

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

Would you rather have a 4-hour dinner with a headstrong politician from an opposing party, or attend a 4-hour concert for a music group you detest?

1. Despite all the challenges Pastor Tom shared about relationships, how has God's family cared for, or been an encouragement to you?
2. Read [Hebrews 2:10](#) and [Ephesians 1:5, 4:16](#). How does knowing God "planned everything in the universe so we could be part of His family" affect your perception of how valuable you are to Him and His family?
3. If loving our spiritual family prepares us for eternity, how ready are you? Read [1 Peter 2:17](#) and [1 John 4:21](#). How do living, or not living out these verses impact God's family?
4. According to [Genesis 2:18](#), [Acts 2:44](#), [Proverbs 27:17](#), [1 Peter 4:9](#), [Galatians 6:2](#) and [Romans 12:15](#), "we're wired to have meaningful relationships". Describe a time you experienced or witnessed a close relationship that developed as people chose to share their experiences, homes, challenges, and difficulties.
5. Take time to read [Act 2:42a](#), [Romans 12:10a](#), [1 John 3:10, 14, 16, 18-20](#) and [John 13:34-35](#) to see how God's family is to be our "next-of-kin." What would you need to change this week to love as God laid out in these passages?

Day One: [Matthew 25](#)

Day Two: [Genesis 25](#)

Day Three: [1 Corinthians 9](#)

Day Four: [James 3](#)

Day Five: [Job 25](#)

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



Your story matters.

A FOREVER FAMILY

MYTHUNDERSTANDING

PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN

MAY 22, 2022

MYRC.CHURCH



"A FOREVER FAMILY"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

There's a lot of *fake news* about the Church Jesus _____ and died and rose again from the dead to create.

One of the "mythunderstandings" common in our world today is that churches are only interested in self-preservation and in getting more of people's _____.

...in a world where there's so much _____ about even what a family is, where dysfunction in families is seen everywhere, and strife and conflict and discouragement abound; and where despite more ways to communicate with others than in all previous generations combined, _____ dominates the landscape of humanity. God's family, while imperfect on this planet, is by far the greatest source of grace, hope and meaningful relationships there is.

Note [Hebrews 2:10](#)

God wanted family, so He planned everything in the _____ so we could become part of His family.

Note [Ephesians 1:5](#)

1. God's Family is Practice for _____ (note [1 Peter 2:17a, b](#))

_____ to love our spiritual family makes us more like God.

(note [1 John 4:20-21](#))

Note [Genesis 2:18](#)

We're _____ to have meaningful relationships.

Note [Acts 2:44](#)

Really significant and meaningful friendships are not the result of luck, but of _____.

Friendships develop when we share our _____ (note [Proverbs 27:17](#)); when we share our _____ (note [1 Peter 4:9](#)); when we share our _____ and difficulties (note [Galatians 6:2](#) and [Romans 12:15](#)).

We get to be a part of God's plan for the _____ with our spiritual niche (note [Ephesians 4:16](#)).

2. God's Family are to be _____

Kinship = your _____ relationships.

Note [Act 2:42a](#) and [Romans 12:10a](#)

Note [John 3:16](#) and [1 John 3:16](#)

Where there's genuine love, people will be attracted to Jesus and to church, because people aren't looking for more _____/events to attend, or just another religious structure...they're looking for family, _____ levels of relationships (note [John 13:34-35](#)).

And the way we _____ we're in God's family is:

(note [1 John 3:10, 14; 4:20](#))

God wants His family to be a _____ in learning to love.

MYTHUNDERSTANDING:

- God's family is where we learn to love real (not _____) people (there are no _____ people).
- Are you even a part of God's family? (note [Galatians 3:26](#))

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy).

*[MyRC.link/connect](#) or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



"A FOREVER FAMILY"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

There's a lot of *fake news* about the Church Jesus bled and died and rose again from the dead to create.

One of the "mythunderstandings" common in our world today is that churches are only interested in self-preservation and in getting more of people's money.

...in a world where there's so much confusion about even what a family is, where dysfunction in families is seen everywhere, and strife and conflict and discouragement abound; and where despite more ways to communicate with others than in all previous generations combined, loneliness dominates the landscape of humanity. God's family, while imperfect on this planet, is by far the greatest source of grace, hope and meaningful relationships there is.

Note [Hebrews 2:10](#)

God wanted family, so He planned everything in the universe so we could become part of His family.

Note [Ephesians 1:5](#)

1. God's Family is Practice for Eternity (note [1 Peter 2:17a, b](#))

Learning to love our spiritual family makes us more like God (note [1 John 4:20-21](#)).

Note [Genesis 2:18](#)

We're wired to have meaningful relationships.

Note [Acts 2:44](#)

Really significant and meaningful friendships are not the result of luck, but of choice.

Friendships develop when we share our experiences (note [Proverbs 27:17](#)); when we share our homes (note [1 Peter 4:9](#)); when we share our challenges and difficulties (note [Galatians 6:2](#) and [Romans 12:15](#)).

We get to be a part of God's plan for the universe with our spiritual niche (note [Ephesians 4:16](#)).

2. God's Family are to be Next-of-Kin

Kinship = your closest relationships.

Note [Act 2:42a](#) and [Romans 12:10a](#)

Note [John 3:16](#) and [1 John 3:16](#)

Where there's genuine love, people will be attracted to Jesus and to church, because people aren't looking for more meetings/events to attend, or just another religious structure...they're looking for family, next-of-kin levels of relationships (note [John 13:34-35](#)).

And the way we know we're in God's family is: (note [1 John 3:10, 14; 4:20](#)) God wants His family to be a laboratory in learning to love.

MYTHUNDERSTANDING:

- God's family is where we learn to love real (not ideal) people (there are no ideal people).
- Are you even a part of God's family? (note [Galatians 3:26](#))

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

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