

## 2 | GODS FAMILY ON EARTH



*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1-2 (NIV)*

### **Hearing Jesus words of life**

Even before the earth was created, there was unity, there was community. Father, Son and Holy Spirit were one. Jesus wanted to bring that unity among people on earth as well. Jesus taught His disciples that God was not only God, Judge and Creator, but above all, His Father. Jesus passed on His Father's words of life to His disciples, then and now. This is what makes an Ekklesia powerful. The Ekklesia is a place where Jesus speaks His words and where we hear His words and become disciples.

Jesus' words of life change us; it makes us sons and daughters of God, God's family. And when we share those words with others, it has power and expands God's family.

*(John 17:11)*

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Jesus did not build His church, His Ekklesia, by bringing people to a building. It was His words that made the difference; they brought life. Everywhere Jesus went, the disciples went with Him and together they were a family, a group of believers who heard Jesus' words and applied it in their daily lives.

### **Old Testament - New Testament**

In the Old Testament, people belonged to the people of Israel by birth. In the New Testament, you belong to Jesus when you believe in His resurrection, bury your old sinful nature in baptism and follow Him. In the Old Testament, following the law was a requirement to belong to the people. In the New Testament, Jesus fulfilled and destroyed the law on the cross. As believers, we no longer depend on the law, but we follow Jesus and do what the Father wants. That is how we become part of His family (*Colossians 2:11-14*).

### **The Holy Spirit gives life**

When Jesus went back to His Father, He promised the Holy Spirit. He laid the foundation for a powerful Ekklesia.

Jesus called the disciples to "stay together and wait for the Holy Spirit." One hundred and twenty disciples did this; they gathered unified in the upper room. The Holy Spirit came and many listened to Jesus' words. From this house, the first Ekklesia, the disciples looked for people who were hungry and had an open heart for Jesus' words (*Matthew 12:49-50*).

## Being together - Ekklesia

In the book of Acts, we read much about the importance of being together as a spiritual family. The unity of the believers is something that stands out. Unity is a picture of what is in heaven; the triune God. Unity gives the Ekklesia authority in the world where people struggle. The Ekklesia is a place where the opposite happens: a place of love, appreciation and destiny. A place where you experience and share God together in unity with others around you.

### **EXERCISE:**

1. Tell or write down where you have experienced a sense of family in church. What gives you this experience?
2. Describe what your Ekklesia looks like.  
What are values and habits you see reflected?  
-If you don't see values and habits yet, what would you like your Ekklesia to look like?
3. What can you yourself do to include the people you share your faith with in the unity of the family of faith?



### **LESSON LEARNED:**

**God's Spirit loves love and unity. He feels at home there.**

