

FAMILY ROAD TRIP

John 1:6-16

- We are a family of believers because we are born of God.

John 1:12-13

- We share leadership because Jesus alone is the true Light.

John 1:6-9

- We embody graciousness because we have received grace upon grace.

John 1:14-16



FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Read John 1:9–13. John says that those who receive Jesus are given the right to become “children of God.” How does this support the value “family of believers?” What practical differences should it make that the church is not merely a gathering of Christians, but a family born of God?
2. How does consumerism shape the way people evaluate church? What are some subtle ways we might ask, “Is this church meeting my needs?” instead of, “How do I love the family God has given me?”
3. Read John 1:6–9 and John 3:30. What do we learn from John the Baptist about spiritual leadership? How does this support the idea of shared leadership?
4. Read Titus 1:5, Acts 14:23, Matthew 23:8-10, and 1 Peter 5:1–4. What do these passages teach about shared elder leadership in the local church? How should the truth that Jesus is the “Chief Shepherd” shape both the humility of leaders and the trust of the congregation?
5. The sermon says, “Leaders are witnesses who point to the true Light.” What are some dangers when a church becomes built around one personality, preacher, or leader? How does shared leadership help protect a church from those dangers?
6. Read John 1:14–18. What does it mean that Jesus is “full of grace and truth” and that from His fullness we receive “grace upon grace?” Why is it important that we do not separate grace from truth or truth from grace?
7. Our values statement says “We will lay down our lives for the essentials of the historical Biblical Christian faith, but show patience and tolerance and strive towards unity in secondary issues.” What are some examples of essential doctrines Christians must hold firmly? What are some examples of secondary or tertiary issues where believers should show patience and humility? How do we separate the two?
8. Consider the idea that “Grace is not niceness... grace is costly.” What is the difference between being nice and being gracious? Where might God be calling you to show costly grace through patience, forgiveness, truth-telling, investment, or giving love?

“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now.... Come further up, come further in!” — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle