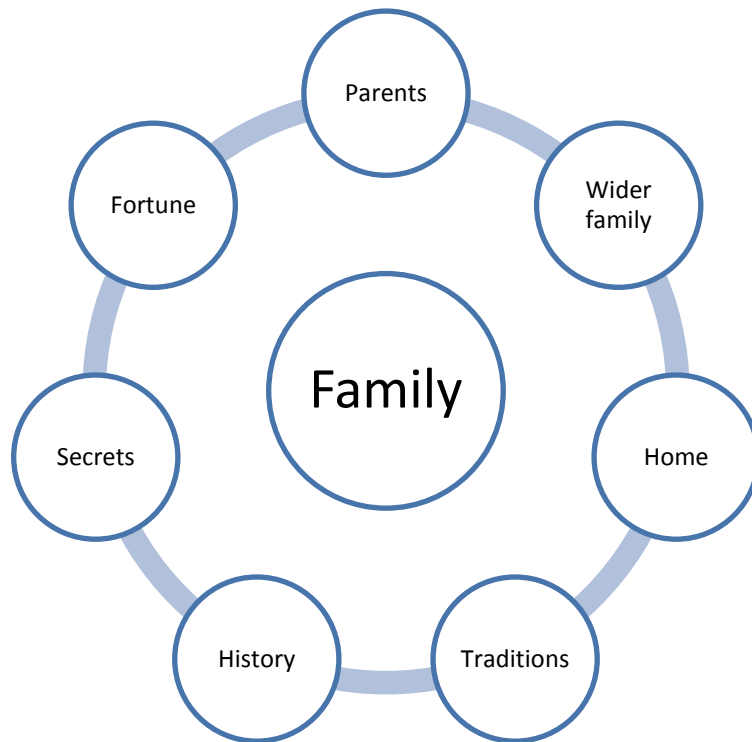


The Family Church: unpacking the metaphor – there are strengths and weaknesses in being a smaller church. (Peter MacKenzie, October 2015)

Ephesians 1:5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Exploring the dark side – strengths and weaknesses are not mutually exclusive.

A metaphor takes an abstract idea and gives it a concrete foundation.



- Pastoral Care
- Worship
- Education
- Community Outreach
- Evangelism

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determined/obstinate, out-going/show off,

What do you think of when I mention family? What makes a family?

A metaphor takes an abstract idea and gives it a concrete foundation. (i.e. Hammer)

Family metaphor – it is alive, it changes. Not mechanical or constant – as families change as well.

Strength vs Weakness – but it can often be the same thing.

Mother and Father – matriarch, patriarch

- + cohesive force, communication channel, things get done
- gate-keeping, control battles (esp with minister), protectionist

Extended family and in-laws

- + part of a wider family (Church), in-law (denomination)
- sibling rivalry to the next generation, competing for love!

Family home

- + pride, comfortable,
- accumulated dust, familiar, tired looking

Family traditions

- + builds family identity, easy, predictable
- appear quirky, power of knowledge,

Family history

- + strength of knowing where you are from,
- can carry grudges forward too, exclusive,

Family secrets

- + helps to keep things quiet
- can fester, used to manipulate,

Family fortune (legacy)

- + have a treasure in buildings and organisation – pass it on?
- unwilling to trust to others, hold on