



**HATFIELD
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 2 WEEK 4

10 May 2018

A hero in your family

‘Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?’ And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home.”

Matthew 13:55-57 (NIV)

Icebreaker

What are some of the nicknames you are called in your family?

Introduction

Do you find it hard to share your faith with your family? Take heart! Jesus’ own brother, James, found it hard to believe. His life shows us that the members of our family who may be far from the Lord, or even resistant to Him, can turn over their lives to Him and even become pillars in the church. The hearts of James and his brothers changed toward Jesus when they saw His death and resurrection. Likewise, the hearts of our family members can also change as they see us dying to our own selves and being resurrected to a new life in Christ. It is not our job to convert them to our faith but simply to point them to Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith.

Discussion

Discuss how the following points can be applied to your specific family situation:

- Prayer – God brings breakthrough in the lives of our family members through our prayers. Can you relate to this? Share some stories of how God answered prayers and brought change in the lives of family members. (*Prayer not only changes circumstances but it softens and changes our hearts toward people as well.*)
- Being *real* with your family – As Christians we don’t have to give the impression that we have it all together. We need to be authentic and transparent about ourselves and our

walk with the Lord. We are all in the process of being sanctified. Share what God is doing for you. *(It is God's kindness that leads us to repentance. Be kind, serve with love, and be respectful. Always be quick to apologise. Live a life of consistency.)*

- Be engaging – Show concern and interest in the lives of your family members. Good conversations are important. Ask the Lord to give you His wisdom on when and how to speak. *(Always be ready to give a reason for the hope that we have. 1 Peter 3:15)*
- Share some of your personal experiences in sharing your faith with your family members. Is it easy or difficult for you?

Prayer

- Ask the Spirit to bring to mind specific people in your immediate and extended family and pray that the Spirit will 'draw them with cords of kindness, [and] with the bands of love' (Hosea 11:4) so as to bring them to a place of repentance.
- Pray for one another that we will all be true salt and light to our families.
- Pray for a fresh infilling of the Spirit, and then specifically that He will guide us in loving and ministering to our families.