

## The Importance of family to Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ belonged to a human family and experienced family relationships during his earthly ministry. Such relationships underline the fact of Christ's humanity.

Jesus Christ was born into a family and has a family tree.

*“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who*

*was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For with God nothing shall be impossible. -Luke 1:34*  
Also Mt 1:1-17; 3:23-38



His birth was a natural one!

Jesus Christ's conception was miraculous, his birth natural.

*“To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. <sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the*

*days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:5*

See also Lk 2:21, 22

See Lev 12:2-4 for the instructions concerning purification after childbirth.

He grew up within a family Lk 2:48  
See also Lk 2:51-52 *Luke 2:51* *And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*

Jesus Christ's family is mentioned during his earthly ministry

*Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. -Mark 6:3*

Mt 13:55-56 pp Mk 6:3 See also Mt 12:46-47 pp Mk 3:31-32 pp Lk 8:19-20; Jn 2:1-12

## Jesus Christ's natural brothers

James *“But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. Gal 1:19*

This verse gives support to the traditional view that James, elder at Jerusalem and writer of the NT letter which bears his name was the Lord's brother.

(Other references to him include Ac 15:13; 21:18; 1Co 15:7; Jas 1:1.). See also Mt 13:55 pp Mk 6:3.

Jude: *“Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called. ~Jude 1*

See also Mt 13:55 pp Mk 6:3 Jude is understood to be a variation of Judas.

## The nature of Jesus Christ's relationships with his family

He was obedient to and caring toward his parents: *“And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. Lk 2:51 See also Jn 19:26-27*

The will of his heavenly Father took precedence over the wishes of his natural family: *“And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. <sup>4</sup> Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. ~Jn 2:3-4*

In John's Gospel, Jesus Christ's “time” (or “hour”) is his cross. Here Christ insists that only his heavenly Father can dictate the course of his ministry. See also Mt 12:48-50 pp Mk 3:33-35; Lk 2:48-49; Jn 7:6-8

**His family did not fully understand his ministry:** *“His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. <sup>4</sup> For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. <sup>5</sup> For neither did his brethren believe in him. Jn 7:3-5 See also Mk 3:21*

**Jesus Christ's natural family were among the first Christians:** *These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. Acts 1:14 See also 1Co 9:5*

