

WEEK 24:

GOD'S BIG OL' FAMILY

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 8:19-21, 11:27-28, 12:49-53, 14:25-30

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 12:46-50, Mark 3:31-35, Psalm 96:1-6,
Jeremiah 31:31-34, Galatians 4:1-7,
1 Peter 2:9-10, Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-37

"We must make the invisible kingdom visible in our midst."

- John Calvin

"In adoption, God takes us into his family and fellowship—he establishes us as his children and heirs. Closeness, affection and generosity are at the heart of the relationship. To be right with God the Judge [justification] is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father [adoption] is greater."

- J.I. Packer

"We exist for this reason: 'that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.' This is the full-time destiny of [the royal priesthood]—to make the glories of the king known."

- John Piper

PERSONAL STUDY:

What is your family like? Is your family marked by a lot of joy and closeness or a lot of friction and pain? Is your family pretty honest or do they tend to hide a lot? What do you like to do with your family?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. What promises does God make through Jeremiah as He describes the new covenant people He intends to make?

Read Luke 8:19-21, 11:27-28 and 12:49-53. What themes tie these texts together? How does Jesus describe His family?

Jesus explains that loyalty to His spiritual family supersedes loyalty to our earthly families. How does this strike you? In what ways is Jesus family-friendly and in what ways is he not?

In what ways might involvement in Jesus' family lead to real life division in real life families?

Read Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-37. How does God intend to redeem the friction that many experience in their earthly families through the shared life of God's family?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. What is God's goal for His new people? According to these verses, what has God redeemed us for?

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

How close are you with your earthly family? Is your family more so a source of joy, security and warmth or a source of pain, fear and friction? How so?



Read Luke 8:19-21, 11:27-28 and 12:49-53. What are common functions of a family that Jesus intends for us to reflect as His spiritual family on earth?

In what ways are you tempted to let loyalty to your earthly family supersede loyalty to Jesus’ spiritual family?



As a LifeGroup, in what ways are we fairly strong at treating each other like family? In what ways do we need to grow?

Read Luke 14:25-30 and 1 Peter 2:9-10. Are there any ways that we are closed off to welcoming new folks into God’s family? What does this reveal about our hearts?



Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. How can we grow in hospitality and “proclaiming God’s excellencies” through our shared life as His people?