

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.  
Out of Town: Daniel, Samuel, and Sarah Law.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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# Jesus' Family

By Derek Long

The Bible makes the point Jesus came to earth and lived as a man so He can sympathize with what we experience (Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16). Jesus came to earth and lived as a part of a physical family. Jesus is aware of what family life is like and the challenges families may experience at times. The Bible does not give us many details about the family life of Jesus but it does provide some information which may be helpful and encouraging to us when we deal with issues within our families.

Jesus apparently was born into an economically poor family. The Bible may not come out and directly tell us Jesus was born into a poor family but we can arrive at this conclusion through a necessary inference. After the birth of Jesus, Jesus' parents, "brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22, NKJV). Mary was required by the law to offer a sacrifice at this time and she offered, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons" (Luke 2:24, NKJV). Leviticus 12 is where the instruction for these sacrifices was given. Leviticus 12:8 says, "And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may

bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons - one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean” (NKJV). Obviously, Mary must have been too poor to be able to offer a lamb if she instead offered two turtledoves or two young pigeons. People today may grow up in a family where financial resources are limited. Jesus understands what it is like to be in such a family. When the Bible teaches us to be content in whatever state we are in whether rich or poor, Jesus knows what that is like (Philippians 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:5).

Jesus had what would be considered by today’s standards a large family. The people at Nazareth where Jesus grew up rejected Him and spoke about those they supposed to be His siblings. Mark 6:3 says, “Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” (NKJV). Jesus apparently had at least four half-brothers and sisters as well. We are talking about a family of probably at least seven children. He knows what it is like to have siblings and relate to them. John 7:5 tells us His brothers did not believe Jesus at one point in His life. Jesus knows what it is like not to be able to convince all your family members of the truth. Mark 3:21 may have reference to Jesus’ family members when it says, “But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, ‘He is out of His mind’” (NKJV). In Mark 3:31 we find Jesus’ brothers and mother calling Him. If this is a reference to His family, Jesus knows what it is like for a person’s family to view them as crazy because of one’s service to God. If Jesus’ brothers did not believe Jesus was who He claimed to be, it would have had to bring up questions about their parents’ purity

prior to their marriage. If Jesus was not the Son of God, then He was not born of a virgin. If Jesus was not born of a virgin, then at least Mary was not pure prior to marriage. Jesus would possibly know what it is like for rumors to circulate among family members which were not accurate and perhaps such exists in our families at times as well.

Jesus knows what it is like to have parents who were not perfect. Jesus was without sin but Jesus’ parents were not without sin but sinned as all other accountable humans besides Jesus have (Romans 3:10, 23). It would be reasonable to think Jesus would have been aware of some of the faults of his parents even though they appear to be righteous individuals overall (Matthew 1:19). Jesus’ parents not only sinned but also made mistakes which might not be actually sinful. Luke 2:43-50 tells of how Jesus’ parents leave Him behind accidentally in Jerusalem when He was twelve years old. Jesus knew what it was like to have parents who made mistakes and sinned. He can relate in that way to us who have parents who have sinned and make mistakes as well. Jesus is a great example of being, “subject to them” (Luke 2:51, NKJV), even though His parents were not perfect people in the sense of never making any mistakes or never doing anything wrong.

Hopefully these thoughts help us realize Jesus understands what we are going through when we deal with family issues. Hopefully if we know He can sympathize, we will be motivated to, “come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16, NKJV), as we go through issues in our family. As a song we might sometimes sing reminds us, “Jesus knows and cares.”