

NEXT STEPS⁷

FAITH ESSENTIALS: CHURCH AS A FAMILY

SELF STUDY QUESTIONS

How can I gather with other believers the way that God really designed us, as a family?
What do I have to offer God's family?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How can we begin to engage in God's vision of what his church is supposed to be?
What do we have to offer to those not in God's family?

MAIN NOTES

What Is "Church"?

"Ekklesia" is the Greek word used for the church in the Bible which means "an assembly of people".

Scripture speaks of the church as a body of people working together as one unit with Jesus as the head. It calls us the "bride of Christ", an army with the power of God, and the family of God.

The Bible's description of the church is so much more vibrant than simply what happens in the building we meet in on Sundays.

The Family Of God

God promised Abraham that He would bless him and his offspring to be a blessing to the entire world because he obeyed God in Genesis 22:17-18.

Jesus came through Abraham's descendants and made it possible for all to join the family of God. "All who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

God is our Father, and we are His children. "We are no longer strangers and aliens separated from God, but we are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Ephesians 2:19

The Function Of Families

Families live together, eat together, enjoy life together, and support each other. We should do this with other believers.

Acts 2:42-47 shows the early church as a regularly loving, generous, miracle experiencing family.

Christianity is not about coming to a new philosophy. It is new people coming to life, joining the family of God.

Church is not about coming together on Sundays, it is about coming together during every moment in life. We must move away from the mindset of just going to church and towards being the church.

What does church look like outside of Sunday? Let's share life together, support and pray for each other, worship together, and be filled with joy from each others' company to experience the family nature of God's Kingdom.

Invite, serve, bless, and engage others in everyday life to experience the beautiful reality of God's intention for His church.

DAILY LIVING

What are you going to do to participate in God's image of what He designed the church to be? There are 168 hours in a week. A few of those hours may be spent at church, but what are we doing to be God's church with the rest of them? There are very real, simple, and practical things we can do to live in God's design for us as a church. Sharing meals, lending resources and talents, praying, worshiping, and fellowshiping together are all so incredibly rewarding and very simple ways to show the love of God to our family and the world. As we begin to do these things, God's love will reach more people bringing them into His family the way that He designed.

PRAYER POINT

Take a moment to go through the Self Study and Group Discussion questions again. Ask God to point out a key truth that He wants you to focus on. Ask Him to put someone on your heart that you can invest in as a family member. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you can do that.

PERSONAL NOTES