



## CONVERSATION STARTER

Take some time to share a bit about your earthly family? How would you describe your mother, father, siblings, and even your grandparents? Maybe you grew up in a devout Christian home, maybe a nominal Christian home, or maybe a secular or abusive home? What was your family like growing up?

## DEEPER

**Read Matthew 12:46-50**

**Takeaway: Whoever does the will of the Father in heaven is a part of Jesus' family.**

1. Think about your own family (biological or adopted). How has your experience there shaped your expectations of church family, for better or worse?
2. Did anything capture your heart as you listened to the various ways we highlighted “family” this past year at Gateway Church? What stuck out to you?
3. How have you personally experienced the church as a family in this past year? (Stories of encouragement, prayer, meals, help, etc.)
4. Real talk: What about ways you may not have felt part of the family?
5. What makes your Life Group feel like family? How could it feel more like family?
6. What do you think helps a church move from being a crowd of people to being a family of disciples?
7. What would it practically look like if our church grew even more into the kind of family God desires?

8. Looking ahead, what's one way you can help strengthen the "family bond" at our church this coming year?
9. Who are some people in your life you could invite to be a part of the family of God and Gateway Church?

## NOTES

## PRAYER PROMPT

As a group spend time in prayer together:

- Praise God for being our perfect Father.
- Confess ways you haven't been actively engaged as a family member in the life of the church.
- Thank God for your adoption into his family
- Ask God for guidance in how to be a more faithful family member who helps to build up the family of God.