

What's a Family For?

A Family Worship Guide

As you gather the family together, start off by explaining, **as we start a new year, we're going to take just a few minutes and hear from the Bible about why God gave us each other.**

Read **Genesis 2:18-24**, or have different family members read verses from the passage.

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib a he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Lead your family in the following discussion of **4 reasons why God gave you a family...**

1. A family is to be a shelter in storms.

DISCUSS: What kinds of **storms** do we face today? (financial, physical, emotional, etc.)

We don't know what kind of storms we will face in 2014. We can't predict the future. But we do know that we can be here for each other.

Another verse to read or to have someone read is **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10...**

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

DISCUSS: How can we be here for each other through storms? What are some ways we can support each other? (encouragement, prayer, etc.)

2. A family is a learning center for life.

It's four dimensions in which Jesus grew. These four dimensions serve as a great outline for how we will grow in the coming year, if we are intentional about growing.

Luke 2:52 in the CEV says:

Jesus became wise, and he grew strong. God was pleased with him and so were the people.

As a family, talk through each of these four dimensions of growth and talk about how you can be intentional about each area in the coming year:

1. How can we grow in wisdom? That is, how can we grow intellectually or educationally? (studying, reading, etc.)
2. How can we grow physically? That doesn't necessarily mean to grow taller. It can mean, how can we grow more healthy physically?
3. How can we grow spiritually? That is, how can we get closer to God, learn more of his word, and learn to pray about everything in our lives?
4. how can we grow in our relationships with people? That starts at home, with our family relationships. But how can we grow in our friendships too?

3. A Family Is a Place to Play

God intended for us to enjoy each other. And he intended for home to be a fun place. Have you ever seen the bumper sticker that says, "the family that prays together, stays together?" It is also true that the family that plays together, stays together.

DISCUSS: How can your family have more fun together in the coming year? When and where will you travel? What games you play together? What sports or hobbies will you engage in with each other?

4. A Family Is a Place Where People Serve Together.

DISCUSS: what kind of a commitment should your family to make together when it comes to church attendance? And in what ways will each of you serve other people in a ministry? Also, brainstorm about things that your family might be able to do together to serve the community.

Close this time by leading in a prayer. If your family is comfortable, each person might pray out loud. Or one person can lead in prayer. Here is a prayer that you can use as a sample if you are sure where to begin:

Father, we commit our lives and our family to you. Please help us to grow in the coming year. Help us to set goals and reach them together. Help us to have fun, to serve together, and to serve you and your purposes for our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.