



Four Essentials of a Missional Kingdom Family in the Rock Tribe

Four Essentials: For a small group of Christians to be considered a legitimate Missional Kingdom Family, we believe it is essential that four “directions” of God’s love be exchanged as a lifestyle among the members.

- ❖ **Down Love:** First, each individual and the group as a whole must be constantly receiving into their hearts, their Father’s mercy, grace, love, glory, truth, power and life through Christ by the Holy Spirit. They must all be in regular communion with Christ who dwells in their hearts as Lord. Obedience to the Lordship of Christ is a supernaturally natural result of their faith and love for Him. The individuals and the group should enjoy the manifest presence and power of the Holy Spirit in their midst. Both the Word of God and the Spirit of God are the means by which Father’s life flows into the house church.
- ❖ **Up Love:** Second, the members must be constantly reciprocating the love and glory they receive from God back to Him, in the form of praise, worship, and obedience. Bringing glory to God as a lifestyle and expanding His glory in the nations is their top value. The full expressions of praise and worship described in the Bible should be practiced when they gather.
- ❖ **In Love:** Third, the family members must exchange Christ’s love, wisdom, and power between one another through covenantally connected hearts and minds. This includes an ongoing lifestyle of acceptance, encouragement, forgiveness, affection, affirmation, discipleship, correction, accountability, inner healing, personal prayer ministry, communion (Lord’s supper/agape meal), bearing one another’s burdens, helping meet each other’s needs especially during difficult times, and having lots of fun. The point is to help facilitate the formation of Christ within each other’s minds, hearts, and lifestyle. It is to help each member become like Christ.
- ❖ **Out Love:** Fourth, a Missional Kingdom Family is a small spiritual family, but it is also a spiritual army (platoon) which has a kingdom-advancing mission. God’s life and love must be flowing out through the group to those who haven’t experienced Father’s love through Christ. As the body of Christ, the group needs to be a corporate and tangible expression of Christ to those it is called to serve. Christ is alive in us and wants to do through us today what He did while he was a man 2000 years ago. He wants to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth, seek and save the lost, heal the sick, cast out demons, and bring compassion and practical help to those in need. The MKF needs to be the voice and hands of Jesus. This most effectively occurs when each member discovers and selflessly shares their spiritual gifts, talents, time, money, and other resources. In addition, each MKF should embrace the exciting opportunity of multiplying into other MKF’s. Just as

the children of a natural family are expected to mature and start their own families, so the members of the spiritual family should grow to the point they can reach others with Christ and start another MKF. Growth and multiplication is the evidence that an MKF has Christ as its Center and Source and is “organically” connected to the Body of Christ. We believe MKF’s are the best strategy for evangelism, pastoral care, discipleship, and kingdom-advancing missions.

Other Essential Dynamics of an MKF in the Rock Tribe:

- 1) **Father’s Heart Of Love:** The Father heart of God needs to pervade the group’s life, causing everyone to help each other discover their identities as sons or daughters of God, enabling everyone to experience the affection of Jesus Christ, and facilitating the calling and destiny of each person. In a healthy family, there is no room for control, manipulation, jealousy, envy, bitterness, selfish ambition, undermining, gossip, rejection, insecurity, judgment, competition, co-dependence, or the concealing of sin. Sin blocks the blessings of God, stunts the maturing process, and hinders God’s people from fulfilling God’s eternal purpose for their lives. The Father and His family (natural and spiritual) is the platform for bringing heaven to earth. For this reason, we encourage inner-healing to be practiced.
- 2) **Expanding Christ In One Another Through Transparency, Accountability And Truth:** The members must practice coming into the light of God’s love and truth by living transparently, confessing sin, and revealing their “inner conversation” to selected accountability partners. Especially in matters of marriage, sexual issues, or other intimate content, mutual accountability should be done with those of the same gender. Confidentiality has to be practiced, but house church members and house church leaders must be allowed to disclose complex, weighty, or life-threatening issues “upward” with their MKF leaders or elders.
- 3) **Submission And Accountability To The Christ In One Another, Unity, And The Benefits Of Delegated Authority:** The MKF leaders and the members must value and practice a.) mutual submission and accountability with each other under Christ, b.) unity and submission with those who are their elders and the overseeing apostolic leadership of the Rock International Tribe. Mutual submission and accountability are God’s provision to protect us from lukewarm or imbalanced Christianity, compromise, abuse, incompetence, doctrinal error, or moral misconduct. Also, the MKF’s need to enjoy the rich benefits of remaining relationally connected and mutually submitted to other MKF’s regionally, nationally, and even internationally. It is highly recommended that each MKF leader be a part of a closed group of other MKF leaders, so they can receive personal ministry and equip one another for more effective ministry in their MKF’s. Every MKF should be connected to a local church for mutual edification, equipping, and strategic partnership to impact the region for the kingdom.

