



Family Circus

Who Family?

Checking In:

- How do you best connect with God? What gives you a sense of His presence and the depth of His affection for you? Is there a place? A time? A song, maybe?
- Share about a pivotal circumstance that you're facing. What steps of faith do you think God might be inviting you to take? How are you feeling in the midst of it all?

Sermon Discussion:

- Who defined your family growing up? Who defines your family now? Have you ever been (or are you now) in a place where family had to be *redefined*? Have the faces that make your family up changed? Has it always been about blood?
- Do you think we still have hints of being known by our name in our society? David was the "son of Jesse," just like everyone else was so-and-so son of so-and-so. That likely led to all kinds of assumptions about people. Have people ever assumed things about *you* because of *your* last name?
- Read **1 Samuel 20:13-42**. Why do you think Jonathan was so willing to help David? Was it more than the simple fact that they were friends? What do you think Jonathan must have believed about David? Does that say anything about how we should view the members of *our* family (biological or spiritual)?
- Saul is over Jonathan's biological family while God is over his spiritual one. Spend some time comparing and contrasting the David-Jonathan family against the Saul-Jonathan family. Which one feels most familiar to you and your experience? How do we go about infusing our families (biological or spiritual) with a **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** kind of love?

Application Questions:

- The bottom line was **FAMILY IS DEFINED BY WHO'S OVER IT NOT WHO'S IN IT**. What does it look like for you to really *step in* with a spiritual family that's led by God and therefore defined by Him?
- In your biological family, how do you plan to *step down* and allow God to be over and redefine your family according to His character? What might be your very first step this week? What conversations might need to take place in order to get started?

As you end your time in prayer together, thank God for giving you a spiritual family. Ask Him to continue blessing it and strengthening its bond in Him. Pray for each other's biological families; asking God to take up more and more space in them, guiding them to deep love and wholeness.