

GROUP GUIDE – FORMED BY THE GOSPEL

SESSION 2:1 | NEW FAMILY

Key Scriptures

- Matthew 16:18
- 1 Timothy 3:15
- Galatians 3:26–29
- Ephesians 2:19–22
- Romans 8:14–17
- John 13:34–35

Big Idea

The Gospel does not only change what we believe; it reshapes who and what we belong to. Jesus welcomes us into a new family, the Church, a people He is building, where we belong by grace through faith and learn to live together as God’s household.

Ice Breakers (Choose one)

- When have you felt most “at home” with a group of people, and what made it feel that way?
- What comes to mind when the church is described as a family?

Discussion Questions (As time allows)

1. Matthew 16:18 — Jesus says, “I will build my church.” What does this teach us about where our hope for the church begins?
2. Matthew 16:18 — Why is it important that Jesus does not say His church will be perfect, but that He will build it? How does that help when church feels complicated or painful?
3. Matthew 16:18 — Jesus pictures His people as an assembly that even “the gates of Hades” cannot overcome. What does this reveal about the strength and mission of the church?
4. 1 Timothy 3:15 — Paul calls the church “God’s household.” How does household language challenge the way we often treat church as an event, program, or place to attend?
5. 1 Timothy 3:15 — Paul says people must know how to conduct themselves in God’s household. What expectations, assumptions, or baggage do people often bring from their past homes into the church?

6. 1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 2:19–22 — If the church is the household of the living God, what does it mean that this is not “our house” where we set the terms?
7. 1 Timothy 3:15; John 13:34–35 — Paul says the church is the “pillar and foundation of the truth.” How does a Gospel-shaped family make the truth of Jesus visible to the world?
8. Galatians 3:26–27; Romans 8:14–17 — According to Paul, how do we enter God’s family? Why is it good news that we belong by grace through faith, not background, achievement, or cultural fit?
9. Galatians 3:28–29 — What differences or divisions can still shape how people experience belonging in the church? How does being “one in Christ” challenge those barriers?
10. Galatians 3:26–29; John 13:34–35 — The manuscript says loneliness loses its grip when we stop living like guests and start living like family. What would that look like in our group or church this week?

Application

Take a moment to reflect: Where are you tempted to live like a guest, outsider, consumer, or self-protector instead of a member of God’s household? This week, choose one concrete way to live like you belong to Jesus and to His people. This might look like:

Examples

- Initiating a real conversation with someone instead of staying surface-level
- Inviting someone into your home, schedule, or life
- Asking for prayer or help instead of pretending you are fine
- Leaving one unhealthy expectation or assumption at the door
- Moving toward someone who may feel lonely, new, or unseen
- Submitting one preference to Jesus for the sake of unity and love

Jesus, thank You for welcoming us into Your family. Teach us to live like we belong to You and to one another. Make Your truth visible through our life together.

Key Takeaway

The Gospel does not just give us a new belief; it gives us a new belonging. Jesus is building His Church as God’s household, and we enter that family on the same terms: grace through faith in Christ. Gospel-formed community means we stop living like guests and start living like family, trusting that Jesus is alive, present, and forming His people together.