

FOCUS

Fun • Outreach • Connect • Uplift • Scripture

PARENT(S) READ THIS FIRST!!

Do not go any further in this pack before you read **all** of the introduction pages.

These include:

- Intro Letter
- FOCUS Points
- Keys to Success

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Contributions from and many thanks to - Paul Shumski, Denise Bosworth, Karen
Coddington, Dan Bosworth and Steve Gibboney.



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Dear Family--

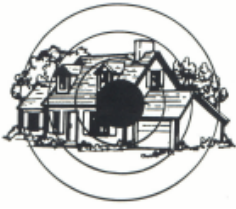
We believe strongly that God has designed families to be the primary place for discipleship. We are encouraged that you have taken the challenge and are seeking to make your home a place where discipleship happens. Our goal is to help you become the family God intended you to be. This FOCUS Pack is designed for your family to use weekly. One time a week you will come together as a family. Each weekly FOCUS will take you through content that is fun and challenging at the same time. The breakdown of this material is explained on the next page.

We know that setting aside time each week is difficult for some families, but it really comes down to choices. We hope and pray that you will not give up too easily. Make a choice to tough it out no matter how difficult. The benefits you and your family will reap are immeasurable.

You need to know that we are behind you all the way. We will be working in our homes to achieve the same goals. Believe it or not, we actually have normal homes that have the same exact issues as yours! We will be pulling our hair out, too, when our teens give us "the look" or our 3 year old won't sit still and spills the paint on the new rug. Our children ask us questions about Bible stuff that we can't answer, and yes, that makes us feel inadequate, too.

By the way, each family is unique. God has given you special talents, gifts and interests. Use them. This FOCUS Pack is really just a sample road map for your use. The journeys you can take as a family are limitless so don't feel strapped to the details of each weekly FOCUS Point. Take it and make it fit you. We feel that the elements involved are key, the way in which you implement them is up to you!

In Christ,
Paul, Cam, Nate and Wes



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FOCUS Points

Each week, you will find your time broken up into five "FOCUS Points". The order is not as important as the fact that you spend time on each section. Your family is unique, so feel free to improvise in such a way as to make it "yours". The following is an explanation of what each FOCUS Point is designed to deliver.



FUN

Too many families are all running their separate ways doing what each individual desires based on personal priorities. We are often so caught up in the "issues" of family life that we tend to miss the great stuff that family can be. This is an opportunity to enjoy your family. Laugh, play, giggle and smile. It may seem impossible, but the rewards of having fun together are incredible.



OUTREACH

Our goal is not that we would become so family focused that we forget the outside world. God created us to serve inside and outside the church. As families, we have a tremendous opportunity to touch lives. Together we can make a huge impact on others, and by doing it as a family, we strengthen our bonds at the same time! Outreach is an opportunity to help others.



CONNECT

One reason families seem to grow apart and distant over the years is that they stop (or never start) interacting with the private world of each member. They never get to really know each other and share their true self. With honesty as the rule, this is a safe time to share the heart. Adults need to be vulnerable and honest and avoid lecture mode!



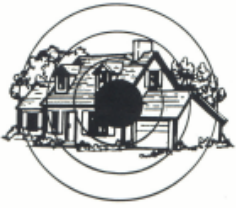
UPLIFT

Prayer does not get any better than this...families praying for and with each other, lifting each other up before the throne of God. Don't make it boring, change it up regularly! We encourage all to try to pray. If you are "bad" at praying, there is no better place to practice than with your own family. It's a funny thing, as you pray for each other, compassion grows and soon problems fade.



SCRIPTURE

Our standards for living should come out of the Word of God. This is the time where we find out who we were, who we are and who we are becoming in Christ. God expects that His Word will be transmitted from generation to generation through family. For too many families the church is the only place Scripture is studied. You don't need a Bible degree - dig in together!



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Keys to Success

In order for this to work, your family, especially the adult(s), will have to commit to some basic guidelines. Below you will find some really useful tools that will help you in your quest for exciting and peaceful family interaction.

General Guidelines

1. *Don't answer any phones.* Don't even look to see who is calling. It is okay; they will leave a message or call back.
2. *Real emergencies only.* Don't cancel or postpone the time for any reason but a true emergency. Stick to the commitment.
3. *Remove distractions.* Turn off TV, music, alarms and other things that might cause an interruption.

Set the TONE

Each time the family comes together, commit to these guidelines and you will find yourselves less frustrated and much more open to sharing. Learn it, post it, have it visible. Remind each other to set the TONE:

T*otal honesty.* Don't share a fake answer. Just share from the heart.

