

LOVE THE LORD



Lesson Thirty-four - How does family iniquity affect future generations?

August 2023

Summary of key points

- God is faithful and guarantees a blessing on everything we do when we love and obey Him.
- But we can choose to deny and reject God. By doing so, we deny ourselves of His blessings. We fall away from God's protection and will open ourselves and our families up to curses that get passed down to future generations.
- There are three categories of sin; these are sin, transgressions, and iniquity. It is iniquity that causes generational curses (with examples of iniquity).
- Many of the consequences of family iniquity can be found in Deuteronomy 28 (with examples).
- We need to confess our families iniquity and turn away from their patterns. We need to be grafted into Jesus so that we can begin to bear good fruit.

Watch the lesson online

<https://youtu.be/qOv-YhIxeok>

Transcript

Welcome to lesson 34 of Love the Lord where we look at the detrimental effects of family iniquity and how they get passed down to future generations.

We will begin by inviting God to speak to us personally through this study. Please follow along as we pray together. Click pause at any point if you need more time.

First, let's thank God for His perfect character and His perfect will for us.

Next, please tell Him about the things that have been stressful and ask for His help and guidance.

Let us put down our burdens of sin and confess the ways we have sinned against God and against others, and ask for His forgiveness.

Please also confess the ways others have sinned against us, and forgive them in Jesus' name.

Next, let us ask God to purify and open our hearts to receive His teaching.

Finally, please repeat these words, “In Jesus’ name, I silence all distractions and voices that are not from God. Amen.”

Let's begin the lesson for today. How does family iniquity affect future generations?

God is faithful and generous to His children. He guarantees a blessing on everything we do when we love and obey Him. He promises to set us apart as His people and to even bless our families going forward, for a thousand generations.

Deuteronomy 28:1,8,10 “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands... “The Lord will guarantee a blessing on everything you do... Then all the nations of the world will see that you are a people claimed by the Lord, and they will stand in awe of you. (NLT)”

Let's read from Deuteronomy chapter 7 verse 9 together, “Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.” (Deuteronomy 7:9 ESV) What this shows us is that whatever we do in our lifetime will bear fruit that will impact those who come after us.

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (NIV)

God is a God of abundance and He has set into place the principle of multiplication, so that whatever good we do will spill over to our children's children thereafter, for many generations.

Genesis 22:18 And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.” (ESV)

The amazing fact is that if we obey God, then even the nations of the earth will be blessed through our descendants. This does not mean, however, that we won't encounter difficulties.

Deuteronomy 28:1,7 “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands... “The Lord will conquer your enemies when they attack you. They will attack you from one direction, but they will scatter from you in seven! (NLT)”

It means that God will be with us and our families, to guide and help us through any circumstance — even when we face attacks on all sides — because He is the One who fights for us.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 Love is patient and kind... It does not demand its own way... (NLT)

But God does not force us to love and obey Him. Genuine love does not demand its own way. We can choose to turn away from Him and worship other gods.

Psalm 16:4 Troubles multiply for those who chase after other gods. I will not take part in their sacrifices of blood or even speak the names of their gods. (NLT)

The same principle of multiplication will still apply — except that now, it is in reverse. Troubles, instead of goodness, will multiply and spill over to our future generations.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 “Look, today I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse! ... you will be cursed if you reject the commands of the Lord your God and turn away from him and worship gods you have not known before. (NLT)

By denying and rejecting God, we deny ourselves of His blessings. We fall away from God’s protection and will open ourselves and our families up to curses, in other words, to harm, evil, hardship, and affliction.

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (ESV)

Satan will come to steal and kill and destroy whatever abundant life God has planned for us and our families, including future generations.

God Himself personally gave this warning four times in the Bible, in the books of Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy — that the troubles caused by a person’s iniquity will be passed down his third and fourth generations. Let’s read from Exodus 20 together, “*You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me.*” (Exodus 20:3,5 ESV)

God, in His grace, keeps the curses of our iniquity from continuing for another thousand generations. He limits them to just four generations.

It might be helpful at this point, to distinguish the differences between iniquity, transgression, and sin because God clearly does. God is not a petty God who holds every family to account for every single one of our forefathers’ sins. It is specifically the sin of their iniquity that leads to family curses. Remember that earlier in Exodus 20, He calls those who commit iniquity those who hate Him.

