

# Sermon Guide

## **Baptism: New Covenant Family**

This last Sunday we got to hear from one of our elders, Austin Smith, on baptism as the entry into New Covenant family.

When you got baptized, you entered into a family, not just a religion. The culture of this family is distinct, and in order to live the life you were meant to live in Christ, you must learn to prioritize the one thing that the family prioritizes - loving and cherishing God above all else.

We don't do things for God to gain His approval and we don't manipulate His love for desired outcomes in our life. Our joy in life is simply to know Him and love Him.

## **Go Deeper.**

Our desire is that every person would be empowered to have a deep and intimate relationship with God. We want people to not just hear a word on a Sunday, but get activated in whatever the Holy Spirit is doing throughout the week. The guide is a tool for you to dive deeper into what God is doing in you and through you as an ambassador of the Kingdom.

You can work through these activations and questions on your own or in a group setting. If you are doing them in a group, take turns leading. After each activation, take time to pray into whatever the Holy Spirit is speaking. It is also encouraged to have a journal and Bible with you.

For each activation focus will be key. We become like what we give our attention to, and one of the best ways to worship is to focus. Often we will ask that you close your eyes, if this helps you focus, then great, if it's something else that helps you focus, then do that.

Before each activation, take a moment to be still before the Lord. These are not exercises to rush through or items on a to-do list to check off. They are invitations to commune with God and to go deeper. Turn your attention toward Him and invite Him into this time.

## Discussion

- What was your family culture growing up?
- How do you describe the family culture that you are currently in? Is loving God the priority in your home?
- Do you see your relationship with the Lord as a space for problem solving? Or a space to enjoy just being with Him?
- Do you feel like religion and manipulation have played a role in your relationship with God?

## Activation #1

When you are baptized, you enter into the New Covenant family of God. This is not a religion but a family of sons and daughters. This family culture is very different than ones that you may have grown up in.

Take a couple of minutes to be quiet with God. Ask Holy Spirit “show me what my family culture growing up looked like.”

Write down what you see and hear.

Ask Him, “How has my family culture influenced my belief system?”

Write down what you see and hear.

Invite God to speak to you about what His New Covenant family is like.

## **Activation #2**

Take inventory of your time spent with the Lord.

How much of your time is spent just enjoying being with God?

How much of your time is spent problem solving with Him?

Set aside time this week to spend with God just enjoying your relationship with Him. It could be an hour each day, or even a whole day! Ask Him how He wants to spend time with you and tell Him how you want to spend time with Him.

Be encouraged to plan a time like you would with a friend.

To end, pray this prayer telling God your intention to love and treasure your relationship with Him.

“God, I love you. My desire is to be near to you at all times. I want to do everything with you. I ask that you would teach me to walk with you intimately. Soften my heart to your voice, Father. Continue to grow in me a desire to be close to you.”

## **Ways to Pray**

- That we would see people in our town come to know Jesus!
- That the Saints' Hill family would invite people who do not know the Lord to church these next few weeks, as we talk about salvation and baptism.
- That we would continue to go after connection with God through prayer.