O*ne person talks at a time.* No interrupting.

N*o insults or put-downs.* Easy, right?

E*verything is confidential.* Be careful with sensitive information.

Helpful Ideas/Tips

1. Pick an object from the house and use it during share times. Pass the object to the person whose turn it is to talk. This is a visible reminder of who is allowed to talk and who is not.
2. When it comes to deciding games to play or what to do, take turns. Go in age order, or by birth month. There are lots of ways to share responsibility and give everyone a turn to be first.
3. Be prepared. Look ahead and get the materials or information you need.



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The OUTREACH time is designed to help/encourage others outside your family so be creative with who it is. Extended family, co-workers, neighbors, teachers, family professionals (dentists, doctors, mechanics), and church leaders are all great examples of people your family can touch on a regular basis.

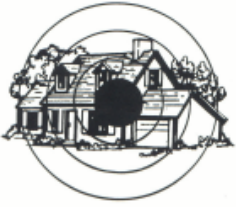


CONNECT

Sit in a circle facing each other and remind each other again to set the **TONE**.

Highs/Lows

1. One at a time, have each person share the best thing (high) that happened to them this past week. (Start with oldest)
2. One at a time, have each person share the worst thing (low) that happened to them this week. (Start with youngest).



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UPLIFT

Prayer Journal

As a family, make a prayer journal to keep track of what God will be doing in your family and neighborhood over the next 3 months.

1. Get a notebook/journal from a store.
2. Decide what categories you want to keep track of each week.
Ideas:
 - Each member gets a section for their individual prayers
(Ex. - Dad's prayers, Mom's prayers, Susie's prayers, etc.)
 - Places (Ex. - School, work, neighborhood, church)
 - General People (Ex. - unsaved, hurting, relatives, teachers)
 - Specific people (Ex. - Sally, Grandma, the Mailman)
3. Keep track each week of what is prayed for and how God answers the prayers.



SCRIPTURE

"The Lord's Prayer - Our Model"

Read Matthew 6:9-13

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

1. What different kinds of prayer do you see modeled here?
(Ex. Praise, confession, etc.)
2. What are the differences between each of the types of prayer you listed?
3. Each person answer: In which areas are you strongest and weakest?
4. Discuss how you can help keep each other accountable for making sure you include each area into your prayers on a regular basis.
5. Pray right now that God will make you a family that prays.



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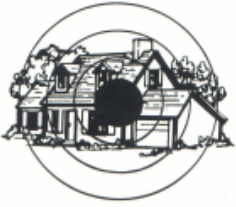


CONNECT

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Each member answer each question in turn:

1. What is the silliest/craziest/weirdest song you know?
2. Hum your favorite song and see if your family can guess it.
3. What is your favorite song and why?



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UPLIFT

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If you are not using a prayer journal, you can follow these instructions:

While still in a circle, have each person thank God for three things.



SCRIPTURE

"Prayer Types - Praises"

Read Psalm 148 and 150

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

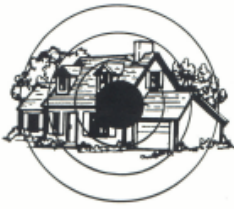
1. List the specific things for which the Psalmist praised God.

2. Try to categorize the list. For example: what things are listed about God's character? What is listed about creation? What is listed in relation to us as humans?

3. Why is praising God regularly so important?

4. What are some creative ways you can incorporate praising God into your day/prayer time?

5. Spend time praising God right now.



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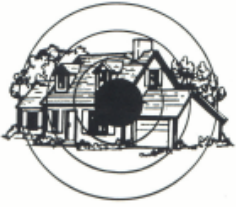


CONNECT

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Compliment Circle

1. Pick one family member. Go around the circle and have everyone share something they appreciate about that one family member.
2. After each person has shared about that one member, go on to the next person. Go in a circle and have each person share something they appreciate about that one family member.
3. Repeat until all have basked in the beauty of compliments.



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UPLIFT

Use your prayer journal tonight. Update it on new prayers and others to which God has given answers. If you don't have a prayer journal, go back to week ONE and follow the instructions.

If you are not using a prayer journal, you can follow these instructions:

1. Have each person answer this question:
What commandment of God do you struggle to keep the most?
2. Spend time praying for each person in their struggle.



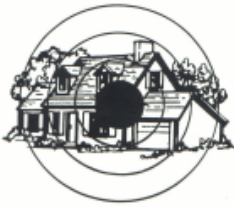
SCRIPTURE

"Prayer Types - Thanksgiving: Hannah"

Read 1 Samuel 1:19-2:10

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

1. Describe what it would have been like for Hannah to grow up knowing she would never have children, but then to have God tell her she would.
2. What stands out to you about her prayer of thanks?
3. How do you think prayers of thanksgiving change our attitude?
4. What are some things you need to be more thankful to God for?
5. Spend time thanking God right now.



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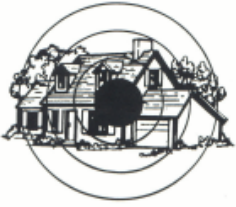


CONNECT

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Hot Potato

1. Get a soft object you can toss (stuffed animal, styrofoam cup, etc.)
2. Start with the oldest person and give them the object. While they are holding it, they have to say something nice about another person in the circle.
3. When they are through talking, they pass it to the person they just talked about. Now that person does the same. Keep going.



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Use your prayer journal tonight. Update it on new prayers and others to which God has given answers. If you don't have a prayer journal, go back to week ONE and follow the instructions.

If you are not using a prayer journal, you can follow these instructions:

1. Split the family into pairs.
2. Have each pair pray for each other.
3. Switch up until each person gets to pray with every family member.



SCRIPTURE

"Prayer Types - Confession: David"

Read or summarize 2 Samuel 11:1-12:23

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

1. What sins did David commit?

Read Psalm 51 (David wrote this after the above sins)

2. From the Psalm 51 text, describe David's attitude towards his sin, God and himself.
3. Why is confession so tough or scary for most of us?

Read 1 John 1:5-10

4. What can you do to make confession a regular part of your life and prayer time?
5. Spend some time in confession right now, before God and with your family.



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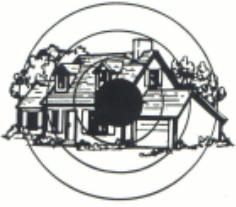


CONNECT

Sit in a circle facing each other and remind each other again to set the **TONE**.

Each member answer each question in turn:

1. What cartoon character are you most like and why?
2. What cartoon character would you like to be like and why?



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Use your prayer journal tonight. Update it on new prayers and others to which God has given answers. If you don't have a prayer journal, go back to week ONE and follow the instructions.

If you are not using a prayer journal, you can follow these instructions:

1. Have each person answer this question:
What frustrates you the most in the family?
2. Spend time praying for each person's frustration.



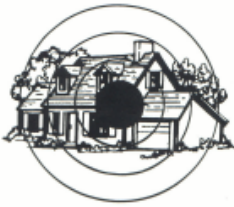
SCRIPTURE

"Prayer Types - Petitions: The Apostle Paul"

Read Philippians 4:6-7

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

1. What "needs" do we typically get anxious or upset about?
2. What does Paul say should be our approach when it comes to the things we want/need?
3. What happens in our life when we prayerfully and thankfully let God know our needs? (Hint: see v. 7)
4. Name some things/people for which you should be praying for regularly.
5. Pray for them now.



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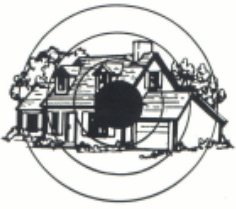


CONNECT

Remind each other to set the **TONE**. Sit in a circle with each person sitting cross-legged and placing their hands on the next persons shoulders.

Massage Parlor

1. Rub each other's shoulders while each person, in turn, shares which room in the house is their favorite and why?
2. Switch directions on the massages and take turns sharing a favorite family memory from one of those rooms.



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If you are not using a prayer journal, you can follow these instructions:

Have the parent(s) share some of their personal struggles as a parent.

Spend time in prayer, with the children praying for the parent(s).



SCRIPTURE

"Motives in Prayer"

Read James 4:1-3

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

1. Why is it that we don't have what we ask for, according to this passage?
2. Give some examples of bad motives when it comes to prayer.
3. What is the result in our relationships when we desire things and don't get them?
4. What can you do as a family to help keep your motives pure in prayer?
5. Spend time asking God to help you pray with the right motives.



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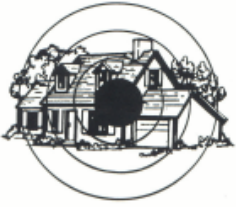


CONNECT

Sit in a circle facing each other and remind each other again to set the **TONE**.

