

# Life of Christ

## Jesus' Brothers Do Not Believe

John 7:1-9

### Younger Verse

Anyone who obeys my Father in heaven is my brother or sister or mother. Matthew 12:50

### Older Verse

Anyone who obeys my Father in heaven is my brother or sister or mother. Matthew 12:50

### Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

How many of you have a brother or a sister? (Share about yourself, as well.) Did you know that Jesus had brothers and sisters? Let's read our story from the book of John. Who would like to read? Let's look at John chapter seven, verses one through nine.

Well, our verses started with "after these things . . ." If our verses start that way, we have to think about what "things" must have happened before. What do you remember? We have talked about Jesus feeding a big crowd, walking on water, teaching about being the Bread of Life and then how some of His followers left. And then we read that Jesus was hanging around Galilee. He chose to do this, instead of hanging around Judea, because the Jews wanted to kill Him. The Jews were the people of the country in which Jesus was born. Many of those who wanted to kill him were the religious leaders who did not want to understand that He is the Son of God. But, it was almost time for another of the special feasts in Jerusalem. Would Jesus go, and celebrate as He always did, or would He remain in Galilee?

Some other people had the same questions. That is when the Bible says: "Jesus' *brothers* said to Him, 'Why don't you go to Judea?'" Who thought Jesus should be going to Judea? Jesus' brothers! We know that Jesus had at least four brothers and some sisters, as well as His mother, Mary.\* Jesus' brothers thought He should go to Jerusalem, in Judea, so that He could show Himself, or prove Himself, to other people. We find out more in these verses than just that Jesus had brothers. We read that Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him. His brothers did not believe that He was sent from God. They had grown up with Him; they had played with Him and they would not see past Jesus as their brother, to see Him as God's Son.

\*See Matt 12:46, 13:55; Mark 6:3, Gal 1:19

### Lesson Goals

Introduce Jesus' brothers and sisters.  
Stress that obedience makes us true brothers and sisters of Christ.

As they were talking, Jesus shared with His brothers that He would not be going to Jerusalem with them. He even told them why. Jesus said, "It's not my time yet." What could He mean by that? Well, He meant that He knew exactly when things should happen. Remember, Jesus is God. We learned in the last lesson that Jesus even knew who would betray Him . . . when the time came. Jesus was in complete control and so, when His brothers left for Jerusalem, He waited. He knew that it was not time for Him to be there, yet.

Don't you think it is sad that Jesus' brothers grew up with Him and knew Him, but did not believe in Him? I do! But guess what? There is good news. We know from Matthew 13 that two of Jesus' brothers were named James and Jude (or Judas, but not the one who would betray Jesus). And we have, in our Bibles, two very special letters; one was written by James and the other by Jude. The letters they wrote are named for them. They are both in the New Testament and they are near the end of the Bible. Do you think there might be books, or letters, in the Bible written by people who did not believe in Jesus? NO! The wonderful thing is that we can tell from reading the letters of James and Jude\* that they finally got "it!" There was a time when they actually believed that Jesus was more than just their brother, more than just another man. We can read in their own words that they knew Him as Lord. What does it mean to know Jesus as Lord? Well, Jude says it in the fourth verse of his letter, "Master and Lord, Jesus Christ." Lord and master mean that someone else is in control. Have you let Jesus have control of your life? Or do you just know lots of things about Him but don't want to give Him control. Will you decide today not just to know things about Jesus, but to know Him and give Him control of your life? And when you do, the Bible says you become Jesus' brother or sister! Don't you want to be a part of God's family?

\*James 1:1, 2:1;  
Jude v. 3,4

**Memory Verse  
Activities**

Make a paper doll chain. Print the memory verse across the chain. Practice this verse with your students, stressing that they can be Jesus' brother or sister if they obey God by believing that Jesus is His Son.

**Prayer Time**

Pray, thanking God for sending His Son. Thank Him for making a way for us to be a part of His family.

**Preparing for Next Week**

Lesson 19  
Jesus Is The One They Have Waited For  
John 7:10-53

# Preschool Lesson

## Obeying God

**Sing:** Trust and Obey (or any obedience song for children)  
Trust and obey  
for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus,  
But to trust and obey.

**Teach:** I open my Bible book and read, "God loves me." Do you know that God loves you? Well, He does. Have you ever wanted God to know that you love Him? How can you show God that you love Him when you cannot see Him?

We can show our love for God by obeying Him! What does "obey" mean? "Obey" means to listen to someone and then do what they have said. So, if we want to obey God, and we do, we have to know what He says. But how do we know what God wants us to do? It is all written for us in the Bible! The Bible tells us how much God loves us, and it also tells us what we can do to show God we love Him.

The Bible tells us to obey our parents.

The Bible tells us not to lie, but to tell the truth.

The Bible tells us not to steal.

The Bible tells us to say kind words to one another.

The Bible also tells us that it makes God happy when we believe that Jesus is His Son, sent to die on the cross for us. In our story from the Bible, we read that Jesus had brothers and sisters! How many of you have brothers and sisters? But the Bible also tells us that His brothers and sisters did not believe that Jesus was from God. (We know that after Jesus died, at least two of Jesus' brothers, James and Jude, really believed.) Our memory verse tells us that Jesus' true brothers and sisters are the ones who obey God! So that means that we can be Jesus' brothers and sisters!

**Pray:** Thank you, God, for loving me. I want to show you that I love you, too. Help me obey you. Help me obey my mom and dad. Help me to do what is right.

# Activities

---

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Have a Three-legged Race. Talk about working together. Remind them of James and Jude who ultimately trusted in Jesus as Lord and how they worked together to share the truth about Jesus. Encourage your students to do the same.
- Make necklaces with yarn and O's cereal. As your students thread the O's and put on their necklaces, remind them to obey God this week.
- Make an O-B-E-Y Acrostic. Help your students think of words that begin with each letter of the word "obey" and that explain what it is to obey.
- Help your students make a Family Tree. Talk about each of the members of their families, then talk about how they can become a member of God's family.
- Provide coloring pages of James and Jude, including pertinent Bible verses from those books.
- Sing songs of obedience; *Trust and Obey* or any number of children's songs that can be found on the internet.
- For older students: Talk about the difference between simply being born into a family (like James and Jude were born in to the family of Mary and Joseph) and choosing to be a part of a family (the family of God). You might want to discuss Romans 8:17—(heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ).