Series: Connected - God's Family(Part2)

Message Title: God's Family & Moms

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

Ephesians 1:5

For He foreordained us (planned in love for us) to be <u>adopted</u> as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will [because it was His kind intent].

1 John 3:1

See what an incredible quality of love the Father has shown to us, that we would [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are!

Judges 5:7 "Village life ceased ... until I Deborah arose, a mother."

Discussion Part 1:

God has always had family on His mind. Does the idea of family attract you, or repel you, considering your own personal experiences? Does it seem foreign that Jesus came to save you, not just from your sin, but FOR family? Discuss this.

S.Marshall thoughts:

Connection with God gives us a spiritual family re-write to a certain degree, no matter how good your natural family experience has been. Everyone has wounds that need healing. Jesus came for the broken. Beware of self-deception and falling into the rich, young ruler's theology. He thought he was whole. We all need Jesus.

Have someone read:

Genesis 2:18

Now the Lord God said, It is not good (sufficient, satisfactory) that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him.

Ephesians 2:19

... you are no longer outsiders and exiles [aliens without the rights of citizenship], but you are fellow citizens with the saints (God's people), and are [members] of God's household,

Discussion Part 2:

If you are no longer an outsider that means at one point you were. As a child of God, and a member of His household, talk about your need for connection with others in the family of God.

How does God supply for you so that you're not alone? You were an outsider, but now God calls you His child - an insider. Explain these privileges.

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

Just as Adam and Eve were physically compatible, yet different from each other, think about the spiritual qualities supplied in the fullness of God's family. We all have different strengths and abilities. Under His family Name we are called to mentor and disciple those younger and new to the faith. How do you compliment His household?

Life Application:

- 1) First check your connections are they all "household" approved and profitable?
- 2) Secondly, measure to see that you're advancing in His love.
- 3) Thirdly, as a citizen of God's Kingdom what rights are you actively employing?
- 4) Fourth, ask God who might be feeling alone in His family and disconnected and how you can reach out to bring comfort, help, kindness, synergy, hope.

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

"Father God You paid such a great price with Your Son Jesus to adopt us into Your amazing family. Even if we feel alone, we know we're not. You never fail and Your promises are true. We are not outsiders or exiles any longer but we are truly children of Your love. That comes with benefits beyond what we could ever ask or think. Inspire us to be like Deborah and rise up! Help us to use the family Name to rise up and bring healing to our community, our city, our nation ... (continue on and pray for one another).