It Was Only a Dream

1. Go around the circle and have each member share one of the worst dreams (nightmares) they remember.
2. Go around again and have each one share one of the best dreams you ever had (while sleeping).



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If you are not using a prayer journal, you can follow these instructions:

Have the kids share some of their personal struggles as a child.

Spend time in prayer, with the parent(s) praying for the kids.



SCRIPTURE

"Power in Prayer"

Read James 5:13-17

(Additional recommended reading: 1 Kings 17-18)

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

1. Summarize together the main points James is trying to make here.
2. What kind of power did God display through one man's prayers?
3. Do you believe this kind of power is available to us today? Why or why not?
4. What is stopping us from seeing these kinds of prayers answered today?
5. What "impossible" things can you pray for right now? Do it.



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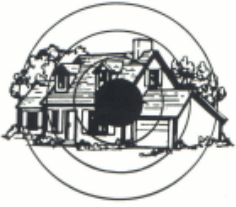


CONNECT

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I Wish

1. One at a time, have each person share one item they wish they owned but will likely never get to own.
2. One at a time, have each person share one thing they wish they owned and might someday actually get.



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Have each person pray for that member of the family.



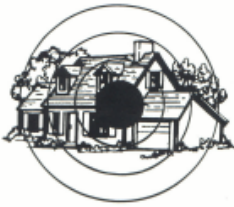
SCRIPTURE

"Jesus Prays for Believers"

Read John 17

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

1. Who is Jesus praying for in these verses? (Hint: see verse 20)
2. List some of the things that Jesus prays for us specifically.
3. Why do you suppose Jesus prayed these prayers for us?
4. Would it be wise to pray these things for ourselves? Why or why not?
5. What can your family do to make these prayers a regular part of your life?
6. Pray for these things now.



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READ the "Keys to Success" and have each person, including parents, commit to set the **TONE** during this time.



FUN

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OUTREACH

Similar to the FUN section, we have outlined a section in the Appendix for OUTREACH ideas. Appendix C has ideas for younger families and Appendix D has ideas for older families. We encourage you to use these ideas or come up with your own ideas.

The OUTREACH time is designed to help/encourage others outside your family so be creative with who it is. Extended family, co-workers, neighbors, teachers, family professionals (dentists, doctors, mechanics), and church leaders are all great examples of people your family can touch on a regular basis.



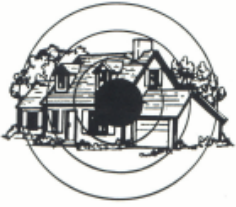
CONNECT

Sit in a circle facing each other and remind each other again to set the TONE.

Role Reversal

1. Put everyone's name in one hat or bowl.
2. Write down a bunch of emotions like happy, sad, grumpy, and put them on separate pieces of paper in a second hat or bowl.
3. Take turns drawing a name and an emotion from the hats and then act like that person in that mood.

Remember it's okay to laugh at ourselves!



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UPLIFT

Use your prayer journal tonight. Update it on new prayers and others to which God has given answers. If you don't have a prayer journal, go back to week ONE and follow the instructions.

If you are not using a prayer journal, you can follow these instructions:

1. Have one person share a prayer request.
2. Go around the circle and have each person pray out loud for the person on their left.



SCRIPTURE

"Paul's Prayer for Believers"

Read Ephesians 3:14-19

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

1. List the things Paul asks God for on behalf of these believers.
2. Describe what each of these means.
(Spend some time on this, it is not necessarily an easy set of answers.)
3. Is your family "rooted and grounded in love"? Why or why not?
4. Can you find the funny thing Paul prays for in verses 18-19? If you think you have it, email it to focus@ltbc.org and tell us what your family thinks it is! We'll put the names of all families with the correct answer into a drawing for a cool family prize.
5. Pray right now that your family will be rooted in love.



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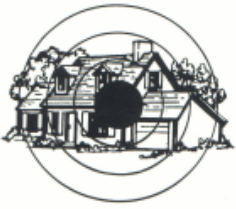


CONNECT

Sit in a circle facing each other and remind each other again to set the TONE.

Journeys

1. If you could safely spend one week anywhere on the planet, with no modern technology available to you during that week, where would you spend the week?
2. What part of your journey in life this past week did you find most encouraging to you? Discouraging?



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UPLIFT

Use your prayer journal tonight. Update it on new prayers and others to which God has given answers. If you don't have a prayer journal, go back to week ONE and follow the instructions.

If you are not using a prayer journal, you can follow these instructions:

This one might be difficult, but try it anyway.

