

# La Familia de Dios

## 8-Family Time

**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. The purpose of our discussion is to find out what God himself says about His family and how it can be similar and different from what we experience in our earthly families."

Last week we focused how much a good father wants to spend time loving and training his child to be a person of wisdom. As His children in La Familia de Dios He loves spending time with us, listening to us and teaching us in so many different ways and in many settings. In fact....

**Read III John 4 "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth"**

Did anyone get to spend some good time with God this week? How and where? Anyone care to share what they learned from Him this week?

### **Transition:**

Not only does God cherish spending time with each of us individually, He loves it when His children are all together! He loves family time!!

Family time can happen in many places and in many ways; Church, Destino, girl/guy time, Bible study. Family time may just be hanging out time, some of it may be in a learning and instruction time, and some may be in serving together. All of these different ways are important and have different benefits. **Tonight we will focus in on three reasons we should spend quality time with God's family:**

### **It's how we personally grow.**

**Read I John 1:7.** What benefit does this say quality time with the family can have?

- Quality family time brings things in to the light. Deep healing occurs as a result.
- A baby can't grow without family. Kids in an orphanage can often have developmental delays, but they catch up quickly once they're with a family. How do you see that to be true in the family of God?
- Time with the family develops Trust and security in the Family. As children of God, why is that so important for growth?

### **God's family is meant to grow.**

**Read Acts 2:41-47.**

- St. Peter has just shared the gospel with a huge crowd of people. What was their response? (3,000 people added to their number)
- What happened among them next?
- How did outsiders respond to what they saw in the believers? (People were added to their number daily!)

### **There is a danger of falling away from the faith.**

**Read Hebrews 10:22-25 and Hebrews 3:13.**

Why are we able to draw near to God?

The writer's words are a strong encouragement to lay hold of the benefits of Christ's death on the cross. He wants us to enjoy the fact that that Christ's death and resurrection have cleansed us of guilt and impurity!

- *How often to you personally need to be reminded that you can have full assurance of your faith?*
- *What do you think it means that your heart has been sprinkled clean from a guilty conscience and impurity?*
- *What's the connection between these facts and the importance of staying in touch with other believers?*  
[God wants us to stay connected so that we can remind each other of what Christ has done for us through the struggles.]

*The great danger we face is the temptation to step away from time with the Father and from the family of God. This can lead toward abandoning the faith. We should have a mutual concern to encourage the body toward love and good deeds and encourage one another to keep walking with the Lord. Time with God and our brothers and sisters needs to be taken seriously. Looking out for one another and spending time together will encourage growth and healing, and will attract others to God's family as well.*

### **Application.**

- *Are there ever times that you don't really want to be around members of God's family? Why do you think that is?*
- *When that happens, what are you believing that contradicts what we read in the Bible today?*
- *In light of the scripture we read, what should our response be when we find ourselves or another sister or brother MIA?*

Brainstorm as a group how you can spend time with God individually and as a familia this week so that you can grow in your relationship with God, grow as a family, and effect others that do not yet know Him.

*Let's not abandon getting together as a family and draw near to Christ!*

**Pray.** *Let's wrap up by praying that we would make time with other believers a high priority, that our walks with God would be strengthened, that we would stay in fellowship with one another, and that others would come to know Christ as a result.*