



LIVING THE KINDRED



活出相親相愛的生命

EMBRACING THE MULTI-ETHNIC FAMILY OF GOD
擁抱上帝的多民族家庭

DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP + EVANGELICAL CHINESE CHURCH + UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



KINDRED 2026
LIVING THE KINDRED LIFE SERIES
INTRODUCTION
by Pastor Aaron Williams

“*Kindred* means ‘tribe’ or ‘family,’ and at the center of *The Kindred Life* is an invitation to pursue the experiences that unite us, like spending time in the dirt, slowing down, and joining in a simple meal under the stars. We were all created with the ability to carve out a life of connection, and it’s worth every bit of sweat it takes to get there. We can slow down. We can step forward in bravery to do hard things well. And we can be intentional about gathering with and investing in others. *The Kindred Life* is a rallying cry for real connection in a time when we need to capture what’s been lost.” ~ Christine Bailey

To live the Kindred Life is to live in deep fellowship, harmony and love with those around us. It is a life marked by fellowship, forgiveness, love, unity, justice, and reconciliation. Jesus is the source and the model of the Kindred Life. He wept with those who mourned, healed the brokenhearted, and welcomed the marginalized. To live the Kindred Life means to open our eyes and hearts to the struggles of our neighbors, to bear one another’s burdens, and to rejoice together in times of joy. It means living not for us alone but for the common good of humanity.

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Dedication:

On April 25th our study guide team lost an important voice when our beloved sister Angelique Collins was called home into the arms of Jesus. Angelique was a stalwart presence on the Kindred Study Guide Team since 2021. The skills she brought to the team – her brilliant mind, her educator’s understanding of learning styles, her passionate love for God’s word and her deep commitment to the Kindred Vision were valuable assets. But it is Angelique as a person, her character, her humility, her sharp sense of humor and her ability to find common ground through our diverse stories and life experiences that made our work joyful and fun even when we were working with tight deadlines and high expectations. She also changed who we are - each of us absorbed things we learned working with Angelique that have remained with us even after the task of writing a study guide is finished. We dedicate this year’s guide to Angelique’s memory. Our prayer is that as we journey through this season of Kindred you will find someone you connect with like we connected with Angelique; a dear friend to share the Kindred Life with here on Earth and into eternity. ~ *The Kindred Leadership Team and Kindred Study Guide Team*

GOD'S IDEA OF HUMANITY

Acts 17:26-34

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God's Idea of Humanity

Acts 17:26-34

INTRODUCTION:

The journey toward becoming a Kindred people begins with a very basic question: “Can we shift our focus from seeing ourselves and one another through our own cultural lenses to seeing ourselves as God sees us?”

This shift does not require us to abandon our cultural or individual identity. It does, however, depend on our willingness to find points of connection in our humanity and build outward from there. In this week’s study we will learn from the account of Paul’s outreach to the skeptical audience at the Areopagus in Athens that finding connection requires a willingness to leave our own comfort zones and search for connection in the comfort zones of others.

Continue Study Lesson >>>

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God's Idea of Humanity

Acts 17:26-34

READ: Acts 17:26-34

PRAYER: *Father open our hearts and minds to you as we open your scripture together. Grant us eyes to see one another as you see us – each your beloved child. Amen*

DISCUSSION:

1. While we are all God's children, He has chosen to separate us into nations and has caused our perspectives to be grounded within the cultures we most identify with. Share some things your culture loves to celebrate, and then share some things you've appreciated about different cultures that you've experienced.
2. Starting conversations about Jesus can feel difficult—especially with people of different races, cultures, or beliefs. How does listening to someone's story, questions, and worldview help build a meaningful connection, and why is this important for effective evangelism?
3. Paul respected the culture and background of the people he ministered to. This posture demonstrated honor and humility. Why is showing respect so important when we are sharing the message of salvation with others?
4. Love transcends every barrier—cultural, racial, generational, and linguistic. If God's love is the universal translator, how do we communicate that love to people who may not look like us, talk like us, or share our background?
5. We should have a spiritual longing to share the gospel. But if we don't feel that desire yet, what practical steps can we take to prepare our hearts before beginning the journey of evangelism?

CLOSING PRAYER: *Holy Spirit remind us of what you've revealed to us in our discussion and prompt us to put what we've learned to use as we interact with the people you place in our path. Amen*

NOTES



THE MINISTRY OF ONENESS

Ephesians 4:1-7

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The Ministry of Oneness

Ephesians 4:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

The Kindred Life can only be possible when we are able to employ our personal reconciliation with God through Jesus to become a united people embodying the peace of Christ. This requires us to put on a character far different from the one our culture celebrates and entices us to adopt. Patience, gentleness and humility are not our go-to tools of choice when facing challenges. As we delve into Paul's advice to the Ephesians may we discover how to build relational bridges toward one another so that together we may minister to the world in oneness.