1. Sit in a circle.
2. Take turns confessing to the Lord any of your recent sins.



SCRIPTURE

"Hearing and Responding to God: Samuel"

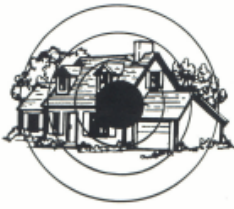
Read 1 Samuel 3

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

1. Why was Samuel able to hear the voice of God?
2. Are we able to hear His voice today? If so, how? If not, why not?
3. How does God speak to us today?
4. What do you think distracts us from hearing God "speak" today?

Read Psalm 46:10

5. Spend time listening to God quietly right now.



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FUN

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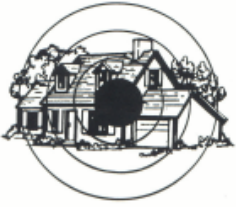
CONNECT

Sit in a circle facing each other and remind each other again to set the **TONE**.

Mystery Cup

Get a cup or bowl and put all family member's names on separate pieces of small paper and place them in the cup. Pass the cup around the circle and have each person grab a name. Take turns sharing with the group about the person on your paper. Share something good you observed them doing this past week.

Once everyone has shared, throw the names back in the cup and do it again. Repeat as much as you want to!



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UPLIFT

Use your prayer journal tonight. Update it on new prayers and others to which God has given answers. If you don't have a prayer journal, go back to week ONE and follow the instructions.

If you are not using a prayer journal, you can follow these instructions:

1. Sit in a circle and hold hands.
2. Take turns telling God all the things that make Him great. Use some Scripture if you can recall it.



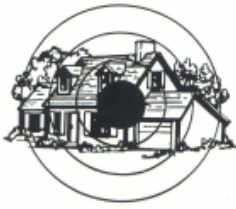
SCRIPTURE

"Prayer of Stewardship: David"

Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-20

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

1. Describe in your own words what happened in this story.
2. What was David's attitude in prayer towards giving?
3. How did his attitude affect his ability to give?
4. Do a family check right now. How is your attitude when it comes to giving? Can you pray with David on this issue? Why or why not?
5. Pray right now that God will help you be good stewards.



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FUN

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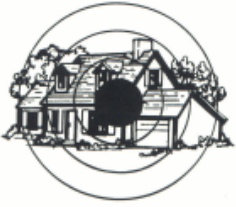


CONNECT

Sit in a circle facing each other and remind each other again to set the **TONE**.

Encouragement Web

Get a ball of yarn. Start with the oldest person and give them the yarn. While they are holding it, they have to encourage someone else in the circle. When they are through talking, they toss the yarn ball to the person they just talked to, but they hang on to the end of the yarn string so that a line is made from the tosser to the tossee. Now the person holding the ball does the same, encouraging someone and then holding the yarn string while tossing the ball. As this goes on, a web of encouragement will be created around the circle with each person holding various amounts of "yarn points."



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UPLIFT

Use your prayer journal tonight. Update it on new prayers and others to which God has given answers. If you don't have a prayer journal, go back to week ONE and follow the instructions.

Popcorn Prayer

Sit in a circle and take turns praying one or two sentence prayers following this pattern:

Each person begin your prayer with "God you are..."

Next go around and begin your short prayers with "God thank you for..."

Use the pattern with these:

"God I am sorry for..."

"Lord help me to..."



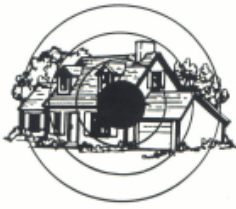
SCRIPTURE

"Prayers of Expectation vs. Doubt: Peter"

Read Acts 12:1-17

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

1. Describe what happened in this story.
2. What's so funny about the saints who were praying for Peter's release?
3. Do you ever find yourself praying for things you don't really expect to happen?
4. What is one thing you are currently praying for that you don't really expect God to resolve? Confess it to the group and pray about your doubt. (Answer individually.)



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FUN

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OUTREACH

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CONNECT

Sit in a circle facing each other and remind each other again to set the **TONE**.

Evaluation

1. Have each person describe the best thing they have gotten out of your times together this past few months.
2. What is one thing you hope your family will get to do together in the next 3 months? (Mom or Dad, take notes!)



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UPLIFT

Use your prayer journal tonight. Update it on new prayers and others to which God has given answers. If you don't have a prayer journal, go back to week ONE and follow the instructions.

Prayers of Song

Spend time singing worship songs together as a family.



