

LEAD SHEET

REAL CHURCH : Week 3

The Family

July 9, 2017

**THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:
SHARE YOUR GRACE STORY**

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD BETTER, TELL OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT HIM!

GETTING STARTED

Today, as we talk about family, we will discover how the Church is actually a spiritual family. This may seem like an unbelievable statement, but a spiritual family *can* be stronger than a physical family. The reason is that God is the leader of our spiritual family. Let's look deeper into how the Church is a family. We will explore three ways.

DIGGING IN

1. WE HAVE THE SAME FATHER

We are all under the same Head. In essence, we all have the same name in Christ and we all share the same Father, who is our God. We learned early in life that God is Love, He is all-powerful, and He is the creator of the universe. With this in mind, it should not be hard to know He is also our Father. He is our Dad, and this is very good news.

Read Mark 14:32-42

In this passage, Jesus prays and calls God "Abba." Abba is the Aramaic word for daddy. This was an unusual way to pray and a unique way of addressing God. Paul also uses this word twice, once in Romans 8:15 and again in Galatians 4:6. However, some people over the years have disagreed about this interpretation of God the Father, and have called it disrespectful.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think it is disrespectful to call God your Dad or Daddy? Why or why not? *(Allow for discussion.)*
2. Why does the term "Daddy" seem to convey a different meaning than "Father"? *(The term Daddy seems much more intimate. It shows that we can have a loving relationship with our Father.)*

This is exactly what God wants us to understand. He is God, but he is also our daddy and loves us dearly. As we begin to understand our role in the family, we must always look at our relationship with the Father first.

Read Ephesians 1:18-23

Discussion Questions:

1. What position did God appoint Jesus to have in the Church family? *(Head over everything.)*
2. What does it mean for us to be under the Head of Christ? *(Jesus is our leader, our guide, our King.)*

It is important to allow our King to lead and guide us. We are not held together because we all like the same football team. We are held together because of Jesus. He is our Head and all of us are connected to Him. What else does this mean? It means we are all connected to each other.

2. WE ARE JOINED BY MARRIAGE

Another way we can understand our identity as a family is to look at the language of marriage provided by the Bible.

Read Ephesians 5:25-27 and Revelation 19:7-9

Discussion Questions:

1. What metaphor is used for the Church in these two passages? *(The Church is referred to as the Bride of Christ.)*
2. What do you think of when you hear the word "bride"? *(Weddings, pure, white, etc.)*

3. How do these words or phrases describe the Church?
(Allow for answers.)

4. How does the term "bride" relate to us as members of the Church family? *(It refers to the family ties that exist between each other. As we commit our lives to Jesus, we find that we also commit to one another. We are the bride, the one who Jesus chases and loves.)*

3. WE BELONG TO THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

The third way we see the Church as a family is that we are all brothers and sisters in God's household.

Read Matthew 12:48-50 and Galatians 6:10

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the benefits of being part of a family?
(You don't have to be alone; you can share common interests, joy, and goals.)

2. What are some of the difficulties in being part of a family? *(You are with each other through good and bad times; you have to put up with some annoying personalities, etc.)*

3. How is attending Church sort of like going to a family reunion? *(Allow for discussion.)*

MAKING IT REAL

The Little Things (Activity)

Often the little things cause the most tension within a family. This is a short exercise to help us get to know each other better. This may seem simple, but when we begin to understand each other better, we can develop deeper spiritual relationships. Then, we can begin to love each other better.

I am going to read a dozen statements. If you agree with the statement, put your thumb up. If you disagree, put your thumb down. If you are not sure, put your thumb sideways.

Here we go. (*Pause after each statement to give students time to observe how their classmates respond.*)

1. I like to be the center of attention.
2. I like to do chores and I love to serve others.
3. I feel closest to God during prayer.
4. I love my personal space.
5. I am annoyed when people always joke around.
6. I embarrass easily.
7. I feel closest to God during times of teaching.
8. I am very shy until you get to know me.
9. I like to separate my church friends from my other friends.
10. I love to talk about Jesus to everyone I meet.
11. I feel closest to God during quiet moments in nature.
12. I hate being the first one to pray. I always wait for someone else to start.

General Discussion:

- How can knowing these things about your brothers and sisters help you to love them better?

- What are some specific ways you can become a better brother or sister to those in this room?

CLOSING PRAYER

Close in prayer. Ask that God help students become a closer spiritual family.