

CROSSWORDS | Behold Your Family | Week 3 | March 14 & 15

John 19; John 1:12-13; Ephesians 1:3-7; Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 6:10

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Opening:

- Share a time when you felt like an outsider but were treated like part of the family? Have you ever felt “outside” and been invited in, been asked to join? Share or journal about that experience.

An Unidentified Need: Pastor Dan gave us two illustrations of need and then says “...we can come to feel a creeping loneliness or an aching for identity that leaves us restless. We can live with a vague sense of alienation or a longing for belonging that few of us ever talk about openly.”

- How pervasive do you sense this is? Why do you think that is?
- Why is it so hard for people to share their feelings about their loneliness?
- What would help this conversation take place for freely?

A New Kind of Family: Read John 19:25-27. Jesus commissioned both John and his Mother. Clearly, this is a new kind of family. Behold, here is your son...from now on...for all that means.

- What are the implications for Mary? What are the implications for John?
- What is the common bond that ties them together?

We are Adopted: As we learned last week, despite our past, on the basis of God’s amazing grace we have become children of God. We experience “Spiritual Adoption.” Read John 1:12-13.

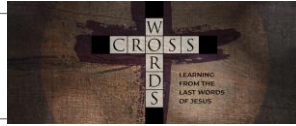
- What rights are bestowed on children? What obligations?
- What does the metaphor of family imply for you?

We Grow More Like Our Father: Pastor Dan shared, “We will increasingly take after our Father. As we draw close to Him, we just naturally become more like Him. We will tend to display more forbearance toward those who act in ignorance . . . We become more willing to give a second chance to even miserable sinners.”

- How easy or hard is it for you to believe, receive, and embrace these truths in the everyday moments of your life?
- We asked in our previous series and it’s appropriate to ask again here, are you more like Jesus today than you were six months ago?

More Than What You “feel like”: When we function in a family we find things that need to be done that we don’t feel like doing—but we do them because “we’re family.” Pastor Dan comments “Jesus didn’t ask John and Mary if they *WOULD LIKE* to buddy up”.

- As you think about “Life in the Family” what do you find as things you want to do?
- What things do you suspect the Father may be asking you to do, that are not what you would choose?
- How would you compare “preference” and “obedience” in your family obligations?
- How does this relate to your life in the larger family of God at Christ Church and beyond?



Practice of the Week: *Live in the character of God's Larger Family.*

- Choose a particular one another and consider: What prevents us from doing this for one another? What would change in our lives, families, church if we did this on a regular basis?
- Take a one another and brainstorm five practical ways to live it out in your life at home, at work, small group or church.

Be **kindly affectionate** to one another

- Romans 12:10a

Live in harmony with one another

- Rom. 12:16; I Peter 3:9

Love one another

- Romans 13:8; John 13:34, 35

Be **like minded** toward one another

- Rom. 15:5,6; I Cor. 1:10

Receive one another as Christ did you

- Romans 15:7

Greet one another with a holy kiss

- Romans 16:16

Serve one another

- Galatians 5:13

Teach one another

- Colossians 3:16; Romans 15:14

Forgive one another

- Ephesians 4:32

Do not envy one another

- Galatians 5:25-26

Be **hospitable** to one another

- I Peter 4:9

Stop passing judgement on one another

- Romans 14:13

Accept one another

- Romans 15:17

Bearing with one another in love

- Ephesians 4:2

Be **kind and compassionate** to one another, **forgiving** each other

- Ephesians 4:32

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs

- Ephesians 5:19

Submit to one another

- Ephesians 5:21; I Peter 5:5

Encourage one another and **build** each other **up**

- I Thess. 5:11; Hebrews 9:12

Spur one another **on to Good deeds**

- Hebrews 10:24

Do not slander one another

- James 4:11

Love one another **deeply** from the heart

- I Peter 1:22

Fellowship with one another

- I John 1:5

- Where do you see a particular one another in the life of Jesus? What was the impact?