

**Campus Church of Christ Jail Ministry**  
**Teacher's Guide**  
**Series 1: Lesson #6**  
**"You Were Formed For God's Family", Part A**  
(from *The Purpose Driven Life*<sup>1</sup>)

(all **green** text is for the teacher)

**Preparation:**

1. Read the section for Day 15 in *The Purpose Driven Life*.
2. Review the scripture references in the lesson and related passages in your Bible; there are too many to use in the class, so be selective.
3. Read through the teacher's version of the lesson; make notes / changes as desired.
4. Pick up the following from the Jail Ministry Table:
  - attendance/prayer request sheets
  - enough copies of lesson handout for the inmates in your pod (Remember, **don't** staple the pages.)
  - correspondence courses to give out to inmates who desire one
5. Other optional materials to bring:
  - White board marker and eraser
  - Sharpened pencils for inmates to use (be sure to collect all of them before they leave the room)

**Before and as students arrive:**

1. Welcome students and distribute student handouts
2. Make sure that any inmates who don't have a Bible know that they can fill out an inmate request form to get one that is provided to the jail by the church.
3. Pass the attendance roster / prayer request sheets around.
4. Always extend a greeting of encouragement and hope as inmates are arriving.
5. Open the class / lesson with a prayer.

**Focus points for this Lesson:**

(main points to emphasize through the lesson and to summarize in conclusion. If white board and marker are available, as you conclude and summarize each point, write it on the board.)

- God made us for His family.
- Being a member of God's family is a choice I make.
- Our only access to being in God's family is through Jesus.
- Baptism is not optional.
- Being a member of God's family includes great benefits.

# “You Were Formed For God’s Family”, Part A

## Introduction

**What thoughts come to your mind at the mention of the word “family”?**  
(response and discussion)

Family is a very special thing to nearly everyone, even those whose families are broken or in turmoil. Whether that is our reality or not, we long for the loving relationships of being part of a family. God loves families, too. He tries to help us understand the nature of who He is, the Trinity, by describing it in terms we can relate to - a family: Father, Son, and Spirit. He created the idea of family, the plan for families, and then the people to form families. The Bible is the story of families. Mostly, it is the story of the building of God’s family, the people who love Him, honor Him, and will live with Him forever.

**(Day 15)**

## **Formed for God’s Family**

**Focus Point:** I was formed for God’s family.

God didn’t need a family. He wasn’t lonely, but He wanted a family and as a result, He created us. *Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.* **Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT) - verse to remember**

## **An Eternal Family**

Every human being was created by God and is loved by God. Every human being, however, is **not** a child of God, a member of His family. God makes it very clear that being a member of His family is open to everyone, but He has one very specific stipulation: there is one and only one way that a person can become one of His children – he or she must believe in Jesus Christ.

## **John 1:12-13 (NIV)**

*12Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13children born not of natural descent nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.*

## **Galatians 3:26 (NLT)**

*So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

## **John 14:6 (CEV)**

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life!" Jesus answered. "Without me, no one can go to the Father."*

While our earthly families are precious to us, only our spiritual family will remain for all of eternity. Whether by marriage, birth or adoption, our family relationships on earth end at physical death. However, our spiritual family relationships last forever. The Apostle Paul put it this way, *"When I think of the wisdom and scope of His plan I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God – some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth."*

### **Ephesians 3:14-15 (LB)**

It is because of Jesus and what He did that God offers us the opportunity to come into His family.

### **Colossians 1:11-22 (NLT)**

*11We also pray that you will be strengthened with his glorious power so that you will have all the patience and endurance you need. May you be filled with joy, 12always thanking the Father, who has enabled you to share the inheritance that belongs to God's holy people, who live in the light. 13For he has rescued us from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, and he has brought us into the Kingdom of his dear Son. 14God has purchased our freedom with his blood<sup>[c]</sup> and has forgiven all our sins.*

### **Christ Is Supreme**

*15Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before God made anything at all and is supreme over all creation.<sup>[d]</sup> 16Christ is the one through whom God created everything in heaven and earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see--kings, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities. Everything has been created through him and for him. 17He existed before everything else began, and he holds all creation together.*

*18Christ is the head of the church, which is his body. He is the first of all who will rise from the dead,<sup>[e]</sup> so he is first in everything. 19For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, 20and by him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of his blood on the cross. 21This includes you who were once so far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions, 22yet now he has brought you back as his friends. He has done this through his death on the cross in his own human body. As a result, he has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.*

By accepting Jesus and becoming part of God's family, we become Jesus' brothers and sisters. Because of Jesus' sacrifice for us, when we accept Him, we are made holy and, therefore, pleasing to God as His children.

### **Hebrews 2:11 (NLT)**

*So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.*

Our choice to become a member of God's family makes Him incredibly happy.

### **James 1:18 (LB)**

*It was a happy day for him when he gave us our new lives, through the truth of his Word, and we became, as it were, the first children in his new family.*

## **Entering the Family**

The way that we become a member of a family is either to be born into the family or to be adopted into the family. In God's family, we do both. When we accept Christ as our savior, God tells us that He adopts us as His sons and daughters (**Ephesians 1:4-5**) AND we are also born again into a heavenly family.

