

# groups.

— Notes | May 10, 2026

## Church Unbranded: The Family of God

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For some people, the word “family” brings comfort. For others, it brings hurt, disappointment, pressure, or dysfunction. The same can be true when we hear the word “church” because we are all broken people. From the beginning, God’s heart for the church was never just a gathering place to consume once a week. He designed it to be a family. A place where people are known, loved, challenged, supported, and reminded who they belong to.

### Key Scripture | Romans 8:14-17

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory

### Related Scriptures

\_\_\_\_ Galatians 3:26-27; 2 Corinthians 6:18, Hebrews 2:11; John 1:12-13; 1 John 3:1; Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2: 3-4; Galatians 6:2, 1 Peter 5:8b-9, 2 Cor. 1:3-4

### Icebreakers:

\_\_\_\_ Q: Who’s someone outside your biological family that made you feel loved, supported, or seen like family?

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## Key Thoughts and Reflections:

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### I. Roles: Knowing who we are

Q: Have you ever found yourself trying to control everything yourself instead of trusting God as Father?

Q: Why do you think we sometimes forget fellow believers are our brothers and sisters instead of people to compete with or judge?

Q: How does knowing you are adopted into God's family change your identity?

### II. Rights: Receiving the blessing of family

Q: Which blessing of being part of God's family do you most need right now: His love, a new identity, community, security, or purpose?

Q: Why do you think so many believers still live with a fear of abandonment from God?

Q: Do you truly believe God delights in you as His son or daughter? Why or why not?

### III. Responsibilities: What we bring to the family

Q: Have you ever felt disqualified from being used by God because of your past or your struggles?

Q: What's one way God may be calling you to contribute more fully to His family?

Q: How can we become the kind of church family where people feel safe to be honest and supported in their struggles?

## Get Practical

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We weren't called to just attend church. We were called to be the Family of God. Sometimes we overcomplicate what that looks like, but often it starts with simply showing up for one another the way Christ shows up for us. Take time this week to pray through two things: First, where have you been living more isolated than connected? What is one specific step you can take toward community instead of retreat? Second, who can you intentionally encourage, support, serve, or walk alongside this week? If you still feel stuck, disconnected, or unsure where to start, reach out to your small group leader or pastor and get a connect time on your calendar. You were never meant to do life alone.