities the extended family has in raising children. We will also discuss families that are spiritually divided and the concept of generational sin.

Raising children and investing in children is not easy; but IS extremely important.

Pastor Doug

LIFEGROUP ROSTER

NAME	PHONE #	E-MAIL

“Surviving Family #The Struggle Is Real: A Family that is Well Trained”

Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Lesson 1

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand why training your family is important.
- B. To help us know how to effectively train your family.
- C. To help us see that the extended family is responsible for training their families.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is the next step God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B. Sermon outline: “A Family that is Well Trained.”
 - 1. Three ways to train your family in the Lord:
 - a. Train your family at home; don’t delegate it to the (church). Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Lesson 1 (cont.)

- b. (Coach) your family up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

- c. (Choose) who your family will serve. Joshua 24:15

C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

D. Additional scriptures to look at: Deuteronomy 4:10, 25-26; Proverbs 13:1; 19:18; 20:7; Isaiah 30:9; 2 Timothy 3:14-15.

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

- A. According to these scriptures, what should the church's role be in teaching your family?

- B. Why is it so important for parents and grandparents to train their children and grandchildren?

- C. What is the most effective way to train your children/grandchildren?

Lesson 1 (cont.)

- D. What do you think is the difference between training your children and coaching your children?

 - E. How does training and coaching look different for young children, children, and adolescents?

 - F. Why is it important for a family to declare who they are serving?

 - G. What is wrong with letting children make up their own minds about what they believe and about faith?

 - H. What are the practical ramifications to declaring “As for me and my household we will serve the Lord?”

 - I. What are some changes I need to make in my parenting/grandparenting?
- V. Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**
- If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

Lesson 1 (cont.)

VI. Community that Prays: (5 minutes)

- A. Ask the group to share what God is showing them about their next steps.

- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?

- C. Take new prayer requests.

- D. Pray as a group for the next step that people shared they want to take, past requests not answered, and new requests made.

VII. Community that Looks Ahead:

- A. The scriptures next week are Hebrews 12:7-11.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

Notes:

“Surviving Family #The Struggle Is Real: A Family that Effectively Disciplines”
Hebrews 12:7-11
Lesson 2

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand that discipline, done correctly, is effective.

- B. To help us know how to effectively discipline our children.

- C. To help us see that effective discipline is needed in the home.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is the next step God is asking you to take and how are you doing?

- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.

- B. Sermon outline: “A Family that Effectively Disciplines.”
Hebrews 12:7-11

Lesson 2 (cont.)

1. Three keys to disciplining your family:
 - a. (Do it). Hebrews 12:7

 - b. When (done) right it leads to respect. Hebrews 12:8-9

 - c. Ensure it is effective and doesn't (destroy). Hebrews 12:11

C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

D. Additional scriptures to look at: **Deuteronomy 8:6; Proverbs 3:11-12; 5:23; 10:17; 12:1; 13:24; 15:5, 10, 32; 23:13-15.**

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

A. What is your definition of discipline?

B. What is the goal of discipline?

Lesson 2 (cont.)

- C. Why is discipline important?

- D. What is appropriate discipline from a biblical perspective?

- E. How do discipline and training work together?

- F. How might disciplining children lead to respect?

- G. What makes discipline effective?

- H. What is the difference between constructive and destructive discipline?

- I. What are some changes you need to make in your parenting/grandparenting?

V. Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

Lesson 2 (cont.)

VI. Community that Prays: (5 minutes)

- A. Ask the group to share what God is showing them about their next steps.

- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?

- C. Take new prayer requests.

- D. Pray in groups of two for the next step that people shared they want to take.

VII. Community that Looks Ahead:

- A. The scripture next week is **Ephesians 6:4**.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

Notes:

“Surviving Family #The Struggle Is Real: A Family Dominated by Anger”
Ephesians 6:4
Lesson 3

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand the destructiveness of discipline performed in anger.

- B. To help us know the ways we can exasperate our families.

- C. To help us see the tools we can use.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is the next step God is asking you to take and how are you doing?

- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.

- B. Sermon outline: “A Family Dominated by Anger.”
Ephesians 6:4

Lesson 3 (cont.)

1. Three reactions that create anger in the family:
 - a. Provoking your family by being (one)-sided.

 - b. Provoking your family by (overwhelming) them.

 - c. Provoking your family by your (own) anger.

C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

D. Additional scriptures to look at: **Psalms 37:8;**
Proverbs 15:1; Ephesians 4:26; Colossians 3:21;
James 1:20; 2 Peter 1:5-8.

