

# The Gospel of Mark

## Home Group Discussion Guide

*When Faith and Family Collide*

Mark 3:31-35

**ICEBREAKER:** What is your favorite family memory?

**OVERVIEW:** The Bible is all about the priority of family — honoring marriage, disciplining your children, honoring your parents. But what happens when the people in your family try to discourage you from following Jesus? What happens when faith and family collide? In Mark 3:31-35, Jesus makes it clear that your heavenly purpose must come before your earthly family. Let's dig deeper.

1. Read Mark 3:20-21, 31-35. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. This passage in Mark reminds us of the reality that when we become Christians we get a new family – the church. Is it possible that God created the church so that we would have a support system when our earthly family rejects us because of Christ?
3. Jesus made it clear that the true description of a Christ-follower is one who does God's will. Why is this important to remember? How committed are you to doing God's will?
4. Jesus made it clear in this passage that your heavenly purpose must come before your earthly family. Read Luke 12:51-53. What did Jesus mean that he came "to divide people against each other?" How does it affect the way you think about family?

5. Read Luke 14:25-27. Does Jesus really want us to hate our family? Does Jesus mean that family is not important? Explain.
6. What are some ways that family can make it hard for someone who is trying to wholeheartedly follow Jesus?
7. Has your family primarily been a help or a hindrance to your relationship with Christ? Explain.
8. What steps do you need to take to make sure that your family doesn't slow down your spiritual progress?
9. Are there any ways that you are discouraging members of your family from being fully devoted to Christ? How do you need to repent?
10. In the sermon it was said that the worst thing you can do for your family is to put them before God. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

**The Last Word:** Family is important, family is precious, family is a priority, we have family responsibilities, but at the point where faith and family collide, family loses family privilege.