

# FBC TODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



 First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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 First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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# True Vision of A Christian Family



A little boy cried all the way home in the back seat of the car after his baby brother's dedication in church. His father repeatedly asked him what was wrong. Finally, the boy responded, "The pastor said he wanted us raised in a Christian family. But I'd like to stay with you!"

What can we glean from this story? What did the pastor mean when he said the children needed to be raised in a Christian family? What was Jesus' vision of a "Christian family?" Jesus himself confirmed the call to discipleship in the context of a family relationship. This is one of

 **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
SUBANG JAYA

**Address :**  
38 Jalan SS17/1D, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

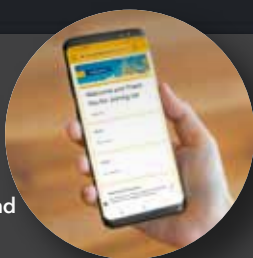
**Telephone :**  
+03 5621 2623

**Email :**  
fbc.subangfamily@gmail.com

**Website:**  
www.fbc.com.my

## NEW?

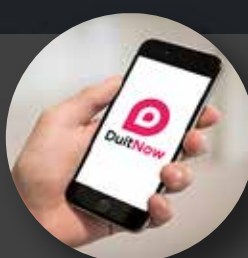
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the most noticeable, distinct, and central aspects of His call.

**"Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me," Jesus said. (NIV, Matthew 10:37 ; James 1:5)**

What did Jesus mean when He said that those who love their parents or children are unworthy to be His disciples? Based on Jesus' own personal experience, He recognised spiritual rejection even within His natural family (Mark 3:21) and asserted that His followers' primary loyalty must be to God the Father (Luke 2:49). Leaving one's natural family behind, even literally, was expected of Jesus' first followers, such as Simon, his brother Andrew, and the sons of Zebedee, and these fishermen leave their natural vocations and family contexts to follow Jesus. Jesus made it clear by situating natural kinship ties within the larger context of God's kingdom.

While Jesus placed people's responsibilities within the larger framework of God's kingdom, this should not be interpreted to mean that Christians should neglect their family responsibilities. On the contrary, Jesus must have had an elevated view of biological family ties in order to use it as a comparison with the ultimate relationship one should have with God! As Paul wrote later,

**"Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own households, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (1 Tim. 5:8, NIV)**

At the same time, the spiritual principle that following Jesus should be every Christian's first priority remains in effect, and where this conflicts with an individual's natural family obligations, he or she must first seek God's kingdom and His righteousness.

We know from the Gospels that those who resist Jesus' call to discipleship are frequently unwilling to give up their natural ties in favour of total allegiance to Jesus. (Luke 9:58, 60, 62; Matt. 8:19-22 NIV) Jesus had set the example by repeatedly renouncing his own natural family ties when they were potentially incompatible with higher spiritual loyalties. When Jesus was twelve years old, he responded to his parents' anguished concern by saying, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know I had to be at my Father's house?" (See Luke 2:49.) On another occasion, Jesus chastises His mother and then His brothers for failing to recognise the divine timing that underpins His ministry (John 2:4; 7:6-8)

So, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as Christians, we are called to seek first God's spiritual kingdom (Matt 6:33). So, we teach our own families to do





just this. They are to study God's word, pray at all times, place their faith in Christ, and do good to others. The biblical goal is for sanctified households to raise their children in Christ and bear witness to him throughout the world. The church must have extended families in order to accomplish this. Is our church cultivating such relationships as a family, we might wonder? Isn't church suppose to be our new family? And, if that's the case, shouldn't the church community question, and perhaps redefine, what we mean when we talk about the family?

To answer this, we will need to employ some systematic theology. Jesus does indeed say that we must be willing to hate our family for his sake. He also taught us that "whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, sister, and mother" (Matt. 12:50). While Paul teaches that we should treat older men in the church as fathers, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters (1 Tim. 5:1-2). We are all siblings under one God and Father.

As a result, our church fosters this family relationship through smaller groups like Life Groups and other ministries. This means that as we focus on the family, we should be thinking about how the family can imitate Jesus by living sacrificially for the sake of the world. We do this not by ceasing to be families, but by being families in the fullest and most authentic sense possible.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, as one family in Christ, we should join a Life Group to strengthen the family relationship not only within but also with others as one body in Christ.



**By Peter Raj**

*(Peter is the member of FBC and Saujana Life Group)*

## | Pulpit Program

January 16, 2022

### The Nature of Faith

(Matthew 15:21-31)



**PREACHER**  
Alex Tan

January 23, 2022

### The Influence of False Teachers

(Matthew 15:32;16:12)



**PREACHER**  
Lee Yee Dian

January 30, 2022

### Family Sermon Series:

The Seed of the Woman - How God Works Through imperfect Families



**PREACHER**  
Arnold Lim

February 06, 2022

### The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail Against You:

The Key to Victorious Living  
(Matthew 16:13-23)



**PREACHER**  
John Lee

## | Worship with Us



### MAIN SERVICE

| ZOOM |  
Sundays 8:45am



### YOUTH SERVICE

| ZOOM |  
Sundays 9:00am



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

for Ages 0-12yrs  
| ZOOM |  
Sundays



Call office to know more:  
03-5621 2623

## PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

Alpha Programme  
(started on 6 January 2022)



### God, we pray for FBC as we extend invitations to try Alpha...

Open our hearts and ears to hear the names you whisper. Calm our fears and give us the courage to take a risk and extend an invitation

### God, we pray for the Alpha team leaders and helpers, technical and admin teams

Protect them and pour out your grace and wisdom. Empower them, Holy Spirit, to welcome and listen attentively. Root and establish them in your love, so that they can share, 'how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.' (Eph. 3:17b-18)

### God, we pray for our Alpha guests...

Prepare the soil of their lives to receive gospel seed. (Mar. 4:1-20) Help them feel welcomed and heard and to find new friends. May they experience your love through this Alpha Course, would your kingdom come and your will be done, here as it is in heaven.

## | Upcoming Events



### No Need for Registration

Every Sunday  
8:45am (1 Service)  
More Info: [www.fbc.com.my](http://www.fbc.com.my)



### Romans

From Wretchedness To Righteousness  
Every Wednesday  
For more information, contact Church Office at 03-5621 2623



### Is There More to Life Than This?

Alpha 21 will begin on 6 January 2022.  
Every Thursday 8:00pm  
[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the next Alpha program.



### Daily Prayer Meeting

Every Saturday to Thursday 9:00pm  
Zoom ID: 929 735 694  
Password: pray

## More Information on Upcoming Events