



FAMILY MATTERS Someone Knows Your Name

September 23, 2023

1 PREPARING

A. THE SOURCE

Exodus 20:12 (NKJV) • “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”

Numbers 14:18 (NIV) • “The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 (NKJV) • “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

Psalms 78:5, 6 (NKJV) • “For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; that the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children.”

Matthew 18:3 (RSV) • “Truly, I say to you,

unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Deuteronomy 4:40 (NKJV) • “You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time.”

Colossians 3:20 (RSV) • “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”

Colossians 3:21 (RSV) • “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”

B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT “FAMILY MATTERS”

Everyone has a family. We frequently think about a traditional family as one that includes a mother and a father along with children. Today many families have only one parent, and many children around the world are orphaned and hoping for parents. Many countries have families that also include aunts and uncles, grandparents, and even cousins, all living under one roof. Some live with blended families; these families have a mother or father who is not the child's natural parent.

God created the earth's first family on the sixth day of Creation. The Garden of Eden was their home, and God wanted it to be the home for their children as well.

Even families that look the same can be very

different. The various personalities of the people in the family affect how the family works and plays together. Children with the same two parents, living in the same home, will not be the same. Researchers have discovered various traits associated with children, based on the order in which they were born into the family.

God desires the home and the family to be special. Ellen White tells us in *The Adventist Home*: “Much depends on the father and mother. They are to be firm and kind in their discipline, and they are to work most earnestly to have an orderly, correct household, that the heavenly angels may be attracted to it to impart peace and a fragrant influence” (p. 17).

C. WHERE WE’RE GOING WITH “FAMILY MATTERS”

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Recognize the characteristics of a Christian family.
2. Desire to become more Christlike within their home.
3. Understand the steps for dealing with conflict.

D. MATERIALS NEEDED

Beginning • (Activity A) a piece of paper with message printed on it; a pencil for each group

NOTE TO TEACHER: To learn more about the effects of birth order, see Dr. Kevin Leman’s book, *The Birth Order Book: Why You Are the Way You Are* (published by Baker Publishing Group, 2015). Activity A is adapted from this book; (Activity B) “Personality Traits Quiz” handout (p. 136); pencils.

Connecting • Bibles, student lessons.

Applying • “Family Matters” handout (p. 137), pencils.

2 BRIDGING

A. THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Allow 10 minutes at the beginning of class for students to:

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults at www.realtimefaith.net)
- >> Service project reports

3 BEGINNING

NOTE TO TEACHER: Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • Prepare four pieces of paper, with the following message written on each one: “Congratulations! You are the leader of this group. Please introduce yourself to the others in your group, then have each person do the same. As you talk together, make a list (on this paper) of personality characteristics that everyone in your group seems to share. Be prepared to report back to the rest of the class with what you learn. Please start work immediately.”

Get set • Say: We will be forming some groups. First, those who are the only child in their family, move to _____. (Identify a corner of the room.) Next, everyone who is an oldest child. Direct them to another corner. All who are the youngest in their family. Point them to an empty corner. That should leave the rest of the class as middle children. Send the middle children to the fourth corner.

Go • Move casually from one group to another. Place the instructions paper facedown in the center of each group. Do this with each group. Return to the front of the room and watch what happens. If anyone asks for verbal instructions, say nothing; instead, pretend to look busy, as if too distracted to help.

Wait three to four minutes; watch what happens. Usually a person in the only-born and firstborn groups will pick up the paper, read the instructions, and get started. Someone in the middle-born group will soon follow. Don't be surprised if the group of youngest forget the paper.

Once the teens have picked up the instructions and started working, announce, **You have only a couple more minutes to finish your assignment. Be ready to report to the rest of the class.** Call the groups to return to their seats, done or not.

Debriefing • Ask (each group): **Who picked up the paper first? Were you the first, middle, or last group to get started? What did you learn about the people in your group? Do you think the order you were born into your family affects how you act? Would you be surprised to learn that researchers show that the birth order of people affects our personality? It influences how we work and play with others.**

B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • The quiz helps students identify their personality traits and learn about certain strengths, based on their birth order. You will need copies of the quiz from page 136 and pencils.

