

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE / OCTOBER 13

TO APPLY, NOT REHASH, THE SERMON

Read

Read Mark 3:31–35 and consider making some observations about the passage.

Sermon Recap

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- "In heaven, marriage and biological family do not exist ... but up there God will deal with our 'aloneness' in a better way."
- "The nuclear family is not the center of God's kingdom ... Jesus said it's not ultimate, not the most important family connection we have in the kingdom of God."
- "Singleness is not a second-class, inferior state in God's kingdom. Jesus was the most happy, fulfilled, fully alive person ever to walk the face of the earth and he was single."
- "You won't wither without sex; you will wither without friend and family connection. Marriage is not the only way God takes care of that."

Group Discussion

1. How do Jesus' statements in Mark 3:31–35 redefine the idea of family? What implications does this have for our relationships within the church?
2. Jesus, though single, lived the most fulfilled life. How does this challenge cultural myths about marriage being the pinnacle of a happy life?
3. The sermon discussed the "Marriage = Completion" myth. How can both singles and married couples resist the tendency to make an idol out of family?
4. In what ways can we better invest in spiritual family, as Jesus taught, whether we're married or single? How can we apply this in our church family?

TESTIMONY

- Has there been a time when you experienced the church acting as your family, either during a difficult moment or a time of joy? Share how that impacted your faith and sense of belonging.

PRAYER

- Pray for a deeper understanding of identity in Christ: Ask God to help each one of us find our true identity and fulfillment in our relationship with him, rather than in marriage or family.

Pray for stronger spiritual family connections:

- Pray for God to strengthen relationships within our church, helping people build meaningful connections and care for one another as spiritual brothers and sisters.