

03 JESUS'S FAMILY

KEY TEXT: MARK 3:20-35

CENTRAL truth

Jesus had followers, but they didn't all know what to make of Him. His own family even doubted. **When we put our faith in Jesus for salvation, we become children of God** with a whole family of brothers and sisters who have also put their faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit inside us and among us binds us together more tightly than any earthly family could ever be.

key question

What kinds of lies do people circulate about Jesus today? What can you learn from Jesus's response to the scribes' accusations (see v. 22)?

Some people say Jesus was a nice man, a humanitarian, a teacher, or a good example to follow. These things are true, but it's a lie to say He's just those things. Jesus was and is the Son of God, the Savior of the world. Some people say He's dead, but He isn't! He is alive and He sits at the right hand of God the Father (see Rom. 8:34). When people told lies about Him, Jesus didn't lash out irrationally. He spoke the truth and left it at that. When we hear people tell lies about Jesus, we should do the same. After all, it's the Holy Spirit's job to convince.

keep in mind

- Jesus's mother Mary doubted her own son. This just goes to show that no one is perfect but Jesus. Help students understand that doubt is not bad or sinful. It's natural. In fact, faith would be unnecessary without doubt. The important thing is we shouldn't wallow in doubt, but ask God to give us the faith we need to overcome it (see Eph. 2:8-9).
- Recent offenses committed by very public spiritual leaders might predispose your students to mistrust those in positions of spiritual influence. Be careful not to allow the religious leaders in this story to become the center of discussion. Focus instead on Jesus's response to them as an example for us to follow when challenged about His identity.

application

What do you need to do to make sure you have a clear understanding of who Jesus is?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Depression, anxiety, and insecurity are at an all-time high among teenagers. Students need to know that no matter how they feel about themselves, they are wanted by God. When they put their faith in Jesus for salvation, they become His children, members of a great big family—and God doesn't let go!

FOR THE LEADER: Encourage students to embrace their spiritual family and pursue unity with their sisters and brothers. Tell them how God's family has encouraged and supported you over the years. Tell stories about faithful church leaders and encourage students to speak the truth about Jesus.

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