

## Following Jesus (7)

### A NEW FAMILY



When you invited Jesus into your life you became a member of God's family. Just as you have brothers and sisters in your own family, you now have many brothers and sisters in the family of God. This family is world-wide!

- 💡 Share with one another about your own family? How many brothers and sisters do you have?
- ✝ How do we become part of God's family? How are we 'joined together' as brothers and sisters?

John 1:12 - 13 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 2:19 - 22 \_\_\_\_\_

When we believe in Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to live in us, and he is the one who joins us together as a family. This family is called 'the church'. Although the word church is often used for the building we meet in, it really means 'the ones who have been called out of darkness and into the light.' We are the church! Just as it is important to build your relationship with your brothers and sisters in your own family, it is important to spend time with those in God's family.

### **THE NEED TO MEET TOGETHER**

#### **A. We Need Each Other to Grow**



Let's read Ephesians 4:11 – 13

- ✝ What is God's desire for each one of us in the church?

v13 \_\_\_\_\_

- ✝ Who are the ones God has given to help us grow in our walk with Jesus? V11-12

v11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

God has given men and women to the church who are able to help us grow in our relationship with God. This is one reason why it is so important to meet for fellowship.

#### **B. We Need Each Other to Persevere**

- ✝ What is another reason it is so important to meet together according to Hebrews 10:23–25, 36?

Hebrews 10:23-25, 36 \_\_\_\_\_

- ✝ In what ways can we encourage one another?

Hebrews 10:24 \_\_\_\_\_

- 💡 Share a time when you felt discouraged, but someone said something that really helped you.

There will be times when we face discouragement. The Bible says that it is not always easy to follow Jesus, especially just before Jesus comes again. As we meet together we are able to encourage one another to persevere and not give up.

### **C. We Need to Serve Each Other**

When we meet together with other followers of Jesus we receive spiritual food to encourage us and to help us grow in our walk with God. But God also wants to use us! The church is described in the Bible as a 'body'.



✝ What can we learn about the church from these verses?

1 Corinthians 12:12-21 \_\_\_\_\_

✝ What does God say about your place in this body?

1 Corinthians 12:25-27 \_\_\_\_\_

✝ How has God made it possible for you to serve him in the body?

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 \_\_\_\_\_

💡 Share how you would like God to use you as a member of his family.

Each one of us is an important member of God's family. God has given us different gifts so we can serve Him. This is why it is so important that we meet together and fulfill the purpose that God has for us in His body, the church. In this way we will grow and become effective to share the message of Jesus with those who do not know Him yet.



Pray for one another that God will use you in the family of God.

#### **Memory Verse**

*"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near."*

Hebrews 10:25