



 GOD HAS MADE YOU TO BE A PART OF HIS ETERNAL FAMILY

THE BIBLE ENABLES YOU TO APPRECIATE GOD'S CHURCH AND EXPERIENCE HER THE WAY HE INTENDED.

Almost everyone knows the epic song "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge. Sing it with me, "We are family, I got all my sisters with me", no on second thought don't. It's a great song, upbeat, dynamic and happy. However, when it comes to church family, we don't always feel that way, especially if we've allowed a consumer mentality to drive the way we think. By that I mean, living by the philosophy that goods and services exist to meet your needs, even religious goods and services. It's a poor way to approach your experience of God's family, and falls woefully short of God's design.

So, what's the solution? Simple, getting back to what the Bible says. John, like Jesus, loved the church. He wanted fellow Christians to carry that love and appreciation, to really experience all that God intended. Specifically, that God's family should be characterized by loving care and sacrifice, that relationships should be governed by God's truth and that the benefits of this eternal family were beyond compare. I pray we are able to declare as John did, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called the children of God!" 1 John 3:1

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.

"HAVING A CONSUMER MENTALITY IS A TOXIC INFLUENCE TO YOUR CHURCH EXPERIENCE."
DEREK NEIDER

"GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS, THAN TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS."

JOHN 15:13



WATCH

Play the video prepared for this lesson by Pastor Derek Neider. Video sessions are available for download at www.cclasvegas.org/GROUPS



PRAY (10 min)

As a Home Group, take a moment to share about how grateful you are to be a part of God's family. Identify a specific way that you've been blessed by God's church.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them together.

- **Specifically describe what a consumer mentality towards the church looks like. Why is it unhealthy to have the attitude that the church simply exists to meet felt needs and render goods and services for your satisfaction?**

The family of God should be a place of loving care and sacrifice.

- **Describe what that looks like in your life, how you are loving people and how you sincerely care about the needs of those around you.**
- **Identify areas that you need to grow in.**



"CHRISTIAN CHARITY
IS A SIGN OF GOD'S
PRESENCE AMONG
HIS PEOPLE."

DEREK NEIDER

- **The way we are supposed to treat each other in God's family is set forth in the truth of His Word. Describe how God's Word has become the standard and guideline for how you treat others.**
- **The benefits of being a part of God's family are literally out of this world! Describe some of them.**

"OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S TRUTH WILL KEEP YOUR BEHAVIOR TOWARDS
OTHERS IN THE LANE AND OUT OF THE GUTTER."

DEREK NEIDER



REACH 5 MIN.

Considering what God revealed to you this week, how can you apply what you've learned to appreciate and enjoy God's family?

How can you become a positive influence within the church, enabling others to see what a privilege it is to be a child of God? Pray, and ask God to show you one person that you can encourage this week.

Next week we will be anxiously awaiting your praise report about how God used you to bring light into someone's life.