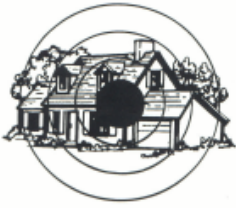
SCRIPTURE

"Continual Prayer"

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

As a family, interact with the following questions/statements:

1. How often are we supposed to rejoice? Pray? Give thanks?
2. How does this practically work in everyday life?
3. If each of you were doign this now, what would and would not be happen ing in your life?
4. What can you do as individuals to make this happen?
5. What can you do as a family to make this happen together?
6. Pray right now that God will help you pray continually.



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Appendix Contents

The following section has a host of resources for you as a family to use. Rather than outlining a specific activity for each week, this time we thought we'd try this method. Each week you can find the section that is appropriate for what you are looking for, and grab an idea. Don't forget to pass along your ideas to us so we can expand this section for the next FOCUS Pack! Send ideas to: wcoddington@ltbc.org

Appendix A - FUN Activities for Younger Families

Here you will find lots of great things you can do during your family FUN time. The contents are geared to families with younger children.

Appendix B - FUN Activities for Older Families

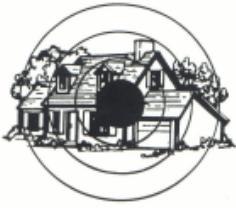
Here you will find lots of great things you can do during your family FUN time. The contents are geared to families with older children.

Appendix C - OUTREACH Ideas for Younger Families

This is a list of ideas you can do for others outside your immediate family. It is geared towards younger families.

Appendix D - OUTREACH Ideas for Older Families

This is a list of ideas you can do for others outside your immediate family. It is geared towards older families.



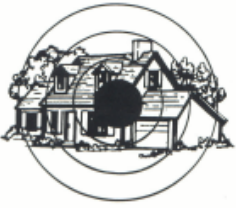
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Appendix A

FUN Activities for Younger Families

- | | |
|--|---|
| Plan a Picnic | Pack a simple dinner: PB&J and a few of the family favorites. Travel to a local park ... or your back yard and enjoy a picnic as a family. |
| Go Fly a Kite! | Kites can be very inexpensive at a toy store; sometimes they are even available at the dollar store. Buy one or one for every member of the family. Pick a time when it's windy and go fly kites. |
| Nature Walk | Travel to a local park with a hiking trail. Make a list of things to find or see (a stick, a stone, a bird, etc.). |
| Write a Book | For young children this will be more of a picture book. Have everyone in the family draw a picture of something they love doing as a family. For extra fun, visit a local copy center and have color copies made and bind a copy of the book for everyone in the family. |
| Kickball, Softball, or Volleyball | Have an outside game night. For young children this will be basic. Kicking or hitting the ball and directing them to run. Remember to celebrate every accomplishment! |
| Board Game Night | Perfect for rainy days! Have a game night where everyone gets to play their favorite game. Set a time for an equal amount of time so everyone gets to play his or her game. |
| Puzzle Night | Choose puzzles that will interest your small children. They may be basic board or wooden puzzles. Make a fun night out of putting puzzles together as a family. |
| Library Trip | As a family, take a trip to the library. Allow each person to choose their favorite book. |
| Plant a Garden | Make yard work a family event! For small children keep it simple. Find a small area of your garden that children can make their own. Allow them to help plant and care for the flowers (or vegetables) throughout the summer. Allow them to add their own creativity like a few rocks for "decoration." |



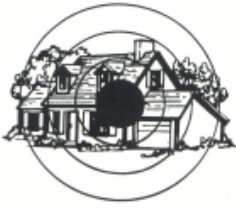
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Appendix A

FUN Activities for Younger Families

- | | |
|--|--|
| Make a Fort | Using bed sheets and furniture make a special fort. Play whatever make-believe games your children make up. |
| Simon Says | Give everyone a turn to be Simon. Be creative and silly with your ideas. |
| Sleepover Night | Camp out in the living room ... you too mom and dad! Have special snacks (like microwave smores) & favorite games. Everyone gets in their PJs early and hangs out in the living room. |
| Treasure Hunt | Inside or outside make a picture treasure map for children to follow. Hide a special prize. Or, hide a picture of the next place to seek. Have children work together as a team. |
| Family Collage | Obtain some double prints of family photos. Allow children to cut and paste them together in a way to make a special family collage. Display it in a prominent place in the house. |
| Make a Family Movie | If you have a video camera, video each family member individually and your family together. Try to pick a fun activity to do together and keep your movie interesting. Young children LOVE to see themselves on TV. |
| Study a Historical Christian Person | Once a month pick a Christian man or woman from history. People like Hudson Taylor or Amy Carmichael. Share a special story from their life and how they served God. Think of a way you can do what they did for someone else. |



