



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH  
TRANSFORMING Lives · EXPANDING His Kingdom

Brothers of Jesus  
SCEPTICISM to SERVANTHOOD

PS DR NG KOK MOI | 19 NOV 2017



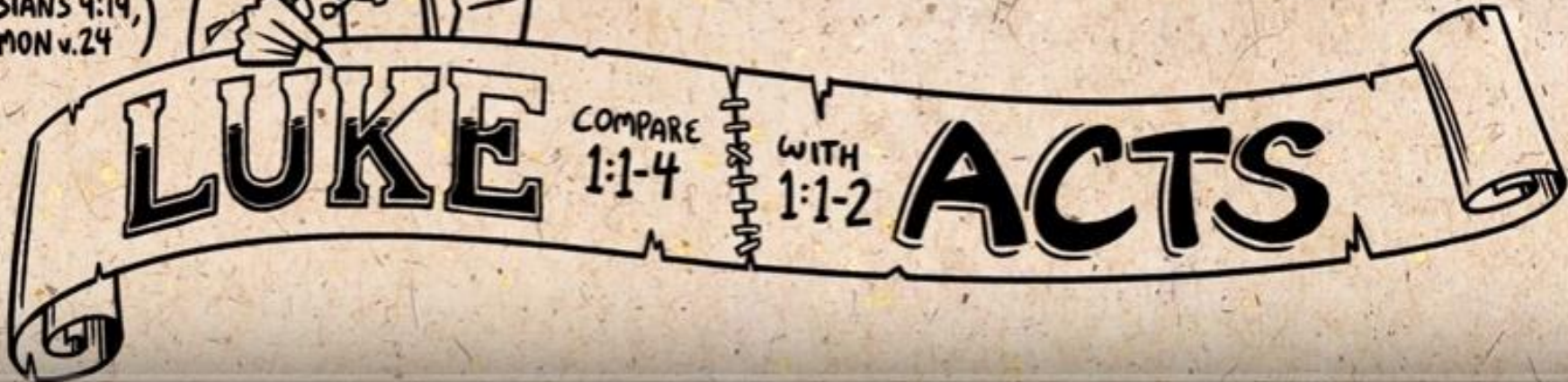
- A UNIFIED, TWO-VOLUME WORK
- FROM THE SAME AUTHOR:

# LUKE



- A TRAVELING  
CO-WORKER  
WITH PAUL

(COLOSSIANS 4:14,  
PHILEMON v.24)





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1:1-4 PREFACE

**HOW & WHY**  
LUKE WROTE HIS  
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**HOW:** CONSULTS  
EYEWITNESS  
TRADITIONS



# LUKE COMPARE 1:1-4 WITH 1:1-2 ACTS



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**WHY:** TO SHOW  
HOW THE  
STORY OF JESUS  
FULFILLS THE STORY  
OF GOD & ISRAEL  
... & THE WHOLE WORLD

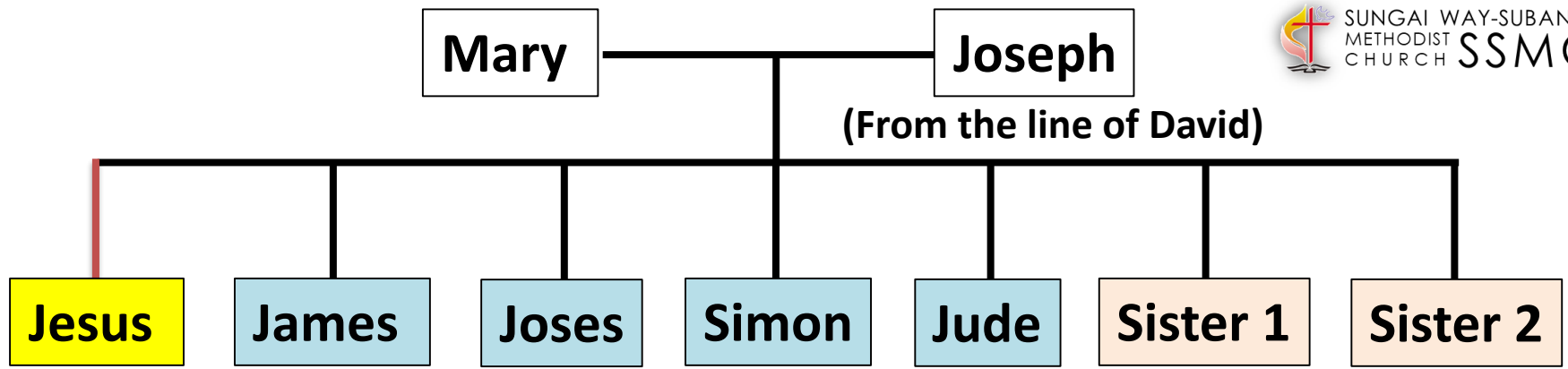
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# Brothers of Jesus





