



**The Gospel of Matthew  
Wk 2/3: We are Family  
March 28 & 29, 2020**



## LEADER PREP

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to see one another as family, despite any differences they may have.

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 12:46-50

### THINK ABOUT THIS

The family is a good gift from God, but it has become an idol. Sometimes families become exclusive and emphasize traditions over people. Sometimes, families sink into one another rather than getting to know neighbors. The family is a gift from God, meant to glorify Him and to further the Kingdom. It was never meant to be a clique.

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.*

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### MAIN POINT

**Jesus expands what 'family' means to include our faith family as well.**

### GET THEM TALKING

What is the goofiest tradition your family has? Doesn't have to be a holiday tradition.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before today, how would you have defined family?
2. What do you think it would have been like growing up with Jesus as a brother?
3. In what ways are the members of you and your families different?
4. Is it hard to see church as a family? Why or why not?

### **READ Matthew 12:46-50 and answer the following questions:**

5. What about Jesus' response strikes you as odd? Would you have said something different to the messenger?
6. What was Jesus trying to do by redefining 'family'?
7. Is it okay that not everyone in your small group has the same interests or hobbies? How can you still treat one another as family?
8. What are some ways we can start to prioritize our relationship with God, even when we don't feel like it?

### NEXT STEP

Plan a group outing for the semester! What better way to emphasize that we're a family than hanging out together!? Come up with some ideas and communicate them with parents in advance to partner well with families.

### PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests. Close your time together in prayer.

## SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue than just reading off of this sheet of paper.

### MATTHEW 12:48-50

<sup>46</sup>As Jesus was speaking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. <sup>47</sup>Someone told Jesus, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, and they want to speak to you.”

<sup>48</sup>But He replied to the man who told Him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” <sup>49</sup>And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>50</sup>For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”