

Wise Words for Families



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Surveying the Source

Prov. 5:3–14; 10:17; 13:24; 14:26; 15:1, 18, 27; 16:32; 29:15

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Identify and articulate core values for a positive marriage and families.
- ▶ Discover and/renew some biblical bases for marriage and family.

- ▶ Re-examine their own opinions about marriage and family.

Preparing to Lead

Family is the bedrock of church, corporations, communities, and countries are built. The ensuing structure is only as good as its foundation. If the family is weak, the church is weak, the corporation is weak, the community and country are weak. Where the family is strong, all the elements that build on that base will gain

from the strong foundation of the family. Family issues form the very fabric of society, and each thread either adds to, or distracts from, the strength of the whole.

This week's study looks at some elements that build strong families. Each day's study provides structural concepts for a strong family.

Getting Started

A. Take toothpicks, small sticks, or matches and break one of them to demonstrate how vulnerable they are when alone. Now bind the toothpicks to the large nail or metal piece as the core using tape, rubber bands, or string, wrapping them well from top to bottom. Demonstrate how the fragile sticks are now stronger because of their closeness to each other and their attachment to a stable/strong core.

The same is true for a family. We draw strength from each other, but especially as we rally around strong core values and the presence of Christ in the family. The study will look at some elements of togetherness and core values of family found in the Bible.

B. Glue a colored picture onto a poster-board. Cut the item from corner to corner on four diagonals. Cut the four pieces in half from the center point on diagonals to the edge of the picture. Bring the pieces to the class and have them assemble them to make a full picture, but hold back one or two pieces from their sight and work. Unless the missing pieces are in place, the picture will be incomplete.

The same is true of building family relationships. If pieces are missing, the picture/family is not complete. The study this week looks at some pieces from the Bible to build a family that makes a harmonious whole rather than fragmented picture.

Materials

Reproducible Activity, Bibles, pens/pencils, toothpicks, large nail, tape

Delving Into the Word

A. Use the alternative activity you selected from Getting Started, and share with the class that the texts used are like parts of the puzzle, or like the materials that hold the pieces to the metal core. The texts teach Christians to build a strong families, churches, communities, and nations. Delving into the Bible texts leads to a discovery of those elements that bind us together and to the solid core of Jesus.

B. Invite the class to describe how they would build a stable wall with Lego blocks (the key word here is “stable”). Building a wall is not difficult. The blocks need to be linked and locked together or the wall will not stand. Additionally, there must be two right angle cross pieces to the upright wall or it will topple. The building blocks of family are found in the Bible, as are the cross-pieces that give stability to the family.

Discussing the Ideas

1. What is the difference between discipline and punishment?
2. How is a school or workplace similar to a family?
3. Why are core values essential to a family or community?
4. How does having Jesus at the center of a family or organization make a difference?

5. List and discuss the multiple families you are part of. How do they strengthen you? How do you strengthen them?
6. How can you show your family, or families, that you love and care for them?
7. What “family” (group, organization, gathering, etc.) do you lead right now? What Bible text from the study helps you be a better leader of that family?

Closing the Activity

Distribute the Reproducible Activity. Have them fill in the last column on the right based on the week’s lesson and the group discussion. Challenge students to fill in some “blanks” in their experience this next week, and to pray for clarity as they build toward fulfilling relationships in their lives.

STRONG	Connect with God	
FAMILY	Morality	
CORE	Character Traits	
QUALITIES	Discipline	