Get set • Say: We're going to take a brief personality traits quiz. The paper lists several personality traits. Please circle all the traits that fit you. Choose ones that seem to describe you and your way of behaving; be honest.

Go • Hand out the quiz and allow time for it to be thoughtfully answered. Then have each one recognize the group in which they have the most traits circled. Then tell them that if it is A, then they are probably an oldest child; if it is B, then they are most likely a middle child; if C, then a youngest; if D, an only child.

Debriefing • Ask: For how many of you is that classification correct? If the teens answered honestly, you will have most of them in the correct category. However, remember there may be exceptions. **Ask:** Do you think the order in which you were born into your family affects how you act? **Say:** Researchers have discovered that the birth order of people directly affects our personality. It influences how we work and play with others.

C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

In your own words, tell the following story:

Three carloads of family members waited at the airport for the newest child to arrive. The 10-month-old baby boy had traveled for the past 24 hours from Latvia, the country of his birth. His new parents eagerly awaited their son's arrival.

A nurse carried the baby to the new mother's eager arms. The mother held the baby boy close, hardly seeing his chalk-colored cheeks and the vacant look in his eyes. When she cooed into his ear, he didn't turn to look at her. He had no laughter and no tears. Life had been very hard in

his few months of life.

The next day the infant visited the doctor's office. There the family learned the baby had a terrible, but treatable, ear infection. In a few days the effects of proper medicine and nutritious food could be seen on the baby's pink cheeks. Now his laughter was infectious, and he would turn his head and listen to his parents' loving words.

—Adapted from *Chicken Soup for the Mom's Soul*.

Debriefing • Ask: How is this baby's story of adoption like our Christian experience? (Jesus has claimed us as His own children. Jesus came to this earth to get us.) **What is a Christian's healthy food?** (the Bible, writings inspired by the Spirit of Prophecy, prayer) **Whom does a follower of Christ go to for help?** (Jesus, parent, pastor, teacher, counselor) **What "foreign" land are we children of?** (the sinful Planet Earth) **Where do we go to be safe?** (to Jesus—in prayer, church, places where Christ's followers are gathered)

4 CONNECTING

A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

Present the following ideas in your own words:

Say: We've briefly discussed how the order in which we were born into the family will affect how we interact with others. **Ask:** Are we also affected by the type of family we grow up in? What happens when our family is less than perfect?

Say: Let's take a look at some families from the Bible and see what we can learn about being citizens of the kingdom in this less-than-perfect world.

Ask: What does God think about families? Can you think of a perfect family in the Bible? (Discuss answers.)

Say: Let's look at the family described in Genesis 5. (Adam and Eve)

Ask: Was this family always perfect?

Say: Once Cain killed Abel, life changed again. For the first time the people of earth learned what death was like when it happened in their family.

Another family that might be seen as perfect can be found in Luke 1:5-17.

Ask: Was John the Baptist's family perfect? What might you see as being a problem?

(John's parents were older. John lived away from a lot of friends. John was killed while he was in his 30s.) **What personality traits did John seem to have shared with other only children? What did John do that shows he was a high achiever?** (He preached in the wilderness even though it was hard.) **Did John point out what was right and what was wrong?** (yes) **How do you know John had high expectations for himself?**

Say: Think of some youngest children in the Bible. (Discuss answers.)

Ask: What are some of the youngest personality traits you see in Moses? (Refer to the personality traits listed in activity B.) **When did Moses show he was a people person?** (Exodus 2:16-19; helping Reuel's daughters get water for their sheep) **When did he blame others?** (Exodus 4:1; tells God that the Egyptians won't believe him) **Tenacious means to not give up. Can you think of any time Moses was tenacious?** (He took care of his father-in-law's sheep. Later Moses kept giving Pharaoh another chance. He spent 40 years in the wilderness.)