Exodus 34:6-7 “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious...forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” (ESV)

Let us use an analogy to illustrate. We break the law when we jaywalk and when we commit a murder, but the severity of each offence means that they will be judged differently. Jaywalking is an example of a transgression where murder is an example of iniquity.

Jaywalking may lead to a fine, but murder certainly calls for capital punishment. Jaywalkers pay for the penalty of their own sins, but the families of murderers will end up suffering along with them as well, because now they have to endure shame and hardship. The greater the sin, the greater the impact on our families.

Similarly, not all sins are judged equally by God. There are different degrees of severity and different consequences. Jesus told the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, that it was not the Romans who nailed Him to the cross who had the greater sin, but the ones who betrayed Him that did. That would be Judas, Jesus' own disciple, and the temple priests.

John 19:10-11 "Why don't you talk to me?" Pilate demanded. "Don't you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?" Then Jesus said, "You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin." (NLT)

1 John 5 explains that every wicked action is sinful and leads to separation from God, but not every sin leads to spiritual death while we are still here on this earth.

1 John 5:17-19 All wicked actions are sin, but not every sin leads to death. We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them. We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one. (NLT)

Those who are God's children do not make a practice of sinning. We may fall into temptation and sin once in a while but we will not allow it to become a hardened, habitual way of thinking and behaving.

1 John 5:17-19 All wicked actions are sin, but not every sin leads to death. We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them. We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one. (NLT)

Jesus Himself will hold us close and protect us from Satan's temptations. He will draw us back to our Heavenly Father unlike those who have fallen under Satan's total control. So we see that there are different types of sin — one that is habitual and one that is not.

Let's elaborate on this a bit more.

We sin when we fall short of a standard, when we do wrong, when we harm someone, or when we neglect to do what is right. For instance, we sin against one another when we fail to be kind to one another and help each other out.

A transgression is on a more serious level. It involves intentionally disobeying instructions and wilfully trespassing into areas that we should not.

Adam, for example, committed a transgression when he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which God specifically instructed him not to do. Adam's trespass did not lead to immediate death but it did mean that all his descendants would be separated from God from then on.

Romans 5:14,18 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. (ESV)

Iniquity is sin at its worst. It refers to the evil things we do which are premeditated and which go from bad to worse. We develop such a compulsion to sin that very way we think and behave is consistently evil. Our conscience is deadened and we have become deaf to the Holy Spirit's voice.

God Himself explained to the prophet Jeremiah that we commit iniquity when we follow our own stubborn, evil will and refuse to listen to Him, and when we worship other gods.

Jeremiah 16:10-13 What is our iniquity? ... 'Because your fathers have forsaken me, declares the Lord, and have gone after other gods and have served and worshiped them, and have forsaken me and have not kept my law, and because you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, every one of you follows his stubborn, evil will, refusing to listen to me... (ESV)

The Israelites whom God rescued from Egypt, for example, walked in iniquity because they stubbornly resisted God and kept on complaining bitterly against Him, in spite of all the wonderful ways He had provided for them. They even tried to create a golden calf to worship as their own god.

Exodus 34:8-10 And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. And he said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance." (ESV)

These were not outsiders, but God's own people, who wilfully rejected Him over, over, and over again. So God declared that they would never enter the land He had marked out for them, a land of abundance, overflowing with milk and honey. This land was all theirs for the taking, they simply needed to trust God and obey Him but sadly, they refused.

Numbers 14:22-23 They have all seen my glorious presence and the miraculous signs... but again and again they have tested me by refusing to listen to my voice. They will never even see the land I swore to give their ancestors. None of those who have treated me with contempt will ever see it. (NLT)

Their children, however, had to wander around with their parents in the desert for forty years until all their faithless, rebellious parents died before the children and children's children could inherit the land that was promised to their ancestors.

Numbers 14:33 And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness. (ESV)

The 40 years were not random. They were symbolic of their parents' iniquity and contempt towards God, as they themselves decided not to take the land after spying the area for 40 days. Instead of inheriting a land of abundance, they now multiplied trouble on themselves and their children.

