



# Who Are My Brothers?

Week of July 10, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

## Message Recap:

### Read Matthew 12:46-50

Jesus knew who his *real* brothers and sisters were, and there was no blood connection between them at all. He saw his disciples, and the others who had decided to follow him, as his true family. Our world has a very distinct way of seeing each other, and unfortunately that view is completely opposite of what Jesus wants from us. We are all very different, and we all come from very different experiences. But that doesn't mean that we cannot be brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus is the only way that we can get to the Father, and through him we can all live at peace with each other. It is the only way that the violence and hatred in our world will ever end.

## Pray

Lord, give us open hearts and open minds to embrace your love. Help us to focus on ourselves and avoid placing the blame on others. Help us embrace the connections we have with our brothers and sisters who we share in you, and help us all be beacons of that love to the world so that through us, the world will come to realize that there is a better way to live. That way, the only way, is you Lord. Thank you for your unending love and your sacrifice so that we can have the hope of a brighter future.

Share Your Experience This Week #SevernRun

## Getting Started

- When was a time you had an argument with someone about something in the past?
- If resolved, how did you come to an agreement? If not resolved, what did you attempt to do to solve it?

## Listening Deeply

\*For this week's discussion, try to avoid sharing your *opinions* on matters, but instead focus on how you feel these issues *reflect in your own heart*. Don't be afraid to open up and share with the group how you feel, or to ask for help in resolving any feelings with which you might be struggling.

***Please begin by praying the prayer together and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion in love.***

1. Have you been surprised by current events? Why or why not?
2. Besides the fact that Jesus is absent in many people's hearts and minds, what has led us (as a people) to respond in the way that we have been responding?
3. Do you have any feelings about all of this that you have been struggling with?
4. Jesus gave us all a way to be brothers and sisters. Knowing that, what can we do to show the world that love is possible, despite all our differences?

## Living Wide in Jesus

Jesus has given us a way out. In fact, *he* is the *only* way out. He is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through him. The world has tried its solutions, but ultimately that will never be enough to bridge the gaps that we have separated us. The only thing that will ever bridge that gap is the cross. We need to show the world that Jesus has made a way. How will you show it?

- **Love Well** - Make a commitment to not place blame or hurl opinions on anyone. Instead, focus on yourself and how you can reflect the love of Christ as best you can.
- **Live Jesus** - We are the best chance for those around us to see and experience Jesus. Therefore, we have a duty to act according to how Jesus would act, and to tell the world why.
- **Believe Big** – There are some pretty big problems facing our world today, but guess what? Jesus is bigger! We will always fall short as humans, but believe in the Lord and he will never fail us. He will help us change the world in ways we could never have thought possible.