

# La Familia de Dios

## 3 - Family Inheritance

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

**Introduction:** *"We're 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. 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."*

*"Last week we talked about how God has adopted us into his Familia. We who didn't have a home or a family, spiritually speaking, became a part of God's family because God wanted us and rescued us."*

*"Here's the idea we're talking about this week: Parents pass things on to their children. How have you experienced that?"* [Note: In a couple weeks we'll be talking about physical traits, behaviors and habits, but this week we're focusing more on the kind of inheritance that parents leave to their kids]

**Transition to the Scriptures:** *"The same thing is true in our relationship with God. The Bible says God has certain things that we who are part of his family inherit."*

**Read Ephesians 1:15-23. After you read it, share these notes with the group:** *This is a letter from St. Paul to some early Christians. He says that knowing God is kind of like an inheritance that a child gets from their parents.*

### Questions for discussion:

- *What does this passage say we inherit from God?* [Power! See verses 19-20]
- *Verse 18 says that this power is "the hope to which we have been called." How does power from God give us hope?*
- *Verse 20 says that this power raised Christ from the dead. What do you think that means for how we'll experience God's power?* [Hint: We may have to go through bad times--Jesus even went through death--but new life follows death for members of God's family!]

**Read Philippians 3:4-14. Afterwards, share these notes with the group:** *This is Paul's list of bragging rights--all his accolades and reasons he was a big deal. But compared to his inheritance as a child of God, he considered it all garbage.*

### Questions for discussion:

- *What did Paul used to brag about?* [Hint: His religious accomplishments and his status in society.]
- *When we become children of God we exchange our old inheritance for a new one. How do you think Paul's life changed after he traded his old hope for his new one? What do you think changed about his behavior? His attitudes? His motivation?*

### Apply it to Life:

- *The Bible says that when we become members of God's family we can expect a great inheritance--power to live this life and life after death. Would you like to experience this? Where in your life do you feel the need for this the most?*
- *From what we've discussed the past few weeks, how do you become a part of God's family?* [Note: If people aren't getting it, take a look at the second passage again, especially Philippians 3:9]
- *How would your life be different if you were aware all the time that you possessed this inheritance?*

**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."*

**[One final note for the leaders:** After this week would be a great time to meet one-on-one or in pairs with the members of your group and get to know them better. See how they're doing, and if there are people who don't have a relationship with Jesus yet, share your story with them, as well as how they can become part of God's family.]