Numbers 14:34 According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know my displeasure.' (ESV)

God is patient, merciful, and long-suffering. He does not take pleasure in anyone perishing, He patiently waits for us to repent. But curses will fall upon our families as a result of our or our forefathers' persistent iniquity. And these curses are not random, they are often related to the iniquity itself.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (ESV)

Some examples of iniquity listed in the Bible include:

- Cursing and swearing
- Lying
- Murder, bloodshed
- Stealing
- Adultery
- Being a source of strife
- Oppression and fraud
- Violence

Hosea 4:1-2,8 There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. They feed on the sin of my people; they are greedy for their iniquity. (ESV)

Psalm 55:9-11 Destroy, O Lord, divide their tongues; for I see violence and strife in the city. Day and night they go around it on its walls, and iniquity and trouble are within it; ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud do not depart from its marketplace. (ESV)

Isaiah 59:6 Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make. Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands. (ESV)

Do you recognise any iniquity running in your family? Do you find yourself being tempted to repeat the very same patterns you see in your family, as much as you don't wish to? We seldom slow down to examine our family tree but if we did, we will probably notice some recurring patterns from one generation to the next. There could be generational blessings or generational curses.

The Bible reminds us that “a good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit.” Indeed, a family tree is identified by its fruit. One can almost see how a person's life is likely to turn out based on their family roots and history.

Luke 6:43-44 “A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. (NLT)

We all like to think that we are the masters of our own fate, but we cannot overturn the spiritual laws that God has set into place. One of these spiritual laws is that a person's choices and experiences will impact their children and future generations — either for good or for evil.

Science is now catching up to this fact. Epigenetics is the branch of science that has traced how our behaviour and our environment can impact the way our body reads our DNA sequence, which will then lead to changes in our mental and physical health. Trauma, fear, diet, and exposure to toxins are some examples of the things that affect our gene expression. These new gene expressions are then passed down to the next generation

Thankfully, these changes can be reversed if we change our behaviour or our environment. Epigenetic changes are not set in stone.

There is a growing body of research on epigenetics. One study by the University of California looked at 4,600 children whose fathers were soldiers that had been prisoners of war. Sons born after their fathers' war-time experiences had shorter life spans than those born before, and they were more likely to suffer from cancer and be shorter in height. The later children suffered very real physical consequences from their fathers' experiences.

Since we are on the topic of family iniquity, let us look at what the Bible says about the generational impact of our family's actions. Many of the consequences are outlined in Deuteronomy chapter 28 and we will now highlight some of them for your attention.

If you notice any of these patterns in your extended family, please take note of what they are so that you can ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what family iniquities you may need to confess. God is faithful to us and He will redeem us when we humble ourselves before Him. Let's start.

Leviticus 26:40,42 "But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me ...then I will remember my covenant ... (ESV)

Do you notice a pattern of broken family relationships and constant conflict? There seems to be little compassion for or understanding of one another. Uncles and aunties don't get along. Grandparents are distrusted or abandoned. Siblings don't speak with each other. Family members set themselves up on opposite sides of the fence and see each other as enemies. Hatred and unforgiveness run through the family line.

Deuteronomy 28:32,54,56 You will watch as your sons and daughters are taken away as slaves...The most tenderhearted man among you will have no compassion... for his beloved wife, and his surviving children. The most tender and delicate woman ... will be selfish toward the husband she loves and toward her own son or daughter. (NLT)

Do you notice a pattern of severe sicknesses and early deaths? Generation after generation, there are family members who are struck with cancer and health problems that cause them to be miserable and unbearably sick. Relatives have died early because of accidents, suicide, sickness, or murder.

Deuteronomy 28:22,59 "The Lord will strike you with wasting diseases, fever, and inflammation ... the Lord will overwhelm you and your children with indescribable plagues. These plagues will be intense and without relief, making you miserable and unbearably sick (NLT)

Or do you notice a pattern of mental disorders, depression, muddled thinking and confusion that seems to flow through the family tree?

Deuteronomy 28:20,28 "The Lord himself will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in everything you do, until at last you are completely destroyed for doing evil and abandoning me. The Lord will strike you with madness, blindness, and panic. (NLT)

Do you notice a pattern of childlessness or difficulties in getting pregnant? There are miscarriages, barrenness and difficulty in having children.

Deuteronomy 28:18,62 Your children and your crops will be cursed... Though you become as numerous as the stars in the sky, few of you will be left because you would not listen to the Lord your God. (NLT)

Do you notice a pattern of financial difficulty, fraud, and losses? Any wealth is not kept for long. Business failures, bad loans, betrayal by business partners, bad investments, and bankruptcy dry up the bank account.

Deuteronomy 28:38-39 "You will plant much but harvest little, for locusts will eat your crops. You will plant vineyards and care for them, but you will not drink the wine or eat the grapes, for worms will destroy the vines. (NLT)

Do you notice a pattern of persistent suffering, oppression, and bullying? The family is despised by others and mocked, ridiculed, or looked down on.

