

Connect Group notes:
Ever wonder why family can hurt and heal?

Opener

If you had to compare your family to one in fiction, maybe in tv, film or literature which one would you choose and why?

When we think about 'family' what are one or two words that you would use to describe the family involved in your upbringing, but then also the community that you would consider to be your family today?

What are some of the tensions when experiencing hurt and also healing in the same unit? Tell a story that you are comfortable with that describes one of these things.

How aware are you of your ability to bring hurt or healing in the space that you would consider to be your 'family unit'? How does this outwork?

Read Romans 8: 14- 16

God not only places earthly family around us, but invites us into adoption into His family. Roman adoption looks very different to what we might think of today. For example:

- Birth children could be rejected, but for adopted children, something desirable was seen in them
- Once adopted, they could never be disowned and were more secure than a birth child
- They immediately received a new identity with all debts cancelled and responsibilities given up and new rights and responsibilities taken on
- The inheritance started immediately, with equal shares in everything, becoming 'co heirs' (Romans 8:17)

What out of those four things might speak to you most at your present time?

What is something that you find a challenge being in Gods family or a church family?

Laura mentioned that God invites us as His children to come to Him for healing so that we might be a conduit of that healing in our family units. If anyone is comfortable to share, what is one area that you would like to be active in bringing healing in the family that surrounds you?

Response 1

Give some space individually to imagine what you would like your existing family to look like in a year. Make some space for you to privately, or collectively pray for that thing.

Response 2

Give another member of the group the name of one member of your family unit that you would like them to pray for until you meet as a group again. Explain what you would like pray for them and commit to all praying for each others person. Next time you meet why not get an update to see where prayer has made a difference.