

# CELL NOTES 10/3/08

## ICE BREAKER

What family tradition did you observe as a child that you continue today?

## THEME

All about mum and dad

Readings Eph 6 : 1-4 & Mat 15 : 1-9

## SERMON OUTLINE

- 1) The fifth commandment is to do with family relationships the basic and initial relationship for us all.
- 2) Today there is a huge variety of family patterns and experience – we can take little for granted.
- 3) There is also huge pressure on the family from such factors as work patterns, modern lifestyles ( especially the impact of technology), the frequent dispersal of the extended family, and government financial policies.
- 4) But families have always faced challenges – witness the experience of King David in the OT etc.
- 5) Family is God's mechanism as the basic social building block. He tells us to call him Father, and we are urged to care primarily for family (Ps 68:5, 1Tim 5 :8)
- 6) But families fracture – this isn't a reason for shame or retreat, but a reason for the church family to be a place of healing and restoration.
- 7) Col 3 : 21 – a point for parents! Learn to learn, be fair, communicate, praise, and stick at it.
- 8) We are all children. At whatever stage of life, we need to honour our parents by acceptance, appreciation, and affirmation. And we need to do so now.
- 9) The commandment is a reminder of God's intention to have a parent/child relationship with us, and to underline principles of how we may express His life in our human family relationships.

## QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION

Read the passages. What hits you most? What did you take away from Sunday's message?

- 1) What does Jesus say about adults caring for their parents? How has/does that work for you? What are the joys/strains of this?

2) How did your parents exasperate you? How are you prone to exasperate your children/the younger generation?

3) What do you think about the points raised in honouring parents? How does/has this worked for you?

4) How are we doing as a church / cell in caring for those with little or no direct family? Can we do better?