

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE: Family Resemblance: What God's Children Look Like

Opening Prayer

Holy God, as I come before Your Word, quiet my wandering thoughts. Open my heart to receive what You are eager to speak. Let Your Spirit illuminate truth, convict gently, and draw me deeper into the likeness of Jesus. Shape my beliefs, my love, and my behaviour so that when others look at my life, they would see the reflection of their heavenly Father. Amen.

Read Scripture — 1 John 5:1–5 (NLT)

This passage anchors the sermon's central truth:

Children resemble their Father.

Those who have been “born of God” naturally display His likeness through:

1. **Right belief** — knowing who Jesus truly is.
2. **Right love** — loving God and loving His children.
3. **Right behaviour** — living out obedience not as a burden, but as a joyful expression of love.

And the breathtaking promise:

Every child of God overcomes the world.

Victory is not an achievement — it is our inheritance.

Short Summary of the Sermon

The sermon explores what it means to carry “the birthmarks of God.” Just as children naturally resemble their parents, those who are spiritually reborn begin to resemble their heavenly Father. John identifies three unmistakable marks: right belief in Jesus, genuine love for God and His people, and obedience that springs from love rather than duty.

These traits do not earn our salvation; they flow from it. John writes to give believers confidence in their identity, reminding them that being born of God infuses them with a victorious, overcoming life. Because of Jesus, our failures don't define us—our Father does. And His likeness is being formed in us day by day.

Reflective Questions(For Small Group or Personal Use)

Right Belief — The Doctrinal Mark

1. What part of your belief about Jesus feels the most settled? What part still feels shaky or uncertain?
2. How has knowing Jesus as *the Christ* shaped your sense of identity this year?

Right Love — The Moral Mark

3. Where have you recently sensed God softening your heart toward someone?
4. Is there an area where love feels more like duty than delight right now? What might God be inviting you to surrender?

Right Behaviour — The Social Mark

5. What command of Jesus currently feels weighty or burdensome? What might shift if obedience was seen as a response to love?
6. Where have you seen the Spirit producing new behaviour in you that wasn't there years ago?

Victory — The Overcoming Mark

7. What “worldly pressure” do you feel most deeply at the moment?
8. How does the promise that *every child of God overcomes the world* strengthen you today?

Reflective Song:

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” — Stuart Townend

Listen or sing this hymn: it centres your heart in the love of the Father, the work of the Son, and the grace that forms the new life within you.

(You may invite the group to listen with eyes closed, noticing which line God highlights.)

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for calling me Your child. Thank You for placing Your life within me — a life that believes, loves, obeys, and overcomes. Shape my heart so that my thoughts reflect Your truth, my actions reflect Your kindness, and my life reflects Your Son. Strengthen me to walk in the birthmarks of faith, love, and victory. Help me see myself the way You see me: beloved, chosen, and growing into Your likeness. Amen.