

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Who, Who, Who Is Jesus' Family?<sup>1</sup>**

*Object: Photo of an owl, sketch tablet, drawing instruments*

**Theme:** "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." (v.35)

Good morning. Thank you for joining me this morning. I have a picture to show you this morning. Who can tell me what kind of bird is shown in this picture? (*Wait for responses.*) That's correct. This is a picture of an OWL. I think owls are fascinating and are kind of mysterious. Artists and photographers love owls too.



Do you know what kind of a sound an owl makes? (*Wait for responses.*) That's correct. Owls say: "Who, who, who!" Let's all repeat that together: "Who, who, who." (*Repeat with everyone.*) When an owl hoots and says "who, who, who," the owl is asking a very human question. I think that makes an owl a very wise bird. When an owl hoots "who," it is asking a question we can find in the bible.

Jesus once asked the owl question, "Who, who, who?" He asked, "**Who is my family?**" Now I have an important question to ask of you: "Who, who, who is your family?" How many of you have brothers or sisters? Or a mother or a father? (*Children answer and chat about their family.*) Your family could look like this: (*draw a large open ended circle, sketch stick figures inside*).

One day a crowd was sitting around Jesus when his mother, his sisters and his brothers came to visit him. Someone said to him that his family had come to see him. Since Jesus was teaching the crowd about God he didn't just say, "*Hello mother, hello brothers and sisters.*" Instead he asked the owl question, "**Who, who, who are my mother and my brothers?** Then he answered his own question. Can you guess what he said? He told the crowd: "**Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.**" (*Draw a spiral thereby expanding the open circle.*) Jesus' family is more than our blood relatives. Everyone who does God's will is a mother, brother, and sister. (*Draw stick figures in the expanding spiral.*)

So what is God's will? God will is . . .

- that we believe in Jesus;
- that we share with each other;
- that we love each other;
- and that we give generously to others, especially to the poor and the hungry and the homeless.

When we do these things we are doing God's will and being Jesus' brother or sister.

Is there a way or person to whom you can do God's will this week?

**Prayer:** Jesus, our brother, we are so glad to be a part of your family busily doing God's will. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup>Based on Fadness, Arley K. <https://www.sermonsuite.com/cssplus/who-who-who-jesus-family>.