

LESSON 2: JESUS' FAMILY TREE

This includes:

- 1. LEADER PREPARATION**
- 2. LESSON GUIDE**

1. LEADER PREPARATION**LESSON OVERVIEW**

Because Jesus was fully God and did so many miraculous things, it can be easy to forget that he was also fully human and had a family. When God mercifully sent his only Son to live among people on earth, Jesus didn't arrive as a fully grown man unaware of how to relate to humans. Instead, the Bible provides glimpses of Jesus sharing life with a biological family.

Members of this earthly family loved and supported Jesus and his ministry. Some followed him all the way to the cross. This family sacrificed years of life with Jesus, who submitted to an early death in order to grow his extended, eternal family. Through Jesus' resurrection, he made all of us who believe in him part of his family tree. In this lesson, students will discover God's definition of family and their role in it.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- 1. WHAT:** Jesus defines love and allows us to experience his love through our relationships with family and friends.
- 2. WHY:** Teenagers learn the spiritual value of extending Jesus' love to one another.
- 3. HOW:** Students can connect and relate to Jesus in a transformational way by discovering Scripture's invitation to be part of his family.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 12:46-50

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES

John 15:9 and 19:25-27

TEACHING PREP

**LEADER
TIP**

Use this short overview to prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your group, you'll want to absorb it as you prepare to lead.

Read Matthew 12:46-50.

This passage is part of a vivid account of Jesus' life and ministry. During this time, Jesus is traveling from town to town, teaching and performing miracles. As his fame expands, he and his disciples look for secluded, isolated places to rest, pray, and regroup. But the crowds keep finding them, not even giving them time to eat. Jesus is quickly moved with compassion to continue healing and teaching people.

Traveling with Jesus are those closest to him: his 12 disciples and an entourage of supporters. Not everyone following Jesus supports him, however, and not everyone who witnesses his miracles and hears his teachings believes. Pharisees and false teachers constantly question Jesus' claim of being the Messiah and look for a way to trap and arrest him. Being God's Son is a dangerous and risky life—one that would have given Jesus' biological family ample reason to be concerned for the safety of their son and brother.

In verse 46, Jesus' mother and brothers come asking to speak to Jesus. The way Jesus responds is so important that it's repeated in both Luke and Mark. Why did Jesus' family come to him? Maybe they followed Jesus to support his ministry and to help new believers in the faith. Maybe they simply missed their famous, often-absent relative. But here Jesus seems to take the arrival of his family with urgency. Did his family sense he was in danger? Were they making an effort to inform and protect him? Surrounded by a crowd of people, Jesus does what he does best: He shifts the experience into a teaching moment full of kingdom purpose.

Jesus takes the interruptive invitation to speak to his mother and brothers and flips it. Instead of rebuking his biological family and telling them to go away, he invites everyone within the sound of his voice to be obedient followers of God, thus becoming as close to him as blood relatives. In this moment, Jesus offers relationships with eternal value. He introduces these followers to the concept of community, a second family, an eternal family, and God's family.

Jesus extends this invitation to be part of his family tree to us today. We not only have biological families but spiritual families who point to God as the center and source of life.

THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]

TEXTS OR TWEETS

Send one or both of these messages to your students prior to your meeting. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.

- Did you know you're a part of Jesus' real "Family" plan? Come out tonight for an exciting discussion! #friendsandfamily
- Ready to spend eternity with your heavenly family? Join us for a great conversation about relationships with eternal value.

PARENT EMAIL

Send this email to parents following the lesson to encourage them to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.

Dear parents,

We're continuing our series focusing on the theme "Friends and Family." By studying different Scripture passages, students are discovering the eternal value of relationships with God and with one another. In this second lesson, we explored Matthew 12:46-50, where Jesus' teaching is interrupted by the arrival of his mother and brothers, who want to speak to him. Jesus uses this opportunity to invite the crowd to become part of his heavenly family by saying, "Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!"

This week, we hope you'll consider spending a few minutes talking with your teenager about our lesson. You can build your conversation around one or all of these questions:

- If Jesus had pointed to you in a crowd and called you his family member, what thoughts would have raced through your mind, and why?
- Our relationship with Jesus transcends time and space because it's eternal. Knowing that Jesus invites you into an eternal relationship, how can your love for him change the way you value your relationships here on earth?
- Jesus invites us to care for and love each other just as he loves us. What does it look like to love someone the way Jesus loves them?

Thanks for all your prayers for our students and our ministry. Have a great week!