Continue Study Lesson >>>

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The Ministry of Oneness

Ephesians 4:1-7

READ: Ephesians 4:1-7

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus draw us together with you at the center. Teach us what it means to be your kingdom family reflecting your character as we learn from you and each other. Amen*

DISCUSSION:

1. Why do you think Paul described himself as “the prisoner in the Lord” or ‘a prisoner for the Lord’ before asking the Ephesians to live lives worthy of their calling?
2. Unity is rooted in the character of God and expressed through Christlike behavior. How would you describe the character of oneness? According to Paul’s arguments made in Ephesians 2, why should we live in a worthy way?
3. Humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance are essential traits of unity. Which of these is most difficult for you to practice consistently, and why? What personal challenges or internal conflicts have you experienced when it comes to living in unity?
4. The Greek word “peace” in v3 corresponds to the Hebrew word Shalom. This is a positive peace, not just meaning the absence of conflict. We aren’t just “civil” with each other, but actively “doing life” with each other. Paul urges us to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” What practical steps can help you actively pursue and protect unity in your relationships and in the church? Are you deliberate in contributing to unity within the church? If so, how? If not, what barriers or fears hold you back?
5. What do you believe most threatens unity in the body of Christ today? Now that you recognize these threats, what steps will you take personally to guard and strengthen unity?
6. Explain what you think Paul means by “...each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” (Ephesians 4:7)? Where have you been the recipient of this grace? When have you extended this grace to others? Where do you need grace right now?

CLOSING PRAYER: *Father, we echo the prayer of Jesus in John 17:11 that you will protect us by the power of your name so that we may be one as the Father and the Son are one. Amen*

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THE TRUE KINDRED OF JESUS

Luke 8:19-21

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The True Kindred of Jesus

Luke 8:19-21

INTRODUCTION:

The Kindred Life comes with a redefinition of family. In the brief interaction between Jesus and his mother and brothers that we will study this week, Jesus challenges our thinking about who is in our family and invites us to consider the relationships with other believers alongside those of our biological family. We are invited to discover that living life together in this new, larger family comes with new benefits and also new obligations.

Continue Study Lesson >>>

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The True Kindred of Jesus

Luke 8:19-21

READ: Luke 8:19-21

OPENING PRAYER: *Father, by your grace you have adopted us into your family. Help us to understand our family obligations as we study and discuss your word together. Amen*

DISCUSSION:

1. Describe this scene from the perspective of Jesus, the disciples, the crowds and Jesus' mother Mary and her other sons. How would you interpret this interaction from each perspective? What would Jesus' words have meant to each of them?
2. How should Christians balance the demands of earthly family with those of church family? Consider passages such as 1 Timothy 3:4 and Ephesians 5:21.
3. Read John 19:26, which sees Jesus hanging on the cross, executed in a way that his society has designed to bring the most shame and revulsion to him and his family. Consider the choices that Jesus made balancing earthly family and church family. How do these choices line up with your answer to question 2?
4. How would being part of a multi-cultural family not defined by biology but by obedience to God be good news for anyone who feels alone or without a natural family? For someone with a difficult family story? For one in a healthy family?
5. Just as we navigate tensions and misunderstandings in our biological families, we must show the same commitment in our spiritual family — praying for one another, carrying each other's burdens, encouraging, and lovingly correcting. How committed are you to living this out?

CLOSING PRAYER: *Holy Spirit, guide and direct our actions toward obedience and faithfulness as we live our lives as a part of your Kindred family. Amen*

NOTES



BEING A BEARER OF GOD'S LOVE

1 John 4:16-21

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Being a Bearer of God's Love

1 John 4:16-21

INTRODUCTION:

John the disciple and evangelist records Jesus telling his followers “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35) Living the Kindred life comes with the obligation of being bearers of God's love. This love is not simply for our own benefit, but for us to share freely and generously with others. As we consider together John's reflections on love in I John 4 which was written many years after he heard Jesus' new commandment may we discover together how we might live this out as Kindred.

Continue Study Lesson >>>

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Being a Bearer of God's Love

1 John 4:16-21

READ: 1 John 4:16-21

OPENING PRAYER: *Father God, you are love. Enlarge our hearts as we encounter you through your word so that we might become a Kindred people who faithfully bear and share your love. Amen*

DISCUSSION:

1. Look for the word “abide”, “remain” or “live in” in the preceding chapters of 1 John. What are the central ideas that link these passages together?
2. What does it mean to abide (live in) the love of God? How do you experience this love?
3. John is blunt: You cannot claim to love God while hating your brother or sister. What does loving someone who is difficult actually look like in practice?
4. The love talked about in this passage is a specific kind of love - the love of God, which had Jesus die for us while we were still enemies. It is unconditional, self-sacrificial love perfected in the sufferings of Christ. We are called to love our brothers and sisters with this love, but also to love our enemies. At the same time, we are told that abiding in God means that we must obey him. What can the church and the people in the church do in today's societal climate to live out God's love while abiding in obedience to his word?
5. “We love because He first loved us.” Our commitment isn't self-generated— it's a response to God's love. Mature love (“perfect love”) comes from a deep, ongoing commitment to God. This commitment brings confidence, not fear, because we trust in God's love fully. How does fear fade when we are fully committed to God?
6. How has God grown your capacity to love other believers through Kindred? Where is he currently expanding your ability to love?

CLOSING PRAYER: *Holy Spirit, guide and direct our actions toward obedience and faithfulness as we live our lives as a part of your Kindred family. Amen*

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