Say: Let's keep looking at Moses' family. Turn to Exodus 2:3-7.

Ask: What oldest-child personality traits does Miriam demonstrate? **How was she reliable (able to be trusted)?** (When she stayed to watch the basket containing Moses.) **conscientious**

(concerned about responsibilities)? (When she talked to Pharaoh's daughter about getting help for the baby.)

Ask: What oldest-child personality trait does Miriam show in Numbers 12:1, 2? (Miriam is critical of Moses.)

Say: There was also a middle child in this family: Aaron.

Ask: What middle-child personality traits can we find? When was Aaron avoiding a conflict? (In Exodus 32:1 the Israelites wanted an idol to worship, so Aaron made the golden calf.)

Ask: Does it matter to God in what order we were born in our family? (Obviously God is more powerful than birth order tendencies, but He also knows in what order in the family He has put you, and what He has planned for you to do for Him.) **Does God have something special planned for each citizen of His kingdom? How can we use our special traits to help people within our family?** (Give teens a chance to think and respond.)

Say: The Bible tells us about brothers and sisters who didn't always get along.

Ask: When we don't get along with our brother or sister, could it be partially because we see life differently? Might the order of our birth be one possible factor impacting how we view things? When an older sister, a reliable perfectionist, sees her younger brother, a charming people person, getting all the attention, might she feel resentment? How could an understanding that they are both valuable for who they are help with conflicts between the two? How does understanding a little more about why your brother(s) and/or sister(s) act the way they do help you know how to respond? How can understanding lead to a happier home?

Say: Sometimes there are conflicts between children who are born at the same time.

Ask: Can you think of any? (Teens will probably answer Jacob and Esau.)

Say: These two brothers didn't agree. Refer to Genesis 27:41-46.

Ask: How did these men solve their argument? Refer to Genesis 32:22-32; 33:1-17.

Say: God has shown us, in the Bible, what we should do to solve our problems with others.

Have students find the following texts and tell what problem-solving techniques are described:

- >> Proverbs 19:11; Proverbs 12:16;
Colossians 3:13—Overlook an offense.
- >> Matthew 18:15; Galatians 6:1-3—Talk it out.
- >> Proverbs 15:1; Ephesians 4:29—Get help to know what you should say.

Ask: How can we use our personality traits to enrich our church? our school? our community?

B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the story from Sabbath's section of the lesson. Follow up by discussing the following questions.

Ask: What choice did Peter make going home one night? (took a shortcut, cut across the moors) **What almost happened?** (almost stepped into a limestone pit, died) **What prevented him from falling to his death?** (he heard God's voice calling him, God called his name, God stopped him) **What realization came to him?** (God knew him, God knew where he was, God had a plan for his life) **What does this tell us about how God feels about us?** (He loves us, He knows us, He cares for us, we are special to Him) **How should we feel and treat others?** (we should care for them, love them, treat everyone kindly) **Say:** Peter Marshall had a relationship with God. He knew that God

was his Father and that he was God's son. This is the type of relationship God wants to have with you. He wants you to know He is your Father and that you are His child.

C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

Pose the following scenarios:

We have been studying that there are many combinations of family types here on earth. Some families get along well, and others don't. Some families consist of a father, mother, and differing numbers of children and some families don't have any children. Some families have extended relatives, and some don't. Families are made up of people, and all people on earth have a heavenly Father. Unfortunately, not all recognize Him or accept Him. But no matter what your family makeup is, you do have a heavenly Father that loves you, knows you, and cares about you.

Ask: Do you think that the way a family is constructed should change how they are treated? Should God's people determine how they treat people based on family situations? Does Jesus determine His love based on our family? (God loves everyone, John 3:16)

Pose the following scenario:

Ruth's friends found out she was adopted. Some of the girls made a point of telling Ruth and began to treat her unkindly and differently. They acted as though she was unwanted. Even though the thoughtless and unkindness of her friends hurt her, Ruth knew without a doubt that her "adoptive" parents wanted her, loved her, and would do anything to help her.

Ask: Should a teen's family circumstance determine how we treat them? What would a child of God say? (Matthew 7:12: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you" [NIV].)

5 APPLYING

A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Have copies of the "Family Matters" matching handout (on page 137) ready for everyone.

Get set • Ask: We've talked about the order in which we are born into a family, but what about the family situation we're born into? Let's identify various types of families.

Go • Give the Sabbath School members the "Family Matters" matching handout and pencils. The class will need a minute or two to fill in the handout.

Debriefing • Go over the answers with the students and make sure everyone understands the terms (1-G, 2-B, 3-H, 4-A, 5-I, 6-C, 7-J, 8-D, 9-E, 10-F, 11-K, 12-M, 13-L, 14-N).

Ask: Can you think of any families in the Bible with some of the characteristics defined on your "Family Matters" handout? (Have the class brainstorm different life situations. Some examples follow.)

>> Stepparent

Bible example: Jesus' mother is a stepmother to Joseph's other children: Luke 1:26, 27; James 1:1; Jude 1. (This fact is not explicit from these texts. Use this relationship example only if you are comfortable with it.)

>> Half brother

Bible example: Isaac and Ishmael (both were sons of Abraham), Genesis 16:3, 4; 21:2.

>> Half sister

Bible example: Joseph and Dinah (both were children of Jacob), Genesis 29:32-35; 30:3-13, 21.

>> Multigenerational

Bible examples: Noah, Genesis 10 (especially verses 31, 32); Abraham and Lot's families, Genesis 11:29, 31.

>> Adopted

Bible example: Moses was adopted by

Pharaoh's daughter, Exodus 2:3-10.

>> **Orphan**

Bible example: Esther, Esther 2:7.

>> **Foster child**

Bible examples: Samuel lived with Eli, 1 Samuel 1:22, 27, 28; 3:1; Namaan's wife's captured servant girl (aka the "Little Maid"), 2 Kings 5:2.

>> **Parents who have separated**

Bible example: Abraham and Hagar, Genesis 21:10, 14.

Debriefing • Ask: From these examples, how would you say the situation a child was born into predetermined the course of their life? (It definitely sets the original path, but doesn't necessarily dictate the person's response to the circumstances.) **What control do children have over who their family will be?** (Usually none, but each person has control over how they will choose to relate to the circumstances in which they find themselves.)

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How do the circumstances in which we are born affect Jesus' love for us?
2. What types of conflicts do all families have?
3. What types of conflicts do brothers and sisters have?
4. How should God's children respond to conflicts? (They may choose to overlook a

problem, work out the differences, or find someone to help solve their problem.)

5. What should the family teach us about God? (He wants us to be surrounded by love.)
6. How is a family dinner like heaven?
7. What can you as a child of God do to improve your family's happiness?

6 CLOSING

SUMMARY

In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:

The Bible is full of stories about families. Families come in all different shapes and sizes. As we look at our friends, we can see families like those in the Bible. God is able to use anyone who loves Him and wants to serve Him, no matter what their family situation or history.

God wants us all to have a marvelous family life, but many boys and girls do not experience this joy. (However, the body of Christ can fill this void.) Children of God can help make home happier by the way they speak and act toward other family members. When we understand why we react to situations the way we do, then we are better able to take control of our own responses. God will help us to truly be His children; all we have to do is ask.

FOR LESSON THIRTEEN:
THIS HANDOUT IS FOR BEGINNING ACTIVITY B

Personality Traits Quiz

A	B	C	D
little adult by age 7	perfectionist	mediator/ peacemaker	manipulative
very thorough	reliable		charming
deliberate	conscientious	compromising	blames others
high achiever	list maker	diplomatic	attention seeker
self-motivated	well-organized	avoids conflict	tenacious
fearful	hard-driving	independent	people person
cautious	natural leader	loyal to friends	natural salesperson
loves to read	critical	natural leader	precocious
everything is either right or wrong	serious	secretive	engaging
uses such words as "very," "extremely," "exactly"	scholarly	unspoiled	affectionate
can't bear to fail	logical		loves surprises
high self-expectation	doesn't like surprises		
more comfortable with people who are older or younger	loves computers		

FOR LESSON THIRTEEN:
THIS HANDOUT IS FOR THE APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Family Matters

Directions: Match the word with its definition.

