

Family discussion

Maturity

Big idea:

God is our heavenly Father ... and his special purpose for his church is to grow us together to be more and more like him.

When we believe in Jesus ... we become God's children.
And God gives us the amazing gift of His Spirit.

Let's have a look at the bible together:

He gives us his Spirit

Read Ephesians 1:13-14 (ICB)

¹³ So it is with you. You heard the true teaching—the Good News about your salvation. When you heard it, you believed in Christ. And in Christ, God put his special mark on you by giving you the Holy Spirit that he had promised. ¹⁴ That Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will get what God promised for his people. This will bring full freedom to the people who belong to God, to bring praise to God's glory.

What things (from this passage) happen when we hear and believe the Good News / Gospel (mission!)?

We believe in Christ / we are in Christ
Marked with HS / gifted Holy Spirit
Guarantees our inheritance ... as God's people (Membership!) ... when he redeems us ...
Full freedom
Brings praise to God's glory (Magnification!)

When we are saved by God ... he gives us his Spirit so we can be sure we belong to him!
He is our Father. We are his children - for all eternity!

And when we are saved by God and given his Spirit, God promises to grow us to be more and more like him. This is God's gift and promise to us by his spirit.

He will grow us by his spirit

Read Galatians 5:22-26 (ICB)

²² But the Spirit gives love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their own sinful selves. They have given up their old selfish feelings and the evil things they wanted to do. ²⁵ We get our new life from the Spirit. So we should follow the Spirit. ²⁶ We must not be proud. We must not make trouble with each other. And we must not be jealous of each other.

What does God's Spirit give us?

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ...
new life!

What have we crucified / given up?

old selfish selves and feelings, evil things we wanted to do, pride, making trouble,

Who should we now follow?

God's Spirit

We're told to follow the spirit ... which means we still have a choice.
Sometimes we get this right! Sometimes we get it wrong.

Jesus is the only one who ever got it all right! Only Jesus is perfect. So that's why we trust him!
He stands before God the Father to display his perfection for us.
This is our new life in Christ.
What a gift!

Recap and apply

What 2 big promises from Ephesians and Galatians does God give us when we believe in Jesus?

He gives us his Holy Spirit
He will grow us by his spirit

What gift of the spirit do you want to ask God to help you put on display this week?
(pick one from the list in v. 22-23)

(NB for parents: If you think your child hasn't said yes to Jesus' invitation to trust him, this might be an opportunity to comfort / invite / hear their questions ... Remember - we can't be like Jesus unless he lives in us. Trying to be good isn't the same as trusting Jesus to mature us through God's Spirit to make us more and more like our Father. The first step is trusting Jesus to do what we can't do for ourselves).

Suggested Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

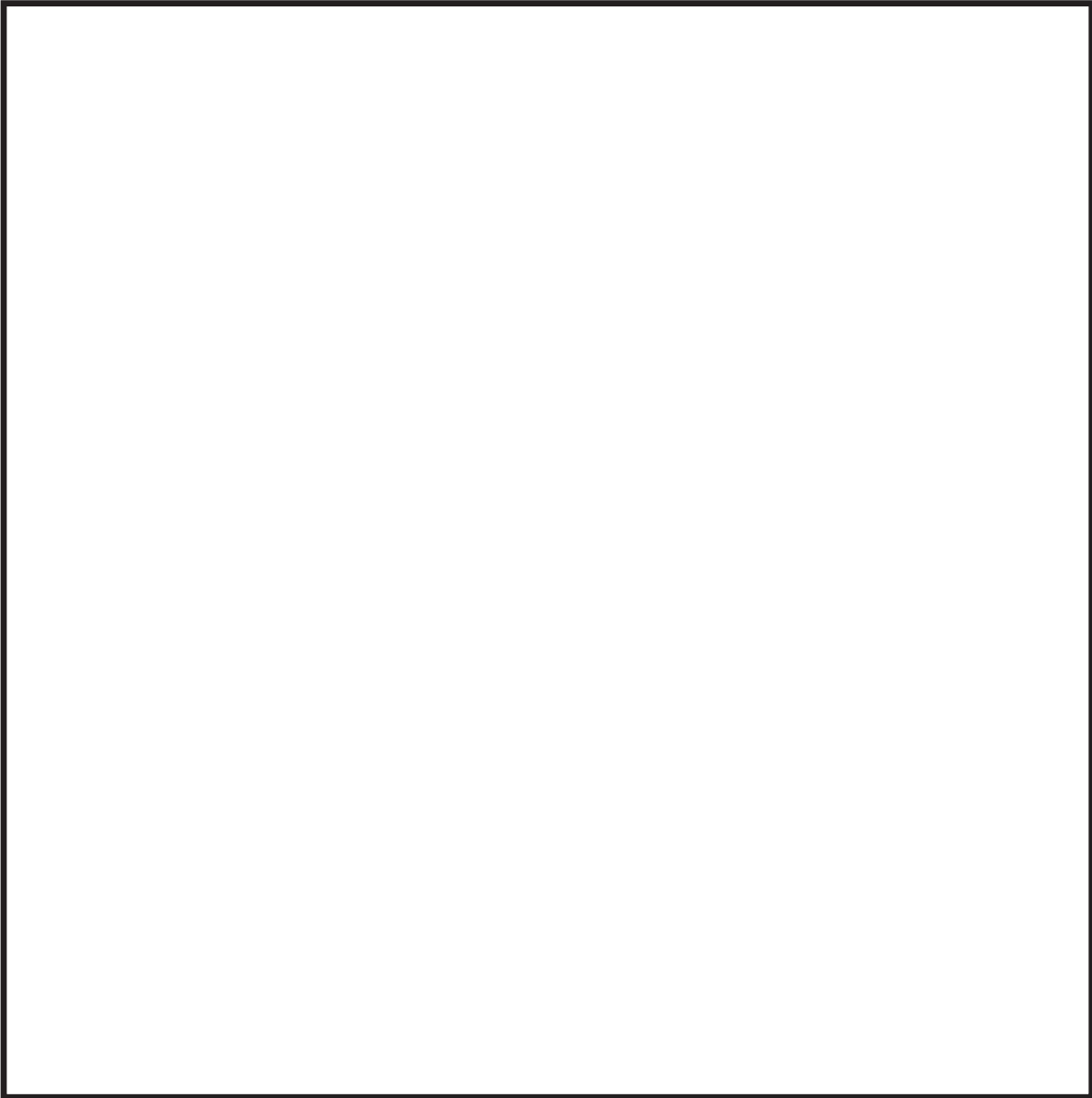
Thanks that for us who believe in Jesus ... you promise to make us your children and to grow us to become more and more like you. Thanks for the gift of your Spirit.

Sorry for the times when I am selfish, angry or impatient. Help me follow your Spirit and not do whatever I want.

Please grow us to become more and more like you.

Amen.

My Family



This is my family.

I am like my _____

because _____.

I also have a Heavenly Dad.

I want to learn to be more _____,

just like God, my Heavenly Father.