

Your Family Has a Kingdom Purpose

Dear Facilitator: This week we are going to focus on your families' kingdom purpose. The scripture story for tonight's lesson is found in Genesis 1:26: "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." The setting of this scripture is the story of creation. God created everything with a purpose, including our families.

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

Participants will:


1. Reflect God's image to others.
2. Take care of the earth.

During the lessons on family legacy, we will articulate the "why" of each lesson, and our hope is that at the end, all will have better understanding of God's plans for families. Why does my family have a kingdom purpose? Because God made families to reflect His image and to rule over the earth.


We pray that God will give you direction and clarity as you prepare the lesson and activities. 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:** Welcome back! I hope it's been a good week for all of you as you have been working diligently on many things that are positively influencing and leading your family.

Last week we spent time talking about why it is important for families to value education and learning.


 **Ask:** Did anyone try something this past week that made a positive difference in your family that you would be willing to share?

Introduction 5 minutes

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

1. Reflect God's image to others.
2. Take care of the earth.

Family & Table Talk 20 minutes

 **Say:** Being a good neighbor is part of how we can fulfill our purpose as a family. Every family has a purpose. God created families specifically to reflect His image in a unique way. God also created families to rule over the earth. This means to take care of the earth and all that is in the earth.

1. What does your family take care of?
2. When or how does your family show others about God?
3. What are some words or pictures or colors that make you think of family?

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.



How was the dinner discussion? Did anyone learn anything about how your family reflects God? Did anyone learn anything about what represents your family? Tonight, we want to consider our family purpose and then create a log that shows everyone that purpose.

Let's think back to all the lessons we have covered in this series. Review lessons.

We pursue learning and education. We figure out what we need to do to work on our plan. As we do all these things, we also remember that who we are as friends and neighbors reflects God's image.

All these topics have led us to begin to discover our families' kingdom purpose. Remember the "why" questions and answers? We often think of purpose as it relates to an individual when we talk about it at church; however, it is not unusual to think about a group having a purpose—companies do it all the time.

A family is a special group of people with a special purpose.

The Bible tells us about that special purpose during the story of creation. Genesis 1:26

says, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

The setting of this scripture is the story of creation. God created everything with a purpose, including our families.

God not only created man but also woman. He instructed them to fill the earth. Genesis tells us that God gave a job and a purpose to those He created to reflect His image and to "rule" over the earth.

Ruling over the earth means to take care of the earth. How my family "rules" over the earth may look very different from your family. This shows us that each of our families has a unique kingdom purpose to live out for God.

Notes

DISCUSS

- In what ways is your family unique in how you rule over or care for the world around you?
- How does your family reflect God's love to others through the unique ways you rule over the earth?

We want to help everyone represent your unique family purpose through the creation of a special logo for your family. We are going to take everything we have done the last few weeks and create a unique family logo for each of you. Logos are simply images and words that represent a group. Think of popular logos in fashion, music, food, or other areas. (Bring picture of logos.)

Create a family logo.

1. Review your notes from "Family & Table Talk" time with your children and any other notes from this series.
2. Think about what image most represents your family. It can have your family initials. It can be an object that symbolizes your family. It can be several images together. You can also think about different colors that represent your family.
3. Choose from the art supplies provided.
4. Create your family logo. You can get started and complete this with the assistance of your children.

SUMMARY

We covered a lot of material in the lesson.

Our objectives were to:

1. Reflect God's image to others.
2. Take care of the earth.

Is there anyone who would like to share his or her family logo?

We hope that tonight you have been encouraged as you think about how special your family is in God's kingdom.

Please share your logo with your children and get further input from them. It is a great way to remind your whole family who you are and what you want to reflect to others.

Why does my family have a purpose? Because God made families to reflect His image and to rule over the earth.

To end our lesson, please answer the following:

1. Who has an insight tonight about something you've learned or want to try?
2. What will you change or improve in your role as parents this week?



Scripture SUPPORT

Mark 12:30-31

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Joshua 24:15

But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

Matthew 5:14

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Genesis 18:19

For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just...

Hebrews 13:16

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Ages 4-16

40 minutes

Student Training

Legacy

KINGDOM PURPOSE

Objectives

- Help children to be aware that their family has a kingdom purpose.
- Help children to be aware of the meaning of kingdom purpose.
- Help children to be aware of responsibilities of parents in a kingdom-focused family.
- Help children to be aware of responsibilities of children in a kingdom-focused family.
- Help children to be aware of how being in a kingdom-focused family prepares them to serve God.

