

# CHIEF MINISTRIES

March 2026

Spring is in the air and a time for family gatherings, vacations, and reunions. Some are thinking, but Ms. G., “How does this apply to me, here in prison”? Well, it applies especially to you, even if you don’t have a natural family on the outside. Why? Because family is really community! Think about it, look around, ask those around you, or even look within. Many times it wasn’t your natural (born to) family that even got you into where you are. It was the NEED for community, needing to belong, feeling like you belonged to something or someone, either by natural means, gang affiliation, cultural, or generational means. Man (person) was not meant to go through life alone (read Genesis). God created us to be in community, committed, and work together. The Bible is all about relationships, our relationship with God, with others, and even with ourselves. So, over the next few months, I want to focus on family, however that looks in your current situation, the good, the bad, and the ugly! 😊

Awesome families encourage growth.

How? Well, they create an atmosphere of lifelong learning. They help each other develop. They encourage the discovery of each person’s spiritual gifts and abilities. They allow people to learn new things and develop new interests. But you don’t necessarily need a typical family to help you grow. Your prison family can, and should, be a force for growth in your life. As a child of the living God, we are part of a very diverse and yet comprehensive family. Yes, there can even be a “church family” even in prison, more than you may be aware. Many of you may not have contact with other units, but I can tell you there is a revival happening in the prison system. I send letters to several states in both the state and federal systems. The word I am hearing is an increase in the openness for faith-based programs, dorms, and outside ministries being allowed in that were refused entry before. For those of you who knew Chief, you know it was his desire and life's work to bring revival into the prison system; he was even planning on returning to minister when allowed after his release. His loss and vision are the inspiration I maintain in keeping up this ministry, hopefully to encourage and facilitate spiritual maturity in those who receive it.

There are some things you’re never going to learn if you don’t learn them in relationship with others. You can’t learn them at school. You can’t learn them at work. You only can learn them with other people.

*We need community.*

In fact, most of our problems as adults come from the fact that we didn’t learn certain things correctly as children. Here are five things you must learn in your family, whether biological or otherwise:

- 1. We learn what to do with feelings.** In a healthy family, you learn how to identify, own up to, express, and deal with your feelings. Awesome families should let everyone be honest and let kids express their emotions too. What was your experience?
- 2. We learn how to handle conflict.** Kids need to see their parents working problems out in front of them and dealing with differences in a healthy way (think on your experience).
- 3. We learn how to handle loss.** You don't want your kids to win all the time. If they do, they'll find it devastating when they face inevitable losses as adults in the real world. They need to learn that failure won't destroy them, that a loss isn't the end of life.
- 4. We learn which values matter most.** It's important to teach kids the three basic temptations of life so they are not swayed by what the world values (lust, greed, and pride). Those temptations have to do with how you feel, what you do, and what you get in life. Teach godly identity, worthiness, and humility.
- 5. We learn good habits.** Habits determine your character. Families should help each other grow so that everyone's character is more like Jesus Christ.

One of the marks of an awesome family, whether it's your biological family, your adoptive family, prison family, or your church family, is that you help each other grow. But how do you do that?

Let's look at two methods that help people grow and two that don't. These apply in every area of life, not just in families.

People *do* help each other grow:

- 1. Through example.** Jesus did this in teaching his disciples. John 13:14-15 says, "*Since I . . . have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you*" (NLT). Those around you don't want to hear a sermon. They want to see Jesus' example in your life. Do they?
- 2. Through conversations.** If you're not having critical conversations about real issues, you're missing opportunities to grow. Unfortunately, most conversations we have are about schedules, eating, or what to do next, not about the things that really matter in life. Deuteronomy 6:7 says, "*Repeat [God's commandments] again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up*" (NLT).

On the other hand, people *don't* help each other grow:

- 1. Through criticism.** Nagging doesn't work. Condemning doesn't work. Criticizing and complaining are totally ineffective in helping a person change. Why? Because when you criticize, you're focusing on what you don't want rather than what you do want. The Living Bible paraphrase says, "*Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather, bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice*" (Ephesians 6:4). This applies to everyone around you, not just children.
- 2. Through comparing.** Everybody's unique. There's nobody in the world like you! That's why comparing never, ever works. In fact, it's lethal to any relationship. The Bible says, "*Each person should judge his own actions and not compare himself with others. Then he can be proud for what he himself has done*" (Galatians 6:4 NCV).

The Bible is full of instructions and examples about how people should treat each other. In fact, the Bible includes 58 “one another” statements, things like *love one another, care for one another, pray for one another, encourage one another, help one another, counsel one another, and support one another* (great study for those inclined). That’s the way God meant for it to be. The New Testament tells us to “*encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing*” (1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV).

Relationships are like a raincoat during the storms of life. When friends or family members go through a storm, we help each other. People committed to one another protect each other in the storm. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, “*Two are better off than one. . . . If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it’s just too bad, because there is no one to help him*” (GNT).

Life brings all kinds of storms, and you’ll need to protect your loved ones through them. Sometimes those storms are seasons of change; other times they come as harmful influences. But the most painful storm of all is rejection. When your friend, your child, or your spouse feels rejected, you and others close to them need to rally around them and act as a raincoat in the storm. Many of you have suffered the loss of freedom (I also send letters to family on the outside), and additionally may suffer loss of a loved one while in prison, or loss of a role you once fulfilled in a family; that loss affects you whether you want to accept that or not. I can tell you that those who don’t or won’t allow themselves to deal with that loss will have to one day. That is not going to be a good thing. . . . . Trust me on this! Think back on your own life. . . How has that worked out for you?

In those times, that person doesn’t need (or usually want) your advice. Instead, they or you need someone within your community to just sit there, be there. At that point, we are being a raincoat. We are being storm catchers. We are being protectors. When somebody in our family has been hurt, and we don’t demean it. We don’t try to talk them out of it. We don’t try to cheer them up. We are just there. Awesome families, biological, adoptive, and spiritual, protect each other in the storm. Family is the most important relationship created by God, after all, He sent His only son (Jesus) to die for our sins to reconcile US to back into HIS family! Over the next month, I challenge you to look around, identify your community/family, and start working to be their support and start your spiritual growth to health. It will benefit you now and in the future, both inside and out!

Blessings and prayers to each of you and your families,

***Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)***

***If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com)***

***Christ’s                      Heart                      In                      Every                      Felon***



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