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

A. What are some ways that we can exasperate our children/grandchildren?

B. How does our unwillingness to listen to our children create anger?

Lesson 3 (cont.)

- C. Is it important to listen first before reacting to our children?
Why or why not?

- D. Do you have high expectations of your
children/grandchildren? Why or why not?

- E. How are those expectations expressed to your
children/grandchildren?

- F. How can our expectations create anger in our
children/grandchildren?

- G. Is disciplining your children when you are angry
appropriate? Why or why not?

- H. How can you deal with your children when you are angry
with them?

- I. What are some changes you need to make in your
parenting/grandparenting?

Lesson 3 (cont.)

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

A. Ask the group to share what God is showing them about their next steps.

B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?

C. Take new prayer requests.

D. Pray in groups of three for the next step that people shared they want to take, past requests not answered, and new requests made.

VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

A. The scripture next week is **Proverbs 22:6**.

B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.

C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

Notes:

“Surviving Family #The Struggle Is Real: A Family Spiritually Divided”

Proverbs 22:6

Lesson 4

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand how to treat adult family members who are not following Jesus.
- B. To help us know how important it is to impact our families spiritually when they are young.
- C. To help us see how important it is to be a consistent model inside our family and outside our family.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is the next step God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B. Sermon outline: “A Family Spiritually Divided.”
Proverbs 22:6

Lesson 4 (cont.)

1. Three principles for dealing with a family spiritually divided:

- a. Begin (early).
- b. Model (effectively).
- c. (Earnestly) wait.

C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

D. Additional scriptures to look at: **Luke 15:11-20.**

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

A. Why is it important to start training your children early in the way of the Lord?

B. Does the concept “more is caught than taught” apply to parenting? How?

Lesson 4 (cont.)

- C. Why is modeling so effective for children/grandchildren?

- D. What is the best approach when an adult child/grandchild is not following Jesus?

- E. What should you avoid doing with an adult child/grandchild who is not following Jesus?

- F. Is patiently waiting on your adult child/grandchild to open the conversation about spiritual things the best approach? Why or why not?

- G. What are some changes I need to make in my parenting/grandparenting?

- V. Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**
If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

- VI. Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**
 - A. Ask the group to share what God is showing them about their next steps.

Lesson 4 (cont.)

- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?

- C. Take new prayer requests.

- D. Pray as a group for the next step that people shared they want to take, past requests not answered, and new requests made.

VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are **1 Timothy 3:4-5**.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

Notes:

**“Surviving Family #The Struggle Is Real: A Family that is Ready
for Spiritual Leadership”**

I Timothy 3:4-5

Lesson 5

- I. Purpose:**
 - A. To help us understand how important it is to the church that its leaders are good parents and grandparents.
 - B. To help us know how to be spiritual leaders in our families.
 - C. To help us see the importance of spiritual leadership in families.

- II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**
 - A. What is the next step God is asking you to take and how are you doing?
 - B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

- III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**
 - A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
 - B. Sermon outline: “A Family that is Ready for Spiritual Leadership.”

Lesson 5 (cont.)

1. Three standards for families to meet in spiritual leadership:

a. (Manage) your family. 1 Timothy 3:4a

b. (Mentor) your family. 1 Timothy 3:4 b

c. (Motivate) your family with respect.
1 Timothy 3:4c-5

C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

D. Additional scriptures to look at: **1Timothy 3:12-13 & Titus 1:6.**

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

A. Why is it important that a church leader's family follows biblical principles in their home?

B. What does "managing your family" mean to you?

Lesson 5 (cont.)

- C. Can church leadership tempt leaders to neglect their families? Why or why not?

 - D. Why is it important for church leaders to invest in their families?

 - E. In what ways is being a church leader similar to being a parent or grandparent?

 - F. What are some ways that parents can respectfully motivate their children/grandchildren?

 - G. What are some changes you need to make in your parenting/grandparenting?
- V. Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**
If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

Lesson 5 (cont.)

VI. Community that Prays: (5 minutes)

- A. Ask the group to share what God is showing them about their next steps.

- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?

- C. Take new prayer requests.

- D. Pray in groups of two for the next step that people shared they want to take.

VII. Community that Looks Ahead:

- A. The scriptures next week are **Matthew 2:1-23a**.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

Notes:

**“Surviving Family #The Struggle Is Real: A Family Caught in
Generational Sin”
Matthew 2:1-23a
Lesson 6**

- I. Purpose:**
- A. To help us understand generational sin.

