

# Short Talk

(SHT101a)

## Followers of Jesus are Members of His Family

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ALL AGE WORSHIP  
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## SHORT TALK: “Followers of Jesus are Members of His Family”

**Aim of Short talk:** To teach that we are not simply members of our birth family, but through faith in Jesus we become members of God’s family.

**Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.

**Main themes:** Family, Faith

**Biblical references:** Mark 3:20-35

**Lectionary:** Year B 2021 – The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity

Each one of us here has been born into a family.

Some of us belong to large families where we have lots of brothers and sisters,

- aunts, uncles and cousins,
- whereas others of us belong to small families.

Does anyone here belong to a big family? Would you come and join me? *(Receive a volunteer)*

- How about someone who belongs to a small family? Would you come and join me?  
*(Receive a volunteer)*

*(Addressing your volunteers)*

So how many brothers and sisters do you have? *(Receive answers)*

- How many cousins, aunts, uncles, second cousins.....?

Do you all live together or do you live in different parts of the country/world? *(Receive answers)*

Thank you very much for sharing with us about your families....

- Please sit down.

Our families are important aren’t they?

- They are a place where we belong.

When Jesus lived on earth He too was part of a family.

- As we know, His mother was Mary and His father was Joseph,
- and the Bible tells us that Jesus had brothers and sisters. (Matthew 13:55-56, Mark 6:3.)

One day when Jesus was teaching a crowd of people, His mother and brothers arrived.

- They sent a message to Jesus to come to them.

In Jesus' day families were extremely important to people,

- and so the crowd who were listening to Jesus would have expected Jesus to stop teaching and go immediately to see what His family wanted.
- The family came first.

But Jesus didn't do that, which was really shocking.

- Instead He spoke to the crowd and asked the question: "*Who are my mother and my brothers?*" (Mark 3:33)

Now did Jesus have a bad memory?

- Did He forget that His mother was called Mary and His brothers were called James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? (Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3.)
- I don't think so do you?

So if Jesus didn't have a bad memory, I wonder what He meant.

- Listen to what Jesus went on to say:
- "*Then Jesus looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."* (Mark 3:34-35)

Jesus wasn't saying that His mother and His brothers and sisters weren't His family.

- He wasn't saying that they weren't important.

What Jesus was saying was that God was starting a new family;

- a family that was centred around relationship with Him and doing God's will,
- and that this family now took first priority.

You and I may have come from a small or a big family through birth.

- But we all have the amazing opportunity to be adopted into Jesus' Royal family through faith in Him.

God's family is found in every nation in the world.....so it is the biggest family on earth!

So look around you now.....these are some of your brothers and sisters!

- Learn to love them now for one day you will spend eternity with not only Jesus, but also with them.