

THE CHURCH IS FAMILY

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: I AM PART OF A FAMILY
SERIES: GOD IS FATHER - I AM PART OF THE FAMILY

BIG TRUTH: THE CHURCH IS FAMILY

Ephesians 2:19; 1 John 3:14; 5:1

BIBLE VERSE: GALATIANS 6:10

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

BIG IDEAS

- God's family is devoted to pursuing spiritual growth with one another.
- God's family shares their lives with one another.
- God's family is committed to pursue holiness with one another.

BIBLE PASSAGE: GALATIANS 6:1-18

UNITE - I AM PART OF A FAMILY

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- The church is a family.
- The church is given by God.
- The church exists for God.



Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the unique ways God has gifted them and their church.
- Appreciation for the elders and leaders that God has gifted their church.



Every student should strive to...

- Prioritize gathering to worship each week with their church family.
- Learn more about membership in their local church.
- Do something to intentionally serve someone in their church family each week



Every student should want...

- To devote themselves to pursue holiness with their church family.
- To have their lives be marked by love for the church.
- To live in a way that is sacrificial and generous for the good of others and the glory of God

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



Property of Tri-Cities Baptist Church
171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

THE CHURCH IS FAMILY

BIBLE VERSE: GALATIANS 6:10

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

God's people are a family.

"...especially to those who are of the household of faith."

- When we have our sins forgiven and we turn to follow Christ, we become part of God's family. His family is made up of His people. All those who have repented of their sin and confessed Jesus is the Savior are members of God's family.
- God's family is connected by His Spirit. Every believer everywhere is a member of God's family and are connected forever. They are a joint household of His sons and daughters.

God's family should do good in the world.

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone..."

- God redeems His people for His glory. He is glorified when His people spread His name throughout the world. Part of how His people spread His name throughout the world begins with their actions towards others.
- God calls His people to do good to everyone, not just the people they like. God's children are commanded to treat everyone with love and kindness. Not only that, they are told to take every opportunity to do good to all people. God's family should lead the way in doing good in the world.

God's family should do good to one another.

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

- God created family because it glorifies Him and is what is best for people. Being a part of God's family is what is best for God's redeemed people. We are connected to one another to help one another, to bear each other's burdens, and to take care of one another.
- Taking care of one another is doing good for one another. We would fail as followers of Christ if we do good to a stranger and not to a fellow believer. We should especially do good for our brothers and sisters in Christ because this is what God commands us to do.

THE CHURCH IS FAMILY

BIG IDEA #1: GOD'S FAMILY IS DEVOTED TO PURSUING SPIRITUAL GROWTH WITH ONE ANOTHER.¹

[THIS]

Pursuing spiritual growth is part of the believer's daily life. As part of pursuing spiritual growth with other believers, we must first commit to a personal pursuit of Christ. Growing spiritually is important for God's people. In Galatians 5:25-6:2, Paul teaches that God's people are so connected that they should help one another grow spiritually. We are a part of one another's life and are joined together to grow together. It is God's will that His children pursue Him together as brothers and sisters in Christ. If we are going to successfully grow together as believers, we must grow personally. Our personal pursuit of Christ comes before our corporate pursuit of Him. If we aren't growing personally, we won't be able to really contribute to the corporate growth of the body of Christ.

[THEREFORE]

How does your personal life reveal you are pursuing Christ as an individual?

As we seek Christ personally, we will grow in our knowledge and understanding of Him. Seeking God will result in His drawing near to us. Psalm 119:10 and James 4:8 remind us that we should seek God as individuals and also that the result of this pursuit is repentance of our daily sins and growth in Christlikeness. Our personal lives will reveal a lifestyle of obedience if we are pursuing Christ daily.

[THIS]

Our individual pursuits of Christ will yield a corporate pursuit of Him. God is near to those who seek Him. He is not far from those whose hearts long to know Him. God does not withhold any good thing from His children, and it is good for His children to know Him. As we grow individually, we will understand that a pursuit of Christ together is what pleases God. We will want to encourage others in the body of Christ to know Him and to grow in their understanding of Him because this is what brings God glory. In order to grow together, believers must be a part of one another's life. We must bear one another's burdens and know what is going on in other believer's lives. God's people devote themselves to pursuing a knowledge of Christ together.

[THEREFORE]

How has a fellow believer or group of believers helped you grow spiritually?

Other believers can help us grow spiritually by encouraging us, holding us accountable, and teaching us. We can learn from one another as we study God's Word, pray, and face the trials of this life. Proverbs 27:17 and Hebrews 10:24 help us see the part that other believers can play in our spiritual journey. We are better as believers when we pursue Christ together.

Why does disunity hinder our pursuit of spiritual growth? How can we overcome disunity?

1 Corinthians 1:10-13 and Mark 3:25 warn us of the obstacle that division can cause in the body of Christ. When we allow things to divide us that should not divide us, we hinder our growth as a body. We must set our opinions and ideas aside, counting others as more important than ourselves, and pursue Christ together as His children.

