

Family! – Mark 3:31-35

Family is a loaded word. And yet this is how Jesus describes his Church; one where he is our big brother, God our Father, and every believer a brother and sister in this Lord. In a world increasingly shaped by independence and isolation, Jesus invites us into something radically different: a family where we belong, are known and grow together into his likeness Lewis Roderick concludes The Family Business series with this message from Mark 3:31-35.

For personal reflection/ community discussion:

A note for leaders: "Family" is a loaded word. For some it carries warmth, for others pain, abandonment or shame. Others have found it fluid and unreliable. Go gently, leave space for silence, and don't push anyone to share more than they want to. Where possible, let the group be an experience of the thing you're discussing.

1. If you had to explain "church" to someone with no concept of it, what analogy would you reach for (school, gym, shop, book club)? What does that analogy reveal about how you actually experience church?

2. Take a look at Mark 3: 31 - 35. Jesus doesn't dismiss his family but he does redefine it. What's the difference?

3. Where in your life are you currently living as though you are an orphan-alone rather than beloved child in God's family. What difference does it make to know Jesus as your big brother and God your Father? How might this reshape your week?

4. When church gets hard, what is your first instinct: to leave, to hover at the edges, or to stay and love? Where did you learn that instinct, and what would it look like to let Jesus, the big brother who came after you, reshape it?

5. What has “growing up” meant in your story, and how much of it has been about needing less of other people? What would it look like to become the kind of adult who needs the family of God more, not less?

6. What specific choice can you make to live from your identity as a brother or sister in Jesus’ family?