LESSON 2: JESUS' FAMILY TREE**2. LESSON GUIDE****GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]****LEADER
TIP**

Preview the following video for your group: youtube.com/watch?v=R_6tJ9qk9SY. You'll need an Internet connection and a computer or tablet to display the video for your participants.

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then play the video clip. Then **ASK**:

- *What does this video clip portray about Jesus' relationship with Mary, his mother?*
- *How might Mary's eternal hope in Jesus as God's Son have helped her through the painful things she'd have to endure as his earthly mother?*
- *Jesus had to listen to his parents because he was their son, yet he was also God. So although Mary and Joseph had the honor and responsibility of being Jesus' earthly parents, they were spiritually and eternally God's daughter and son. How might viewing your parents as God's eternally and forever loved children change the way you relate to them?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *This short movie clip reminds us that Jesus came to earth and was raised by a family just like us. But unlike us, he had the ability to see people through a different set of lenses. When he looked at his mother, he saw a beloved daughter of God. When he looked at his brothers, he saw forgiven and redeemed sons of God. Jesus invites us to love our friends and family the way he loves them.*

TEACHING POINTS**LEADER
TIP**

Use the Teaching Points to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. Remember: All throughout these lessons, it's up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.

Read Matthew 12:46-50 together as a group. Because this passage is so brief, consider having students read the verses several times, from different translations of the Bible.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Let's spend the next few minutes diving into this wonderful Scripture passage to see how Jesus turned an awkward interruption into a beautiful invitation.*

1. JESUS INVITES US TO BE PART OF HIS FAMILY TREE

ASK:

- *How do you become an adopted family member of Jesus and obtain the status of being his brother or sister?*
- *Consider the following statement and say why you agree or disagree with it: People can believe in Jesus yet not be doing the will of his Father in heaven, as described in this passage.*
- *If you could describe someone as “doing” the will of the Father, what might that look like in day-to-day life?*
- *What does doing and following God’s will look like in your own life? If you’re off track in that area, how might you refocus?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Sometimes we might feel as if we believe in Jesus just because our family does. Or we might follow him because that’s what the crowd is doing. But remember: Jesus invites you to be more than a person in the crowd who claims to believe. He personally invites you to be part of his family tree by “doing” the will of his Father.*

2. WHEN JESUS POINTS TO YOU, IT’S SERIOUS

ASK:

- *How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus pointed to them and said, “These are my... brothers”?*
- *Who in your life, besides your family members, could you point to and say, “These are my brothers and sisters”? How do you experience Jesus and his love through those people?*
- *Notice that Matthew 12:50 uses the word anyone. Let’s read this verse as a prayer. Fill in the blank with the name of someone special in your life: “_____ who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!”*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jesus invites us into his extended spiritual family, making us part of his family tree. This is a family of spiritual brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers who will support us in our pursuit of Jesus. The bond we have with our spiritual family goes beyond blood relations and beyond our time here on earth. Our spiritual family will love us as Jesus loves us, and we’ll spend eternity in heaven together.*

3. THE WILL OF GOD THE FATHER IS THAT WE LOVE HIM AND OTHER PEOPLE



Read John 19:25-27 together as a group. Because this passage is so brief, consider having students read the verses several times, from different translations of the Bible.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Here in John 19, even while hanging on the cross, Jesus invites Mary and his disciple to love each other the way he loved them. In other words, Jesus is inviting Mary and John to do his Father’s will. As Jesus is dying for his spiritual family, he makes this request: Love her for me; love him for me.*

ASK:

- *Think of a time when you felt Jesus asking you to love someone. What did you need from Jesus to love this person the way he loves you?*
- *As your faith has grown, how has your concept of family grown? Who do you see on your family tree now, and why?*

EXTRA DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

Ask students to form groups of two or three to discuss these questions.



ASK:

- *Read John 15:9. Why do you think it's so important that we remain in Jesus' love?*
- *Take turns saying this to each of your group members: "I have loved you even as God the Father has loved me." Who else do you want or need to say this to?*

Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.

LIVING IT OUT

ASK:

- *How does looking at your family and friends through Jesus' eyes help you see them in a new way? How might this change your interactions with people this week?*
- *How do personal desires lead us to do our own will instead of the Father's will? What effects can that have on our relationships?*
- *Who can you invite to join Jesus' family tree? How and when will you extend that invitation?*

SUMMARY



Provide a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) this lesson's content, (2) the dialogue that took place today, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.

FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the Scripture below.

"Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!" (Matthew 12:50).