## Jesus' siblings:

4 named brothers (Mk 6:3; Mt 13:55)

- James
- Joseph (Joses)
- Simon
- Judas (Jude)

2 unnamed sisters



The Catholic Church teaches us that Mary was a virgin at the conception of Jesus and *remained a virgin throughout her life and until the end of time.*



## *The* **PERPETUAL VIRGINITY OF MARY**

Matt 1:25 – “But he (Joseph) had no union with her (Mary) until she gave birth to a son.”

# *The* ~~PERPETUAL VIRGINITY OF MARY~~

- Joseph's children from a previous marriage
- Cousins of Jesus
- Closely associated with the family
- Mary's Levirate marriage

“Half brothers / step brothers”





# What happened to Joseph, husband of Mary?

- Betrothed to Mary
- Planned to divorce Mary quietly
- Angel appeared in a dream – married Mary (Matt 1:25)
- Birth of Jesus & Escape to Egypt (Mt 2:13ff)



# What happened to Joseph, husband of Mary?

- Joseph the carpenter
- 12 yr old Jesus @ temple (Lk 2:41ff)



- **Mostly likely died before Jesus' public ministry**



# ☹️ ☹️ Being Siblings to Jesus ☹️ ☹️

- Luke 2:51 – Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them.
- Heb 4:15 – “tempted in every way... yet without sin.”

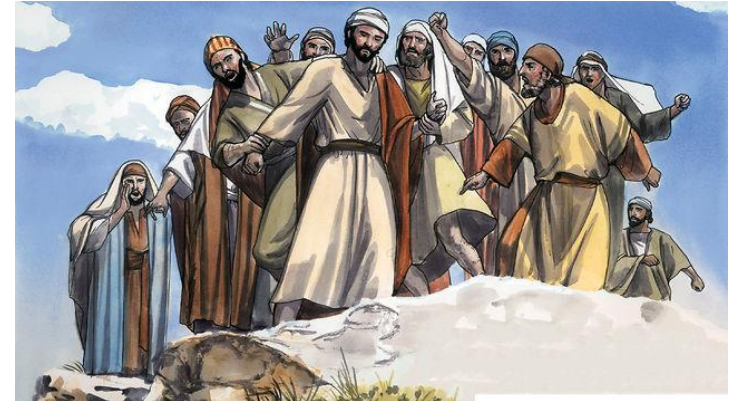


# Luke 4:16-30 (Rejected @ Nazareth)

- Lk 3:21 -- Baptized @ River Jordan
- Lk 4:1 -- Temptation @ Judean Desert
- Lk 4:14 -- Returned to Galilee
- Lk 4:16 -- ... then to Nazareth – went to synagogue
- Lk 4:28ff – rejected & attempt to get rid of him

- No physical defence for Jesus
- No verbal defence for Jesus

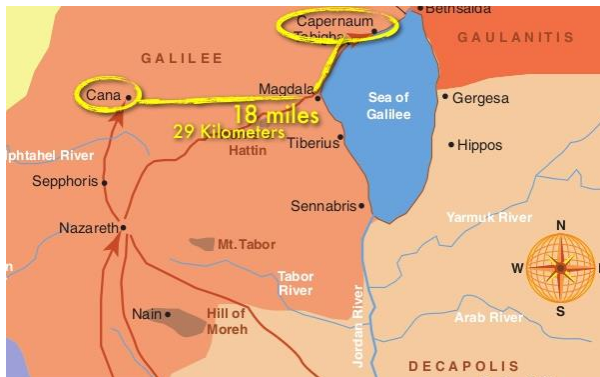
**Reason: Jn 7:5 – neither did his brothers believe in him**





# Wedding @ Cana (Jn 2:1-12)

- The “next day” – 3X in John 1
- John 2:1 – on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day
- Most likely wedding of a close relative
- Jesus’ first miraculous sign
- Jesus’ brothers not mentioned (not there)
- Jn 2:12 – Jesus went down to Capernaum with his mother & brothers & his disciples, for a few days



# Mark 3: 21 & 31-34 / Luke 8:19

- Entered “full time ministry”: preaching, teaching, healing, driving out demons
- After the appointing of the 12 apostles (Matt 10; Mk 3: 13; Luke 6:13ff)
- Mk 3:20 – Jesus ministering & reaction from his brothers:
  - Mk 3:21 – “He is out of his mind”
  - Mk 3:31 – “... sent someone in to call him...”

- Their concern
- Their frustration

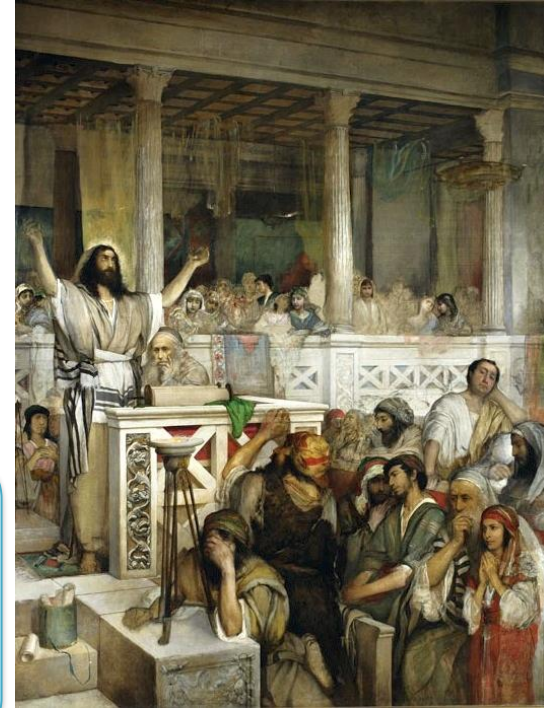




# Mark 6:4

- Mk 4ff – “by the lake” (Sea of Galilee)
- Mk 6 -- Returned to Nazareth, his hometown
- Mk 6:4 – “Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honour.”

Though Jesus had established himself as a well known prophet and a healer, his own people (brothers) didn't accept him.



# John 7:1-24

- Feast of Tabernacle (around October)
- Note the scepticism & sarcasm of his brothers.

**“You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do.”**

**“No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.”**



# John 19:26-27 (At Calvary)

- None of his brothers were there
- Only his mother
- Jesus said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son” and to John the disciple, “Here is your mother.”

## Jesus

- Rejection
- Broken heart
- Yet... in submission



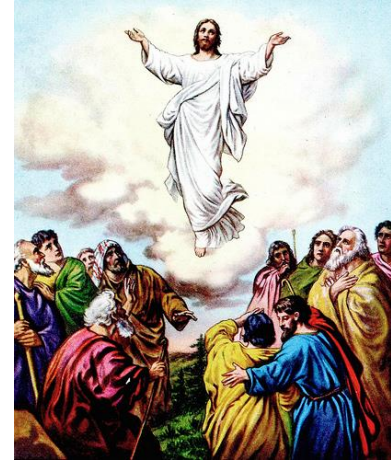
## Brothers of Jesus

- Non believing
- Sceptical
- Sarcastic
- Hostile



# Acts 1:13-14

- Crucifixion @ Calvary
- Resurrection 3 days later
- 40 days – intensive course
- Ascension @ Mt Olives – “taken up before their very eyes”
- Acts 1:13 – those present @ prayer meeting were Peter, John etc (the disciples)
- Acts 1:14 – along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with HIS BROTHERS.



atLast!