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Appendix B FUN Activities for Older Families

Plan a Picnic	Travel to a local park ... or your back yard, and enjoy a picnic as a family. Involve older children by having them plan the menu and help prepare the food.
Go Fly a Kite!	Buy a kite kit or research the internet for how to build your own kite. Work with older children to make this a special project.
Nature Walk	Travel to a local park with a hiking trail. Allow older children to make a list of things to find or see.
Write a Book	Have older children write a story (true or fiction) related to the family. It could be a favorite memory or a dream vacation they would like to take. Have them write the story and draw pictures. For extra fun, visit a local copy center and have color copies made and bind a copy of the book for everyone in the family.
Kickball, Softball, or Volleyball	Have an outside game night. For older children this can be a fun night of competition. Make the teams fun – parents vs. kids or girls vs. boys.
Board Game Night	Perfect for rainy days! Have a game night where everyone gets to play their favorite game. Set a time for an equal amount of time so everyone gets to play his or her game.
Puzzle Night	Challenge your family to complete a puzzle. Pick a puzzle that will include everyone. For older children a 500 piece puzzle may be a fun challenge ... keep it going for a few family nights!
Library Trip	As a family, take a trip to the library. Allow each person to choose their favorite book. At home, allow children to read their book to everyone in the family. Have a book discussion afterwards.
Plant a Garden	Make yard work a family event! Assign each child their own garden. Allow them help decide what you will plant their – flowers or vegetables. Allow them to help plant and care for the flowers (or vegetables) all summer long.

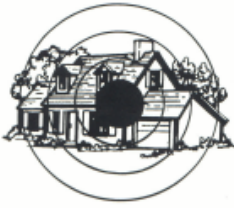


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Appendix B FUN Activities for Older Families

- Simon Says** Give everyone a turn to be Simon. Be creative and silly with your ideas.
- Sleepover Night** Camp out in the living room ... you too mom and dad! Have special snacks (like microwave smores) & favorite games. Everyone gets in their PJs early and hangs out in the living room. Involve older children by asking them to help plan the activities for the night.
- Treasure Hunt** The older the children the more detailed and mysterious to make the map. This can be inside, outside or driving to various locations ... end up someplace fun, like the ice cream shop!
- Family Collage** Using old magazines have each member of the family cut out pictures & words that make them think of your family. Assign each person a section of a large poster board and have them make a collage that represents the family to them. Display it in a prominent place in the house.
- Make a Family Movie** If you have a video camera, make a family movie. Allow older children to create a script and then each member of the family must play a role. Watch your movie together.
- Study a Historical Christian Person** Once a month pick a Christian man or woman from history. People like Hudson Taylor or Amy Carmichael. Have older children read a chapter from a book about the person's life. Involve older children by asking them to choose the person you will study as a family.



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Appendix C

OUTREACH Ideas for Younger Families

Paint & Plant a Flower Pot

Purchase a clay flower pot (or more) at the local craft store. Allow children to paint the pot with their favorite designs. Fill the pot with a few flowers that are easy to care for (pansies, for example). Choose a person who you know could use some cheering up and deliver the pot of flowers.

Bake!

Cupcakes, cookies, cut-out cookies, etc. Involve younger children by allowing them to stir and help decorate. Choose a family who you know would be blessed by a special treat.

Make a Special Book

This will be more of a picture book for young children. Have them color some pictures of some memories they have of a special person (Sunday School teacher, school teacher, grandparent, friend, etc.). Turn the pictures into a book by stapling it or having it bound at a local copy store. Give the book to the person.

Make a Meal

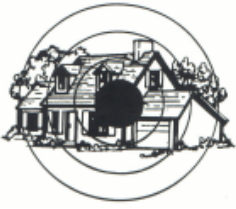
Plan a meal for a family who may have gone through a difficult time recently or someone who simply needs the encouragement. Involve younger children by having them make a card or color a picture to send along with the meal.

Adopt a College Student

Invite a local college student over for a meal. Bless them even more by inviting them to bring their laundry along! Have a special care package for them to take back to college with them – snacks, basic care items, etc. Keep in touch with that student throughout the semester. (NOTE: most college students like to travel in pairs, consider having them bring along a friend.)