1. Galatians 6:2: God's family pursues Christ together.

THE CHURCH IS FAMILY

BIG IDEA #2: GOD'S FAMILY SHARES THEIR LIVES WITH ONE ANOTHER.²**[THIS]**

We are created to live connected to one another. God establishes this in the beginning when He created a companion for Adam. It was not good that man was alone. God established family as the way in which people would live and He made a special family for Himself, first through the Israelites, and now through all those who believe in Him. We were created to not be alone. It is part of our humanity to need connection to others. The Spirit working in us creates and grows a desire for community, to share our lives with other believers. God connects His children to one another through His Spirit. Each person receives the Holy Spirit when they repent and believe. This means that each and every believer has the same Holy Spirit inside of them. This is a connection that cannot be broken because God holds His children forever. Galatians 6:2 shows us that believers are to bear the burdens of other believers. In order to do this, we must share our lives with one another. We must live openly and honestly with one another and allow other believers to see us at our best and worst.

[THEREFORE]**What are some struggles to being open and honest with other believers?**

Sin is embarrassing and our pride leads us to keep it hidden. Even when we've confessed it in private to God and turned from it, we can find it hard to share our struggle with other believers. We may fear judgment or we want to appear a certain way to others. James 5:16 and Ephesians 4:32 teach us that confessing our sins to one another is what God desires for us to do. When we confess our sins to one another, we help each other grow and overcome the darkness of this world.

[THIS]

As the family of God, we share the ups and downs of life. We share in one another's joys and in the sadness that we each face. By sharing life with other believers, we can learn from their individual pursuit of God. Someone may learn something from their personal study of Scripture and in sharing it with other believers teach them about God's Word. When we share life, we have others to help us when we're down, discouraged, or sad. We have fellow believers to point out our wrong thoughts or the ways in which we are not living obediently. Sharing life with other believers helps us share the gospel with the lost people in our lives. We have like-minded people with whom to travel this journey and seek God's glory with.

[THEREFORE]**What benefits have you experienced by living life with other believers?**

Some of the benefits of living life with other believers are being encouraged, being held accountable, and not feeling alone. As we live life with others, we grow stronger and accomplish God's purpose for our lives. 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Ephesians 4:9-12, and Romans 1:11-12 remind us that living life with other believers affords us great benefit and helps us live for God.

How can you intentionally share life with other believers?

Hebrews 10:24 and 1 Thessalonians 5:14 help us understand how to intentionally live life with other believers. When we seek to build up other believers and to encourage them, we will live intentionally with them. When we are honest and open about our own lives and struggles, we will also intentionally live life with other believers.

2. Galatians 6:6: God's people share their lives with one another and bear one another's burdens.

THE CHURCH IS FAMILY

BIG IDEA #3: GOD'S FAMILY IS COMMITTED TO PURSUE HOLINESS WITH ONE ANOTHER.³

[THIS]

Galatians 6:1 shows us the benefit of being a part of God's family. We are one another's keepers. This means we are connected to one another so we might help one another live for Christ. Living for Christ is a commitment to holiness. Living for Christ is a pursuit of putting on Christlikeness. Because we live as a family, we hold each other accountable to this pursuit. We help one another understand what it looks like to choose holiness over worldliness. When we are pursuing holiness together, we are committed to pointing out when another believer is in sin and allowing other believers to do the same in our own lives. We live out confessing our sins to one another and repenting of them. We set an example of pursuing holiness and follow the examples of older, more mature believers.

[THEREFORE]

How should you point out sin in the life of another believer?

Pointing out sin in another person's life can be challenging. When we remember that we are to love others as Christ loved us, we can point out sin in other's lives. James 5:19-20 and Ephesians 4:2-3 reminds us that all that we do should be done in love, but especially when we speak to other believers about the sin in their lives.

[THIS]

In order to pursue holiness as the family of God, we must first pursue it in our individual lives. If we aren't not personally pursuing holiness, we cannot commit to doing so with the body of believers. If we are not ourselves putting off the works of the flesh and putting on the fruit of the Spirit, we cannot help others in the body of Christ do this. Besides being able to help the body pursue holiness, an individual pursuit of holiness is necessary to our own spiritual growth. We cannot and will not know God and experience a deeply intimate relationship with Him if we are not actively pursuing holiness. The more we desire to be holy as He is holy, the more we will know Him and our relationship will deepen. As this happens, we will be able to commit to our brothers and sisters in Christ and walk with them in their own pursuit of holiness.

[THEREFORE]

Read 1 Peter 1:14-16. Why is it important to pursue a personal holiness?

These verses teach us to put off worldliness and to put on Christlikeness. In order to do this, we must pursue holiness. We learn in these verses that the reason we pursue holiness is because God is holy, and He commands us to be like Him. This means a personal pursuit of holiness is necessary to our spiritual growth.

How has your personal pursuit of holiness been helped by other believers encouraging you or pursuing holiness themselves?

Together we are better because we are created to live life together. When we see another person pursuing godliness, we are spurred on to do the same. Often, in the Old Testament, the Israelites would be told to consecrate themselves, or cleanse themselves together. This act was symbolic of being made holy. Leviticus 11:44 gives us an example of this command to the Israelites. We learn from this that God's people pursue holiness together, not alone. As His family, they strive for godliness as His sons and daughters.

3. Galatians 6:1: Believers are to pursue holiness together as the body of Christ.