

5. Why is it important to face every circumstance (tough or not) with faith?

6. Read Matthew 12:49-50, and Galatians 4:5. How does Jesus define family and how does that impact your view of family?

7. If our ultimate hope is to be with God forever, how do we live in that hope in the context of a church family?

8. What are ways you as a group or individuals can jump into bringing hope and blessings to others?

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## SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

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### **The Family of God Working Together**

Faith Milestone Celebration Weekend

Genesis 15

From its beginning, the Bible sees human life in terms of relationships... Human life is mutual relationship: the most fundamental being between man and woman, parents and children, between families, clans, and nations. The Bible speaks of "humanity" in terms of "the families of the earth" (Genesis 12:3)... It follows that this mutual relatedness, this dependence upon one another, is not merely part of the journey toward the goal of salvation, but intrinsic to the goal itself. -Lesslie Newbigin

1. **The family of God works together by \_\_\_\_\_ what it means to be the people of God.**

Genesis 15:1-6

Christian, you are a part of God's family: A family that is not marked by nationality, a last name or your \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 12:2-3

There is, and there can be no, private salvation of humanity, no saving work of God, that does not involve us with each other [...] God's saving revelation does not come to us straight down from above, so to speak. In order to receive God's saving revelation we have to open the door to our neighbor whom he sends as his appointed messenger. Not a messenger that we can eventually dispense with once we learn what is needed, but a fellow human image of God with whom we will, together, permanently share our home." -Lesslie Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*

We need each other in order to know and \_\_\_\_\_ God.

2. The Family of God works together by having \_\_\_\_\_ in God's plan.  
Genesis 15:7-16

People aren't a part of the Christian faith, but intrinsically central to the Christian life. This can bring curse and death, hurt and pain... but it's our problem, not God's. God's plan involves each other. -Tim Mackie

Matthew 12:49-50

Galatians 4:5

Those religiously serious teens they call "The Devoted . . . have a larger number of non-parental adults in their lives whom they can turn to for support, advice, and help. [...] In sum, the lives of more religious teens are, compared to less religious teens, statistically more likely . . . to be linked to and surrounded by adults, particularly non-parental adults who know and care about them and who themselves have social ties to the teens' parents. -Christian Smith, Sociologist

### 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. The church was built to depend on one another as the goal of our journey to God. How does this concept about the Christian life challenge, inspire, or confuse you?
3. How have we blessed and been blessed by the family of God?
4. What challenges you in how the Bible views the family and the church?