

**OPEN**

When you first showed an interest in growing in faith, was your family more encouraging, concerned, or discouraging?

**Mark 4:6-35**

The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea <sup>8</sup> and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him...

<sup>13</sup> And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup> And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach <sup>15</sup> and have authority to cast out demons ...

<sup>20</sup> Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. <sup>21</sup> And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

<sup>22</sup> And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." ...

<sup>28</sup> "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—<sup>30</sup> for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

<sup>31</sup> And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him.

<sup>32</sup> And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are

outside, seeking you." <sup>33</sup> And he answered them, "**Who are my mother and my brothers?**" <sup>34</sup> And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" <sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

**DISCOVER**

Jesus uses questions to lead His hearers to a new understanding of Truth.

Identify the various groups and how they respond to Jesus (Mark 3:6-8, 13-15).

Out of a larger group of disciples Jesus chooses 12 to be with Him. What did it mean for them to "be with him" (v.13-15)?

What concerned Jesus' family (v.20-21)?

The scribes were the official interpreters of Jewish law. What did they conclude was the source of Jesus' power (v.22)?

Why is saying Jesus is filled with an unclean spirit unforgivable (v. 22-30)?

Contrast Jesus' calling of the disciples with Jesus' family calling to Him (v.31-32).

How does Jesus redefine family?

**DEEPEN**

Jesus uses questions to lead His hearers to a greater understanding of

who He is and what He calls them to believe.

Jesus comes in the power and authority of the Spirit to gather a people around Him. Two groups you would think would be insiders with Jesus are actually outsiders because of unbelief.

What reason would the scribes have for discrediting Jesus?

Why might it be difficult for Jesus' family to see Him as the One sent from God in the power of the Spirit?

What does it mean to do "the will of God" in the passage?

**DELIVER**

Jesus continues to call people today to gather as family around His Word.

What hinders people today from seeing Jesus as the One sent from God in the power of the Spirit?

In what ways do people today want Jesus to follow them?

What does it look like for a disciple to "be with Jesus" today? Is this the same as going to church?

In what ways would your experience of church be different if you viewed others in the church as your family?

**PRAY**

Share something you're thankful for and/or something you would like to see God change.

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*"Lord, in your mercy ... hear our pray."*

**NOTES:**