

05. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY

Belonging To God Means Belonging To His People



CORE TEACHING

Teach the main ideas clearly and simply.

1 GOD ADOPTS BELIEVERS INTO HIS FAMILY Ephesians 2:19

Through Jesus, believers are no longer strangers, outsiders, or spiritually alone. We become members of God's household. The church is not merely an organization. It is a spiritual family.

➤ **Emphasize:** *Belonging to Christ means belonging to His people.*

2 CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER Romans 12:10

Biblical church life includes kindness, encouragement, patience, forgiveness, and care for others. Christian love should be visible and practical.

➤ **Emphasize:** *The church should feel different from the world because Christ shapes how we treat one another.*

3 FAMILY INVOLVES RESPONSIBILITY Galatians 6:10

Belonging is not passive. Christians are called to serve, help, encourage, pray for, and strengthen one another. Church family means shared responsibility.

➤ **Emphasize:** *We are not consumers of church—we are participants in Christ's people.*

4 JESUS CREATES A NEW KIND OF FAMILY John 13:35

The church brings together people from different backgrounds, personalities, ages, struggles, and experiences. What unites believers is Jesus Himself.

➤ **Emphasize:** *The church is a picture of Christ's Kingdom on earth.*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Guide your group to think deeper.

1 Why do people want to feel like they belong somewhere?

Follow-up: Why is belonging so important to people?

2 What makes a group feel welcoming and safe?

Follow-up: What makes people feel excluded?

3 How should Christians treat one another differently from the world?

Follow-up: What would make a church feel like a real family?

4 Why is church more than just attending meetings?

Follow-up: What responsibilities come with belonging?

5 How can students help create a stronger church community?

Follow-up: What is one practical thing you could do this week?



DISCUSSION TIP: Some students may feel disconnected, struggle socially, or carry wounds from family or church relationships.

Encourage students gently.

Focus on: Christ creating a people marked by love, grace, and belonging.



REAL LIFE CONNECTION

Many teenagers search for belonging through:

- friend groups
- online communities
- popularity
- relationships
- social identity

But human acceptance is often unstable and temporary.

The Gospel offers something deeper: a lasting identity and belonging in Christ's people.



PRAYER FOCUS

Thank the Father for adopting believers into His family through Christ. Ask the Spirit to help students grow in love, kindness, humility, and commitment to Christ's people.



WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Put faith into action this week.

Challenge students to intentionally:

- ✓ encourage someone
- ✓ welcome someone
- ✓ help someone
- ✓ include someone this week



Ask: "How can I help my church feel more like a family?"



LEADER NOTES

Tips to help you lead with confidence.

- ✓ Watch for students who feel isolated or overlooked.
- ✓ Encourage participation without pressure.
- ✓ Keep discussion practical and relational.
- ✓ Emphasize both belonging and responsibility.
- ✓ Point students toward Christ as the center of the family of God.



In Christ, we belong to something bigger than ourselves.