

following Jesus | on mission | in community

Week 3 | Jesus Mission Community | January 22

Key Focus: We are a family.

Opening Up:

- Would you rather have a party with music and dancing or a quiet dinner with a few friends?
- Would you rather set the tone for a party with a toast or set the table for the party with some toast?
- If you could plan the ideal party, what would it look like?
- What is the best party you have ever been invited to?

Reference: Galatians 3:26-4:7

Discuss:

Look again at the 4 Questions:

1. Who is God? (Father, Son, Spirit)
2. What has God done? (adopted, purchased, sent)
3. Who am I? (child, servant, missionary)
4. How should I live? (We live as a family of missionary servants, or **we follow Jesus on mission in community.**)

This week our focus is on community.

1. Has church ever felt like an event? When has church felt like a family?
2. What are the qualities of a church that feels like family?
3. Why do some people prefer church events to a church family?
4. Can you name some negative aspects of family? Can you name some positive aspects of family?
5. Do you think it is easier to receive forgiveness than it is receive affection?
6. Why do you think Packer calls our “adoption” (not our justification) the pinnacle of the Christian experience?
7. Ray Oldenburg wrote about the suburbs this way, “Working adults formerly enjoyed an hour of ‘community time’ after the workday was over and before they were expected home. It has been replaced by an hour of ‘commuting time.’ The former warmed us to our fellow human beings, the latter conditions us to hate them.” Do you agree that we have lost “community time” in our lives?
8. What are some other causes of the loss of community in society and the church?
9. In Matthew 25:34-40 Jesus argues that we should treat everyone like family. Caesar Kalinowski says “So let’s stop worrying about who’s in or who’s out, saved or unsaved. Let’s treat everyone like family — the way God does. God is in the adoption business. He wants you and everyone else in his family. He says, I’ve got some pretty weird kids — but you’ll grow to love them.” How would the world be different if we treated everyone like family?
10. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 4:15-16 that discipleship is a lot like parenting. How is parenting a good metaphor for a family of disciples?
11. What do you need from your church family right now?
12. Pray.