1. Families_____	A. A brother by one parent but not by both.
2. Stepfather_____	B. The husband of a child's mother but not the child's natural father.
3. Stepmother_____	C. A stepfamily.
4. Half brother_____	D. Of or relating to several generations.
5. Half sister_____	E. To take into one's family through legal means and raise as one's own child.
6. Blended family_____	F. A child whose parents are dead.
7. Nuclear family_____	G. All the members of a household under one roof.
8. Multigenerational family_____	H. The wife of a child's father but not a child's natural mother.
9. Adopt_____	I. A sister by one parent, but not by both.
10. Orphan_____	J. A family unit consisting of a mother and a father and their children.
11. Foster child_____	K. Supervised care for delinquent or neglected children, usually in an institution or substitute home.
12. Parents_____	L. The legal dissolution of a marriage.
13. Divorce_____	M. One who begets, gives birth to, or nurtures and raises a child; a father or mother.
14. Single parent_____	N. Lacking a partner, unmarried.



STUDENT LESSON

FAMILY MATTERS

Someone Knows Your Name

September 23, 2023

Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” (Matthew 7:11, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 12, The Church:** “The church is God’s family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 103-106

SOMEONE KNOWS YOUR NAME

“Peter Marshall, born in Scotland, was one of America’s well-known ministers. He allowed God’s voice to guide him throughout his life. One night in his childhood he decided to take a shortcut across the moors on his way home. The area was noted for limestone quarries. He was familiar with the terrain and felt he could safely navigate his way.

“Though the night was starless and inky-black, he set out through the rock and heather. He could sometimes hear the far-off bleating of a sheep and the wind rustling through the heather. Occasionally a moor fowl fluttered up noisily. Otherwise, he was very much alone in the night.

“Suddenly he heard a voice call out with urgency: ‘Peter!’

“Halting, he called back into the dark, ‘Yes, who is it? What do you want?’

“There was no response, just a bit of wind over the deserted moorland. He concluded he’d been mistaken and walked on a few more steps. ‘Peter!’ he heard again, this time with an even greater urgency. ‘Peter!’

“He stopped in his tracks, squinted into the blackness of the night. Who was there? He leaned forward, stumbled, and fell to his knees. Reaching out a hand to the ground before him, Peter felt nothing but thin air. A quarry! Sure enough, as he carefully felt around in a semi-circle, he discovered that he was on the brink of a limestone pit. One more step and he would have plummeted to his death. One more step—if he hadn’t heeded God’s voice, his life would have ended. Out there on the desolate moor Someone knew him, and Someone cared.

“God knows our name. We are not some cosmic blur in the universe. God fashioned us. God made us. We are His. He cares. He loves. He knows us personally. We matter to Him. At times we may feel alone, but He is always there, calling our name, calling us into the security of His arms. Calling us home.

“Ellen White writes, ‘Jesus knows us individually, and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant. He has at times given directions to His servants to go to a certain street in a certain city, to such a house, to find one of His sheep’ (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 479).

“Jesus love us that much. What troubles us troubles Him. What bothers us bothers Him.

What hurts us hurts Him. We are His children. His interests are linked with ours. Nothing that in any way concerns us escapes His notice. Let your heart rejoice in His personal, intimate, loving concern today" (Mark Finley, *Solid Ground* [Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald® Publishing Association, 2003], p. 22).

How amazing that we are children of God! May we live each day in such a way that others may see and recognize who our Father is.

Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read 1 Timothy 4:12.
- » When Fred was 14, his mother suddenly died. Fred had been very close to his mother and felt lost without her. Two years later Fred's dad remarried. His stepmother was nothing like his own mother. The teenager didn't want a replacement and didn't want anything to do with the new woman in his house.

1. What advice can you give Fred for dealing with this difficult situation?
2. Whom can Fred turn to for help in his community?
3. If you were Fred, what would you do to make life better for the family?

Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE CHURCH

- » Read Exodus 19:3-7; Acts 2:38-42; 1 Peter 2:9.
- » When we accept Christ, we become a part of God's family. As children of God we have a responsibility to live lives obedient to His Word and plan for our lives. How we live will not only affect us but will also affect how others see us and God.
- » How does your life represent being a child of God?

- » How do others see Jesus in your life?

- » Unscramble the words in the word box. Then use the words to fill in the missing words in the verse below the word bank. The verse is from the New King James Version.

snezitic		srebmem	
regnol		srengierof	
wollef		dlohesuoh	
snaisehpE		sregnarts	

"Now, therefore, you are no _____ and _____, but _____ with the saints and _____ of the _____ of God" (_____ 2:19).

Tuesday REFLECTING

- » Read John 3:16.
- » Almost everyone grows up in a family of some type. The word "family" can be looked at to include: your immediate family, your extended family, your church family, your community, and the world as in God's eyes (humanity). We are responsible to set good examples, to be loving to all, and represent Jesus to everyone we meet. Jesus gave clear guidelines about how we should treat everyone.
- » We shouldn't judge others or determine how we will treat them by their outward appearance—we can't see what's in their minds and hearts. Only God can look on a person's heart and know what that person is like.
- » Within the human family there are cultural, ethnic, financial, and religious differences, and their family life might seem foreign to us. However, what is important is their relationship with our Father in heaven. Being part of humanity makes them part of the family of

the King. God loves all of us and wants all of us to be saved. Unfortunately, not everyone wants to acknowledge God as their Father.

- » How we interact with those in our earthly family and Christian family should be determined by what the Bible tells us. The Bible is clear in how we should interact with others.
- » “Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home. . . . There is no missionary field more important than this” (Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 35).

Wednesday BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Match the text with the correct phrase.

Exodus 20:5 (*The Message*) Ephesians 6:1 (NKJV)
Luke 18:16 (NKJV) Matthew 7:11 (NIV)
Ephesians 6:4 (NASB) John 3:16 (NLT)

1. “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

2. “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

3. “But Jesus called them to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.’ ” _____
4. “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

5. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” _____

6. “Don’t bow down to them [idols] and don’t serve them because I am God, your God, and I’m a most jealous God, punishing the children for any sins their parents pass on to them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me.”

Thursday CONNECTING

- » Read Ephesians 6:1, 4; Proverbs 16:6.
- » Review the memory text.
- » God hasn’t put us in a family situation that is unfamiliar to Him. We have all been born into a less-than-perfect world, but nothing we are facing is happening for the first time on this earth. Others have lived through similar experiences. The Bible is full of stories of people who have experienced difficult family lives.
- » The instructions on getting along with family can also apply for getting along with others. In the Bible we learn the steps we should take when we don’t agree with someone.
 - Overlook an offense—Proverbs 19:11; Proverbs 12:16; Colossians 3:13
 - Talk it out—Matthew 18:15; Galatians 6:1-3
 - Get help to know what to say—Proverbs 15:1; Ephesians 4:29
- » By following the Bible’s principles, we will be able to make our family a happier group to live with and our interactions with others more agreeable.

Friday
APPLYING

» Read Luke 18:16.

» How do we look at the people around us? Do we see them as children of God also?

1. How can you help the widow or widower in your church?

2. Can you think of activities to help with the children in your community that may have lost a parent?

3. What can you do to help the young person at school that is dealing with a stepparent?

4. List a couple of things you can do to help your grandparents.

5. What project are you involved in at church or school that is mission-oriented?

6. How can God use you as an agent of His kingdom in your home? What are you able to do for your family?
