

SERMON STUDY NOTES

16th June 2019
Speaker: Mike Bloore

Church as a Family

1. Describe what *church as a family* would look like for you? (i.e. the kind of qualities/behaviours a community of this nature would have?)
2. What were some of the unique characteristics of family in the ancient Mediterranean world (the context of the early church)?
3. ‘Brothers & sisters’ (adelphoi) was the most common term of address and self-designation for the early Christians (appears 271 times). What might this reflect about their experience of community? How might our use of this term change the way we see/treat one another?
4. What was the main purpose of Jesus’ ‘anti-family passages’? (Matt 8.19-22, Matt 10.34-38, Mark 3.31-35, Luke 14.25-27)
5. How did Paul encourage his ‘siblings in the faith’ to treat one another? (1 Corinthians 6-8, Romans 14-15). Which of these areas are you most challenged by at the moment?
6. What issues did the church family model primarily address? (Galatians 3-4). What issue is most in need of addressing, by this model, in your own life/family?
7. For the early Christians, commitment to God and His family (the church) were one-and-the-same. How does this differ from your own beliefs or experience?
8. What are some of the obstacles that get in the way of our faith community becoming more like a loving family/whanau?

9. How might we adopt this family-shaped vision of church more in our community? What could be a helpful first step in this process?