Adopt a Missionary

During this year's mission's conference, as a family, choose a missionary you would like to adopt. Be sure to pray for that missionary during each family time. Think of special ways you can encourage that missionary such as sending a card or care package. Call the church office for a list of our missionaries (215-757-8782)



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Appendix C

OUTREACH Ideas for Younger Families

Birthday Gifts for Others

If you are hosting a child's birthday party, instead of having gifts brought for your child ask guests to bring along gifts that can be given to children in need through the Christian care ministry.

Collect for Others

Collect items one of our missionary's could use, such as children's books for Mona Kach in Bangladesh. Have everyone in the family contribute allowance or fun money towards the shipping costs.

Thank You's

As a family, make a special card thanking Sunday School teachers for serving in Sunday School. Ask young children to say something special they like about their teacher and then write that in the card. Do the same for a school teacher too!

Grocery Shop for Families in Need

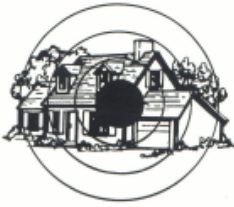
As a family take a special grocery-shopping trip. Have each member pick out one or two of their favorite foods. Talk to your children about helping families who cannot always afford to buy their favorite foods. Anonymously give the groceries to a family you know in need or donate them to the Christian care ministry.

Create a Date Night

Think of a couple with small children who may not get to go out on a date very often. Offer to have their children come and stay for a few hours while they go out on a date night.

Plan a Neighborhood Picnic

Host a picnic for a few neighbors in your community. Invite a family or two that you don't really know. Keep it simple and focus on building relationships. For small children plan a few games or activities that will keep their interest.



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Appendix D

OUTREACH Ideas for Older Families

Paint & Plant a Flower Pot

Purchase a clay flower pot (or more) at the local craft store. Allow children to paint the pot with their favorite designs. Fill the pot with a few flowers that are easy to care for (pansies, for example). Choose a person who you know could use some cheering up and deliver the flowers.

Yard or House Work

Think of an elderly person or someone in need who could use some extra helping hands. Arrange a time with them to come and help with projects around their house. Plan this activity as a family.

Bake!

Cupcakes, cookies, cut-out cookies, etc. Involve older children by allowing them to do most of the work. Choose a family who you know would be blessed by a special treat.

Make a Special Book

Have older children write a story about how someone has influenced their life (Sunday School teacher, school teacher, grandparent, friend, etc.). Have them include some drawings. Turn the pictures into a book by stapling it or having it bound at a local copy store. Give the book to the person.

Make a Meal

Plan a meal for a family who may have gone through a difficult time recently or someone who simply needs the encouragement. Involve older children by having them help plan the menu & prepare the food.

Adopt a College Student

Invite a local college student over for a meal. Bless them even more by inviting them to bring their laundry along! Have a special care package for them to take back to college with them – snacks, basic care items, etc. Keep in touch with that student throughout the semester. (NOTE: most college students like to travel in pairs, consider having them bring along a friend.)



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Appendix D

OUTREACH Ideas for Older Families

Adopt a Missionary During this year's mission's conference, as a family, choose a missionary you would like to adopt. Make sure their picture is in a central location in your home. Be sure to pray for that missionary during each family time. Think of special ways you can encourage that missionary such as sending a card or care package. Call the church office for a list of missionaries (215-757-8782)

Birthday Gifts for Others If you are hosting a child's birthday party, instead of having gifts brought for your child ask guests to bring along gifts that can be given to children in need through the Christian care ministry. Other ideas would be to collect items one of our missionary's could use, such as children's books for Mona Kach in Bangladesh. Have everyone in the family contribute allowance or fun money towards the shipping costs.

Thank You's As a family, make a special card thanking Sunday School teachers for serving in Sunday School. Have older children write something special they like about their teacher or what specific lesson they remember. Do it for a public school teacher too!

Grocery Shop for Families in Need As a family take a special grocery-shopping trip. Have each member pick out one or two of their favorite foods. Talk to your children about helping families who cannot always afford to buy their favorite foods. Anonymously give the groceries to a family you know in need or donate them to the Christian care ministry.

Create a Date Night Think of a couple with small children who may not get to go out on a date very often. Offer to have their children come and stay for a few hours while they go out on a date night.

Plan a Neighborhood Picnic Host a picnic for a few neighbors in your community. Invite a family or two that you don't really know. Keep it simple and focus on building relationships. Plan some fun games that older children would enjoy playing – such as a water balloon fight.