

La Familia de Dios Part 2

1 - God's Family and Our Families

Open by asking: “Welcome back! How is everyone doing? How was your break?”

Introduction: “Last semester we talked about La Familia de Dios. The idea is that 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. The discussion brought out a lot ways that our earthly family experience is a little different than what God intends for his people. This semester we're going to see what the Bible says about how we, as God's people, should seek to live in our families and other relationships.

Over the course of the semester we'll be talking about 2 great big questions:

1. What does God desire for my family and my community?
2. How can we begin to experience what God wants for our families?

God's Family and Our Earthly Families:

Let's start by recalling last semester.

1. What aspects of God's family do you remember from last semester?
2. Which ideas really stood out to you or made you think differently?
3. What experiences or aspects of your family do you think really exemplify God's family?
4. What parts or aspects of my family do I think are definitely NOT a part of God's family?

The Bible says that we can each become a part of God's family. **Read John 1:12.** How does a person become part of God's family? [What does it mean to “believe Christ” and to “receive him”?]

Once we become God's children, he starts using us to change the world around us--we start to see success where we used to fail morally, and he uses us to make our families and communities more like God's own family.

1. **Read Ezekiel 36:25-27. Then read this:** This passage is a poetic description of what God will do to everyone who becomes his child. Have you experienced God starting to give you a new heart and change your desires? If so, how?
2. **Read Isaiah 11:6-9. Then read this:** This passage is a metaphor for what the world--including our own families and communities--can be like when God uses his people to change it. What do you think the metaphor means? What would your family and your community look like if it were a place where “the wolf dwells with the lamb,” metaphorically speaking? What would be different about the way the world works?

If you belong to God's family, then he is going to give you power to make a real and lasting difference in your family and community. This semester we are going to look in depth at what God desires for our families and communities, and ask God how he wants to use us to bring about that change!

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.”