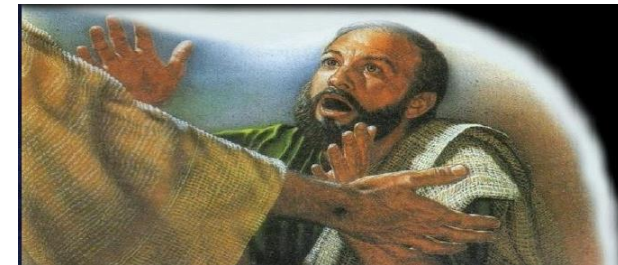
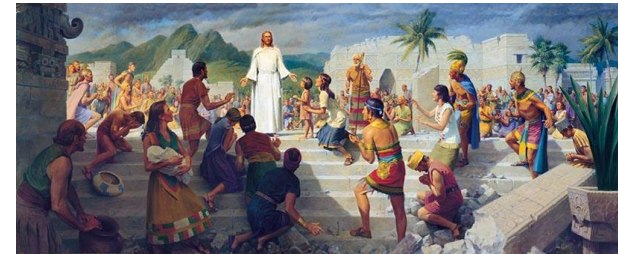
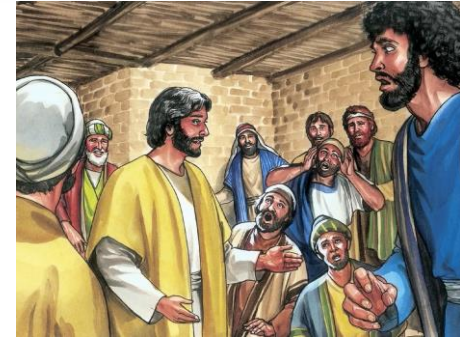
# 1 Cor 15:5-7

**Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day... according to Scriptures...**

**... and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve...**

**After that, He appeared to more than 500 of the brothers at the same time....**

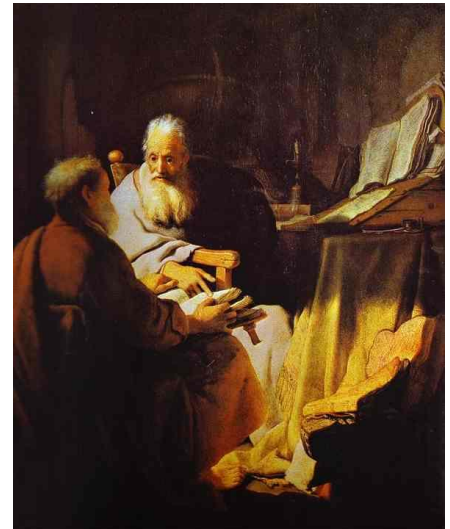
**Then He appeared to James....**



# Galatians

- James quickly rose to position of leadership
- By about 38 AD... “Then after 3 years, I (Paul) went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him for 15 days. I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord’s brother” (Gal 1:18-19)
- Gal 2:9 – “James, Peter and John, those reputed to be PILLARS”

- James – the brother of Jesus.
- James -- an Apostle
- James – Pillar of the church





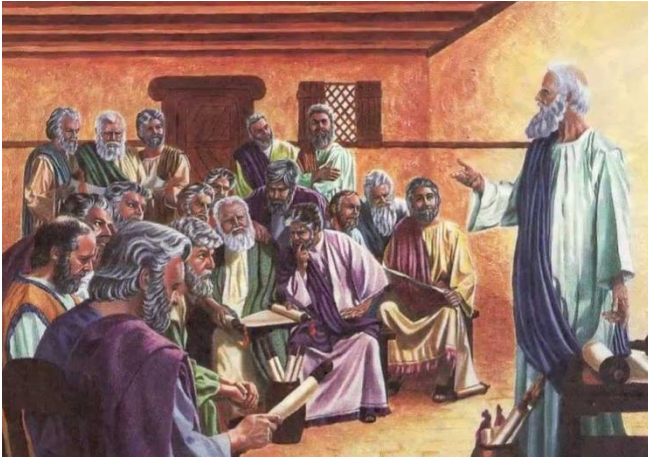
# Acts 12:7-17

- **Acts 12:2 – Herod killed James, brother of John**
- **Acts 12:3 – Herod imprisoned Peter**
- **Acts 12:7-11 – Peter freed by an angel**
- **Acts 12:12-17 – Peter went to house of Mary, John Mark’s mother.**
- **V 17; Peter instruction – “Tell James and the brothers about this.”**

