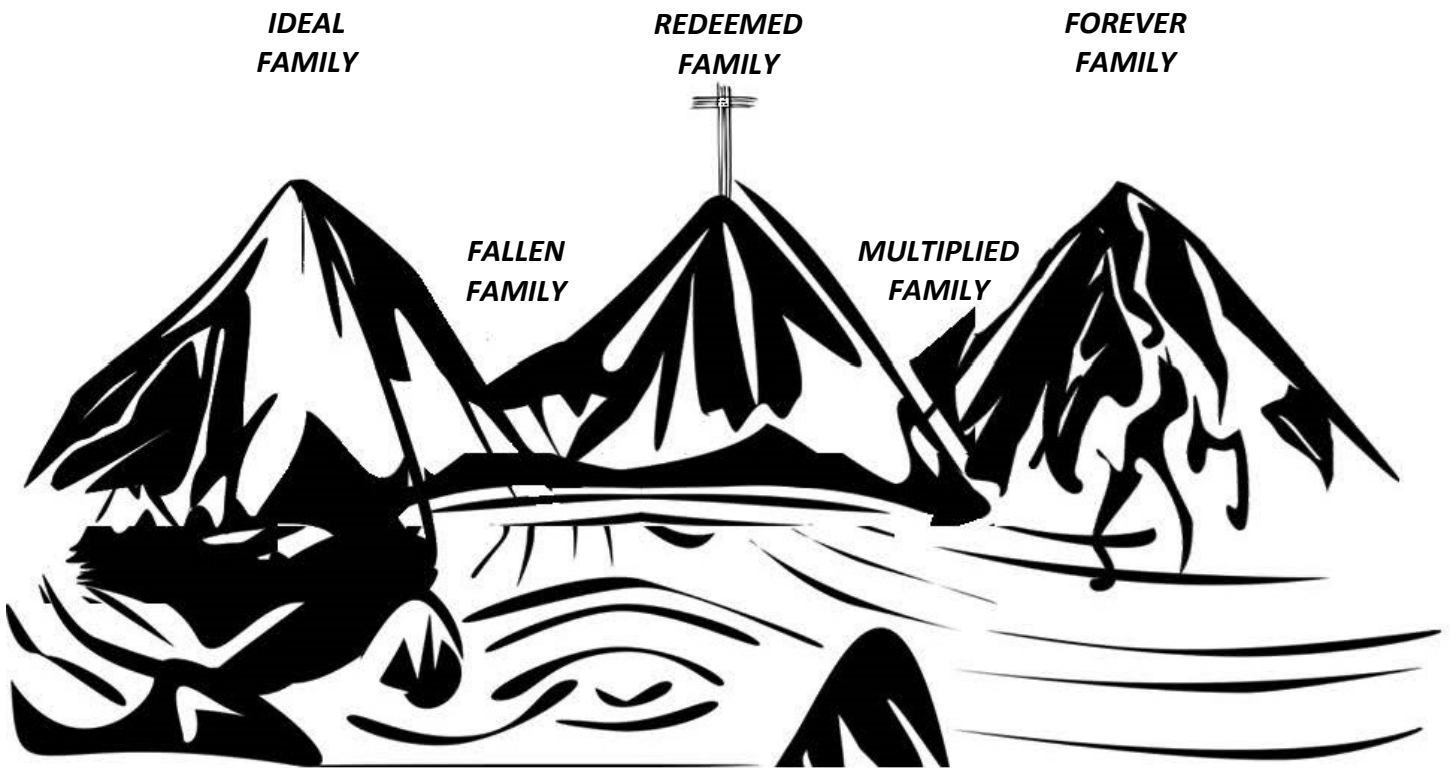


Five Families Overview - Quick Visual Reference



Running fast and far together to complete the Great Commission requires relating with other people (not surprising!). Across the timeline of humanity, large general periods indicate how men and women relate with one another (and with God). We call these five general periods “families.”

When we refer to family, we include males and females of any age - single, widowed, or married. This includes YOU! The Bible speaks much about family - from the creation of the first family in Genesis to a grand Wedding in Heaven. The Apostle Paul prophetically prayed for the global family:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Ephesians 3:14-17

Understanding the Five Families gives us a clear picture of God’s heart and intent, as well as people’s sin and need. The first family (Ideal) and the last family (Forever) demonstrate the bookends of God’s perfect plan for people at creation and into eternity future. The central (Redeemed) family focuses on the cross of Christ as the pivotal centerpiece of all history. These “up” times are shining pinnacles of God’s design and holiness. These mountaintops serve as the goals, the guides, the standards to keep in mind. The second (Fallen) and fourth (Multiplied) families reveal the struggle with the sin of our cultures and our need to complete Jesus’ commission. These “down” times show the valleys where men and women labor to overcome evil, deceit, and doubt.

As you seek to run with Jesus, even as we live in the present valley of sin and death, let us fix our eyes on God’s original intent, his glorious sacrifice, and life in his eternal presence.