

1. **Who is my family?** In Matthew 12:46-50, Jesus expands the definition of family beyond biological relationships. What stands out to you about Jesus' response, and how does it challenge or expand the way you think about belonging to God's family?

2. **Belovedness before accomplishment.** The sermon emphasizes that we are welcomed into God's family through Jesus, and that God's love comes before our obedience. How does this differ from the way we sometimes approach our relationship with God? Why can it be difficult to believe we are loved by God apart from what we do?

3. **The family resemblance.** The sermon asks, "When people encounter me, do they recognize my Father?" What characteristics of God do you think should be most visible in the lives of Christians? Which of those characteristics do you find easiest or hardest to demonstrate?

4. **Peacemaking vs. peacekeeping.** The sermon describes peacemaking as the courageous work of creating reconciliation and wholeness, rather than simply avoiding conflict. What do you think is the difference between the two? Can you think of a situation where genuine peacemaking might require discomfort, honesty, or taking responsibility?

5. **Loving our enemies.** Jesus calls us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. What makes this teaching particularly difficult to live out? How can we show love and preserve someone's dignity while still confronting harmful behavior or pursuing justice?

6. **Resisting the wrong kind of power.** In the wilderness, Jesus refuses provision without dependence, testing instead of trusting, and power without the cross. Where do you see temptations like these in everyday life, leadership, or the church? What might it look like to follow Jesus' way instead?

7. **A family defined by "whoever."** Jesus says, "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven" belongs to his family. What barriers, such as politics, social status, background, or differing worldviews, can make it difficult for Christians to welcome others? How can our group better reflect the radically open invitation Jesus offers?

8. **Our family witness.** The sermon challenges us to let our character do the talking and asks what might happen if the Holy Spirit transformed how we live and love one another. What is one practical way you could practice peacemaking, enemy love, or welcoming someone this week? How might that action help others see the character of God?