

LIFE GROUP GUIDE - Week Starting Sunday 27th July

Key Scripture Mark 3:20-35

This Week's BIG IDEA

The coming of the Kingdom of God radically redefines what family should mean to us. Spiritual bonds (such as, but not limited to, those formed in a church) can (and should!) be stronger and more meaningful than biological ties.

Focussing on God

Spend time worshiping and focusing on the fact that if you follow Jesus, you have now been born again into the family of God.

Song: No Longer Slaves (Bethel): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k>

Missional Prayer

One of the beautiful things about the family of God is that there is always room at the table for new members! If you want the people in your circle of influence to know and receive the inheritance you've received from Jesus, spend some time praying for them now. If you have one, you may want to pray for people on your "lost list".

Getting into Scripture

Read Mark 3:20-35 together.

- Has anyone ever had experience of (unbelieving) family members trying to draw you away from following Jesus, or thought you were "out of your mind" for doing so?
- Do you find the phrase "church is family" helpful or unhelpful? What are some ways it could be both?
- Read Ephesians 2:11-19. What makes us as a church family? How do we maintain those bonds?
- What does church family mean to you? What should or could it look like? *<Leaders note: what are some ways we can make church more like family, especially to those who may not have biological family around them?>*
- Bonus question: Read Mark 3:28-29 again. What is the "unforgiveable sin" Jesus is talking about here?

Pastoral Prayer

Lift up the needs of your family members together, and don't be afraid to share what's going on in your life.

For some Life Groups, this may be your last meeting before the summer break. Given the topic of this week's message, you may want to talk and pray as a group about how you might stay connected to each other over the summer.