



When it comes to understanding why Jesus came, we don't have to put words in his mouth. He made a number of very clear statements about the subject. So this series will explore the reasons behind the greatest mission ever.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick began by reminding us that *“Some issues have a greater capacity to divide families than others.”* What are some of the issues that often divide families?

2 **Read Matthew 10:16-23.** What stands out to you or surprises you from these words by Jesus? What do you think it felt like to be a disciple and hear Jesus say that these types of things would happen?

3 **PUT JESUS FIRST... and some relationships won't last. Read 10:34-36 and Mark 10:29-30.** It is important to note that *“Jesus is not meaning that disturbing the peace is the purpose of His coming; He is acknowledging that it is often the effect of His coming.”* In what ways can a person's decision to follow Jesus lead to potential division? How have you seen or experienced Jesus disturbing the peace in a family?

4 **Peace is very important to Jesus.** Jesus never advocated violence as a way to advance the kingdom (see **Luke 22:49-51**). Rick went on to say, *“Jesus came to wage peace wherever possible, and to train His disciples to go into the world as His ‘peace corps.’”* **Read Matthew 5:9 and Romans 12:18.** Why is this so important for us to remember? Share some examples of how you've seen the kingdom come through the offer of peace.

5 **Peace is not more important than Jesus.** Rick said *“The King did bring a sword in the sense that He came to cut us off from all our illegitimate allegiances. He will not accept any place but first place. And that means Jesus is willing to disturb the peace when it comes to our most sacred idol—our families.”* **Read Matthew 10:37-38; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 9: 59-62, and 11:27-28** to see how Jesus radically de-idolized the nuclear family. What shocks you most about these words from Jesus? What are some of the negative consequences or outcomes of putting our family before God? How is putting Jesus before our family an example of how we “take up our crosses?”

6 **LOVE JESUS MOST... and you will love others more.** Rick pointed out that *“The best thing you can do for your family is put Jesus first.”* Why is that statement so significant and true? What are some of the positive implications of consistently doing this?

7 What is one thing you can do this week to make/keep Jesus more important than any other relationship in your life?

