

Jesus Talks About His Family
Matthew 12:46-50



WEEK 5

POINT ➔ **WE CAN BE
GOD'S CHILDREN.**

Open the Bible to Matthew 12, and show kids the words. **SAY: The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells about a time Jesus' mother and brothers started looking for him. Someone told Jesus his family wanted to talk to him.**

ASK: Who are the people in your family?

SAY: Jesus knew that ➔ **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN**, so he knew his family was more than just his mom and brothers. In fact, there's a Bible verse that says that God adopted us into his own family through Jesus Christ (adapted from Ephesians 1:5). **This means that we can be in God's family.**

ASK: What is your favorite thing about your family?

SAY: Jesus told the people around him that his family was more than just his mom and brothers. He said everyone who loves and follows God is a member of his family.

ASK: What does your family do that shows you God's love?

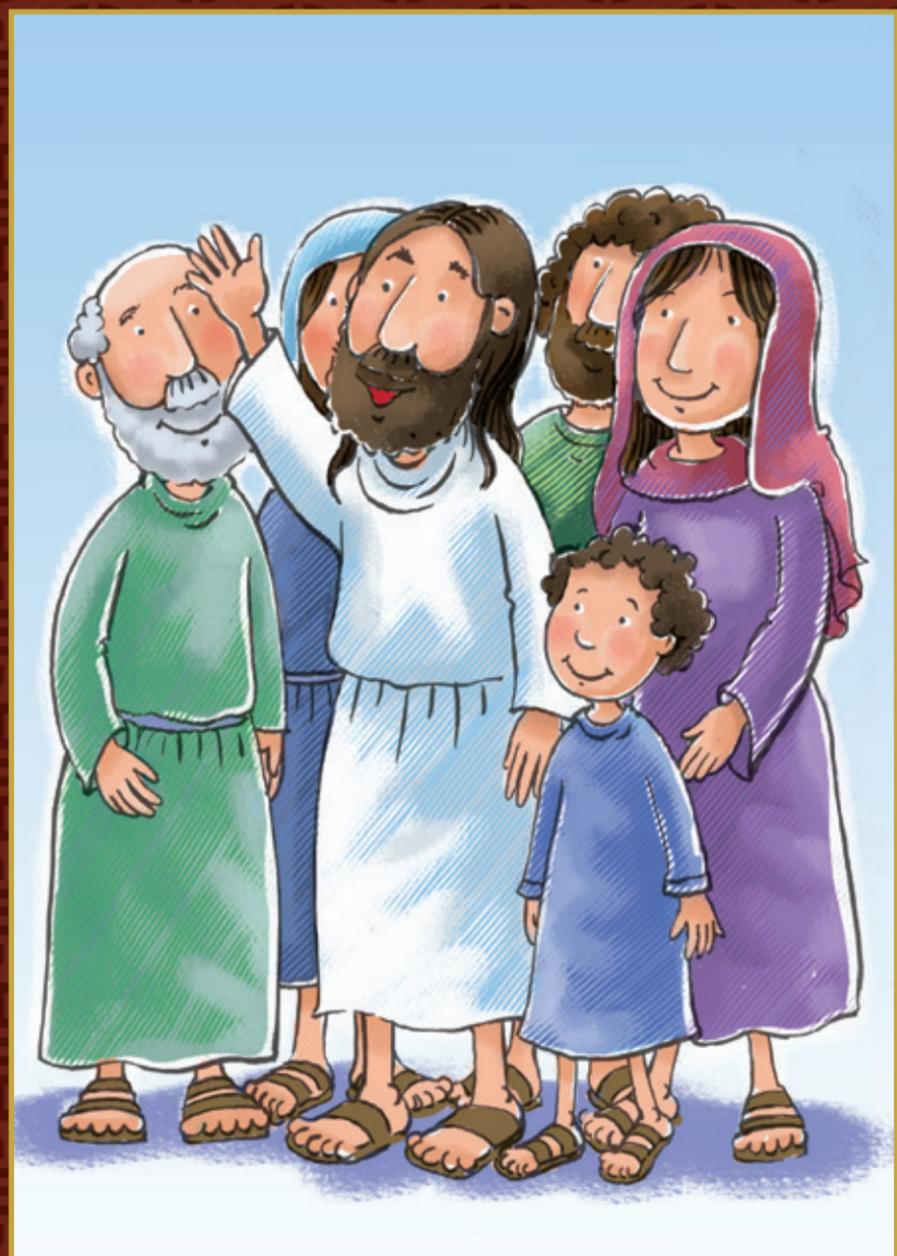
SAY: Let's say a quiet prayer thanking God for families. First, pray silently for the people who live in your house. Allow a few moments of silence.

