



# NEXT GENERATION

**November Week 4**

**Family: New Family**

**Bottom Line: You Can Find Family In Church**

*\*Students pass out fliers and announce upcoming events at local churches\**

## **HOOK**

Welcome back to Next Gen! As we wrap up our series on families, I want to share Julio's story with you. Julio, a 6th grader, grew up without a dad and lacked a positive male role model. Julio started hanging out with an older group of guys who introduced him to vaping and sneaking out late at night. Talk about great friends, right? Despite their "friendship," Julio still felt lonely and disconnected.

Julio started attending Next Gen Club at his school, where he met Josh, a mentor who actually cared about him. Josh's kindness was new to Julio, but he really trusted him, so when Josh invited him to his youth group, he tried it out. There, Julio met friends who didn't drink or get into trouble but encouraged him to focus on school and God. This group became like family to him, and the church gave him the sense of belonging he had been missing. His friends at church didn't replace his family; they added to it! That's why we want you to know **You Can Find Family In Church.**

## **LOOK**

This month, we've been talking about families and how those relationships can be tough. You might be close to your family, and they're your best friends, or you may resent them because they've caused the most hurt and pain. Maybe you don't even like the idea of family because you've never seen a healthy one.

What are some words you would use to describe your family? Broken, mean, distant? What if your family could be described as forgiving? What if they were supportive, encouraging, and loving? What if those words don't describe your family? How do you handle that? Can anything be done? Well, one thing's for sure, **You Can Find Family In Church.**

## BOOK

Did you know that God LOVES families and desires for each of us to be part of one? It says in *Psalms 68:6* “**God places the lonely in families.**” While God gives us an earthly family, He also offers us spiritual family through the church.

The church isn’t just a place where you spend a couple of hours being bored in a pew; the church is the family of God! It’s a community of people who love, care, and support one another and a source of strength during difficult times. Like any family, it’s not perfect, but you work through things because you care about one another. Because of God, **You Can Find Family In Church.**

## TOOK

Maybe you’ve been part of a church before and haven’t experienced it this. You might have had a really negative experience with church and think this is crazy talk. You might not even trust church or Christians because of things you’ve heard or seen.

Because churches are made up of people, nobody is going to get it right all the time. But God’s design for the church is that it becomes a true family that can be with you in the good and bad times.

**So today we have just ONE challenge for you:**

- 1. Just Try It:** The best thing you can do is try it for yourself and find which church is the right fit for you!

Just like families, not all churches are the same. You just have to find the one that you fit in. Now, raise your hand if you currently go to a church. Ok, if you’re interested in what it means to find family in church, go talk to one of those students raising their hands. Getting involved in a youth group at a local church will change your life! **You Can Find Family In Church.**

## PRAY