Deuteronomy 28:29,33,48 You will be oppressed and robbed continually ...You will suffer under constant oppression and harsh treatment ... you will serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you. You will be left hungry, thirsty, naked, and lacking in everything ... (NLT)

Do you notice a pattern of constant fear, misery, and despair? There is no real peace or joy. Life just feels like it is constantly hanging in the balance.

Deuteronomy 28:65-66 There among those nations you will find no peace or place to rest. And the Lord will cause your heart to tremble, your eyesight to fail, and your soul to despair. Your life will constantly hang in the balance. You will live night and day in fear, unsure if you will survive. (NLT)

Do you notice any of these patterns in your own family tree and the bad fruit your family has been reaping? Let us remember that God has been very merciful and patient towards us. He has limited the impact on our own lives.

If we notice a significant number of these symptoms repeated throughout our current family line, it tells us that iniquity and rebellion of our previous generations have probably been quite significant.

Such generational patterns have also played out in the lives of our spiritual forefathers. Let's take a look at Abraham's family line.

When Abraham was 75, God promised him that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. After Abraham and Sarah, his wife, waited for about 10 years for God to fulfil His promise, Sarah took

things into her own hands and asked Abraham to sleep with her slave girl, Hagar. Instead of continuing to wait on God, Abraham obeyed Sarah's request.

Hagar gave birth to Ishmael but they were both rejected by Abraham and Sarah later. Sarah gave birth to Isaac, the son that God has promised them. Abraham was 100 years old by that time and Sarah was 90 years old. God not only tested their faith, He also created a miracle that would be recorded for future generations to demonstrate that He is faithful to His Word, no matter how long it takes.

As an Israelite set apart by God, Abraham was not supposed to intermingle with pagan women outside his tribe. As a result of his iniquity with Hagar, Abraham brought great trouble to his descendants.

First of all, Abraham's first son, Ishmael, took a pagan woman from Egypt as his wife.

Abraham's second son, Isaac, married Rebecca, the daughter of a relative. But like his father, Isaac also had two sons, and like his father, he also ended up rejecting his first son, Esau, in favour of the second, Jacob.

Like the previous generation of the rejected first son, Esau, married pagan wives, but this time, he did not have one but two, going from bad to worse.

This pagan branch of the Abraham family tree eventually became fierce enemies of Israel. These are the forefathers of some of the Muslim nations around the world. Because God promised Abraham that his descendants will be numerous, they too have multiplied rapidly and are still a thorn in Israel's side.

Another generational iniquity we notice from Abraham is the pattern of lying about their own family relationships. In his travels, Abraham and Sarah had to pass through different nations. Sarah was a beautiful woman and attracted the attention of the rulers of Gebar and Egypt. Abraham was afraid that these people would kill him if they found out he was actually Sarah's husband, so he lied and told them that Sarah was his sister. He put his own welfare above his wife's and did not trust God to protect him. Later, we see that Abraham's son, Isaac, also lied and told a foreign ruler that his wife, Rebekah, was his sister, thereby repeating his father's iniquity.

In the next generation, however, things start to go from bad to worse because now the family starts to lie to one another. Isaac's second son, Jacob, lies to him that he is Esau, the firstborn son, in order to steal Esau's blessings from his dad.

Jacob then runs away and ends up working for his uncle, Laban, where he falls in love with Laban's second daughter, Rachel. But Laban deceived Jacob into marrying Lea, Rachel's older sister, first. Together they had 12 sons where the deceit kept multiplying except now, 10 of Jacob's sons gang up together to lie to their own father that Joseph, their younger brother, was dead.

We also see the generational pattern of favouritism, where the fathers do not bless or favour the own firstborn. Even Joseph asked his father to bless his second son first.

We may notice a few things from the three examples we have seen so far. Firstly, Abraham's family troubles did not multiply immediately. It only came after the second generation continued their father's iniquity. Secondly, each generation had a choice to repent and not repeat their father's sins but they followed their own evil will and repeated their family's patterns anyway. Abraham is not the only example.

Look at the consequences that David suffered when he killed Uriah and took his wife, Bathsheba, for himself. David committed adultery, lied, murdered, and tried to cover up the act, but the child Bathsheba conceived later died. David's iniquity also had terrible implications on the rest of his own children. Take the time to study 2 Samuel chapters 13 to 18. You will read all about his children's incest and rape, murder, rebellion, betrayal and sexual immorality. David's iniquity played out in his own family line and multiplied afterward.

