

Jesus Call Us “Family”

Hempfield United Methodist Church

“Live Like Christ”

November 11, 2018



God’s Family

The family is God’s idea. God designed the family to be a place of mutual love and support. Because we live in a broken world, families can be both places of blessing and places of struggle. Our life among our earthly family members prepares us for life among other believers, which the Bible refers to as the “Family of God.”

Spiritual Family

The life we share among other believers can be very close and intimate, even more so than that of our earthly family members. This was Jesus’ experience, as he pointed to his disciples and said, “Here is my family.”

The Will of God

God has revealed his will in his Word. Over many centuries, God spoke through the prophets to reveal his will to his people. Now he has spoken to us by his Son. Following the will of God requires us to surrender our own will. When we pursue the will of God, we will begin to see God’s hand at work bringing new blessings into our lives and through us into the lives of others around us.

Doing God’s Will

The Christian life is a life of doing. It is not enough for us merely to know God will; we must put what we know into practice. This is not a hard thing. We simply look at what is before us and respond in the way the Christ leads us to respond.

Mark 3:31-35

31 His mother and his brothers came, and standing outside, they sent word to him and called him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him and told him, “Look, your mother, your brothers, and your sisters are outside asking for you.”

33 He replied to them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” 34 Looking at those sitting in a circle around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

Application *for Abundant Living*

Wesley's Covenant Prayer

John Wesley, a founder of the Methodist movement, wrote a beautiful prayer of surrender to the will of God. Find some time this week to pray this prayer aloud to God and ensure your full submission to the will of God.

I am no longer my own, but thine.

**Put me to what thou wilt,
rank me with whom thou wilt.**

**Put me to doing,
put me to suffering.**

**Let me be employed by thee
or laid aside by thee.**

**Exalted for thee
or brought low for thee.**

**Let me be full,
let me be empty.**

**Let me have all things,
let me have nothing.**

**I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.**

**And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.**

So be it.

**And the covenant which I have made on
earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

Your Notes:

What is God saying to you.

Questions *for Group Discussion*

What is the best memory you have of your earthly family?

Who has had the greatest influence on your spiritual formation?

How easy for you is it to talk about spiritual things with your earthly family?

How can you deepen your connection with other believers?