

Week 1 - We Are Family

Grow Together

Weekly Discussion & Journal Guide

Sermon Notes

This Sunday, we heard Brian talk about how God makes us his family: brothers and sisters of one another who have to own our parts in the story, and trust that God is working through it - imperfections and all! Joseph's family and story is an amazing one, filled with heartache, unspeakable pain and surprise, grief, and disappointment, but also with unimaginable forgiveness, mercy, hope, and joy. Sounds a bit like our family here at Park Church.

Questions

1. How does the fact that we are family change the way we view one another?
2. What ways have you experienced family with the church community?
3. How have you experienced conflict and reconciliation in the church? How have you grown through it?
4. What are some ways you can own your part in your relationship with others in your group?
5. Are there ways that you have experienced family that prevent you from fully embracing the church family?
6. What ways can we help one another grow in our faith?
7. What ways does this group do family life well? What ways can we improve?
8. What practical ways can we connect this summer (without our regularly scheduled meeting) to continue to be brothers and sisters to one another?
9. If God uses every part of our story together, what ways have you seen God work in our group over the past semester (or more, if applicable)?
10. What story do you hope God is writing through our group?

Looking Ahead to Sunday

We know that for a handful of groups, this will be your last meeting this season - so we wanted to give you an opportunity to look ahead to this Sunday and discuss a bit.

This week, the message will be about how, as God's family, we are made to grow one another in faith. That means that we are meant to encourage, challenge, admonish, correct, nurture, and provoke one another in following Jesus. Often this will look like seeing gifts in one another, and calling one another to use those gifts to serve Jesus in the world. Sometimes it will look like having a 'vision' for one another, and encouraging one another to follow after Jesus in ways that they cannot yet see for themselves. It's not only as "brothers and sisters" that we can do this for one another, but also as a kind of "spiritual fathers/mothers" for one another (1 Tim. 1:2,18), as

we learn to “build one another up in love” (Eph. 4:16). It’s so amazing - and humbling - that one of the primary ways God grows us is simply through one another...and so we want to do more of that for one another here at Park Church!

Some questions to consider:

1. When has someone specifically challenged or corrected you in faith? How’d it go?
2. When was a time someone encouraged you to grow in faith? Talk about it.
3. Have you ever had a “spiritual father/mother” (ie, mentor/guide) in faith? What was that like?
4. Can you imagine taking an active role in growing someone else’s faith? What excites you about that? What causes you to hesitate?
5. Think about someone who you feel led to challenge/grow/encourage/build-up in faith. What’s one step you could take this week towards that?

Additional Reading

1 Timothy 4:11-16, Ephesians 2-3, Acts 2:32-47, Psalm 133, Psalm 139

Text Group Prompts

1. Message your text group some things you you shouldn’t wait to tell them - encouragement, admiration, admonishment.

Daily Readings

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Exodus 1 & 2	Exodus 3 & 4	Exodus 5 - 7	Exodus 11-12	Exodus 13-14	Exodus 15-16