

AUGUST FAMILY MONTH

Discipleship Curriculum

MONTH THEME

Building Families That Leave a Godly Legacy

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it...”

Psalm 127:1

WEEK THREE

Family Beyond My Front Door

Cousins Day

Primary Scriptures

- Luke 1:39–45
- Luke 1:57–66
- Luke 3:1–17
- Matthew 3:13–17
- John 3:22–30
- Malachi 3:1; 4:5–6

PARTICIPANT WORKBOOK

WELCOME

Confirming What God Is Doing in Another

Welcome to the third week of our Family Month journey.

Last week we discovered that no family is too broken for God's healing grace. This week we discover a companion truth: no calling is too small for God's confirming grace. Through the story of Mary and Elisabeth, and later through John the Baptist and Jesus, we will see that God often links two destinies inside one family long before either person understands what He is building. Some of the most important people in Scripture were never the star of the story — they were forerunners who prepared the way for someone else's glory.

This week's lesson reminds us that confirmation is not competition — it is discipleship.

WEEKLY OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, participants should be able to:

- ✓ Explain the biblical theology of confirmation and calling.
- ✓ Trace the pattern of God linking family members to a shared purpose throughout Scripture.

- ✓ Understand the doctrine of providence in the story of Mary and Elisabeth.
- ✓ Distinguish between confirmation and competition within families.
- ✓ Identify one practical step toward confirming God's work in a family member.

MEMORY VERSE

"He must increase, but I must decrease."
John 3:30 (KJV)

FAMILY MONTH THEME STATEMENT

Family is bigger than blood.

God often confirms our calling through the people He places beside us.

When we learn to confirm instead of compete, we become forerunners for someone else's future.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Before beginning this week's study, spend a few moments reflecting on the following questions. There are no wrong answers — simply answer honestly.

Reflection One

Who in your family looked past what everyone else saw and confirmed something in you before you recognized it yourself?

Reflection Two

Which of these best describes how you usually respond when a family member's blessing seems greater than your own?

- ☐ I celebrate them right away
- ☐ I feel happy, but a little envious underneath
- ☐ I quietly compare myself
- ☐ I distance myself
- ☐ I struggle to put it into words
- ☐ Other

Reflection Three

Is there an assignment God may be preparing you for right now, in a season that feels more like a wilderness than a platform?

Reflection Four

What might change in your family if you became known as someone who confirms other people's callings instead of competing with them?

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Mary and Elisabeth

Luke 1 opens after four hundred years of prophetic silence. No new word from God had come to Israel since the prophet Malachi. Into that silence, God moves — not through a king's court, but through two women in the same family. An elderly priest's wife, long past the age of childbearing, and a teenage girl who has never known a man. Both are given an impossible assignment. Both are given a family member who can understand what no one else could.

Will Mary and Elisabeth rejoice over each other's miracle, or measure whose miracle is greater?

That question is not only theirs. It is ours. Before God can use a family to bless the world, He often has to heal how that family responds to each other's blessing.

HISTORICAL INSIGHT

The pattern of God connecting two family members to a single redemptive purpose runs throughout Scripture long before Mary and Elisabeth. Moses needed Aaron. David needed Jonathan. Naomi needed Ruth. In every case, God placed a companion inside the family circle whose calling would support, confirm, or prepare the way for someone else's assignment.

John the Baptist was not a lesser figure standing in the shadow of Jesus. He fulfilled a specific prophetic office long promised in Malachi 3:1 and 4:5 — the forerunner who would prepare the way of the Lord. His greatness was not measured by comparison to Jesus, but by faithfulness to his own assignment.

His story is unmistakable: the God who calls one family member to lead will often call another to prepare the way — and both callings matter equally in the Kingdom of God.

THEOLOGY CORNER

What Is Confirmation?

From a biblical perspective, confirmation is more than encouragement. It is participating in what God is already doing in someone else's life.

Throughout Scripture, God consistently models and calls His people toward confirmation:

- God gave Mary a sign by pointing her to Elisabeth's miracle (Luke 1:36–37).
- Scripture calls believers to rejoice with those who rejoice, not merely tolerate them (Romans 12:15).
- The church is instructed to provoke one another toward love and good works, not comparison (Hebrews 10:24–25).
- True greatness in the Kingdom is measured by faithfulness to assignment, not visibility (John 3:30).

The Bible therefore presents confirmation as a Gospel practice, not simply a personality trait. Because God confirmed His work in us through others, He calls us to become confirmers of His work in one another.

WORD STUDY

“Increase” and “Decrease”

Greek: αὐξάνω (auxanō) / ἐλαττώω (elattoō)

Meaning of auxanō:

- To grow
- To increase
- To become greater
- To flourish

Meaning of elattoō:

- To make less
- To diminish
- To become smaller
- To yield place

These two words appear together only once in the New Testament — in John 3:30, on the lips of John the Baptist. The grammar is instructive: both verbs are in a form indicating something that must happen, not something that might happen. Decreasing was not John's tragedy. It was John's theology.

The question is not whether someone else's calling is greater than yours. The question is whether you will make room for it.

LIFE APPLICATION

Complete the following sentences:

1. The family member whose calling I need to confirm rather than compare myself to is...
2. An area of my life where I need to “decrease” so someone else can increase is...
3. One way I can prepare the way for someone else this month is...

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Set aside thirty minutes this week. Everyone should answer each question.

4. Besides John and Jesus, who else in Scripture shows us family members confirming rather than competing?
5. How did John's years in the wilderness prepare him for his assignment, and what “wilderness seasons” have shaped members of our family?
6. What is the difference between celebrating someone and quietly comparing yourself to them?
7. Is there a family member whose calling we may have overlooked because we still picture who they used to be?
8. What does it practically look like for someone in our family to “decrease” so someone else can increase (John 3:30)?
9. How can our family become a place where every generation is prepared and confirmed rather than compared and competed with?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Preparing the Way: Our Family's Jordan River

Using a blank sheet of paper:

10. Draw a river flowing across the page.
11. On one bank, write the name of a family member whose gift or calling you want to confirm this month.
12. Inside the river, write the words that describe confirmation: Belief, Encouragement, Patience, Honor.
13. On the far bank, write one practical action you will take to prepare the way for that person.
14. Above the river, draw an open heaven and write John 3:30 or Malachi 3:1 across it.
15. When the drawing is complete, gather as a family and pray a blessing over the person named, asking God to increase His work in their life.

End of Week Three — Sunday Session