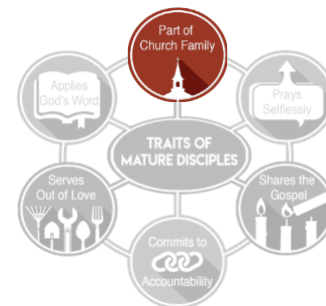


LIFE GROUP SESSION: FAMILY TREE (part one)



MESSAGE SUMMARY

Genesis 12:1-3; Mark 10:17-31

We are part of God's global, historical, eternal and local church family. We have been called & chosen to be part of this family; it isn't optional.

Healthy families are built on sacrifice. Sacrifice is a sign (and test) of what we love, value and trust, because sacrifice is a key ingredient of love, generosity and investment.

The rich young ruler, from the outside, looks like the perfect candidate for God's family. Yet, he isn't willing to sacrifice and Jesus lets him walk away.

God saves and God provides. Though we sacrifice for Him and His family, we will see return. "Jesus asks for far more than you ever thought but offers far more than you ever imagined" (*Timothy Keller*)

The church family, along with eternal life, is the reward for following Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1-3 --- we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (see Hebrews 11). We are part of a global, historical, eternal and local church family. As we have seen God work in them, we turn our eyes to Jesus, throw off our sin and run the race with perseverance.

DISCUSSION

ICE BREAKER: How has your family shaped your life? (*maybe something funny, serious, weird, interesting*)

READ: Genesis 12:1-3 (*see also Romans 9:8; Galatians 3:7*)

- **We are part of God's family, called & chosen just as Abraham was. What does this mean for us?**
- **John 15:12-13 – we are called to love and Jesus links to love with sacrifice.**
- **What does it look like to sacrifice for your church family? How can you improve in this area?**

READ: Mark 10:17-31

- ***Timothy Keller says - "Jesus asks for far more than you ever thought but offers far more than you ever imagined."* Discuss. How does this make you feel? How can we trust God more with this?**
- **Do you see the church family as a reward? How can we shift our perspective here?**

READ: Hebrews 12:1-3

- **Who in the church family (remember the family is eternal, historical, global and local) has inspired you? Share some stories & testimonies of God's power at work within 'the great cloud of witnesses'.**

PRAY: Pray that God would use you as individual and a group to better reflect God's family here on earth. Pray for our church family around the world and especially here at One Hope.