

You're in God's Family

Message 4 of 5 in the series "You're in the Story"

1. We are a part of God's new covenant, and we are called to be royal priests.

"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.'" Genesis 12:1-2 (NLT)

2. God's family can be messy.

- a. Abraham's family was messy.
- b. Jesus' family was messy.

"Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers." Matthew 1:2 (NLT)

"Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth). Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah)." Matthew 1:5-6 (NLT)

- c. Our families are messy.

We live in a world with so many "broken" homes.

3. We can be part of God's family.

- a. God's family members contribute.

"You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9b (NLT)

We are called to get in the game, not sit in the stands.

- b. God's family members stand up for others.

"If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." 1 John 3:17-18 (NLT)

We are called to love those in need.

"This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:12-13 (NLT)

- c. God's family members want his family to grow.

"And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God's special olive tree. But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root." Romans 11:17b-18 (NLT)

God's family is for everyone who chooses to be a part of it.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

4. How am I doing?

Am I a part of God's family?

Ask yourself these questions: Do I contribute? Do I stand up for others? Am I inclusive?

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. What does a healthy family look like to you? Why doesn't our experience always match up with this ideal?
2. Why is our initial reaction to run when we are faced with messiness in God's family or in our physical families?
3. Read Colossians 3:11-15. Discuss how you can choose to love members of God's family even when they are completely different than you.
4. Why do you think people who have been in church for a long time aren't comfortable with the Church growing?
5. What does standing up for members of God's family look like to you?