

# Discover Jesus

## Jesus's Family

Mark 3:20-35

<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. <sup>21</sup> When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." <sup>22</sup> And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul [bee-EL-zuh-bub] [the Greek name for Satan]! By the prince of demons, he is driving out demons."

<sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan?" <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. <sup>27</sup> In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possession unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house. <sup>28</sup> I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies\* of men will be forgiven them. <sup>29</sup> But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin." <sup>30</sup> He said this because they were saying, "He has an evil spirit."

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus's mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." <sup>33</sup> "Who are my mother and my brother?" he asked. <sup>34</sup> Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." (NIV)

\***Blasphemy**: to speak evil against, to slander, to disrespect something holy.<sup>1</sup>

### Get it!

1. Are there any phrases or words that you need defined?
2. Where is Jesus now, and who is he spending time with? What is he doing?
3. Jesus is no longer living with his family in Nazareth. He is living in Capernaum. Yet, Jesus's family hears about what he is doing – healing on the Sabbath, casting out demons, forgiving sins, and teaching crowds of people about God in homes – and they come to his house. Why? What does Jesus's own family think about him? Why do you think they believe this about Jesus?
4. The Jewish teachers of the Law also criticize Jesus and say that he is driving out demons through the power of Satan. Why do you think they say this? How does Jesus respond?
5. Jesus says that a house divided against itself will not stand. Is Jesus's biological family united or divided? Explain. According to Jesus, what will happen to this family? What could keep them together?
6. Jesus is also talking about the house of Satan, a strong man. God's Holy Spirit is the only one who can overcome the strong man in our lives. We cannot do this without him (Isaiah 49:24-26, 50:9-11). Jesus says that if we believe and continue to believe that God's Holy Spirit is evil and criticize his work, power, and miracles, then forgiveness will never be possible. Why is this true? How can we overcome this false belief?
7. We learn here that Jesus is not the divider of homes and families. Rather Satan is the one who divides and destroys. In fact, Jesus invites all people into his home and family. Yet, who does Jesus say are the true members of Jesus's family? Why are they not divided? What did they do with the strong man?

<sup>1</sup> "989. Blasphémos," *Thayer's Greek Lexicon*, electronic database (Biblesoft, 2011), <https://biblehub.com/greek/989.htm>.

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### Think about it!

1. To receive encouragement when he was criticized and persecuted, Jesus spent time with his followers loving them and sharing truth with them. Who are your best friends and how often do you spend time with other believers or those genuinely seeking a relationship with Jesus? According to this passage, why is this important? Share your challenges in these areas.
2. Jesus was criticized by his family and others highly viewed in his society. Do your friends, family, and other members of society know you are a follower of Jesus? Have you ever been criticized for following Jesus? Share your challenges in these areas. Where can you find strength?
3. How does putting our trust in Jesus and welcoming the Holy Spirit into our lives protect us from the strong man?
4. How does being together with other believers, learning the Word of God, prayer, confessing our sins to each another, and turning from sin help us to tie up the strong man? Are there any other ways we can tie up the strong man?

### Live it!

1. Have you ever put your full trust in Jesus and his Holy Spirit to tie up the strong man in your life? Discuss.
2. In what areas of your life do you need to tie up the strong man?
3. In what ways can you strengthen yourself spiritually - being together with other believers, learning the Word of God, prayer, confessing our sins to each another, turning from sin, or something else? Make a spiritual protection plan to strengthen your spirit this week.

### Share it!

1. Who can you invite into your life to learn about Jesus? Write the name or names that come to your mind.
2. Invite them into this class or set up a time to share these studies with them personally.

### Pray it!

1. Break into two groups of men and women. Take some time to confess sins, struggles, and challenges to one another and pray for one another.
2. Have you ever confessed your sins to Jesus and asked him to be the Lord and Savior of your life? Have you ever asked Jesus to send you his Holy Spirit? If you have not and you want to do this, do it today in your group!