



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

Household of Faith

Preached by Jon Egan

September 13, 2026

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

In this sermon, Pastor Jon Egan explores what God is building through the local church, centering on the idea that God is constructing a household of faith, a spiritual family. Drawing from Galatians, Ephesians, and 1 Timothy, he makes the case that the entire story of Scripture can be understood through the lens of family: God creates a family, sin fractures it, and Jesus comes to reconcile the estranged back into relationship with the Father and with one another. The church is meant to be the living expression of that restored family on earth.

Key Passages

- Galatians 6:9-10
- Ephesians 2:17-22
- 1 Timothy 3:14-15

- Colossians 3:13
- Mark 3:33-35

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father, we come before You today as Your family, grateful for the gift of community You have placed us in. As we open Your Word and discuss what You are building through Your church, we ask that You soften our hearts and quiet the noise of individualism that so easily pulls us inward. Holy Spirit, have Your way in this group today. Show each of us where You are calling us to go deeper, to be known, and to stay. May this time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What is one word you would use to describe your ideal family dinner, and why?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. The sermon describes God as 'a family Himself who makes a family.' How does understanding God as a relational being change the way you think about your own place in the church?

2. Pastor Jon referenced the concept of 'radical individualism' and how it has shaped American culture, including the church. In what ways have you personally felt the pull of individualism in your faith journey?
3. The sermon suggests that we cannot think our way out of individualism and into the family of God but must instead habit our way out. What does that distinction mean to you, and why does it matter?
4. Of the practical habits mentioned (eating together, showing affection, forgiving one another, holding each other accountable, sharing resources, and sharing responsibility), which one feels most natural to you and which one feels most challenging?
5. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, 'He who is alone with his sin is utterly alone.' Have you ever experienced the freedom that comes from confessing something to a trusted brother or sister in Christ? What made that possible or difficult?
6. Pastor Jon shared a personal story about coming to church in a moment of weakness and being met with love rather than judgment. Has there been a time when the church family showed up for you in an unexpected way? What did that mean to you?
7. Joseph Hellerman wrote that 'long-term interpersonal relationships are the crucible of genuine progress in the Christian life.' Do you agree? What has staying in a community through difficulty taught you that leaving never could?

8. The sermon closed with a long list of 'one another' commands from the New Testament. Which of those commands feels most urgent for your life right now, and what would it look like to practice it this week?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, choose one 'one another' practice from the sermon and intentionally put it into action with someone in your church community. It might mean reaching out to share a meal, confessing something you have been carrying alone, offering forgiveness to someone you have been distant from, or simply asking a friend, 'Is there anything else you want to tell me?' before you pray for them. Take the risk. Faith, as the sermon reminded us, is spelled R-I-S-K.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.

- God is building a household of faith. The entire story of Scripture can be understood through the lens of family, and the church is meant to be the living expression of that restored family on earth.
- Radical individualism is one of the greatest barriers to experiencing the church as God intended. American culture has socialized us to prioritize personal fulfillment over the long-term health of the community, and this mindset has leaked into the church.

- We cannot think our way into the family of God. We must habit our way in through consistent, practical acts of care, vulnerability, forgiveness, accountability, and shared life.
- Being known is essential to genuine community. Staying hidden, even among other believers, produces a deep and painful loneliness. Confession and vulnerability are the doorways to true belonging.
- Staying is a form of faith. Long-term commitment to a community, especially through difficulty, is where real spiritual growth happens. When we stay, we are saying to God, 'You write the story.'

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord Jesus, thank You for the time we have shared together today as Your family. Thank You that You did not save us into isolation but into community, into a household of faith where we can carry one another's burdens, confess our struggles, and grow together in Your grace. Forgive us for the ways we have chosen comfort and independence over the beautiful, costly gift of belonging to one another. Give us the courage to stay, to be known, and to practice the 'one another' life You have called us to. For anyone in this group for whom the word "family" carries pain, we ask that You would bring healing and show them that Your family is safe. May we leave here not just agreeing that community is a good idea but actually living it out. To You be all the glory, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**