

★ THE ★ Value of FAMILY

When we decide we want to become a follower of Jesus, we immediately enter into His family. There is nothing we have to do to prove that we belong. His family is open to everyone and He loves each and every person. Why don't we treat others the same way?

THINKING POINTS

1. What does family mean to you? Who are some people who you consider to be your family?
2. Which of these values resonate the most with you?
Devoted, loyal, sacrifice, unconditional love, deep empathy
3. How do you want your family to treat one another?
4. Richard Beck's 'Moral Circle' theory states that most people identify their kin from their non-kin, and then extend kindness to their kin.

What kind of people do you extend kindness to? Are they people who think like you? Who have the same hobbies as you? Who look like you? Who believe the same things as you? When it comes to people we identify as our 'kin' there are usually similarities that draw us together and lead us to identify one another as safe people to include in our circle.

5. How do you treat people who you don't identify as your kin?

When Jesus was on earth, He treated everyone as if they were His family. It doesn't matter what they looked like, what they believed, or the lives they had led; Jesus extended love and compassion to each and every one of them. His moral circle included everyone. He wants us to treat everyone the same way.

NEXT STEPS

REFERENCE: Leviticus 13:45 - 46 and Mark 1:40 - 41.

"A leper came to Jesus,
begging on his knees,
"If you want to, you can
cleanse me."

Deeply moved, Jesus put out
His hand, touched him, and
said, "I want to. Be clean."

Then and there the leprosy
was gone, his skin smooth
and healthy."

MARK 1:40 - 41

1. Notice how Jesus went against culture in loving and healing this man.
2. We tend to want everyone to be healed before we interact with them. But Jesus flips this on its head. He role models how we should be approaching people, loving them, and then leading them to healing through Jesus. The loving interaction comes before the healing. How can this principle of loving the person and not labelling them by their problems, change the way you interact with others?
3. In the case of our own healing, we are already in. We approach Him not based on anything we have done to "earn" favour, but totally by what He has already done for us. He doesn't see us as a leper, or label us "unclean"... He simply views us as someone He loves!
4. Treat everyone as kindly as if they are your family. Extend your moral circle to everyone you meet.

Remind yourself of how Jesus reached out and touched the leper *before* he was healed 🌟 People are people, not problems. Everyone wants to be treated well.

Don't first try to clean up your blemishes before you approach Jesus 🌟 Jesus doesn't see us as unclean. While we were yet sinners, He made a way to save you!

Extend your moral circle 🌟 Everyone is someone's brother / sister / mother / friend... Be kind.