

# THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

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MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

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## Week 1: The Local Church

### Series Overview

God created the local church to function as His instrument of communicating His special grace to those around the globe. In this series we consider seven aspects of the church described in scripture –the Local Church, Discipleship, VBC Groups, Serving, Evangelism, Church planting, and Worship– with a focus on specific opportunities for our VBC family to mature in each aspect.

A NEW TESTAMENT LOCAL CHURCH IS...	A LOCAL CHURCH IS ESTABLISHED WHEN...
<p>...a group of baptized believers in King Jesus... <i>(Acts 2:38, 1 Cor.1:2, Acts 14:21)</i></p>	<p>the gospel is proclaimed and believed</p>
<p>...under the protection and care of elders assisted by deacons... <i>(1 Tim. 3:1-13, Acts 14:22-23)</i></p>	<p>believers share a community and a leadership</p>
<p>...regularly meeting and gathering together... <i>(Acts 20:7)</i></p>	<p>believers regularly meet in various settings</p>
<p>...building each other up in love through Spirit-given abilities... <i>(1 Cor. 12:7, Acts 14:24-26)</i></p>	<p>believers grow and encourage growth</p>
<p>... maturing into the image of Christ... <i>(Eph. 4:13, 2 Tim. 2:2)</i></p>	<p>mature believers pass the baton to the next generation</p>
<p>... as a visible testimony to God's wisdom in the gospel... <i>(Eph. 3:8-10, 1 Peter 1:12, Col. 1:27)</i></p>	<p>believers together make God's good purpose in Christ obvious</p>
<p>... serving as a launch pad for establishing new churches locally and globally... <i>( Acts 13:2, Acts 14:27)</i></p>	<p>believers expand the good news to new frontiers</p>
<p>...to the praise and thanksgiving of the Father through Christ. <i>(2 Cor. 4:15)</i></p>	<p>not-yet-believers understand what God is really like.</p>

## Everyday Life Together in the Household of God (See 1 Tim. 3:14-15; Eph. 3.8)

### Living as siblings in our local church family...

1. ...we increasingly adopt our Father's character.

*Titus 1: 7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.*

2. ...we preserve the family history and identity.

*Titus 1: 9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.*

3. ...we live harmoniously for the mutual benefit of all.

- Older men

*Titus 2:2 be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.*

- Older women

*Titus 2:3 be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women*

- Younger women

*Titus 2:4b to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.*

- Younger men

*Titus 2:6 Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled*

4. ... we represent the truth about our Father's noble character to outsiders in our public lives.

*Titus 2: 7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, 8 and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.*

5. ... we make adoption into the family attractive in our individual relationships.

*Titus 2:9 Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.*

### Reflection/Discussion

1. How does the biblical image of the church as God's household (1 Tim. 3:14-15) influence how we live with one another and those in our surrounding community?
2. How would you describe yourself in relation to God's "household" (younger, mature, visitor, curious outsider, etc.)? What do you need to grow or/and serve the family in your stage of life?

### SONGS

"HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US" - Stuart Townend

"STAND IN YOUR LOVE" - Josh Baldwin, Mark Harris, Ethan Hulse, Rita Springer

"BUILD MY LIFE" - Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kaple, Matt Redman, Pat Barrett

"CORNERSTONE" - Reuben Morgan, Jonas Myrin, Eric Liljero

### BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 45,239.69

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,093.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$ 1,387,640.94

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$ 1,443,720.00

