



Small Group Guide

The Household of God: Belonging, Reconciliation, and the Promise Fulfilled

Overview

This sermon explored the deep, God-given longing within every human being to belong, tracing how every covenant in Scripture points to one promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Through his blood, the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile is broken down, and a new household is established, one defined not by ethnicity, religion, or culture, but by those who belong to God through Christ, the cornerstone.

Key Takeaways

- Every human being carries a preexistent, God-given desire to belong, to have a home, and to experience genuine intimacy and family.
- Every covenant from Genesis forward, the Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic, points to one promise: Jesus Christ, the seed who would crush the serpent's head.
- Jesus is the cornerstone who sets the trajectory of everything built upon him, both the horizontal relationships we have with one another and the vertical relationship we have with God.
- God's household is not defined by ethnicity or religious heritage. The Hebrew word "bayit" speaks of a dynastic dwelling passed through inheritance, while the Greek word "oikos" means simply those who belong. Together they

describe a forever household for all who are brought in through the blood of Christ.

- The walls of God's household are reconciliation, the roof is the manifest presence of God, and the cornerstone is Jesus.
 - God is not offended with us. Jesus took every offense upon himself. We are the ones who hold offense, toward God and toward one another, and in doing so we create a disjointed dwelling place rather than a unified temple.
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Discussion Questions

Opening

- The sermon opened with the story of Bucky the Labrador, who walked over 500 miles to find his way home. What does that story stir in you? Can you think of a time in your own life when you experienced a deep longing to belong somewhere or to someone?

Digging In

- The pastor described a "preexistent desire" placed within every human being to belong to God, even before we are aware of it. How have you seen that longing show up in your own life, or in the lives of people you know, even before they came to faith?
- Every covenant in Scripture carries one underlying promise: Jesus Christ. Looking at the covenants mentioned in the sermon (Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic), what does it mean to you that God was consistently and patiently working toward one redemptive purpose across all of human history?
- The Magi were pagan priests, outsiders to Israel's covenants, and yet something in them responded to the prophecies and the celestial sign and sent them on a two-year journey to worship Jesus. What does their story say about how God pursues people who are far from him? How does that challenge or encourage you?
- Ephesians 2:14 describes Jesus making "both groups into one new man." The sermon emphasized that neither Jew nor Gentile alone can represent the fullness of God's household. What do you think is lost when the church becomes too homogenous, too uniform in background, culture, or experience? What is gained when genuine diversity is present?

- The pastor described shalom not only as an absence of anxiety and a sense of well-being, but also as the displacement of the authority that allowed chaos to reign. In practical terms, what does it look like for Jesus to be the authority in a household, whether a family, a church, or a community?

Going Deeper

- The sermon stated: "God is not offended with you. Jesus took it. We are the ones that stand in offense towards our God." How does that reframe the way you think about your relationship with God when you have sinned or fallen short? Does that truth feel liberating, uncomfortable, or both? Why?
- The pastor used the image of a fence to describe how offense operates in relationships. Even when two people are in the same room, offense creates a wide chasm between them. Is there a relationship in your life where that kind of fence exists? What would it look like to begin dismantling it?
- The sermon described the household of God as a living, breathing dwelling place where God's character and desires are expressed to the nations and to all of creation. What does it mean to you personally that you are not just a recipient of God's grace but an active part of his dwelling place?

Practical Applications

- **Identify the longing.** This week, pay attention to moments when you or someone around you expresses a desire to belong, to be known, or to find meaning. Practice recognizing that longing as something God placed there, and consider how the gospel speaks directly to it.
- **Trace the promise.** Spend time reading one of the Old Testament covenants mentioned in the sermon (Genesis 3:15, Genesis 22, Hosea 2:19, or Micah 5:2). Look for how Jesus is present in that passage as the fulfillment of the promise. Write down what you notice.
- **Take inventory of offense.** Honestly ask yourself whether you are carrying offense toward God or toward another person. Name it specifically. Then bring it to God in prayer, acknowledging that Jesus has already dealt with it, and ask for the grace to release it.
- **Build toward reconciliation.** If there is a broken or strained relationship in your life, take one concrete step this week toward reconciliation. That step does not need to resolve everything. It simply needs to move in the right direction.

- **Reflect on your place in the household.** The pastor described the walls as reconciliation, the roof as the presence of God, and the cornerstone as Jesus. Consider your own life: Are you contributing to the walls? Are you living in a way that invites God's presence to rest on the people around you? Discuss with your group what this looks like practically in your daily rhythms.
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Closing Prayer Focus

Close your time together by praying in three directions:

1. **Upward** - Thank God for his unrelenting commitment to humanity across every covenant and every generation, and for bringing you near through the blood of Christ.
2. **Inward** - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any offense, bitterness, or distance that you have been maintaining, and invite him to bring healing and wholeness to your soul.
3. **Outward** - Pray for someone in your life who is still far off, still groping in the dark, still looking for the belonging that only Jesus can provide. Ask God to awaken in them the preexistent desire he placed there before they were born.