

Junior Soldiers

UNIT 16 : LESSON 6



My Family - My Role

PURPOSE: For the children to explore and understand that they can have a positive and productive role within their family and contribute to harmonious relationships.

Children must always obey their parents. This pleases the Lord. Parents don't be hard on your children. If you are, they might give up.

Colossians 3:20-21 (CEV)

Consider & Prepare

Read

Colossians 3:18-25.

- What do you think these verses are about?
- As we think about families, why do you think these verses are important?

Families come in all sorts of different shapes, sizes and colours. Think about who is in your family and what your role is within your family. Some people will find it easy to identify their role; others will struggle with this idea. For children, it may be difficult to identify what they contribute. Working through this question will help children to formulate a sense of purpose and responsibility within their household.

In this lesson we will concentrate on immediate family members. It may be difficult for some children to narrow this down. Be careful not to exclude family members who live outside of the child's household. Children within your group may have immediate family members who live outside of their home for a variety of different reasons. If children would

like to include a large number of family members, ask them to list the closest ones first and let them know that they can take the sheet home and add more names later.

Be mindful that some families will be in the midst of painful circumstances. Remind these children that they can play a part in bringing about peaceful dynamics within the family.

What you will need

For 'Connecting In'

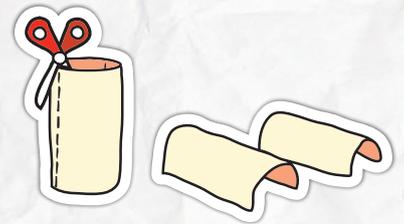
- Whiteboard or butchers paper
- Markers

For 'The Main Thing'

- Large sheets of paper – one per child
- Markers or pencils in a range of colours – two different colours per child
- Circle templates – one per child. (You could use anything that is round and about 8-10cm in diameter. E.g. jar lids, cookie cutters, plastic cups or cardboard templates.)
- Bibles

For 'Tying In'

- Option 1: Group Juggle – at least three inflated balloons. Use more if you have a large group.
- Option 2: Marble Tube – cut paper towel tubes in half lengthwise (you will need one half per child), one or two marbles, masking tape or chalk.



Connecting In

Families come in all sorts of different shapes, sizes and colours. I wonder what your family looks like. Who is in your family and what is your role within your family?

God designed families to work together and to help and support each other. A family is a bit like a machine. When all the parts work well, a machine can do its job. If one part breaks or stops working the whole machine is affected. Different members of a family have different roles. When all the members work well together the family operates smoothly.

Charades

Think about the roles that people in your family have. Here are some ideas to get you thinking.

Write these roles up on the whiteboard/butchers paper as you share them.

- Dad is good at listening
- Mum is a great problem solver
- Mum drives the children to school
- Dad cooks the dinner
- Grandma does the gardening
- Grandpa buys the groceries
- Sister helps with homework

- Brother looks after the dog
- Grandma gives great hugs

We are going to play Charades.

Can you think of another other role that someone in your family has?

Choose a child to mime the role that they are thinking of. The other children must attempt to guess. Play several rounds.

Record other roles that the children come up with on the whiteboard or butchers paper.

The Main Thing

Hand each child a large sheet of paper, coloured pencils or markers and a circle template.

Think about the people in your family. All of your family members might live in your house. You might also have family members who live in other places.

Write the words 'My Family' at the top of your sheet.

Choose a pencil/marker and draw a circle in the middle of your page to represent you.

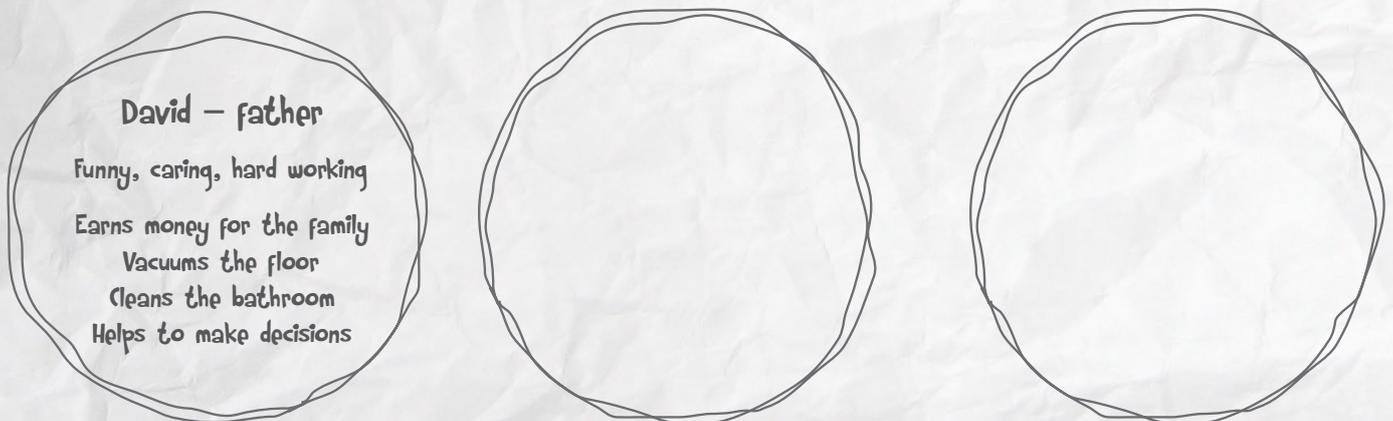
Using the same colour, draw a circle for each member of your family who lives in your house.

Using a different colour, draw a circle for any family members who live outside of your house.

In the top of each circle, write the name of the person and their relationship to you. For example: David – father or Kate – sister.

