



## Week of July 23 - a

### Scripture: Mt 12:46-50

**Main Idea:** Jesus loved his earthly family, but clarified to his disciples that they were also his family. He considered them spiritual brothers, sisters, and mothers.

#### Questions

**Preschool:** Are our "church friends" our family? Jesus said they are.

**Grade school:** Most of us have brothers and sisters. Did you know that you also have a spiritual family? Who do you consider your 'spiritual family?' Is it the people who go to our church? At church you have spiritual "mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters."

**Teen:** Who does Jesus say is a family member? Think of the love you have for your earthly family. Does knowing Jesus feel even greater about you help you feel closer to him? Do you gain strength or comfort from knowing you have a spiritual family?

**Adult:** Who is most important in your life here on earth? Would you drop everything and go if there was an emergency involving them? Why do you think Jesus differentiated between his earthly family and his spiritual family? Why did Jesus put greater importance on those who do the will of His Heavenly Father? What does this tell us about those who say "I know what the Bible says, but..." and then proceed to explain why their way is OK with the father?

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAY: For us to love our spiritual family (brothers & sisters in Christ) more and more, and understand how important our eternal family is.

#### July Memory Verse:

##### Psalm 139:14 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.



## Week of July 23 - b

### Scripture: Mt 13:1-9; 18-23

**Main Idea:** Jesus teaches in this parable that not everyone will accept the gospel. And the ones that do, some will not develop enough root (strength) to last, while others may remain but not produce any fruit. Those who are faithful to God will produce fruit, in varying amounts.

#### Questions

**Preschool:** If we believe in God, and obey him, he is happy with us? How do you think God will feel if we stop believing in him, or stop acting right and obeying him?

**Grade school:** If you come to church only on holidays, are you going to learn the bible? If you only listen to the preacher and teachers are you going to learn the bible? You **MUST** do things in your life so that what is in the bible 'takes root' and you will learn to obey God and produce fruit.

**Teen:** What tactics does Satan use to stop people from becoming rooted in the faith? What can we do to help the seed grow? Does Satan use the same tactics on mature Christians as well? What can we do to withstand those attacks?

**Adult:** We can probably all think of someone who falls into the 4 categories of hearers that Jesus discusses. For each type, what could have helped them remain and bear fruit? Or, in the last case, what did help them remain and bear fruit?

Finally, would we identify other types? Like the one who was faithful for a long time, then burned out?

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

---

---

---

---

---

---

PRAY: For God to help us be fruitful in our service to him and to help others as well.

#### July Memory Verse:

##### Psalm 139:14 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.