

LUKE 8:19-21 / MARK 3:20-34

14 AUGUST 2022

ICE BREAKER: What is one activity or tradition your family loves to do together?

GROUP QUESTIONS:

When Jesus began openly proclaiming God’s Word, leading men and women to follow God, and healing the sick, crowds sought Him. His **family**, however, did not seek Him for any of those things. They sought to rescue Him from embarrassing Himself and the family name.

Similarly, when we begin to openly pursue Jesus and seek to lead others to God, those in our family often do not understand, thinking, “He is **out of his mind.**”

1. How has your **family** or **relatives** reacted when you began to **openly follow Jesus** and His Words?

(Read Mark 3:20-22) To rescue Jesus from public embarrassment, **Jesus’ family** traveled 30 miles on foot from Nazareth to Capernaum to bring Him back home. To attack Jesus’ character and undermine His ministry, **religious teachers** traveled 100 miles from Jerusalem to Capernaum.

Notice how Jesus treated both groups. When His **family** accused Him of being crazy and tried to bring Him back home, Jesus **ignored** them. When **religious teachers** tried to discredit His teachings and healing, Jesus **confronted** them with the truth.

2. How have **you** responded to **attacks** on your **character** or **faith** from your **family** or from **outside your family**?

(Read Mark 3:23-26) When religious teachers accused Jesus of casting out demons by Satan’s power, Jesus successfully defeated the accusation by explaining a **timeless principle**, “If a kingdom is **divided** against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a **house** is **divided** against itself, that house **cannot stand.**”

Businesses, churches, and families stand or fall **not** because of **lack of effort**, but because of **lack of unity**.

3. How have you seen this **principle** of a **divided kingdom** ever played out in your **family** (e.g. **disciplining children** or **finances**), the **Church** or in your **job**?

(Read Mark 3:32-35) **God created the family**. The family **defines** the **role** of every man, woman, and child. God designed the family so parents could train and nurture in an atmosphere of love, and children could trust and obey. The family gives us our name and our identity.

However, unlike **Mormonism** which makes one’s **earthly family** the basic doctrine for eternal life, Jesus declares our self-worth, true identity and eternal life are **not** found in **our family**, but only found when we join **God’s family** by faith. “Here are my mother and my brothers! **Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.**”

4. How can others **related** to you only by **faith in Jesus** be **closer** to you than your own **family**?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)