SAY: Now, let's thank God aloud for the people in his big family, like other people here at our church or friends you have who love Jesus.

PRAY: Thank you God, for... Allow a few moments for kids to pray aloud by filling in the names of other Christians.

After children have finished, **PRAY: God, thank you so much that we can be in your family. Thank you for all the people who love you and show your love to us. Help us love you more. In Jesus' name, amen.**





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SAY: Jesus said that if we follow God, ➔ **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.** Let's sing a song about following God. Because we're a family, let's hold hands in a circle as we sing. Whenever we sing "follow," we'll each take a small step forward, making our circle smaller.

Have kids hold hands in a wide circle. Lead children in singing ● "Follow, Follow Jesus" (track 7) on the **CD** to the tune of "The Bear Went Over the Mountain." Have kids each take a small step forward whenever they sing "follow."

SING:

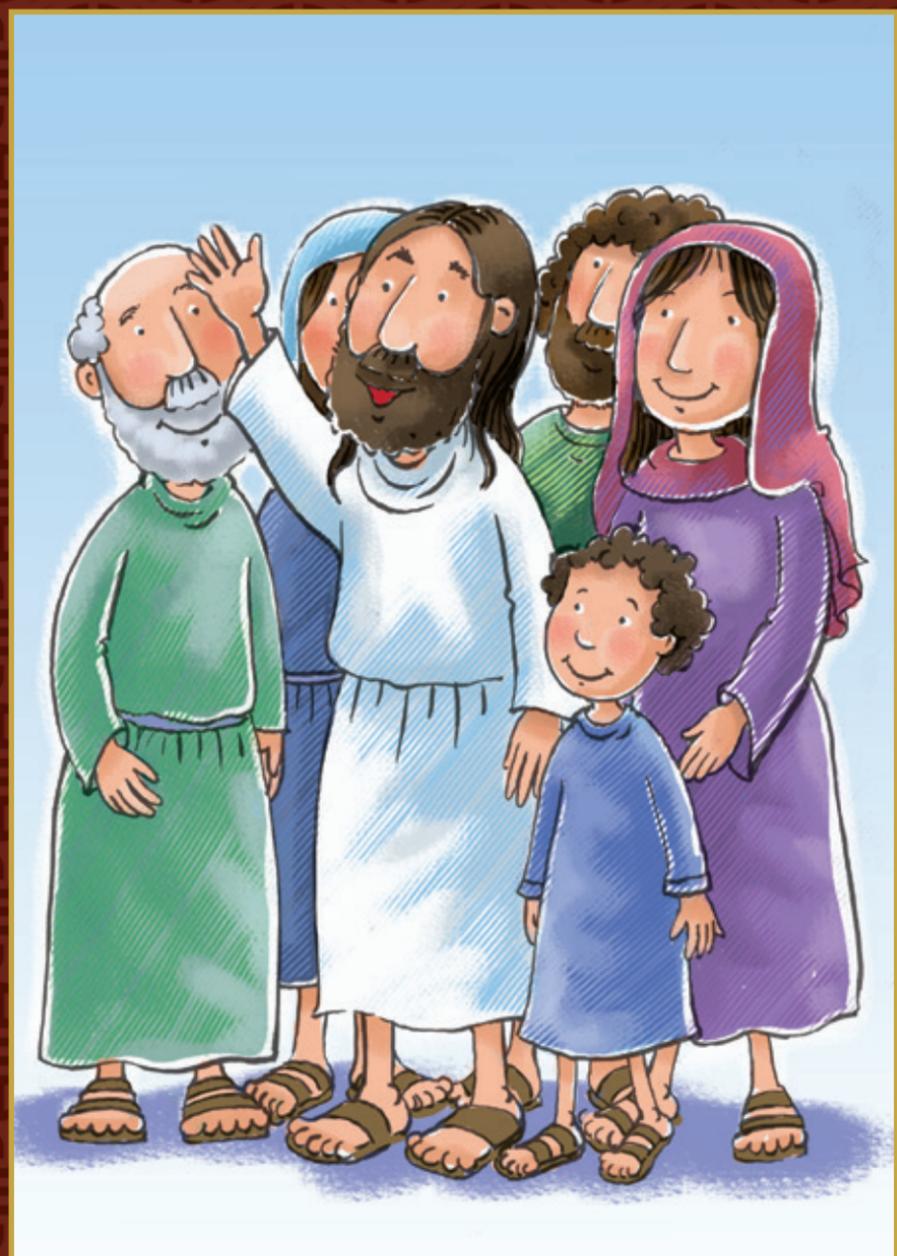
**Follow, follow Jesus,
Follow, follow Jesus,
Follow, follow Jesus,
Yes, I will follow him.**

