

4. How does Jesus's redefinition of family based on obedience to God's will challenge conventional understandings of family relationships?

5. How does the recognition of Jesus's family experiencing doubt encourage us when we encounter skepticism or resistance from those close to us regarding our faith?

6. What one thing can you incorporate into your life this week related to these three invitations from Jesus?

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Responding to Jesus

"A Great Invitation"

Matthew 12:46-50

"We all are born into the world looking for someone looking for us, and that we remain in this mode of searching for the rest of our lives." (Curt Thompson)

How to find where I belong:

1. Accept the invitation to _____ Jesus.

God's family is radically inclusionary to all people, the starting line is trusting Jesus.

Isaiah 49:15-16a: "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands."

"The pursuit of God is not a part-time, weekend exercise. If it is, chances are you will experience a part-time, weekend freedom." (Richard Foster)

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



2. Accept the invitation to use God's _____.

We are invited into _____ life.

God has _____ for you.

Matthew 12:45: "That's what this generation is like: You may think you have cleaned out the junk from your lives and gotten ready for God, but you weren't hospitable to my kingdom message..." (MSG)

"This will change your life: take the Gospel and driving it into your life through prayer, singing, fellowship, counseling with one another until it makes you a new person." (Tim Keller)

"The greatest competitor of devotion to Jesus is service for Him." (Oswald Chambers)

3. Accept the invitation to _____ God's family.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. How does Jesus respond to the arrival of his family in Matthew 12:46?
3. What is the significance of Jesus pointing to his disciples as his true family in Matthew 12:48-50?