

Blood and Water: A New Family
Mark 3:31-35, Ephesians 2:14-20
September 23, 2018

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. Who are the people whom you consider your family (blood-related or otherwise). What in your mind, makes them your family?
2. What are some personal familial obligations you have? How does having those obligations make you feel?
3. What does it mean to be adopted into a family, either by legal adoption or through marriage? What “rights” and “responsibilities” do you gain?
4. Does your “family” have any weird members (this may include you)? What are they like and how are they treated by the other members?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What was Jesus really saying in Mark 3 when he said that the people who did God’s will are his family? Was he disconnecting from his biological family?
2. Jesus’ family-centric contemporaries were taken by surprise when he made certain statements about family. Coming from our current perspective, what is your reaction when we hear about God’s vision for our new families?
3. Are there ways that being family-centric can be unhealthy?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. What aspects of EBCLA make it a family? What are the things that we as EBCLA need to work on to become more like family? How can we be a part of that?
2. What are the barriers a church like EBCLA must overcome to become a family?
3. How does a church family address sins and violations in a way that is different from a club? (Use examples like betrayal of trust, divorce, substance abuse, infidelity, etc.)
4. What does it mean to be a part of God’s family outside of EBCLA? When it comes to the wider Church? When it comes to people of other faiths?