

God Wants Me in His Family

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes

Based on the "What God Wants Me to Know" Series of Matthew Rogers

07-27-2025

Summary of the Text

The sermon "God Wants Me in His Family" explores the concept of finding identity and belonging in God's family, as discussed in Romans 9–11. It emphasizes that everyone comes from a family tree—whether as wounded, proud, or wayward branches—shaped by their experiences. However, God offers a new family tree through His mercy, where anyone can be grafted in through faith in Jesus Christ. Romans 9 highlights God's sovereignty in choosing the Jews as His people to create a worldwide family, yet many rejected Jesus, relying on works instead of faith. Romans 10 underscores human responsibility to respond to God's invitation by confessing Jesus as Lord. Romans 11 reveals God's inclusive desire for all—Jews and Gentiles—to be part of His family through faith, not lineage. The sermon challenges us to derive our identity from being God's children, impacting how we live, forgive, and view others, including modern Jews.

Ice Breaker for Discussion

Question: If you could choose any fictional family (from a movie, book, or TV show) to be part of, which would you pick and why? Share a fun or meaningful reason!

Point 1: God Sovereignly Chose the Jews

Scripture Reading: Direct (Someone) to read **Romans 9:1-5** aloud.

Summary: Romans 9 explains that God sovereignly chose the Jews as His people to bring about His plan for a worldwide family. Despite their privileges (adoption, covenants, promises), many Jews rejected Jesus, mistakenly relying on lineage or works for salvation. God's plan was not flawed; His mercy, not human effort, is the basis for belonging to His family.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you see people today relying on their own efforts or background (like the Jews did) to feel "right" with God?
2. Why might it be tempting to base our worth on our achievements or heritage instead of God's mercy?

Point 2: Humans Are Responsible for Their Response

Scripture Reading: Direct (Someone) to read **Romans 10:9-13** aloud.

Summary: Romans 10 emphasizes that everyone—Jew or Gentile—must respond to God’s invitation by confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in His resurrection. This faith, not lineage or works, grants righteousness and salvation, making us part of God’s family. The passage highlights the accessibility of God’s mercy to all who call on Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to you personally to “confess Jesus as Lord” and believe in your heart? How does this shape your daily life?
2. How can we encourage others to respond to God’s invitation to join His family through faith in Jesus?

Point 3: God’s Desire Is an Inclusive Family

Scripture Reading: Direct (Someone) to read **Romans 11:25-32** aloud.

Summary: Romans 11 reveals God’s inclusive plan to graft both Jews and Gentiles into His family tree through faith in Jesus. While some Jews were “pruned” for rejecting Christ, God made space for all who believe, showing His mercy is available to everyone. This challenges us to see our identity as God’s children first, not defined by our earthly families.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does knowing God wants everyone in His family change the way you view people from different backgrounds or beliefs?
2. What are some ways our past family experiences (wounded, proud, or wayward) might make it hard to fully embrace being part of God’s family?

Recap of the Lesson

The lesson from Romans 9–11 teaches that God wants everyone in His family, regardless of their earthly family experiences—wounded, proud, or wayward. His sovereignty chose the Jews to start His plan, but human responsibility requires faith in Jesus to join His family. God’s inclusive desire welcomes all who believe, offering a new identity as His children. This shift in identity should reduce stress, increase forgiveness, and shape how we treat others, including Jews, with love and fairness.

Challenge

Challenge: This week, reflect on one area where you draw your identity or worth from your earthly family or personal efforts (e.g., approval, achievements, or past hurts). Pray and ask God to help you embrace your identity as His child first. Take one practical step to live this out, such as forgiving a family member, sharing your faith, or supporting a ministry like Jews for Jesus to spread God’s inclusive love.