 - B. To help us know how it can impact us.

 - C. To help us see that we still have choice in how we will live.
- II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**
- A. What is the next step God is asking you to take and how are you doing?

 - B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?
- III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**
- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.

 - B. Sermon outline: “A Family Caught in Generational Sin.”
Matthew 2:1-23a
 - 1. Three important facts in breaking the cycle of sin:
 - a. Understand the (consequences) of sin.
Exodus. 34:6-7

Lesson 6 (cont.)

- b. Remember the (cure) for the cycle of sin.
Deuteronomy 5:9 & Romans 6:23

- c. Realize you have a (choice) to end the cycle.
Deuteronomy 30:19 & 2 Corinthians 5:17

C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

D. Additional scriptures to look at: **Jeremiah 32:18; Romans 5:18-19, 6:23; Colossians 3:10; James 1:13-15; 1 John 3:4; Revelation 21:5.**

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

- A. Do you think the sins of one generation can be passed down to the next generation? How?

- B. What does it look like today to have God punish people to the third and fourth generation?

Lesson 6 (cont.)

- C. Why is sin so powerful that it destroys so much for so long?

- D. Are people ever stuck with no choice but to sin because of what the generation before them did?

- E. How do the actions of Adam and Eve in the garden impact us?

- F. What do people need to do to break the patterns that may have been passed down from a previous generation?

- G. What are some changes you need to make in your parenting/grandparenting?

- V. Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**
If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is your next step you need to take?

- VI. Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**
 - A. Ask the group to share what God is showing them about their next steps.

Lesson 6 (cont.)

- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?
- C. Take new prayer requests.
- D. Pray as a group for the next step that people shared they want to take, past requests not answered, and new requests made.

VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scripture next week is **Luke 2:52**.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

Notes:

“Surviving Family #The Struggle Is Real: Every Family’s Goal”

Luke 2:52

Lesson 7

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand the goal of families.

- B. To help us know the areas of growth we want for our children and grandchildren.

- C. To help us see.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is the next step God is asking you to take and how are you doing?

- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.

- B. Sermon outline: “Every Family’s Goal.” **Luke 2:52**

Lesson 7 (cont.)

1. Four areas families should grow:

a. Physical (strength)

b. (Supernatural) wisdom.

c. (Social) relationships.

d. (Spiritual) development.

C. What really spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you in these points?

D. Additional scriptures to look at: **Proverbs 1:8-19;**
Proverbs 2:1-22; Proverbs 3:1-35; Proverbs 4:1-27;
Proverbs 5:1-23; Proverbs 6:1-15, 20-35; Proverbs 7:1-27.

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

A. Is it important to encourage your children and grandchildren to grow in physical strength (i.e., playing sports and lifting weights)? Why or why not?

Lesson 7 (cont.)

- B. Is it important to encourage your children and grandchildren to grow in wisdom (i.e., getting good grades and excelling in learning)? Why or why not?

- C. Is it important to encourage your children and grandchildren to grow socially (i.e., learning how to have friends and participate in the school society)? Why or why not?

- D. Is it important to encourage your children and grandchildren to grow in learning about God (i.e., home devotions and prayer times)? Why or why not?

- E. Is it important to encourage your children and grandchildren to grow in their relationship with God (i.e., attending children's Sunday School, The Wave, and Youth Group)? Why or why not?

- F. What are some changes you need to make in your parenting/grandparenting?

Lesson 7 (cont.)

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

- A. Ask the group to share what God is showing them about their next steps.

- B. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?

- C. Take new prayer requests.

- D. Pray as a group for the next step that people shared they want to take, past requests not answered, and new requests made.

VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are **Ephesians 6:1-4**.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

Notes:

“Surviving Family # The Struggle is Real: Celebration Sunday”
Ephesians 6:1-4
Lesson 8

I. Purpose:

- A. To celebrate what we learned in the past seven weeks.

- B. To celebrate how God spoke to us in this series.

- C. To give God honor and glory due Him.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. What is the next step God is asking you to take and how are you doing?

- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. What spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you the most in this series?

Lesson 8 (cont.)

- E. What is one concept that you learned in this series that will help you talk to friends, family or your children about raising children?

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If this is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is the next step you need to take?

VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

- A. Spend a few minutes reviewing past prayer requests your group has made. Were they answered yes, no, or wait?

B. Take new prayer requests.

- C. Go around the group and share your answer to the accountability question and then pray for the person on your right.

VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are **Ephesians 5:21-33**.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

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