**Being Part of God’s Family**

There’s Bibles in front of you and there’s an outline for you to take some notes. Let me pray first.

**Intro**

Yesterday we had a family fun day

Why do we call it a “Family” fun day?

[Open to answers]

a) Because we want people to bring their families along
b) Because we refer to everyone at our church as family
   c) Because we are part of God’s family

When you think of your family – what makes it a family?

[Open to answers]

Let me tell you a funny story about my family

[Story of Fishing]

[Getting stuck in my van]

**How do we get to be part of God’s Family?**

If you think about your family, how to you get to be part of your family in the first place

[Open to answers]

[Being born or adopted or fostered]

[Powerpoint 1 – heading]

This term at Jaffa we got to learn about how we get to be part of God’s family

And it’s pretty much in the same way.

In our 1st Bible reading – Jesus talks to a guy called Nicodemus
And He tells Nicodemus the way into God’s Family is to be born from above

[Powerpoint 1a – born from above]

Nicodemus doesn’t understand what Jesus is talking about when He says ‘born from above’

Nicodemus is thinking he has to go back into his mum’s tummy and be born a second time

What does Jesus mean by being born from above?

[Open for Answers]

Jesus means we first have to do our A.B.C.

[Powerpoint 1b – ABC]

A – Accept that we sin – sin being things we think, say or do – which offend God – things like – telling lies, not respecting our parents, being jealous of people, being angry with people. And Accepting that we need someone to fix our sin – because God doesn’t like it. And Accepting we can’t fix it ourselves

B – Believe that Jesus – died on the cross to take the blame and punishment for our sins – so we can be forgiven by God

C – Confess – that Jesus is now the boss of your life and not you

Once you’ve done the ABC and believe in Jesus

God sends the Holy Spirit – which comes and lives in us

That’s what being born from above – being born of the Spirit means

When we receive the Holy Spirit – it’s like being born a second time

It’s like being a new and changed person – with the Spirit living inside you

And it’s then – that we are born into God’s Family

We even have a ceremony here at church – as a symbol or sign that we believe in Jesus – this ceremony is called Baptism

It’s like a picture of what it means to be born into God’s family
Water is poured over the person – to show that Jesus has washed away our sins – and we’re now part of God’s family
It’s like being adopted or born into a new family – the family of God

Who’s in God’s Family?
How do we know who’s in God’s family?

[Powerpoint 2 – Heading]
Well – our 2nd Bible reading tells us
Remember how someone tells Jesus that His mother and brothers want to speak to Him. And Jesus answers:

[Powerpoint 2a – mother/brother]
Who is my mother and who are my brothers?”49 Then he pointed to his disciples and said, “These are my mother and my brothers! 50 Anyone who obeys my Father in heaven is my brother or sister or mother.”

So basically anyone who believes in Jesus – are like mothers and brothers –

[Powerpoint 2b – believe in Jesus]
In other words – if you believe in Jesus – you’re part of God’s family
So all of us here tonight – as we believe in Jesus – we’re all part of a very special family – called God’s family

What does God’s Family look like?
So what does it look like being part of God’s family?

[Powerpoint 3 – heading]
Before we answer that –
Maybe we should look at our own family to get an idea
How do we know we’re part of our own family?
[Open for answers]
[We look alike, we think alike, we enjoy the same things, we like hanging out together etc.]

Now we've looked at our own families

Now we can answer what it looks like to be part of God’s family…

What does this family look like?

[Powerpoint 3b – Phil 2]

(Lookup Philippians 2:1-11 CEV)

2 Christ encourages you, and his love comforts you. God’s Spirit unites you, and you are concerned for others. 2Now make me completely happy! Live in harmony by showing love for each other. Be united in what you think, as if you were only one person. 3Don’t be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. 4Care about them as much as you care about yourselves and think the same way that Christ Jesus thought:

6Christ was truly God. But he did not try to remain equal with God.

7Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us.

8Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross.

9Then God gave Christ the highest place and honoured his name above all others.

10So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down, those in heaven, on earth,
and under the earth.

"And to the glory
of God the Father
everyone will openly agree,
“Jesus Christ is Lord!”

So being part of God’s family also looks like
[Powerpoint 3b – living for God]

Living for god
Praying and reading your bible and worshipping him and thanking him

And it also looks like
[Powerpoint 3c – Loving]

Look up John 13:34-35 CEV
It looks like loving doesn’t it?

**Why are we part of this God family?**

So why are we part of God’s family?

[Powerpoint 4 Heading]

[Open for answers]

[Powerpoint 4a-Believe]

We are part of God’s family – so we can believe in Jesus – be forgiven – and receive everlasting life – and go to Heaven to live with God forever

AND we’re part of God’s family – for another very special reason

And the reason is in our 3rd Bible reading

Let’s look it up again

Matthew 28:19-20

[Powerpoint 4b-Commission]

19 Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, 20 and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world.
So we're part of God's family so we can help other people to join God’s family by telling them about Jesus

**Conclusion**

So the question is – are we helping others to come into God’s family or are we keeping this family to ourselves

[Powerpoint 5 – Helping others]

Lookup 1 Peter 3:15 to finish off

[Powerpoint 5a – Hope?]

\[15\] Honour Christ and let him be the Lord of your life.

*Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.*

Any questions?
Let's pray…