**James – possibly the 2<sup>nd</sup> in command  
in the Jerusalem Church**

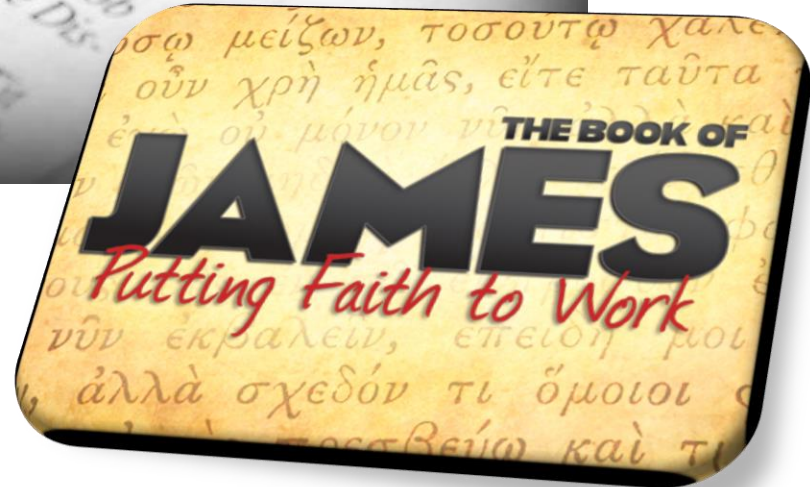
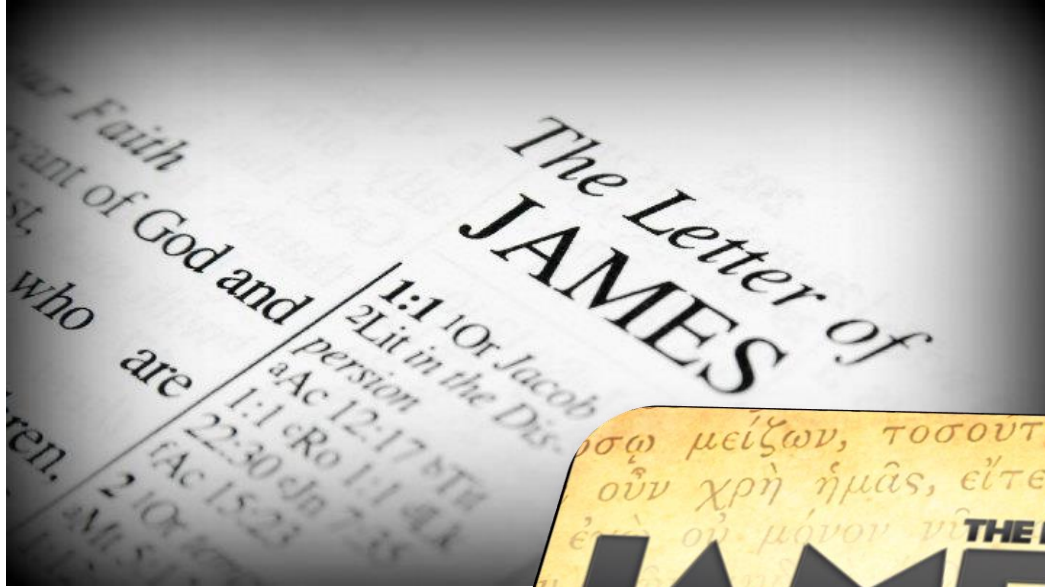
# Acts 15 : Jerusalem Council

- Dealt with the problem created by the Circumcision Party from Judea to Antioch.
- Paul & Barnabas (with others) went up to Jerusalem to check with the apostles & elders



