

THIS IS US

Family Series Companion

This four-week series explores the church's story, our Church of God heritage, and the convictions that shape Creekside today. Students will consider how Christians have pursued unity, holiness, faithfulness to Scripture, and love for their neighbors and how we can continue learning together.

Understand the Series

Week 1 — Who Are We Together?

Scripture: Acts 15:7–11; John 17:20–23

As Gentiles joined the early church, believers wrestled with what newcomers needed to do to belong. Their shared dependence on Jesus' grace helps us understand our movement's commitment to unity across differences.

We are a people who belong to Jesus and to one another.

Week 2 — Who Are We Becoming?

Scripture: John 15:1–5

Christian communities throughout history have organized their lives around devotion to God. Jesus' picture of the vine and branches helps students understand holiness as transformation through connection with him, with spiritual practices supporting the Holy Spirit's work within us.

We are a people being changed from the inside out.

Week 3 — Who Teaches Us How to Live?

Scripture: Mark 7:6–13

The Reformation raised questions about how Christians examine inherited teachings and practices. Jesus' challenge to a religious practice that displaced care for parents invites us to let Scripture examine our assumptions and guide our lives.

We are a people who let Scripture challenge and guide us.

Week 4 — Who Are We to Our Neighbors?

Scripture: Luke 10:25–37

Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan turns compassion into practical responsibility. Students will connect his teaching with our movement's missions work and consider how our church can make his love visible locally and around the world.

We are a people learning to make Jesus' love visible.

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Notice and Connect

Students requested opportunities to understand how our beliefs compare with other Christian traditions. Welcome their curiosity, including questions about your family's own church background. Share your convictions while speaking fairly about Christians who understand some things differently.

After Week 1

What have you noticed about how different churches worship or express their faith?

How can Christians take their beliefs seriously while recognizing one another as family?

After Week 2

Where do you notice yourself becoming more like Jesus?

Is there a situation where you want to grow but keep getting stuck?

After Week 3

Have you ever discovered that something you assumed was biblical needed a closer look?

What helps you stay open when something you believe is challenged?

After Week 4

Who benefits from the fact that our church exists?

What would help us understand a neighbor's needs before deciding how to help?

Listen before supplying an answer. It is helpful for students to hear, "I'm not sure, let's look into that together." Small-group questions can also help you continue a conversation begun at church.

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Practice Together

Choose one or two experiences during the series.

Tell Your Family's Faith Story

Share how your family came to its current church home. Explain what you have received from different congregations or Christians along the way. Invite your student to name what they are learning about belonging to Jesus' family.

Notice Growth

Each person identifies one specific way another family member is growing in patience, honesty, kindness, or self-control. Connect that growth to becoming like Jesus, and acknowledge an area where you are still learning yourself.

Examine One Assumption

Choose a familiar saying or belief about Christianity. Read a relevant passage together, including its surrounding context. Distinguish what the passage says from what you have assumed, and leave room for further study.

Understand Before Helping

Learn about one existing local ministry or a Church of God missions partnership. Identify the need, who leads the work, and what support they say is useful. Decide on one realistic contribution and follow through.

Monthly Practice Connections

In October, a brief time of solitude can create room to notice your assumptions and the person you are becoming. In November, connect generosity with a real person or need, giving from gratitude and with attention to what genuinely helps.

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for welcoming us into your family. Teach us to recognize one another as brothers and sisters, remain connected to you, and receive correction with humility. Let your Spirit change us from within, and help our family make your love visible to our neighbors. Keep teaching us to live and love like you. Amen.