

# Family Is God's Idea

**Dear Facilitator:** This lesson begins in Genesis 2 and 3 where God created the world, including the first family.

Since this is the first session, you might want to help your families feel comfortable with one another by doing an activity that introduces each family member.


It might be helpful for you to know what we hope to accomplish through this lesson. Participants will:

1. Explain that God created the idea of family.
2. Demonstrate the importance of getting to know each family member.

We are praying that God will help you as you prepare the lesson. We hope that the families in your group will grow together in God's love and become a source of friendship and support for one another.


*Blessings*

## Welcome *5 minutes*

 **Say:** We are so glad that you have joined us and want you to know that God loves you! Your presence here speaks volumes about how much you value your family!

During the next few weeks, we will learn more about who we are as families, how we can support one another, and what we as families should hope for in the future.

Together we will learn how to nurture our families into loving units where each family member belongs and grows. This includes the extended family and those who are invited by parents to come along side to encourage your families' growth.

 **Say:** Today's teaching objectives are to:

1. Explain that God created the idea of family.
2. Demonstrate the importance of getting to know each family member.

## Introduction *5 minutes*

God originated the idea of family in the very first book of the Bible—the book of Genesis. When God created Adam and Eve, He created the first family and put them in just the right place to live and grow.

In the second and third chapters of Genesis, we find the description of God's idea of family and how it all started.

As we read further, we see that even though there were problems that arose in families (e.g. Cain and Abel), God's grace was at work redeeming families.

God still extends His grace to families today and wants us to understand that He loves us and our families in whatever situation we may find ourselves.



**Share:** At this point, you should share an example on how you or someone you know experienced God's grace and provision for a family.

## Family & Table Talk 20 minutes



**Say:** As we eat this meal, we'd like to have you talk about your family.

1. What do you like about your family and why?
2. Who are some of the people you consider to be part of your family and why?

*After the meal, children are dismissed to their group.*

*As you begin this portion of the evening, explain that each time you will start with the overview and then the lesson time.*

*Notes*

<i>40 minutes</i>	
<h1>Parent Training</h1>	
<i>Identity</i>	<b>FAMILY IS GOD'S IDEA</b>

I've often wondered if there is some way to be a great parent in training my children. God started the first family and gave parents the job of training and teaching their children. This may seem like an overwhelming job, since none of our children came with instructions.

As parents, we appreciate our children, and we want to spend time with them. Parenting isn't always easy, but you are here because you care deeply about your families and want to do your very best!

As parents, it is very important to get to know our children and figure out what makes them tick.

We can know our children better by spending time with them, encouraging them, and communicating with them. We can also ask God and others to help us along the way.

In a few minutes, we will be sharing examples of how we can spend time, encourage, and talk to our children.

Family is God's idea!

As we think about teaching and training our children, let's start by talking about the joys and challenges of parenting.

Ask parents to write down one joy and one challenge relating to parenting. Have them share their answers with the group at their table (or with the whole group if you have 15 or fewer participants).

The joys and challenges of parenting help us discover ways to better understand and know our children. Again, we can do this by spending time with them, encouraging them, and talking with them.

## DISCUSS

Let's discuss a few questions and discover some insights from you as parents on how these might help you to get to know your children better.

(This activity will help parents connect with one another as they share their parenting joys and challenges with other parents. As you listen to the responses, point out that these are opportunities to get to know your children better. Write the ideas on a chalkboard/whiteboard.)

- If you could set up a perfect day with your kids, what would you do?
- If you had a completely free day, how would you spend it?
- What is something about your kids that makes you proud of them?
- What are some ways you could reduce interruptions when you are with your children?
- What words would you use to praise efforts and identify success in your children?

You created a great list of practical ideas to know and encourage your children. This week, study your children, try some of the activities, enlist others to help you, and remember, "Family is God's idea!"

## SUMMARY

We covered a lot of material today during our short time together. Our objectives were to:

1. Explain that God created the idea of family.
2. Demonstrate the importance of getting to know each family member.

Use the closing time to ask participants for their feedback about the evening. Below are a couple of questions that may be used or adjusted to fit the evening. It's important for different learning styles to be able to summarize, give feedback, or share ideas. You will begin next week's session by asking participants to share something they've tried or



## Scripture SUPPORT

### **Proverbs 9:10**

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

### **Jeremiah 1:5**

*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.*

### **Genesis 2:18**

*The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone."*

### **Genesis 1:28**

*God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number."*

### **Psalms 127:3**

*Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.*

### **Proverbs 22:6**

*Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

### **Exodus 20:12**

*Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

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what made a positive difference in their families during the week.

Encourage parents to be wise builders and role models.

Children may be invited back to the session to end the evening with worship and/or prayer for each family.

To end our lesson, please answer the following:

1. Who has an insight about something you've learned or want to try?
2. What impressed you about your role as a parent and God's idea of families?

### **QUOTE TO SHARE**

“Children are remarkably perceptive. Their eyes ever observe, their ears ever listen, and their minds ever process the messages they absorb. If they see us patiently providing a happy home atmosphere for family members, they will imitate that attitude for the rest of their lives. The wise parent realizes that every day the building blocks are being laid for the child's future.”

Ages 4-16

40 minutes

# Student Training

*Identity*

**FAMILY IS GOD'S IDEA**

## Objectives

- Help children to be aware of why they were created.
- Help children be aware of the reason God created family.
- Help children be aware of the blessings and benefits of belonging in a family.
- Help children be aware of the roles and responsibilities of family members.

We are going to have some fun spending time together and learning about why God created families.

Family is people who love you, protect you, and support you while you grow to be the person that God created you to be.

God created the entire universe and everything in it! He wanted to make a wonderful place for people to live. His plan was to create people who would love Him, worship Him, and serve Him by demonstrating His love by being good stewards over the earth and the people in the earth.

God decided He would bless the earth by putting a special gift inside of each child born to make the world a better place.

When God finished creating the heavens and earth, He was very pleased! He knew that it was a perfect place to live for the people He created.

Then He created a man and named him Adam. After God created Adam, God said it was not good for Adam to be alone (Genesis 2:18). Adam needed someone to love him, support him, and care for him. So, God created Adam's wife, Eve, so they could be a family. God was so excited about His creation. He said it was very good! Adam and Eve became the first two people to form a family. God gave Adam and Eve the responsibility to have many children and to fill the earth with people. He wanted Adam and Eve to teach them to love and honor Him (Genesis 1:28). Soon

## *Notes*

God blessed them with two sons to add to their family (Psalm 127:3).

God forewarned Adam and Eve that they would sometimes experience problems and challenges in addition to the good times they experienced as a family. He told them that with the love and support of family, they would be able to solve problems, overcome obstacles, and make it through those difficult times.

Look around the room. Just think... God created everyone in this room for a specific reason and purpose.

He thought about you before you were even in your mother's womb (Jeremiah 1:5). He needed you to be born to bring a special gift to the world that only you could bring. Therefore, He put that gift inside of you, created you, and caused you to be born. God's plan for you is to have a loving relationship with Him and to grow into a healthy, wise, and compassionate person who shows His love and serves Him by using the gift He placed inside of you.

Just like with Adam, God didn't want you to be alone. He knew you would need people in your life to love you, support you, and care for you... your family! He knew you needed to be in a nurturing environment where you could discover your gift, begin to develop it, and use it to be a blessing to others. You needed parents to teach you the necessary information and lessons you would need to know to grow up to become who God wants you to be (Proverbs 22:6).

Families are close to God's heart! Because God loves us so much, He made sure each one of us would belong to a family. He designed all families to be different, and every person's family was selected especially for them.



## DISCUSS

- Lead children in a discussion about why they were created.
- Lead children in a discussion about why God gave us families.
- Talk about what it would be like if we didn't belong to a family.
- Talk about what we like about belonging to a family.
- Talk about parent and children's roles and responsibilities in their family.
- Talk about how children can be a blessing to their parents and others in their family.



## Activities

Activities are age appropriate. One is for young children. Another is focused on ages 4-11. The third is for older children ages 12-16.

### YOUNG CHILDREN

Have them draw a picture of their family and tell something they like about their family.

### AGES 4-11

#### Materials

Paper

Pencils, markers, and crayons

#### Have children view YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/TqulKel9qDE>

(If not possible, do activity without video.)

#### Have children write a free verse poem about their family.

- Have each child write three to five sentences about something they like about their family.
- After they have written their sentences, put them in the best sounding order.

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- Write the sentences to form a poem, “What I like About My Family”.
- Have them share their poems.

## **AGES 12-16**

### **Materials**

Paper

Pencils, markers, and crayons

### **Have children view YouTube:**

<https://youtu.be/TqulKel9qDE>

(If not possible, do activity without video.)

### **Have children work in a group to write a rap song about what they like about their family.**

- First, have children collaborate to write four to six lines about “What I Like About My Family.”
- Next, have children put the lines in the best order.
- Finally, have the children tap the beat on the table top adding the words.




**CHALLENGE QUESTION**

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE A BLESSING  
TO YOUR PARENTS AND TO OTHERS  
IN YOUR FAMILY?

**CHALLENGE COMMITMENT**

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO TO WORK  
ON THE CHALLENGE QUESTION  
THIS WEEK?

	<b>AFFIRMATION</b> <i>Have children repeat:</i>
	<i>I was created to be a blessing!</i>