2 Samuel 12:10-11 ... your family will live by the sword because you have despised me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own. "This is what the Lord says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to bed with them in public view. (NLT)

Yet even when David fell so far away from God, God's steadfast love did not leave David and He sent the prophet Nathan to convict David of his iniquity. David confessed from his heart and repented with everything in his soul, although the scene was already set for his children's own iniquity.

Psalms 66:18,20 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me! (ESV)

The good news for believers today is that we do not have to continue to reap the bad fruit of our family's iniquity, although it does mean that we need to be deliberate in choosing to break away from the patterns of our own family trees and be grafted into Jesus. Apart from Jesus, we will not be able to turn away and produce good fruit on our own.

John 15:5,8 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. (NLT)

Grafting is a very deliberate process of cutting off a branch from an unhealthy root and attaching it firmly to a healthier one. The attachment must be very firmly held in place, otherwise the branch will not attach.

In fact, it will detach, wither, and die, and never produce anything. This is a picture of what it takes to break out of generational iniquity. It needs to be intentional.

It starts with us choosing to obey God above all else. This can be challenging if our families start to pressurise or even persecute us for choosing to follow Jesus, rather than following them.

Ezekiel 18:14,17 ... a son who sees all the sins that his father has done; he sees, and does not do likewise... withholds his hand from iniquity, takes no interest or profit, obeys my rules, and walks in my statutes; he shall not die for his father's iniquity; he shall surely live. (ESV)

Thankfully, we can ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and conviction, as well as strength.

Psalms 119:133 Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me. (ESV)

Next, we need to confess our generational iniquity and acknowledge that our family has been wicked in their attitudes and actions towards God.

Jeremiah 14:20 We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord, and the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against you. (ESV)

Then we will need to repent of the iniquity in our own hearts. We need to take responsibility for our own sins and for repeating the same family patterns.

Acts 8:22-23 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.” (ESV)

We also need to repent of our judgements of all our family members so that the our words can be scrubbed off God's records.

Matthew 7:1-2 “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. (NLT)

And finally, let us bless our family with God's love and pray for them. Generational iniquity leads to brokenness and bitterness in families. With the Holy Spirit's help, we can rise above all that and trust in Father God to lead us to a better way of interacting with them, one that pleases Him and brings about peace.

Luke 6:28,35 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great,

and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. (NLT)

We now have an opportunity to acknowledge the generational iniquity in our family and ask our Heavenly Father to cut off the generational curses that have affected our own lives. We can pray this prayer together. Let's begin.

“Father God, I confess my family has rebelled and grieved You through our iniquity across the generations. We have given in to — at this point, please list anything that comes to mind whether cursing/lying/hatred/strife/stealing/fraud/violence/murder/abortion/adultery/sexual perversions/witchcraft/idol worship or anything that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.) I repent of following the same patterns and repent of judging my own family for their iniquity. Lord, I ask You to please set me free. I renounce all generational curses upon my life, and declare that they will not pass down through me. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Praise God that He is true to His Word. When we or our entire family return to Him with all our hearts, minds and souls, He will have mercy on us and restore our fortunes.

Deuteronomy 30:2-3 If at that time you and your children return to the Lord your God, and if you obey with all your heart and all your soul all the commands I have given you today, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes. He will have mercy on you and gather you back... (NLT)

God is faithful and He will forgive us for our iniquities — even though our families have grieved His Spirit for generations. We can be so thankful and can praise God for being a good and faithful father.

Psalms 103:2-3 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, (ESV)

The reflection for today's lesson involves drawing up our family trees so that we can look out for patterns of generational iniquity — as well as generational blessings from the Lord. Do not hesitate to respectfully ask your parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles about your family's history. You may find that you will uncover different pieces of the puzzle when you turn to more than one source. Understanding your own family tree can help you understand yourself better and the patterns that we can break off from. If you feel the need to further renounce other forms of iniquity that you uncover through your research, please go through the same prayer that you just prayed.

Please prepare your answers to the two reflection questions for this lesson and watch the testimony. We pray that you will be blessed. See you next time.

Time for reflection

1. Draw up your family tree up to four generations. What forms of iniquity do you notice?
2. How has your life reflected the same patterns?

Watch the testimony for this lesson



Personal notes