

Pastor Jim Jackson, 4/9/23
the fam pt. 2—The Family Of God
John 20:1-31

We are born into an OLD family

After creating the first family with Adam and Eve, God expected billions of families to eventually live all over the earth (Gen. 1:27, 28; Acts 17:25-27). As His greatest creation, humans were originally designed to live and connect with the God who made and loved them. However, Adam's sin brought dysfunction and death and a broken relationship with God, other people, and creation itself (Gen. 2:16, 17; Rom. 3:23; 5:12). *Our first family set us on a course of selfishness and rebellion!* In the same way physical genes passed down to us dictate our physical characteristics, our spiritual genes passed down to us dictate our spiritual characteristics. We are helpless to change the deepest part of our sin, brokenness, and dysfunction on our own. *Everyone in our old family needs a Savior!*

We need to be born into a NEW family

Seeing our helpless, hopeless condition, God began a mission to save the humanity He loved. Eventually, God sent Jesus to live a perfect life that we couldn't live and die a perfect death to pay a debt we couldn't pay (John 3:16, 17; Col. 2:13, 14; 1 John 2:1, 2). *When we were lost, God found us; when we ran from Him, God pursued us; when we didn't want Him, God loved us!* As humans can't join God's family on their own or change themselves, God made a way through Jesus. *The thing our physical family needs from us the most is for us to join God's spiritual family* (John 1:12, 13)!

Jesus wants you in GOD'S family

Jesus spent years showing his disciples what God was like and promised after he died, he'd return (Matt. 17:22, 23). Anyone can claim to be God or forgive sins, but no one can prophesy their death and raise themselves from the grave unless they are God (John 10:17, 18). *The resurrection is historical proof that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and Life about God and eternity* (John 11:25; 14:6). The disciples were as shocked as anyone that Jesus returned and feared they'd die as well. Entering a locked room, Jesus appeared and gave them peace. He then ate with them showing he wasn't an illusion or ghost. Even Thomas, who wouldn't believe without proof, after seeing Jesus in the flesh, proclaimed him as Lord and God! *The resurrection is God's invitation to join His forever family!*