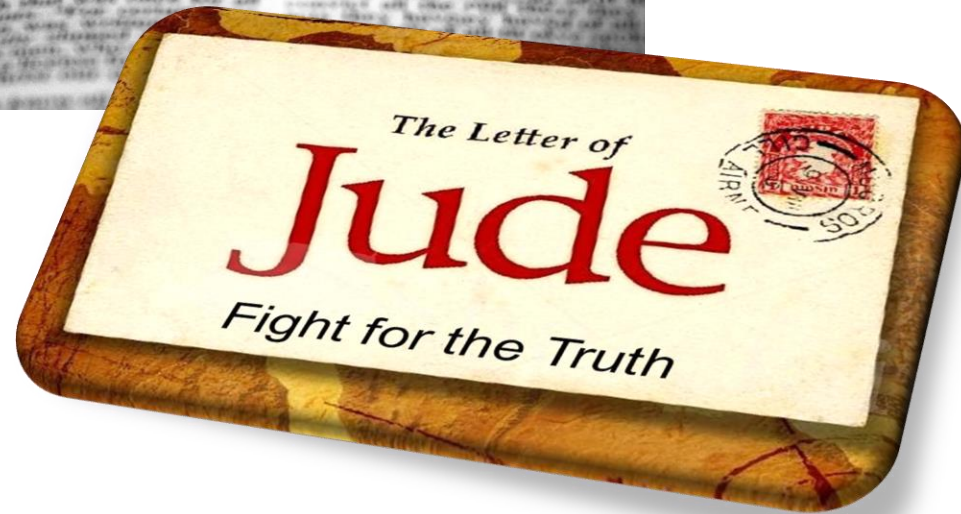
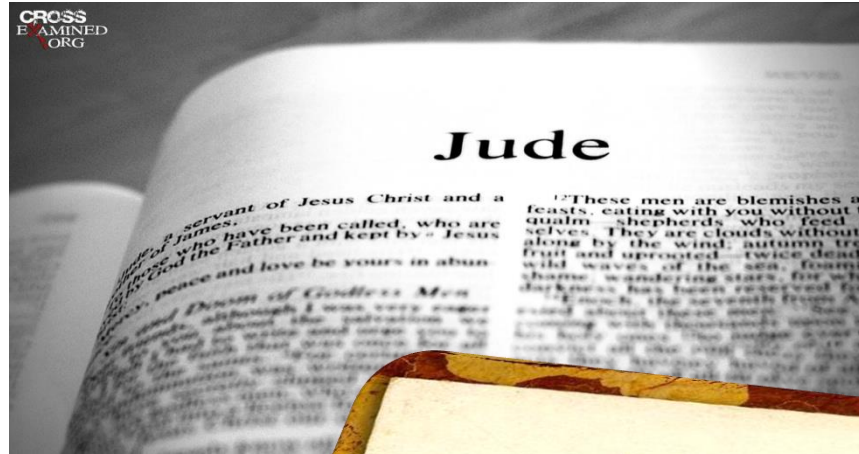
- Report by Paul & Barnabas
- View of Circumcision Party
- Peter – most influential
- James proposed the final accepted solution... “It is my judgment...”

# JAMES: Non-Believer → Believer → Author





# JUDE: Non-Believer → Believer → Author



# Conclusion

- 1. Being the only believer in my family**
  - Non believing
  - Scepticism / Rejection / sarcacism
  
- 2. Sharing Christ with family members**
  - a. Challenging as they know us up close and personal
  - b. We are the one “best positioned”
  - c. We testify by words & life.... Conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit



*"Preach the Gospel  
at all times and  
when necessary  
use words."*

*Francis of Assisi*

**PREACH  
THE GOSPEL**  
And since it is necessary,  
**USE WORDS**



# You are God's representative to your family

*L*ive in such a way that those who know you, but don't know God will come to know God because they know you.

- Pray
- Live
- Speak

# SCEPTICISM to SERVANTHOOD



Personal Encounter with Jesus



- Pray
- Live
- Speak

