

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024  
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## SERMON OUTLINE

## DISCOURAGEMENT IN FAMILIES

GENESIS 50:15-26 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

Knowing the essential responsibilities of family members is crucial to having healthy family dynamics. Children are commanded to obey and honor their parents as an act of submission to Christ. When these responsibilities are fulfilled, they will receive blessings from God. On the other hand, parents are commanded to discipline and instruct their children in the ways of the Lord, and they must exercise their authority responsibly so as not to exasperate their children. Parents and children must focus on fulfilling their God-given responsibilities through the power of the Holy Spirit in obedience to Christ (Ephesians 6:1-4).

However, despite these clear-cut responsibilities of family members, many experience various kinds of discouragements—marital conflict, sibling rivalry, feeling of bitterness among members and

an unhealthy family environment. Oftentimes, parents and children struggle to obey God's commands because of their failure to understand the rationale for such divine instructions. When God's fundamental purposes for these commands are understood and taken to heart, it will start the journey of family transformation.

The family is God's idea and therefore it must be good (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18; 24-25). But, the fall distorted God's design for the family as sin entered the world (3:16-19). As a result, the first sibling rivalry led to murder (4:1-8). In the following generations, dysfunctional families abound—a father who walked with God was dishonored by his son (6:9; 9:18-25), a man called by God had severe conflict with his brother (13:8-9), a master's wife dealt harshly with her servant (16:6), and there were

other various marital issues and struggles among siblings. Despite the many discouraging stories about families recorded in the Book of Genesis, the story of Joseph at the end of the book gives hope that God's good purposes will never be hindered by bad circumstances (Genesis 45:4-8; 50:15-26).

There are no perfect families, but we have a perfect God who called us to be part of our family. And because Christ came to break the curse of sin, we can be confident that God's good purposes will be fulfilled (Galatians 3:13-14). In this sermon, we will be encouraged to bring our family relationships to the next level and to be confident that we will emerge victorious over all discouragements through Christ who loved us (Romans 8:37)!✳

## DISCIPLESHIP IN THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

ANNE CAROLYN FELIPE

*"We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." - Psalm 78:4*

Making multiplying disciples is the church's main thing. Making multiplying disciples is also one of the reasons why GCFSM Christian School exists, apart from academic excellence. This school year, the Lord blessed the school with 398 students, 52 of whom are new enrollees. Our teaching team comprises 48 qualified teachers with 6 new additions to the group. We thank God for the individuals and families He brings to us to minister this school year 2024-2025.

While discipling is the task of the home, the school and the church are the home's active partners in this God-sized and life-long mission. We take it to heart to grow academically excellent children, but more so to grow multiplying disciples who know, love, abide, serve and proclaim Jesus. Yes, by the grace of God, we are confident that the Lord will give us His wisdom and empowerment to accomplish the work that He has set for us to do in His name.

The School Discipleship Ministry is the church's arm to reach out

to the youth of this generation. We provide venues for the children to know God, His Word, and His ways. Our chapel services for elementary and high school students are done in an age-appropriate manner so we may deliver God's Word to them at their level. Our High School Growth Groups are also in place to be their safe place to inquire about the things of God and everyday living. We are also organizing events for them to enjoy fellowship with friends, use their God-given talents, and once more be encouraged as the Word of God is declared. It is our joy to let our young know that to be a disciple of Jesus is much fun!

The School Discipleship Ministry (SDM) is committed to connecting with the homes as we pay short visits to say hello and pray. Also, our Parents' Fellowship shall be conducted on weekends so that more parents could participate and be acquainted with one another. We pray intentionally and prepare these venues so that we may reach, equip and encourage the home to help disciple the young.

The school faculty, likewise, are all plugged into a Growth Group. It is our place to grow in the Word and in Christlikeness. It is our safe place to express our thoughts and be prayed for

and ministered to by our godly peers.

Our GCFSM Christian school is growing in number. It is our prayer that as we do, we will never forget and neglect what we are to accomplish – to disciple and mentor the next generation for the glory of God.

With such a task, we are committed to share the gospel of the Lord Jesus with these young people. We are committed to ensuring that we, the faculty and staff, are growing in our Christian lives so that we may be good examples to children and parents alike. We, too, are committed to partner with every home the Lord has given us for this school year and even in the coming years.

### FAMILY TALK

**"It Starts At Home: Raising the 21st Century Child."** This will be on **Saturday, September 14, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.** Our featured speakers are Dr. Jun and Anne Ardina of Alliance Graduate School. They are family counselors and, most of all, the parents of their only son. You may use this opportunity to invite your friends who may need to be informed on this subject. You may register at the lobby. ✳

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