

## How to Flourish in the Family of God

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Luke 8:19-21; 11:27-28 • Sunday, December 28, 2025 • Brad Manley

Membership in the Family of God is not based on \_\_\_\_\_.

Membership in the Family of God is based on \_\_\_\_\_.

Membership in the Family of God is characterized by \_\_\_\_\_.

### ***Luke 8:19-21***

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<sup>19</sup> Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. <sup>20</sup> And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you." <sup>21</sup> But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." (ESV)

### ***Luke 11:27-28***

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<sup>27</sup> As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" <sup>28</sup> But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

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**Open:** Share about a time when you felt like you truly belonged—maybe to a family, a team, a community, or a group. What was it about that experience that made you feel so connected?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 8:19-21; 11:27-28

1. Describe the scene in Luke 8:19-20. Given their unique relationship to Him, what do you imagine Jesus' mother and brothers might have been expecting when they tried to reach Him? What cultural value seems to be echoed in the woman in the crowd from Luke 11:27-28?
2. How does Jesus' response in Luke 8:21 immediately challenge the idea that membership in His true family is based on earthly lineage, status, or even biological relationship to Him? How does confidence in this truth help us as we share the Gospel?
3. When Jesus says, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it" (8:21), or "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (11:28), some might think that this shows disrespect for His family. What do you think Jesus was actually intending to emphasize?
4. ***Read James 1:22-25.*** How does James' teaching relate to Jesus' words in Luke 8:21 and 11:27-28? What are some practical steps we can take to be "doers of the Word and not hearers only"?
5. Sometimes we can do the right thing for the wrong reason. What might be some inappropriate motives for obeying God? How can we avoid being driven by such desires in our relationship with God?
6. ***Read John 14:15, 21-24.*** How might Jesus' words in Luke 8:21 reflect His teaching in John 14:15, 21-24? Do you tend to connect obedience with loving God? Why or why not?
7. Jesus' redefinition of family is radical. ***Read Mark 3:31-35*** (a parallel account). What are the implications of this radical redefinition for our understanding of who truly belongs to God's household? How does it challenge our earthly notions of family and privilege?
8. Beyond just belonging, what are some of the incredible benefits or privileges of being adopted into God's family? (*Consider John 1:12-13 and Romans 8:14-17.*) How do these spiritual realities empower us to "flourish" as members of His family?

**Apply:** Reflecting on Jesus' definition of His family and the benefits of belonging to this family, what is one specific, intentional step you can take this week to "hear and do" God's Word more faithfully, so that you can flourish more fully in the family of God?

**Pray:** Pray for open hearts to hear God's Word, for the Holy Spirit to empower us to obey, and for a deeper sense of belonging and flourishing within the spiritual family of God.