

Level 3: lessons leading to knowledge

A Way of Life in
**The Family
of God**

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The Journey Bible Study Series

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Introduction

Every year there are thousands of people who become Christians but they do not become members of a local fellowship of believers. They are like newborn babies trying to care for themselves. Many of them fall away and do not go on to maturity because they have disregarded the family that God has provided for them.

This study is to help you learn to be a good church member. Each lesson has an introduction, a Bible reading, and some questions for you to answer. Most of the answers to the questions come from the Bible text, but some of answers will come from your own thinking.

When you have finished a lesson, remember to continue your study of the Word of God. May God bless you as you study the Bible, so that you may be a great blessing to others.



The Family of God

The Role of Family

God's will for a child when it is born, is that it becomes part of a family. This child becomes an important member of the family because it brings joy and love. Later this child will take on responsibilities that are for the good of the family, and the family will be important to the child. Without its family the child could not continue to live, nor would it have a loving environment in which to learn how to live. The family gives a name and identity to the child that will stay with it throughout life. The family cares for and nourishes the child until it reaches an age when it is an adult and can stand alone. Even then the love and interaction between the child and family remain.

The Family of God

When God saved us He placed us into His family, which is made up of Christians from all over the world. God's intention was not just to save us but to bring us into fellowship with His family on earth. While it is important that we are saved and know God's love and forgiveness we should not be satisfied with that as a goal, because God wants to see each person become an active member of a local community of believers. Ideally, there should be no separation in time between conversion and becoming an active member of a congregation. Spiritually, when a person is converted by God that person is included in the Body of Christ (the Church). What is true spiritually should also be true in life on earth.

God's Purpose for His Children

In the Bible we read of many churches. In fact many of the Bible books are written to congregations made up of Christians just like you. In these books there is a great deal of good instruction given for church members. This is because God loves the

church and He wants each of us to live a life that is complete and fulfilling. Paul wrote to the Christians at Colosse, "We proclaim Christ, admonishing every person, teaching every person with all wisdom, that we may present every person complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

Read I Corinthians 12:13

1. Who placed Christians into the body? What is another name for the body? Why do you think all Christians are part of the body?
2. Are you in the body? How do you know?

Read Romans 12:4-8

3. Why is it important that different members have different functions in the body? (4)
4. How does this passage imply that every member has a gift? (4)
5. Why, do you think, these gifts are given?

6. Name four of the gifts mentioned in the text? Choose one gift and describe what it means.

7. Name one or more gifts you think you may have. How do you reach this conclusion?

You Are Needed

You are needed by the church. It is not complete without you! The gifts you have contribute to the completion of the church. You need the church. You are not complete without it! The church is God's instrument for evangelizing us, for nurturing us, for helping care for us, for enabling us, for equipping us, and for loving us. In the same way, God places us in a congregation to evangelize others, to nurture others, to help others, and love others. It is part of the reason for our existence. The Word of God is a reminder to us that while we live and work for God's Church on earth we look forward to being partakers of the Church in heaven.

"In a true Family of God there will be warmth and fellowship: No stranger will remain ungreeted. No unfortunate member will be neglected. No invalid shall be unvisited. No needy person shall be unassisted. No act of mercy shall be omitted. The church shall be a home, and a place where love and service to each other and God is cultivated". Charles Jefferson