- Now that you have drawn your circles and written your family members' names what do you notice about your family? *(Children might say, my family is little, I have lots of people in my family, not many people in my family live at home, most of my family are girls etc.)*
- Who do you think is important in your family? Why?

Inside each circle write some of the characteristics of that family member, what they do and why they are important within the family.



- What roles did you put down for yourself? What kinds of things do you do in your family?

You might need to help some children to see that they are “the funny one”, that they “care for people when they are sad”, that they help contribute to family life through chores or just helping mum and dad out etc.

With a partner, take turns to cover up one of the circles on your sheet. Tell your partner what effect it would have on your family if that person was not part of it.

Cover up your own circle. Tell your partner what would be different in your family if you were not part of it.

Ask the children to look up Ephesians 6:1-4. Choose a volunteer to read the verses out loud.

Children, you belong to the Lord, and you do the right thing when you obey your parents. The first commandment with a promise says, ² “Obey your father and your mother, ³ and you will have a long and happy life.” ⁴ Parents, don’t be hard on your children. Raise them properly. Teach them and instruct them about the Lord. Ephesians 6:1-4 (CEV)

- According to these verses, what is one role that children have within their family?
- What do these verses tell us that parents should do?

Tying In

Every family member must play their part for the whole family to work well. It’s also important that all the members of the family work well TOGETHER.

Option 1: Group Juggle

Choose a volunteer.

Explain to them that you will be throwing some balloons into the air. Their job is to keep all of the balloons from touching the ground.

Throw at least three balloons into the air and give them about thirty seconds to attempt to keep all the balloons in the air.

This is a difficult task to do on your own. Let’s see what happens when someone helps.

Choose a second volunteer.

This time, both of you must work together to keep the balloons off the ground.

Throw at least three balloons into the air and give them about thirty seconds to attempt to keep all the balloons in the air.

The task becomes easier when two people work together but let’s see what happens if we all work together.

Invite all of the children to join in this time.

Throw at least three balloons into the air and give them about thirty seconds to attempt to keep all the balloons in the air.

When we all work together we can easily keep the balloons in the air. In a family, we might not need to keep balloons in the air but there are things that need to be done every day. Just like in the game, a family works best if everyone works well together.

Option 2: Marble Tube

Use chalk or masking tape to set up two lines about two metres apart.

If you have a large group then divide the children into two teams and do this activity as a race.

Give each child half of a paper towel tube and ask them to stand in a line between the two marked lines.

Give the first child a marble.

Explain to the children that they must move the marble from one line to the other. There are three rules:

- 1. The marble can only touch the cardboard tubes.*
- 2. The marble cannot be dropped.*
- 3. No one can move while they have their marble (a child cannot place the marble into their tube then run between the two lines).*

In this activity, we all had to work together to get the marble across the line. Just like in the game, a family works best if everyone works well together.

Family Relationships

Look at your 'My Family' sheet again. I wonder if there are people in your family who don't work well together. Sometimes, your family will not be peaceful no matter what you do. But sometimes you can help the situation by changing your own behaviour and responses.

If your relationship with another family member is not peaceful then draw a zigzag line between the two circles.

Ask the children to look up Colossians 3:12-14. Choose a volunteer to read the verses out loud.

God loves you and has chosen you as his own special people. So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient. ¹³ Put up with each other, and forgive anyone who does you wrong, just as Christ has forgiven you. ¹⁴ Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together.

Colossians 3:12-14 (CEV)

Conflict between you and another family member might not always be your fault. However, these verses from Colossians remind us how we can respond even when we are treated unfairly.

On your own or with a partner, read the verses from Colossians again. Around the edges of your sheet write some of the words that remind us of how God asks us to act.

Gentle, kind, humble, meek, patient, put up with each other, forgive, love.

What difference do you think it will make in your family if you respond in this way more often?

Memory Verse

"Children, you belong to the Lord, and you do the right thing when you obey your parents." Ephesians 6:1a

Ask the children to work with a partner to memorise this verse.

After about five minutes, ask each pair to take a turn to recite the memory verse together.

Prayer Time

Ask the children to look at their 'My Family' sheets.

Every member of a family is important. Every member, including you, has a part to play in helping the family to work well.

Point to your own circle on your paper.

Jesus, please help us to play our part within our families, especially when we are tired or grumpy or when other family members are being difficult. We want to learn more about how we can help out and to be more gentle, kind, forgiving and loving. Thank you for the special role I play in my family. Amen.

Point to the circle of someone in your family that you find it difficult to get along with.

Jesus, please help us to be extra gentle, kind, forgiving and loving to those who we find it difficult to get along with. Amen.

Home & Beyond

Show your 'My Family' sheet to your Big Bud or someone in your family.

Ask them:

- What difference do you think I make to my family?

Find an opportunity this week to do something kind for a family member that you have trouble getting along with.



Home & Beyond

Show your 'My Family' sheet to your Big Bud or someone in your family.

Ask them:

- What difference do you think I make to my family?

Find an opportunity this week to do something kind for a family member that you have trouble getting along with.



Home & Beyond

Show your 'My Family' sheet to your Big Bud or someone in your family.

Ask them:

- What difference do you think I make to my family?

Find an opportunity this week to do something kind for a family member that you have trouble getting along with.



Home & Beyond

Show your 'My Family' sheet to your Big Bud or someone in your family.

Ask them:

- What difference do you think I make to my family?

Find an opportunity this week to do something kind for a family member that you have trouble getting along with.



Home & Beyond

Show your 'My Family' sheet to your Big Bud or someone in your family.

Ask them:

- What difference do you think I make to my family?

Find an opportunity this week to do something kind for a family member that you have trouble getting along with.

