

# What is the Church

## The Family

### Big Idea:

What if we took God's description of the Church as a family seriously?

### Thought Exercise:

- What groups come to mind when you think of a group of people who are united on vision, goals, and commitment?
- Jesus felt more strongly about his followers than his own family. (Matthew 12:46-50)
- It is the disciples love for one another that sets them apart. (John 13:34-35)

### Items for discussion:

#### **How do we show our love for one another?**

- 2 Thessalonians 1:3
- Ephesians 1:15-16
- Faith and Love are important markers of Health. What are some other indicators of a healthy church?
- How do we make certain that our love for one another grows continuously?

#### **Love one another; the repeated command of God**

- What does it say when a command is given over fifty times?
- Compare this with the other "one another" commands.
- What are some things that have influence over our ability to love one another?
- Take time to imagine what it might look like if our love for one another was our primary identity.

#### **How are relationships built?**

- We can't build relationship through scheduled meetings.
- Life is busy and hectic by nature. How can our love for the church community work in the middle of the busyness?

Live in the light of eternity that is coming very soon. We live with a hope and a vision for what the church on earth can be, but we also live with a very real sense of urgency.

