

## Sermon Based Discussion Questions

### Extravagant Love Series – ‘Love on Display through Family’ *The Book of Matthew*

**Series Overview** – The extravagant love of Father God for you and me is on display through the gospels. Together we’ll explore that love as expressed through family, adoption and friendship.

**Today’s Focus** – Understanding and experiencing the love of God through the love and acceptance of our church family.

#### **Getting Started:**

- Have you ever sent a family member off with concern for their safety? Tell us about it.
- What do you love about being in a ‘family’?
- What are the things that make family life more difficult?

#### **Study:**

1. Review Matthew 1. What do we learn about Jesus’ family background as we look at some of the individuals in his family tree and his own family of origin? Are there any stories of God’s grace or faith heroes that bother you or inspire you?
2. Read Matthew 2:13-18. How was Joseph willing to listen to God and obey His direction for the family?
3. What kind of impact do you think this example of obedience to God had on Jesus’ own spiritual development?

4. In what ways do we see the Father heart of God expressed towards the Son? (perhaps reference Matthew 3:15-17, Luke 9:33-36 & Luke 23:34)
5. Read Matthew 11:27 ...in your own words describe the relationship between the Father and the Son.

#### **Discuss/Apply:**

1. There are a few times in Scripture where the church is referred to as the ‘Family of God’, or ‘God’s Family’. What do you think means to refer to the church as ‘family’?
2. Have you experienced the church as ‘family’? If so how? If not, how could you imagine the church being experienced as family?
3. Families play an important role in the formation of individuals. In what ways do you depend on the family of God to help form you in your love for Jesus?
4. Are there negative family experiences in your past that are making it harder for you to embrace *this* family? Would you be willing to share concerning this?
5. What is the most important thing you learned from this study?

**Prayer:**

- If some in your group are uncomfortable praying out loud, perhaps you could each offer a 1 sentence prayer, thanking God for something; then perhaps a 1 sentence prayer with a request of God.
- Would you give back to God, in a short prayer, the hurts or obstacles you referenced in Discuss/Apply #4 above?
- Would you, in prayer, invite the Lord aid our attempts to be a Godly, caring, effective family community as a small group and as a church family?
- It may be that some have requests and would ask that you pray for them this coming week.

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- Would you take some time today to pray for our Global Mission family? Pray for the ones you know. If you find you don't know any, ask the office for a prayer calendar. (Tim & Roxanne Brazeau, Hayley Gaynor, Perry & Linda Friesen, Preston & Mirjam Thiessen, Ben & Kari Elliott, Kristi Hopf, Andre & Holly Winsor, Rebecca Brown, Curtis & Linda Doell, Steve & Audrey Zub, and Andy & Janet Weighill)

**Sermon Notes**

“Extravagant Love” sermon series  
The Book of Matthew: Message #1

Okotoks Alliance Church  
Sun. Jan. 29, 2011  
Rev. Terry Lee

***Extravagant Love; Through Family  
The Book of Nehemiah***

*Matthew 1:1-16,*

**1) Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Was Placed In Family**

**2) The \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus’ Family Tree**

**3) There Was \_\_\_\_\_ In Jesus’ Family Tree**

**4) John’s Story...**

**5) An \_\_\_\_\_ Into The Family**

*All of this happened to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet...  
Matthew 1:22, NLT*