



Foundation 3 | The Reality of Being in God's Family

REVIEW: Last week we talked about the importance of growing in our relationship with God. This week we are going to look at the local church and The Reality of Being in God's Family with brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Crowd-breaker

- Looking back at when you were younger, what was your silliest fear? What are some fears you have today?
- What is your current desktop or cell phone wallpaper? Why did you choose that image?

Introductory Comments

The two crowd-breaker questions provide some light-hearted fun but also reflect some concepts from last week: (1) acknowledging areas of our lives that still impact us and that cause us fear if we were to let others know too much about our past and ongoing struggles; and (2) the idea of having an image: letting others see what we are like on the outside, but beneath that persona is a whole lot of complicated stuff. We are becoming closer as a group and developing a greater sense of family. Let's continue down that path. Now, let's get into the discussion for this week and the Reality of Being in God's Family. As believers in Jesus Christ, the Bible calls us brothers and sisters in the Lord. And the local church? It's our family.

Discussion

1. From your daily readings and experiences, what are the purposes of the local church? What makes it effective? Ineffective?
2. How would you assess Highlands' effectiveness for the gospel within our surrounding community? What do we do well within the surrounding community? How can we have more impact?
3. Personally, how would you rate your passion as a Jesus follower? What distracts you? What keeps you going?

4. If you were being honest, how have you contributed to disunity within the church?
What steps or practices can you cultivate to bring a spirit of unity to our church?

In addition to these questions, consider discussing any of the reflective questions from the past week's daily devotional readings as time permits.

Next Week Preview

Foundation 4 – The Responsibilities of Being in God's Family and the Daily

Devotional Readings:

Day 1 - Love

Day 2 – Edification

Day 3 - Serving

Day 4 - Sacrificial Generosity

Day 5 - Unity with Differences