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First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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How to Start Behaving Like A Family in Church



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I've decided to write a summary (more like a transcript) of the interview "The Church as Family: A Conversation with Sam Allberry" for those who prefer to read over watching videos. Sam Allberry is a pastor, apologist, author and speaker. He is the author of a

number of books, including Is God Anti-Gay?; What God Has to Say About Our Bodies; Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With?; and 7 Myths about Singleness.

If you'd rather watch a video, you can listen to what Sam has to say

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here instead:

<https://quarterly.gospelinlife.com/the-church-as-family-sam-allberry/>

For the reading camp, here are my takeaways:
How to start behaving like a family in church?

#1 Start with our own mindset

We do need to see our spiritual family as FAMILY because that's how the New Testament describes us. It's not an honorary title, it's an actual real one.

"Paul tells the pastor Timothy to treat older men as fathers, older women as mothers...treat them as close family, he (doesn't) say treat older men as great uncles..."

#2 Retrain your brain out of the secular narrative of what a "family" means.

The stereotype idea of family: "Once you have your spouse and your 2.4 children, a labrador, you then pull up the drawbridge because that's now the basic unit in which you do life"

"that's the cultural narrative that we buy into and it's just easy to adopt that within the Christian world as well, but the bible shows us our biological family (if we have one) and our spiritual family need each other. We should be folding into our family life all kinds of different people from our church family."

"We've been trained by our culture to view our nuclear family (if we have one) as being something that's meant to be self-contained and self-sufficient... so part of the challenge and need for churches is to make sure that for those with biological families are weaving in the wider people of God into our family life."

#3 Include Christian families in your normal daily routines

Open up normal everyday life to other people, sharing meals, sharing leisure activities. It blesses the singles and it blesses the families when this happens, it's a win-win.

i) It gives Christian children other examples of older Christians who aren't just mom and dad.

ii) Also, every family is a bit weird, just because we are weird people so one of the blessings of opening up family life to other people is that it can wonderfully mitigate against some of the weirdness your kids will otherwise have as a result of being your kids.



Every couple has its own blind spots, its own weaknesses, and understandably so. No two parents can be everything their children need them to be.

#4 Include Christian families in the upbringing of Christian kids

The parents have the main spiritual responsibility for the formation of their children. The process would involve the wider church family, but the main burden is what the parents uniquely carry, but they would look outward to the wider family to help them carry that burden.

Interviewer: "Every church loves to have ministries for the families for those 2.4 children and really help the parents adapt to this new lifestyle of raising kids, and to raise the kids up in the faith, which is great and necessary. Yet sometimes that can be harped on so much it leaves a segment of the congregation (feel) left out. How do you balance those?"

Sam: "You're right. A lot of people need help and teaching and encouragement and input and wisdom as they begin life as parents or even just as they begin life as married couples, but part of that teaching input should be: 'You can't do this on your own, and you're not supposed to. You are not designed to. And therefore the wider church family should be on your team and you should be leaning on the wider church family drawing, on the resources of the wider church family to help you in this endeavor rather than teaching you how to be a self-sufficient kind of nuclear family.'"

#5 Make our behavior consistent with our theological belief (Avoid being a hypocrite)

"My concern is that we use the language for pragmatic reasons because we want to sound friendly when we should be using it for theological reasons because this is what we actually are. And it's too easy to talk the talk rather than walking the walk."

"We like the idea of family. We're not always great at the reality of it... Any family is going to have a measure of dysfunction because we're sinful people.... So any church family is going to have its own eccentricities and idiosyncrasies, ... challenges and quirks, it's never going to be just easy to be in a spiritual family... which I think is why we tend to prefer the language of it to the actual practice of it."

#6 Be the "Emotional shock absorbers"

Tim Keller described those who have no biological family around them as "doing life without emotional shock absorbers." The church has an opportunity to be that extended family and offer themselves as "emotional shock absorbers".

#7 Work hard and persevere to make it happen

"The key thing (is that) we're never going to just drift into it. It's going to take hard work in order to be in a context where we are genuinely brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers to each other."

#8 When is it 'family' enough?

Interviewer: At what point did you start feeling the church community is like a family around you?

Sam: It's that sense of 'I'm feeling known by these people because I can actually share some of the worst things of my life with them and seek their support and encouragement in that. Also, giving time to others is a great catalyst. Seeking to serve others is going to be key because Hebrews 10:25 says "not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

I'm still taking baby steps and working out what it means to be a family to someone not biologically related to me, but hopefully, God will be able to change my years of brainwashed stereotype and I'll be able to let God use me as someone else's emotional shock absorber.



By Toh Kai Xian
(Kai Xian is a Ministry Staff of FBC)



Worship Ministry



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

| Singers | Musicians |
| Tech Teams |

Please contact

Michelle at 012-2143114

or email worship@fbc.com.my
to find out more.

FBC NEEDS YOU

Creative & Communication Ministry

CAPTION WRITERS

Writers who can write a short summary
for Sunday Sermon

PHOTOGRAPHER

Photographer who can capture photos
for Sunday Service

**Those who are interested,
kindly contact the Church Office
at 03 5621 2623 for more information.**

WE NEED YOU!



| Pulpit Program

February 27, 2022
Families and the Image of God

 **PREACHER**
Arnold Lim

March 6, 2022
The Gospel in Marriage
(Ephesians 5:21-30)

 **PREACHER**
Leong Yew Lum

March 13, 2022
Why Should We Forgive?
(Matthew 18:15-35)

 **PREACHER**
John Lee

March 20, 2022
The Rich Young Man
(Matthew 19:16-30)

 **PREACHER**
Alex Tan

| Worship with Us

 **MAIN SERVICE**
| ZOOM |
Sundays 8:45am

 **YOUTH SERVICE**
| ZOOM |
Sundays 9:00am

 **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
for Ages 0-12yrs
| ZOOM |
Sundays

 Call office to know more:
03-5621 2623

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

Prayer for Beta and Gamma discipleship



1. Holy Spirit to transform the lives of participants as they grow in the knowledge and understanding of God, his word and his plan of salvation.
14 in Gospel of John
12 in Romans
14 in Sermon of the Mount
2. Wisdom, strength and increasing dependence on the power of God for the Beta and Gamma leaders and helpers.
3. Good bonding and encouragement between members.
4. More volunteers who love to serve God and his children.

| Upcoming Events



WEBINAR
The Omicron Webinar
By Dr Timothy William
(Infectious Disease Specialist)
5 March 2022
Saturday 2-4pm
[CLICK HERE](#) for more info.



ALPHA
Is There More to Life Than This?
Alpha 21 is ongoing. The next Alpha program will start tentatively from 14 Jul 2022
Every Thursday
8:00pm
[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the next Alpha program.



GAMMA 18
Romans
From Wretchedness To Righteousness
Every Wednesday
For more information, contact Church Office at 03-5621 2623



DAILY
Zoom PRAYER MEETING
Daily Prayer Meeting
Every Monday - Thursday
9:00pm
Zoom ID: 929 735 694
Password: pray

More Information on Upcoming Events