- 4) **Conflict Resolution God's Way:** Due to our sin, immaturity, personality clashes, disagreements, and Satan's top commitment to divide natural and spiritual families, conflicts will occur between church members. We must all follow the Biblical model for conflict resolution described in Biblical passages like Matthew 18:15-29 and Galatians 6:1-5. Every member "should make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).
- 5) **Honoring Delegated Authority, Spiritual Etiquette, and Godly Transition:** It is very important that the way each person comes into the Rock Tribe, joins an MKF, leaves an MKF, changes MKF's, starts another MKF, or leaves the Rock Tribe is done righteously before God with proper spiritual etiquette. Applying God's ways in these situations should be a high priority, because it determines whether we receive His blessings or experience judgment.
- 6) **Consistency With Diversity:** Even though each MKF will have all four essential elements necessary to be a healthy family and platoon, no two MKF's will ever be the same. God's consistency with diversity is illustrated throughout creation. Every snowflake has the same elements, but each one is different in size and shape. Every MKF needs to find its own life and mission together under Christ. Some groups will focus on whole families and include children, others will be gender specific and may focus on one particular age group. Some MKF's will never even meet in a house. They may target co-workers and meet in the company cafeteria on break or after work. The Holy Spirit will inspire creativity and diversity, yet with the four basic ingredients necessary to receive and give Life.
- 7) **Holy Spirit's Leadership:** We highly encourage each group to be led by the Holy Spirit. We believe God is unleashing a world-wide revival that will result in a massive ingathering of souls into His kingdom. This will be an organic and grassroots move of God that cannot be contained by institutional or corporate programming. Hearing and obeying Jesus in a present and ongoing way is essential for each house church. This will help them avoid becoming co-dependent on one another, exalting a certain leader, or coming under the influence of "religious spirits". We must totally trust and obey Jesus all the time.
- 8) **Developmental Phases Of MKF's:** The times and seasons of each MKF must be discerned and accommodated. Even though all four elements of an MKF are essential, there may be times when the Holy Spirit emphasizes a certain focus. For example, birthing an MKF will involve lots of intercession and evangelism. At the beginning, the "members" may just be seeking truth and love and have not yet placed their faith in Christ. Another example, at some point in the group's life, the emphasis may be developing deep and quality relationships with Christ and one another, so that there is a substantial level of unity and maturity to absorb new believers later. Groups also move through developmental stages just like an

individuals or a marriage. The stages of group life are 1. Forming, 2. Storming, 3. Norming, 4. Performing, 5. Transforming...6. Reforming, 7. Multiplying

9) Connection to a local church: We highly encourage each MKF to be actively involved in a healthy local church, which is part of a trans-local church-planting family-of-families (Tribe).. Each believer needs the benefits of receiving the leadership, teaching, and other ministries that come from those who have “five-fold” gifts (apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, evangelists).

10) Shared Life And Economics For The Purpose Of International Missions: Father has called us to be an international apostolic tribe gathered around Christ, His glory and kingdom, common core values, clear vision, some general strategies like DNA Groups and starting MKF’s, and the sovereign joining of God to one another. Having a shared life and mission with members of an international family builds a relational bridge of love that can reach to people groups and nations that are without Christ. North Americans and Western Europeans enjoy water, food, shelter, medical benefits, education, and other provisions far beyond the rest of the world. The Rock Tribe wants to help close the gap between the “haves” and the “have-nots” who live in urban centers and third world nations. Therefore, we want to disperse tithes and offerings so that a large percentage of finances goes for local and international missions. The spirit of this is shared life together in order to reach the most people for Christ. Dispersing tithes and offerings locally and internationally should not be perceived as an imposed requirement, membership dues, or denominational taxation. We are a spiritual family, so we have the freedom to process and negotiate each situation. We want all of our members to see themselves as missionaries who are partnering together for the highest level of kingdom impact. Everyone gets to benefit from the eternal rewards that come from our shared sacrifice and unified efforts. All financial expenditures in MKF’s, local churches, and Rock International should be discussed and prayed through by the leaders, utilized with the highest integrity, responsibly accounted for, and reports made available to members.

11) Trans Local Relationships And Hospitality: We highly encourage each MKF to establish supportive relationships with other Rock churches in North America and around the world. Often, entire MKF’s will travel to other cities or countries to help love, serve, and support another house church and its mission. This greatly benefits and enriches the lives of each member. We also want to practice hospitality with those who are traveling through our area on vacations or ministry trips. The members of an international spiritual family do not have to be limited in their ability to pray for and love one another because of geographical distance.

12) Warning: Our Father would have us realize that MKF’s may be dangerous to our spiritual, emotional, and relational health if they are not based in the love, presence, and power of Christ, help each member become more like Christ, and are committed to advancing Christ’s kingdom in every sphere of life. Many

people have been seriously wounded in small group settings. Being in an MKF does not guarantee a positive, life-giving, Christ-exalting reality. It is the quality and “spirit” of the MKF which facilitates Life. Abusive, dysfunctional, passive, or immature leadership can open the door to many negative and damaging experiences. Disruptive, unhealthy, or inexperienced members who haven’t learned to be led by the Holy Spirit and practice healthy family etiquette need to be trained and corrected. While MKF’s can be very unsafe and even damaging, they have the best chance of revealing what heaven is like. Just as marriage can be the closest thing to hell on earth or the greatest expression of heaven depending on the couple’s willingness to deny themselves and come under the centrality and supremacy of Christ’s Lordship. In the same way, MKF’s can be a disaster or they can be one of the best most Biblical strategies for bringing the kingdom of God to earth. The Rock International Tribe will never make MKF’s its focal point or reason for existence. MKF’s are a means to the end of expanding God’s manifest glory, kingdom, love, presence and power in the nations.