

La Familia de Dios

1 - Becoming part of the family--Part 1

Open by asking: *"How is everyone doing?"*

Introduction: *"This semester we're going to be taking a look at what life is like in la Familia de Dios. Families are all about relationships, so each week we're taking a look at different passages from the Bible that talk about how we relate to God and to each other. Our own families shape how we relate to God--good, bad, or ugly--and it's easy to assume that a relationship with God is just like our relationships with others in our lives. But what we experience in our human families isn't necessarily the same as what God offers us. God calls us family, so the point of our discussion is to find out what God himself says about what exactly that means...how it can be similar to and different from what we experience in our families."*

"Here's the idea we're talking about this week: When a baby is born, they are immediately a full member of the family; the family changes to accommodate a new member. How have you experienced that in your life?"

Transition to the Scriptures: *"The same thing is true in our relationship with God. When we become a part of God's family, we are immediately full members of the family."*

Read John 3:1-8. After you read it, share these notes with the group: *So, a man comes to Jesus in the middle of the night because he was a religious VIP (a Pharisee, a member of the ruling council), and didn't want to be seen with Jesus. But he knew Jesus was somehow special, and had a lot of questions about what it meant to follow him.*

Questions for discussion:

- What's the main thing this passage is saying?
- What do you think Jesus means by "no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again" in verse 3?
- How does this relate to the idea we mentioned earlier? *"When we become a part of God's family, we are immediately full members of the family."*

Read I John 5:1-13. After you read it, share these notes with the group: *This is from a letter written by St. John, one of Jesus' followers, and the same John that wrote the last passage we just read. He was writing to reassure early Christians that they had actually become members of God's family.*

Questions for discussion:

- What's the main thing this passage is saying?
- What are some of the benefits of being in God's family? (hint: see verse 4)
- How can you know whether you're a member of God's family? (hint: see verses 12-13)
- How does this relate to the idea we mentioned earlier? *"The normal way you become a part of a family is to be born into it."*

Apply it to Life:

- How is this idea similar to life in our own families? How is it different from life in our own families?
- According to these passages, how do you become a part of God's family?

Pray Together: *"Let's wrap up our time by praying for each other and asking God to help us experience these truths more this week."*