

Necessary Connections

You Need a Family

Once upon a time there was the nuclear family. Maybe you remember it ... mom, dad, 2.5 children all living in a single family domicile (back in a day when a single family home meant one family living in one home on one real estate lot). Then came the normalization of divorce, the deprecation of marriage, and the rise of singles. The definition of "family" has changed. Friends was one of the first tribe-as-family television shows where a group of friends pretty much replaced the biological family. But they were nowhere near the first to do so. In this conversation we'll explore the biblical model of family and why we need one.

Hebrews 10:23–25

1. There are three family metaphors: _____, _____, and _____.
2. We need _____ and _____ to birth and nurture us.
3. We need spiritual _____ to encourage and challenge us.
4. We need an extended _____ family to keep us connected with our spiritual _____ and _____.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll invite someone to engage Directions with me
- I'll reach out to someone in the church to encourage this week
- I want to be a part of a small group

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Scripture: Hebrews 10:23-25

Introduction: The definition and the role of family has changed significantly over the years. At first the changes were subtle – fewer children and a gradual rise in divorce, but over the past decade or so the changes have literally slammed into culture. The institution of marriage is in question ... why bother? Step parents are normative. The definition of marriage has been rewritten. Polyamory is on the rise. And yet, regardless of how you define it, the need for family remains universal.

1. Share a bit about what “family” was like for you growing up.
2. What do you think people thought the the purpose of family was before the 1960s? What do people think the purpose of family is post 2015?
3. What are some of the characteristics of tribal families, such as we saw in *Friends* and *Big Bang Theory*?
4. Read Hebrews 10:23–25. In this passage, who are the “one another’s” that the author is speaking about. How are these
5. Read Titus 3:9–10 and Matthew 12:46–50. What are some reasons given for why Jesus and Paul were so hard on “family” in their teachings?
6. Who have been some of your Ammas and Abbas in the church? How have the molded you? Who are you an Amma or Abba to?
7. Who has acted as a Spiritual Sibling in the church? How have they encouraged you? Who have you encouraged in the faith this week – or who will you encourage in the faith? How have/will you been an encourager?

Who will you invite to worship with you this week?
