

A top-down view of a diverse group of people sitting on the floor, holding their hands together in a circle. The hands are of various skin tones and are interlocked, creating a central point of unity. The people are wearing casual to semi-formal clothing, including button-down shirts, a denim jacket, and patterned blouses. The background is a plain, light-colored floor.

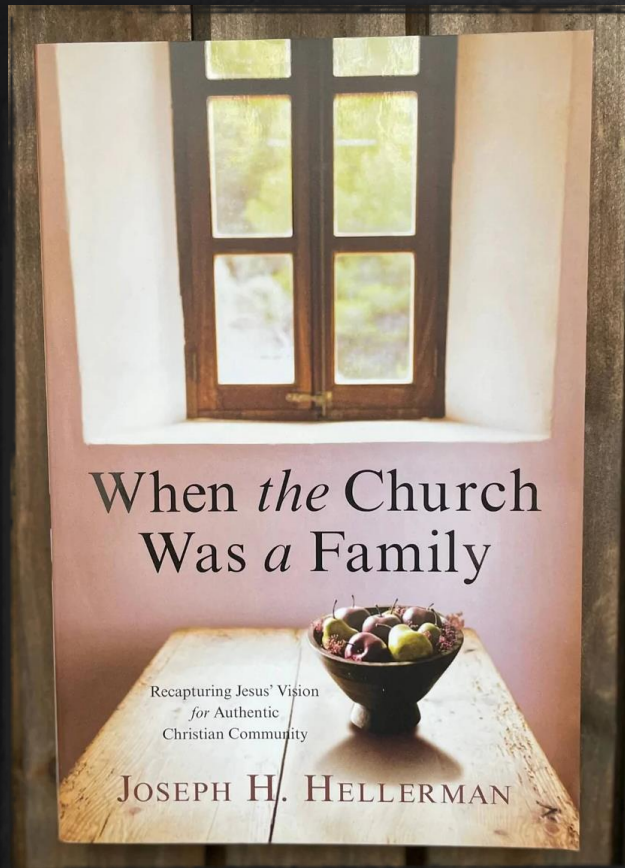
# SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP & CATALYTIC COMMUNITY

# Our New Family in Jesus

*Mark 3*



*How do we define “family”?*



“So where then did a person in a collectivist society find emotional support and solidarity? The most intimate, nurturing, highly charged, and ultimately satisfying relationship for people in the world of Jesus was the bond between blood brothers and sisters.” (Hellerman)

## Mark 3:13-14 (ESV)

13 And Jesus went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. 14 And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him...

## Mark 3:20-22 (ESV)

20 Then Jesus went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. 21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.” 22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.”

## Mark 3:31-35 (ESV)

31 And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. 32 And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." 33 And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" 34 And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

“This is my true family. My primary allegiance is to them and the will of God that we are joyfully chasing after together.”



*“Another of the disciples said to him,  
‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’  
And Jesus said to him, ‘Follow me, and  
leave the dead to bury their own dead.’”*

**(Matthew 8:21-22; ESV)**

*“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household.”*

*(Matthew 10:34-36; ESV)*

*“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”*

*(Matthew 10:37-39; ESV)*

*“And Jesus said to them, ‘You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, ‘Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban’ (that is, given to God)—then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down.’”*

*(Mark 7:9-13; ESV)*

Jesus saves FROM, saves FOR,  
saves OUT OF, and saves INTO.

*“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”*

*(Romans 8:16-17; ESV)*

Our new belonging becomes the defining feature of our redeemed identity. God's family becomes our primary group, our core allegiance in this life—and this is good!

*“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”*

**(Romans 8:28-29; ESV)**



God graciously invites us to call him  
Father and Jesus deigns in his mercy  
to play the role of our older brother.

## Mark 10:28-30 (ESV)

28 Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” 29 Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and  
his righteousness, and all these things  
will be added to you”*

*(Matthew 6:33; ESV)*

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