**I'll follow him up high.
I'll follow him down low.
Yes, I will follow Jesus,
I will follow Jesus,
I will follow Jesus
Wherever he tells me to go.**

ASK: What are some ways you want to be like someone in your family?

What are some ways you can be more like Jesus?

SAY: Following Jesus means we want to act like he acted when he was on earth. He showed love to everyone, and so can we. When we decide to love Jesus, ➔ **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**



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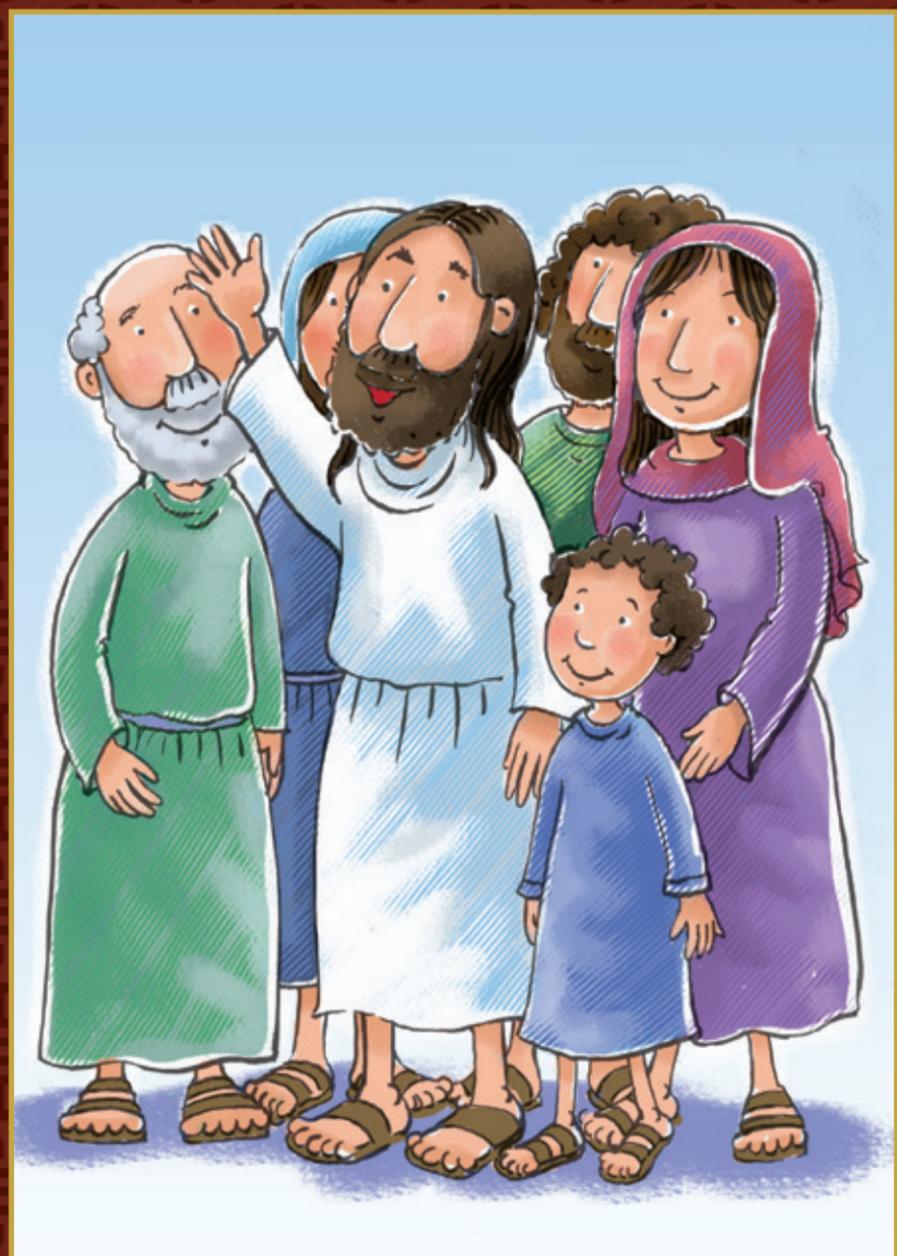
POINT ➔ **WE CAN BE
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Have kids stand in a circle. SAY: **I'm going to throw a *Finger Spinner*. If it comes to you, catch it. Then you can tell us what you like about someone in your family. Once you share, throw the spinner so someone else can have a turn.**

