

## Jesus' Family Values

### 1 Matthew 8:18-22 (ESV)

2 <sup>18</sup> Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave  
3 orders to go over to the other side. <sup>19</sup> And a scribe came up  
4 and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you  
5 go." <sup>20</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds  
6 of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to  
7 lay his head." <sup>21</sup> Another of the disciples said to him,  
8 "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." <sup>22</sup> And Jesus  
9 said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their  
10 own dead."

### 11 Matthew 10:34-39 (ESV)

12 <sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the  
13 earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I  
14 have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter  
15 against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her  
16 mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup> And a person's enemies will be those of  
17 his own household. <sup>37</sup> Whoever loves father or mother  
18 more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son  
19 or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> And  
20 whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not  
21 worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and  
22 whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

### 23 Mark 3:31-35 (ESV)

24 <sup>31</sup> And his mother and his brothers came, and standing  
25 outside they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup> And a crowd  
26 was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your  
27 mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you."  
28 <sup>33</sup> And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my  
29 brothers?" <sup>34</sup> And looking about at those who sat around  
30 him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!  
31 <sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and  
32 sister and mother."

**Read the passages through completely  
before looking at these questions.**

#### **Observation (What does it say?):**

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Circle what seem to be key words in each of these passages.
- Are there repeated words or ideas?
- Are there comparisons or contrasts?
- Is there any stated purpose or explanation?
- Is there any unusual or symbolic language?
- Are there conditional (if-then) statements?
- What else do you observe in this passage?

#### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

After observing the passage:

- How would you describe the tone or atmosphere of each passage?
- By each heading, write a title for that section.
- In the past, what explanations have you heard or about each of these passages?
- What (if anything) in these passages challenge your previous thinking?
- What other questions come to mind as you read?

#### **Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- How would you describe Jesus' "Family Values"? How does most Christian thinking compare with these passages?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

**For additional thought and discussion:**

Joseph H. Hellerman, *When the Church Was a Family: Recapturing Jesus' Vision for Authentic Christian Community* (Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2009);

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

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## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.**  
**J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

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For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see

Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.

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