

La Familia de Dios

5 - Family Resemblance

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 Jesus considers us to be his brothers and sisters."*

"Here's the idea we're talking about this week: You know members of the same family because they have traits in common. How have you experienced that?"

Transition to the Scriptures: *"The same thing is true in our relationship with God. There are certain traits we can expect to develop and possess if we're part of God's family."*

Read Luke 6:43-45. After you read it, share these notes with the group: *Jesus says that the good or bad deeds we do are like the fruit that a tree produces.*

Questions for discussion:

- What's the main thing this passage is saying?
- Why does a fig tree bear figs while a thorn bush bears thorns?
- If someone told you about some plant "This is an apple tree," but instead of apples on it, you found poisonous berries, what would you conclude about the tree? [Hint: It probably isn't really an apple tree because it's not true to the nature of an apple tree!]

Read Galatians 5:16-26. After you read it, share these notes with the group: *St. Paul wrote these words in a letter to early Christians who needed to understand how to live a life that pleased God. There were some people among them who said they basically needed to follow God's laws and rules in order to please God. But Paul says that our actions are more like "fruits" that are the product of who we are.*

Questions for discussion:

- People's actions are like fruit: what they produce is determined by who they are. Verses 19-21 and then 22-23 are two lists of "fruits". What do these fruits say about the nature of the person who produces them?
- How does this relate to the idea we mentioned earlier? *"You know members of the same family because they have traits in common."*

Apply it to Life:

- Think about the kind of fruit you see in your life. What does that fruit say about what's inside your heart?
- How do you change the kind of fruit you produce? [Hint: How could a tree start producing a different type of fruit? Wouldn't it have to become a different type of tree?]
- People know you and your parents are related because you resemble each other. The Bible says our actions aren't just choices we make but are more like family resemblance--we either resemble God's family or we don't. What prevents us from bearing a resemblance to God's character? [Remember...being a part of God's family isn't a matter of behaving right so that God has favor on us. Instead, when we become part of the family, our nature changes and we start to have different motivations, desires, and behaviors. That is bearing resemblance to our Father!]

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."*