

4. The passages in Ephesians 2:11-22 and 3:14-21 draw attention to the family aspect of God's church. What stands out to you from these texts? What implications do these texts have for us?
5. What are some ways you practice as you seek to develop a closer connection with God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Holy Spirit and God's family, the church?
6. How can we as a church family develop a stronger connection to God? What part does each one play in developing a group connection?



Part 2 Connecting with God: Understanding Our Identity

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:19, 20 (NIV)

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Advanced Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:19-22

Understanding the Fatherhood of God

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

(Ephesians 2:19, 20)

God is the Father of a _____

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

(Ephesians 3:14, 15)

There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

(Ephesians 4:4-6)

God is not _____ Father

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire...He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

(John 8:44-47)



SHARING10 MINUTES

This is the outreach or evangelistic component of the study. Here we will look at how we can connect together to share our faith in Jesus Christ with others. We want to help those who don't yet know God to connect with Him. Take a moment and write the names of two people you are praying for to connect with God. As we continue on with this series, we will pray each week for those we are seeking to help connect to God and His family.



LOOKING TO THE LORD 20 MINUTES

The final component is our worship time, in which we can pray about what we learned. If some in the group are musically inclined, you can add on the element of singing praise to the Lord.

Take time to "connect with God" in praise and prayer, thanking Him for who He is and what He is teaching you about connecting better with Him. Pray for members of this group, especially as they have shared their struggles or successes with connecting. Pray for the AAC family to better connect with God and one another.

Pray for any needs that are shared within your group.

Next: Fostering Unity – We are one in the Spirit

How we become part of God's family

We are _____ into God's family

In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.
(Ephesians 1:3-6)

We are _____ into God's family

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God
(John 1:12, 13)

Developing a closer connection with the Triune God

Connecting with God as your Heavenly Father

(Matthew 6:6-15)

Connecting with the Lord Jesus Christ as your _____

(Hebrews 2:10-18; 4:14-16)

Connecting with God the Holy Spirit as your _____

(John 16:7-16)

Connecting with God's children as your _____

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
(1 Peter 2:9-10)

Alliston Alliance Church
small group

Discussion Guide

February 10-16, 2019

“CONNECTING: We Are Better Together”

Part 1: “Connecting with God – Understanding Our Identity”

Based on the message given by Pastor Brian Reynolds on Sunday February 10, 2019.



RECONNECTING10 MINUTES

Each week in this time of reconnecting with one another, we will seek to get to know each other a little better. If anyone new has joined your group, use this time for introductions. Take this time to share how each one is doing, especially as you are thinking about connecting, our topic for this series. Have one of the group pray to commit this time to the Lord.



DIGGING IN 50 MINUTES

1. Before you heard the accompanying message, what was your view of the fatherhood in general, and of the fatherhood of God in particular? Did the message change or enhance your view of God as “father” in any way?
2. In John 8:31-47, Jesus uses strong words to challenge those who claimed to have God as their Father. Why did he perceive God was not their Father? What would you say to someone who believes they are God's child but do not have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ?
3. Read 1 John 2:28-3:10. What does John have to say about being “born of God”? What are the characteristics of a child of God?