




# COMMUNITY GUIDE

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## WEEKLY APPLICATION

**TAKEAWAY:** The cross of Jesus Christ joins us to a family, not just saves us from sin.

**HEAD CHANGE:** The church is called to mature and move beyond individualism.

**HEART CHANGE:** Submission in the church context is protection, not restriction.

**LIFE CHANGE:** Growing up with brothers and sisters in Christ involves mutual growth and grace.

## OVERVIEW

In a world that constantly pushes us towards self-centeredness, we're reminded of a profound truth: the cross of Jesus Christ doesn't just save us from our sins, it joins us to a family. This message challenges us to shift our focus from 'I' to 'we,' embracing our role in God's family. The scripture from Galatians 4:4-7 beautifully illustrates how we're adopted as God's children, prompting us to cry out 'Abba, Father.' This family dynamic isn't just a nice idea; it's a transformative reality that should reshape how we view church and our relationships within it. We're called to listen to spiritual mothers and fathers, live as sons and daughters, and grow alongside our brothers and sisters in faith.

This perspective offers a powerful antidote to the cultural anthem of self-obsession, reminding us that our destiny is to join a diverse, multicultural chorus praising God. As we navigate our faith journey, let's consider how this family-oriented approach can deepen our spiritual lives and impact our interactions within the church community.

*"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."*

*Philippians 2:3*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some practical steps we can take to move from a consumer mentality in church to one of active participation and contribution?
2. How might our approach to church and faith change if we truly embraced the idea that we are all 'growing up' together in Christ?
3. How can we foster a church culture that allows for mistakes and growth while still maintaining high standards of conduct and faith?
4. How might our understanding of being adopted as God's children impact our approach to church involvement and commitment?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

Lord, we ask that you help us to release any feelings of hurt that we've been carrying. We give those feelings to you and ask that you help us to forgive. We pray that you open our eyes to opportunities to encourage those around us as we go through our days. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

**IN THIS TOGETHER!**