Throw a *Finger Spinner* to start the game. Make sure all the kids have a chance to tell what they like about someone in their family. After each child has had at least one turn, repeat so kids can share about other family members.

When everyone has shared as much as they'd like, SAY: **Our families are a lot bigger than our moms, dads, brothers, and sisters. ➔ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.** That means **our families include everyone who loves God and wants to be his child. Jesus said anyone who loves God is his brother or sister.**

Play again, this time having kids share what they like about being part of God's family.



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Have kids sit at a table. Pass out paper and *Color Switchers Markers*. SAY: **Some people have big families, some people have small families, and some people live by themselves. Some families are really nice to each other, and some families are mean to each other. But no matter what our families are like, ➔ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN. Anyone can be part of God's family and have a wonderful Father!**

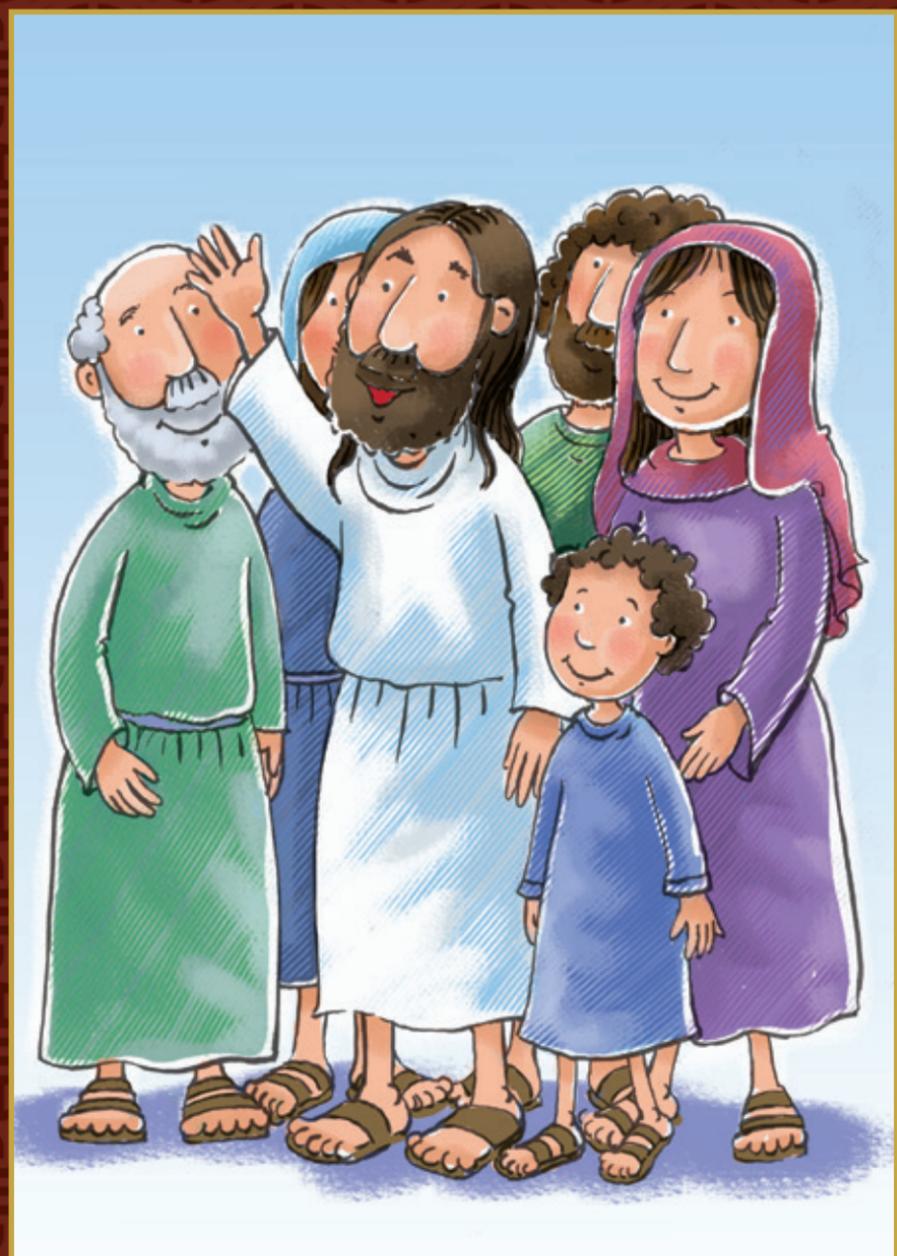
We're going to draw pictures of our families. You can draw the people who you live with or people who are in God's family with you. Allow time for children to draw.

ASK: Tell about the people in your picture.

Tell whether you'd like your family to be bigger or smaller, and why.

SAY: God gave us our families, whether they are big or small. He knew whether we would live with our moms, dads, grandmas, or grandpas. He knows if you'll have