### **1 Peter 1:23 (NLT)**

*For you have been **born again**. Your new life did not come from your earthly parents because the life they gave you will end in death. But this new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.*

While our belief, or faith, in Jesus Christ is the only condition for entering God's family, He has given some specific instructions for how we must do this. Once our faith leads us to repent, then we must confess Jesus publicly and be baptized (**Acts 2:38**). Baptism is rich with symbolism, representing a number of different aspects of our salvation.

- Baptism physically illustrates our spiritual birth and entrance into God's family, the church.

### **1 Corinthians 12:13 (NLT)**

*Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into Christ's body by one Spirit, and we have all received the same Spirit.*

- Baptism is symbolic of our birth into God's family. In the same way that we were once born from the water of our mother's womb, we are born again into Christ in the water of baptism.

### **John 3:3 (NLT)**

*Jesus replied, "I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God."*

- Baptism is also symbolic of the death and burial of our old life and the resurrection of our new life.

### **Romans 6:4 (NLT)**

*We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

### **Colossians 2:12 (NLT)**

*having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.*

- Baptism is also symbolic of the washing away of the filth of our sins and becoming clean through the blood of Christ.

### **Acts 22:16 (NLT)**

*And now, why delay? Get up and be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on the name of the Lord.'*

- Baptism symbolizes that we are now pure like Jesus

**Galatians 3:27 (NLT)**

*And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like him.*

If these aren't enough reasons, baptism was modeled by Jesus (Luke 3:21-22) and commanded by Him.

**Matthew 3:16 (NLT)**

*After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him.*

**Matthew 28:19 (NIV)**

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

**Acts 2:38 (NIV)**

*Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**Benefits of Being in the Family**

“The moment we are spiritually born into God’s family, we are given some astounding birthday gifts, the family name, the family likeness, family privileges, family intimate access, and the family inheritance!” (p. 119)

The Birthday Gifts

- The gift of Jesus and all that He has done for us  
**2 Corinthians 9:15 (NLT)**  
*Thank God for his Son--a gift too wonderful for words!*
- God’s incredible gift of grace.  
**Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)**  
*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—*
- The amazing gift of the Holy Spirit  
**Acts 2:38 (NIV)**  
*Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

## The Family Name

We become God's children and He is our Father.

### **1 John 3:1**

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

### **Romans 8:15-16 (MSG)**

*This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" 16God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children.*

## The Family Likeness

There are no longer distinctions made between us.

### **Galatians 3:28 (NLT)**

*There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians--you are one in Christ Jesus*

## Family Privileges

### **Philippians 4:19 (NLT)**

*And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.*

## Family Intimate Access

Because, as Christians, we have the Holy Spirit

### **Romans 8:26-27 (NIV)**

*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.*

### **Hebrews 10:19 (NLT)**

*And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus.*

## The Family Inheritance

We are heirs to receive all of God's promises.

### **Galatians 3:29 (NLT)**

*And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and now all the promises God gave to him belong to you.*

### **Galatians 4:7 (NLT)**

*Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, everything he has belongs to you.*

## **1 Peter 1:4 (NLT)**

*For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.*

### **Additional scriptures**

Romans 10:13	2 Peter 3:9	Ephesians 3:14, 15
1 John 3:1	Romans 8:29	Romans 5:2
1 Corinthians 3:23	Ephesians 3:12	1 Peter 1:3-5
Romans 8:17	Galatians 5:6	Ephesians 1:7
Romans 2:4	Romans 9:23	Romans 11:33
Ephesians 3:16	Ephesians 2:4	Ephesians 1:18
1 Thessalonians 5:10	1 Thessalonians 4:17	1 John 3:2
2 Corinthians 3:18	Revelation 21:4	Mark 9:41
Mark 10:30	1 Corinthians 3:8	Hebrews 10:35
Matthew 25:21,23	Colossians 1:11-22	Romans 3:24

### **Conclusion**

Our first purpose for life is to love and worship God. Our second purpose is to become a member of His family, one of His children, through faith and acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Savior. "Being included in God's family is the highest honor and the greatest privilege we will ever receive. Nothing else comes close. Whenever we feel unimportant, unloved, or insecure, [all we need to do is ] remember to whom we belong." (p. 121) As members of God's family, our purpose becomes clear and our value becomes priceless!

### **Closing the lesson / class:**

Close the lesson with a **prayer**

Offer the booklet, "**Am I Saved?**" to any who may want a copy.

Offer **correspondence course packets** to those who desire them.

Let inmates know that **if they desire to be baptized**, they should fill out an inmate request form on which they should indicate that they wish to be baptized by someone from Snellville Church of Christ. Invite them if there is time to stay and talk with you about this after the others leave.

If time permits, teach the song. Read the words together first and make sure the meaning is clear. Sing the first verse for them to hear the tune (or play a recording if available – bring a boom box), then sing together.

---

**References:**

<sup>1</sup>Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Life*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

All scripture references are from <http://www.biblegateway.com/>

---