

August 4 | Sunday

At the Movies: Fighting with My Family

Read [Acts 16:16-31](#)



05 | Mon – Original design | Read [Genesis 4:1-2 and 25-26](#)

In the beginning, God created the family, designed to be a place of support, protection, love and guidance. Sin changed that. You can see its repercussions, even in the first family on earth. Adam and Eve remained faithful even in the face of tragedy and passed down their knowledge of God to their many children. While your family of origin wasn't perfect, what positive things were you taught as you were growing up?

06 | Tue – The hometown disadvantage | Read [Matthew 13:55-57 / Mark 3:21](#)

Many people think Jesus' family consisted of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus so it may surprise you to know he had four half-brothers and at least two half-sisters, making it a family of 9 or more. Read how Jesus' family initially viewed his ministry and his claim to be the Son of God. Have you experienced this kind of 'unbelief' from your own family? Don't give up. Two of Jesus' brothers became spiritual leaders in the early church and wrote the book of *James* and the book of *Jude* in the Bible.

07 | Wed – Something to consider | Read [1 Corinthians 7:12-16](#)

When people marry, they become a family of two. If children come along, the family grows and so does the responsibility to teach them to know and love God. Paul gave some thought-provoking advice to those in the early church who were married to an unbeliever. Do you think it is still applicable in 2019? These kinds of decisions are very personal and no one can make them for you but it is interesting to consider the life-changing influence that a believer can have in their own family. Has this happened to you or someone you know?

08 | Thu – Who's watching you? | Read [Acts 16:22-34](#)

You may not have a spouse or children but you can certainly impact the families of those around you. Paul was a single man, doing what God had called him to do. But in this case, Paul and his co-worker, Silas, ended up beaten and thrown in jail. How would you have reacted in this situation? Their response was so astounding it resulted in an entire family being saved. Consider who might be listening when you walk through rough times.

09 | Fri – Big brother | Read [Mark 3:31-35 and Romans 8:34](#)

You may know Jesus as the Son of God, your Savior, but do you know him as your brother? That is the family relationship Jesus offers when he calls you *his* sister or brother. Jesus is the kind of brother who sticks up for you, has your back, never lets you down, and will always help no matter what you need. Even now, Jesus is interceding for you in heaven. How does seeing Jesus as your brother impact your relationship with him?

10 | Sat – A forever family | Read [1 Peter 2:16-17](#)

The idea of family is so precious to God that he is creating one for Himself. This family is filled with those who have chosen to receive the new life Jesus' sacrifice provided. You may have been an only child but now you have brothers and sisters in Christ that can be as close as if you grew up in the same house. You may be estranged from your family because of circumstances beyond your control but this family of God can fill in the gaps. Who do you know that needs this kind of family too? Share the love.