another brother or sister join your family later. And best of all, he knows you can be a part of his family, because ➔ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.



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SAY: Today we learned that every-
one who loves God and does what
he asks is a member of his family.
In fact, God sent his Son, Jesus,
because he loves each one of us
and wants us to join his family.
That's how ➔ **WE CAN BE GOD'S
CHILDREN.**

Hold up a *Buzz Rocket*. Let's pre-
tend this *Buzz Rocket* is God's love
coming down from heaven to us.
As God's family, let's hop together
to where the rocket lands and do
a group hug to remind us that be-
cause of God's love, we can all be
brothers and sisters. While we're
hugging, let's say, ➔ **"WE CAN BE
GOD'S CHILDREN."**

Shoot the rocket, and lead children
in hopping to it and hugging. Repeat
the activity four more times, using
the following ideas to change what
kids do each time.

- Tiptoe to the rocket, shake hands
with two other people, and say,
"I'm glad you're in my family."
 - Run to the rocket, put your hands
in (the way a sports team does),
and lift them up as you shout
together, "We love God!"
 - Walk like a penguin to the rocket,
link arms in a circle, and say, "We're
in God's family!"
- ASK:** **What do you do that helps
others know you're a part of
your family?**
- What do you do to show you
want to be in God's family?**
- SAY:** **If we want to be in God's
family, all we need to do is tell
him that. When we love Jesus and
tell God we want to follow Jesus,
➔ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**
- Walk backward to the rocket, high
five each other, and say, "God loves
us!"