

Our Church Family
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, April 21st, 2024



Sermon Title: Our Church Family

Scripture Reading: Mark 3:20-21, 31-35; 10:28-30; Ephesians 2:19; 4:1-6

Sermon Focus: Jesus birthed his Church out of his own life, death, and resurrection. After the Holy Spirit is given to the disciples in Acts 2, communities of disciples begin to challenge society and the prevailing social structures. They believed that the gospel demanded the reordering of people's lives around Jesus Christ. The planting of churches brought about a radical new understanding of "family" that included all those who desire to follow Jesus. In today's message, Pastor David expounds upon this New Testament vision of "church family" and invites us to embody it at Grantham Church.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Mark 3:20-21. Have you ever noticed how Jesus' own family responds to his ministry? What might they have been thinking? It appears that Mary (his mother) is in the mix with those who thought Jesus had lost his mind. Why is this significant? And how can this encourage us in our own faith?
2. Read Mark 3:31-35. These words were quite scandalous when Jesus said them. He is challenging our understanding of what it means to be in his family. How do these words of Jesus challenge you? Do you think we really embrace these words of Jesus as it relates to Christians outside of our biological families?
3. Stanley Hauerwas writes: *"To be a disciple of Jesus is to be made part of a new community in which the family is reconstituted. We are all children, but now a community has been established in which we are all called to be parents, brothers, and sisters to and for one another"* (Brazos Theological Commentary). How are we doing with this at Grantham Church? What are we doing well? What can we do better? How can we implement this vision in our congregation?
4. For some, being a church "family" might not be appealing because their experience of family has been traumatic. What can we do to communicate Jesus' vision of a "spiritual house" that is healing and reconciling (1 Peter 2:2-5). And how ought we respond to people who have been hurt by the Church? What do we say when Christians distort Jesus' purpose for local churches?
5. Pastor David said that if our church is going to be family, then we must...
 - Allow Jesus to challenge our view of family, so he can expand it to include other disciples. **How do you need to grow in this area?**
 - Make space in our lives; be inconvenienced and stretched to welcome our neighbors. **How can you make space for others?**
 - Be willing to befriend those who aren't like us, in our season of life, or share our interests. **What might this look like at Grantham Church?**
 - Create an atmosphere of grace and acceptance (belonging); not be judgmental or easily offended. **How can our church grow in this area?**
6. As you reflect on the message, as well as the entire worship service and Spring Reporting Council, how do you see the Spirit at work in Grantham Church? Take some time to thank God and lift up our congregation in prayer.