We have talked about the fact that God has a plan and purpose for our lives as individuals. But did you know that God also has a kingdom purpose for your family? God wants families to represent Him in the earth by being good neighbors. Being good neighbors means reaching out and touching lives in the community and positively effecting the world around you (Mark 12:31). Everything that God created has a purpose to fulfill His plans and desires. God loves families, and they are a very important part of His kingdom plan.

God joins just the right people together in a family, and He has plans to use each

family to make a difference in the earth by serving Him in a special way. God created family to be a partnership that has spiritual responsibilities to its family members, community, and to the world. Parents are the leaders of the family. When parents ask Jesus to be the head of their lives, it is then up to them to ask Jesus to be at the center of their family. In the Bible, Joshua said, “As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15). Once parents decide that their family will serve the LORD, God gets involved and begins to use the entire family to positively impact the community. This is a kingdom-focused family—a family seeking to be used for God’s purpose.

Being in a Christian family is like being in a training camp that prepares God's servants—parents and children—to serve as bright lights in a dark world. God tells us that as His children, we are the light of this world. He tells us to “let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). What we do in our daily life reflects our love for God, as individuals and as families.

Family provides a safe place where all members can experience a taste of God's unconditional love and support through one another. God created the family to be your first place for learning about God's kingdom purpose for your family, your responsibility as a child of God, and sharing the good news about Jesus Christ (Genesis 18:19). Parents have a responsibility to guide their family in learning how the Word of God instructs us to be good neighbors as followers of Christ. Parents then model these behaviors for their children by practicing what the Bible says. Parents also have the responsibility to teach their children how to communicate with God by leading their family in prayer. They show their children how to love God through worship, praise, and giving. Your parents are reminded that they are to teach you and your siblings to respect, honor, and obey God's Word through everyday living. Family is where children learn about love, giving, sacrifice, and serving others in their home, school, church, and community. When parents lead and guide their children in these ways, your family will become kingdom focused.

As Christians, everything we do as individuals and as families should bring glory to God. The way we live our lives each day makes God proud of us—that is our true way of worshipping Him and making Him happy (Hebrews 13:16). God did not create families just to care for themselves; instead, He created families to reach out to others in the community for Him. God's kingdom purpose for your family is that you demonstrate His love, compassion, generosity, joy, and peace so well that it makes others ask you about the God you are serving. We are to be His hands caring for others, His smile brightening

someone's day, His eyes seeing the good in someone who has been downtrodden, His feet running that errand for someone who needs support, or His voice for someone needing an encouraging word. God's kingdom purpose for family is to raise children to love, honor, obey, and serve God by working for Him in the world and by bringing others into the family of God.

DISCUSS

- Lead children in a discussion about the meaning of "kingdom purpose."
- Lead children in a discussion about what makes God get involved in a family so that they become kingdom focused.
- Lead children in a discussion about why being in a family can be like being in a training camp.
- Ask children what kinds of things children should learn in a kingdom-focused family training camp.
- Lead children in a discussion about ways families can show that they are a kingdom-focused family.



Activities

Activities are age appropriate. One is focused on ages 4-11, and the second is for older children ages 12-16.

AGES 4-11

Materials

Paper lunch bags

Stickers

Markers/Crayons

Pink and red (cut-out) paper hearts (at least 10 per child)

Have children view YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/p9diFwUly4M>

(If not possible, do activity without video.)

Love Prayer Bags: Give each child a lunch bag to decorate with markers and stickers. The child will then be given cut out hearts to write a name of someone

they know on each heart. Then have children place all the hearts INSIDE the lunch bag. Encourage the children to take one heart out of the love bag each day and say a prayer for that person to experience God's love that day. Let children share some of the names they are writing on the hearts and why they chose them. Tell them at the end of the week, they can put them all back in the bag and start over the next week or add more of their own hearts.

AGES 12-16

Materials

Large, long roll of paper

Markers

Glue

Pictures from magazines

Have children view YouTube:

https://youtu.be/vzXy_97tyDI

(If not possible, do activity without video.)

God's Love Banner: Find a very large area for the children to roll out the paper as one, long banner. Let children write Ephesians 3:18-19 on the rolled-out banner and make colorful, big letters for the words: HOW WIDE, LONG, HIGH, DEEP is GOD'S LOVE FOR ME! Decorate with pictures that help illustrate things that represent God's love. This very long banner is fun to hang along a hallway wall for children to enjoy for a couple of weeks!

Notes




CHALLENGE QUESTION

DO I SHOW OTHERS THE LOVE OF GOD THROUGH
MY WORDS AND ACTIONS?

CHALLENGE COMMITMENT

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

	<p>AFFIRMATION <i>Have children repeat:</i></p> <p><i>My light shines brightly as I show others the love of God!</i></p>
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