

Do you think **family** is important? *Do you agree with these quotes about family?*

Is it easy being part of a **family**?

What does **family** mean?

**HOME
FAMILY**

When we
have each
other,
we have
everything

Time spent
with family
is worth
every second.

OUR FAMILIES



Memories

What are some of your best family memories?

What are some of your most embarrassing family memories?

We all come from different families and we may have very different experiences of being a part of a family.

Some of us might have big, extended families that we see regularly. Others may only see their close family members.

Our families are really important, but they can also be really hard work and cause stress and strain.

At the moment, when we are stuck at home with each other, this stress and strain could be particularly difficult to live with.

One of the most common issues in family life is that there are real stresses and strains on family relationships – family 'fall outs' are part of life (sadly).

What causes family fall outs? *Think about fall outs in your own family.*

The Bible is full of stories about families who really struggled. All families do from time to time and that was no different thousands of years ago.

FAMILY FALL OUT

- *When you have arguments with your family members what normally happens?*
- *How do you resolve arguments and fall outs?*
- *Is it wrong to argue with brothers and sisters?*



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE
TO SAY TO HELP US DEAL
WITH FAMILY CONFLICT?

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Each one of us has a different family life. Some of us have a harder time than others. Being part of a family can be really hard.

Perhaps we always fall out with our siblings, perhaps we get fed up with our parents nagging us all the time, or perhaps we're sick of hearing and seeing our parents argue.

How can the words in these few Bible verses help in our various family situations?

How might they challenge us?

At one point, Jesus is talking to a crowd of people when someone tells him ‘Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.’ He replied to him, ‘Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?’ Pointing to his disciples, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers.’ (Matthew 12)

At first glance this might seem really rude, but Jesus isn’t disrespecting his mother and brothers. What he is really getting at is that when someone becomes a Christian, they are part of something bigger than an earthly family – they are part of God’s family. Jesus’ family includes **everyone** who believes and trusts in him.

You might want to take some time to reflect on the fact that we are included in Jesus’ family when we put our faith and trust in him. You could listen to this song as you think about this.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k>

If you are really struggling with your ‘earthly’ family, how could this be an encouragement to you?

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Father God

When our family life is hard and full of conflict, please help us to love one another. Please give us patience and help us to be kind. Help us not to keep a record of wrongs, but to forgive one another.

Thank you that you have given us the opportunity to become part of your family. Thank you that you keep no record of our wrongs, but have forgiven us because of Jesus.

Amen