



# Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

*Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: [www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR](http://www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR)

## Title: Mark 3: 31 – 35

Theme: Family of God

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### Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

Families are really special! They're the people who love us, care for us, and help us grow. In Jesus' time, families were very close – often everyone lived near each other, and cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents were all part of daily life. Family meant everything.

One day, while Jesus was teaching, someone told him that his mother and brothers were waiting outside. But Jesus said something surprising! He looked at the people sitting around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does what God wants is my brother, sister, and mother." (Mark 3:34–35)

Jesus wasn't saying that his own family didn't matter – he loved them very much. What he wanted everyone to understand was that God's love makes an even bigger family! Everyone who follows God and loves him becomes part of his family too. That means we belong not just to the family we live with, but also to a special, spiritual family made up of all God's people.

So, when we love and care for others the way God asks us to, we're showing that we're part of God's big family — a family full of love, kindness, and belonging.

**Cultural context:** In Jesus' time, *family* meant an extended household – not just parents and children, but a whole network of close relatives. Jesus' teaching was radical because he showed that following God creates a new kind of family that goes beyond blood ties.

**Avoid misunderstanding:** Be careful not to suggest that Jesus was rejecting or disowning His earthly family. Instead, highlight that he was *including more people* – inviting everyone who loves and follows God to belong.

**Language use:** Most Bible versions include gender-specific language like "brother" and "sister". This reflects how families were spoken about in that culture. You can make it inclusive for children by adding phrases like "part of God's big family" or "everyone who follows Jesus".

**Key focus:** God's family is a place where everyone belongs and is loved, no matter who they are or where they come from.

Here is a family film night based on the Lilo and Stitch family (Ohana means family). It can be shared with your families for a fun evening together or you could use it to host a family film night.

<https://bit.ly/familyfilmnigh>

## Together – prayer and games

Let's start our time with God and each other well

Use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

*All mighty God,*

*Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.*

*Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.*

*Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.*

*Amen.*

Alternatively, you may use the widgit prayer found in the Faith Adventures: Children Together or else the Lord's Prayer found at the end of this session.

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### Active game – Go Family

*You will need:*

- a deck of playing cards

**What you do:** It's basically a game of Go Fish that we have renamed. It's a lot of fun and the aim is to be the first to get four-of-a-kind matches (a family of four in cards, either numbers or suits). It can be played with either two players or up to six.

**Shuffle and deal the cards out to each player.** If there are two or three players, each person should get seven cards. If there are four or more players, each person should get five cards. Remove all the jokers from the deck before you shuffle and deal the cards.

**Spread the rest of the cards out face-down in the middle of the table.** This creates the “family pool” Make sure all of the cards stay face down so that no one can peek. If you don’t have a lot of room at the table, just stack the cards face down in the middle. When someone has to “Go Family”, they can just pick up the top card from the deck.

**Start your turn by asking one player if they have a specific card.** Take a look at the cards in your hand and choose to ask about cards you already have multiples of so you can make matches quicker. For example, if you have two jacks in your hand, you only need two more to make a match. The main thing to remember is that you can only ask one person at a time, and you can only ask about one rank of card (number or suit) at a time. You can only ask for a specific card if you have one or more of them in your hand already. For example, you can’t ask for threes if you don’t have a three in your hand. Keep in mind that once you ask about a specific card, the other players will know that you have that card in your hand. You can all strategise and try to keep track of who has what to give you the advantage in the game.

**Build the families.** If you have what someone asks for, you give it to them. If someone asks you if you have any queens and you do, then you have to give all of your queens to that person. You can’t keep any back in your hand, and you can’t lie.

**Take another turn if you get the cards you asked for.** If you keep getting the cards you need to make matches, you could possibly take several turns in a row before having to “Go Family” and pass the turn to the next player. You can ask the same person about a different card or ask a new person. Remember that you’re trying to make matches from the cards you have in your own hand.

**Tell the player to “Go Family” if you don’t have the cards they’re asking for.** If the person asked you for all of your queens and you don’t have any, tell them to “Go Family”. They have to take a card from the centre and the turn then passes to the next player.

**Lay down four-of-a-kind matches to get cards out of your hand.** You can’t hold matches in your hand. As soon as you get one, you have to lay it down in front of you so that everyone can see it. The person who gets rid of all their cards first wins the game.

Your group will want to play this game again and again.

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### Quieter game – Empires/families

This game builds on today’s session of family. The aim of the game is to get the biggest empire (family).

**You will need:**

- paper and pen

**What you do:**

Decide who will umpire the game. Then select a theme (eg film, character, food, cars etc). Each person playing writes on a piece of paper what they have chosen to be in the category (eg cars – Mini or Lamborghini). The slip of paper is then handed to the umpire, who ensures that no name is selected twice. When everyone has chosen, the umpire reads out, in any order, each chosen name **once**.

Those playing (not the umpire) now start to try and identify who or what each person is, by asking "X, are you a Mini?". If x is the Mini, he joins that person in their empire, and physically moves to sit with the 'leader' of the forming empire. As they got the right person, the leader gets to ask again: "Y, are you the Lamborghini?" If that person is, they too join the forming empire. If y is not a Lamborghini, y then chooses someone else and asks if they are... and the game continues, gradually building up more empires.

If you have been guessed, you then assist your empire to guess who/what other people are. If you are the 'leader' of an empire and your thing is guessed, you AND your ENTIRE empire have to get up and move to that person's empire. The winner is the leader whose empire has everybody in it. The umpire must never read out the list of things again during the game. Part of the game is trying to remember the list.

## Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

This link takes you to the Good News translation <https://bit.ly/MaRk3>

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)  
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

### Jesus' Mother and Brothers

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside the house and sent in a message, asking for him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around Jesus, and they said to him, "Look, your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, and they want you."

<sup>33</sup> Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" <sup>34</sup> He looked at the people sitting around him and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does what God wants is my brother, my sister, my mother."

*Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition) © 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved. For more information about GNT, visit [www.bibles.com](http://www.bibles.com) and [www.gnt.bible](http://www.gnt.bible).*

**Watch:** Short retelling and reflection from The Incredible Journey.  
[https://youtu.be/\\_99JJ\\_p1s44?si=Oms\\_W6gIO3iA1d9P](https://youtu.be/_99JJ_p1s44?si=Oms_W6gIO3iA1d9P)

Jesus' family are becoming concerned about his mission and ministry and that he might be putting himself at risk. They turn up to take him home. Watch the story here and consider the questions at the end.

### Questions for discussion

- Have you ever had anyone not understand your faith journey?
- How is our spiritual family as important as our biological family?

**Listen:** Listen to "Brother, sister let me serve you".  
[https://youtu.be/0JahFRDrSCs?si=\\_W47WLVYmDeqVnto](https://youtu.be/0JahFRDrSCs?si=_W47WLVYmDeqVnto)

### Questions for discussion

- Consider what the lyrics of this song says to you about what it means to be part of the family of God.

## Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

### A new way to explore the theme

This is a new way to explore the Bible passage and the theme for this week.

Alternatively, you may wish to use the Explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

### Fantasy families

Can you name any families that you know of? (You may need to encourage the children to think of families on the telly, families at church, animal families, etc)

There are many different types of families, and one such family is our family at church. We are all one family because we are all loved by the same God.

If you could create your own fantasy family made up of anyone real or imaginary, dead or alive, who would you include in it?

Allow some time for the group to come up with different members for their fantasy family.

Provide paper and pens to allow people to create that family. Very young children will need some support with this – you could use playdough with them.

Once everyone has had time to think and create a fantasy family, spend a short amount of time discussing everyone's choices.

Finish by reminding everyone that there are many different types of families. As well as the one we live within we have a spiritual family too because we are all loved by the same God.

### Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.



Shazam (12) 2019 DC Films by movieclips

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AONuDiRd5k>

Here is a short scene from the movie *Shazam*. In this scene, Billy and his foster brothers and sisters come together, each using their strengths, to help defeat Dr. Sivana.

Up to this point, Shazam has often faced dangers on his own. But here, as he fights side-by-side with his family, he realises that he is stronger not alone, but together with them.

- Have you ever faced a challenge where you needed help from family or friends? What happened?

### Group discussion

- I wonder if Jesus heard **him** say the words in the Bible passage?
- Who wouldn't you want in your family?
- What question would you ask anyone who is dead or alive, real or fake?
- How could we as a group be more welcoming?

**Commented [LW1]:** Who is "him"?

### Personal reflection

- The Bible passage says we are family if we are doing what God wants – I wonder what it is God wants us to do.
- I wonder how many people there are in God's family.
- Do you feel part of God's family?
- I wonder why Jesus didn't mention fathers.

## Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

### Praying together

**Prayers** Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from *Faith Adventures: Children Together* for this session or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively, light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.



### Share the light

*You will need:*

- candles or LED candles
- long matches

If you are unable to use real candles this prayer would still work using LED candles.

If you are using LED candles: To share light from one to another, first start with a 'lit' candle. Bump your candle against another person's candle like a fist bump. They then turn it on and bump another person's candle, and so on until they are all lit.

If you are using real flames: Start with a lit candle. Ensure all are standing in a row or a circle. The person with the lit candle allows the person next to them to light their candle from the flame. The next person then lights it from that person, and so on until all are lit.

**Be very careful of hair and other things which could be set alight and ensure you have a bucket of water near you in case of accidents.**

**Remind everyone to keep their eyes open as the prayer is said so they can keep an eye on their candle.**

God of light,

God of family.

We thank you that we are all part of a bigger family,

a spiritual family,

a family of God.

Help us to love one another as you have loved us.

Amen

### Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

#### Hand prints (whole church activity)

##### What you need:

- coloured paper or card
- scissors
- pencils
- pens, felt tips or colouring pencils
- decorations such as stickers, glitter or sequins
- blu tack or tape for display



##### What you do:

Give each young person a piece of paper or card and ask them to draw around their hand. Once done, they can cut out the hand shape carefully. Invite them to decorate their hand with colours and patterns that express who they are. Ask them to write their name on the hand and, if they wish, add a short promise, prayer or message of hope.

When everyone has finished, bring the group together to arrange the decorated hands in the shape of a cross on a wall or large piece of card. Secure the hands in place once the group is happy with the shape.

Take a moment to look at the finished cross together. Each hand represents an individual person, but together they form one picture of faith, promise and family.

You can also encourage the whole church to take part in this activity.

### God's family

How big is God's family? How many Christians are in each country? I wonder how you could find out. I wonder who would be considered part of God's family.

### Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today. If not, here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the “conversation starter” questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **I wonder if you feel you are part of God's family.**
- Research something suggested by JPIT Resources ([jpit.uk](http://jpit.uk)) or *Commitment for Life* ([cforl.co.uk](http://cforl.co.uk))
- What might God want you to be doing this week to be part of family.

Thank you for exploring the **Mark** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk](mailto:sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk) or by sharing it on [www.bit.ly/FACT\\_FB](http://www.bit.ly/FACT_FB)


 The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our sins. As we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory

For ever and ever. Amen

