



DISCUSSION GUIDE

READ

John 1:11-13

Mark 3:31-35

Matthew 10:34-37

Here are some questions and thoughts to help guide discussion:

1. Did anything stand out to you about this week's sermon? Was there anything that surprised you, or that was new to you?
2. This Sunday, we saw that in the Old Covenant, people were commanded to have children, and that having a family was how the people of God grew (see Genesis 1:28; 9:1; Deuteronomy 7:12-13). Do you think this perspective has affected how the church views having children today? How?
3. Read John 1:11-13 again, as well as John 3:3, Galatians 3:26, and Matthew 28:19. On Sunday morning, we noted that the kingdom of God in the New Covenant is grown by people being born again, instead of merely by having physical children. Whether you have a family or not, what are you doing to grow the kingdom of God today?
4. If you have children, what is your primary New Covenant role in their lives? (See Ephesians 6:4.) How can we in the church encourage and support parents in this crucial role? What can families and children contribute to our life as a church?
5. Read Mark 3:31-35. Do you view the church as your true family? In what ways is the church a truer family than our physical relatives? What are some practical things you/we can do to start making the church our first family?
6. Read Luke 14:25-26. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to choose between your physical family and Jesus, to the exclusion of the other? What did you end up choosing? How did you make that decision? Looking back, do you still think it was the right choice?