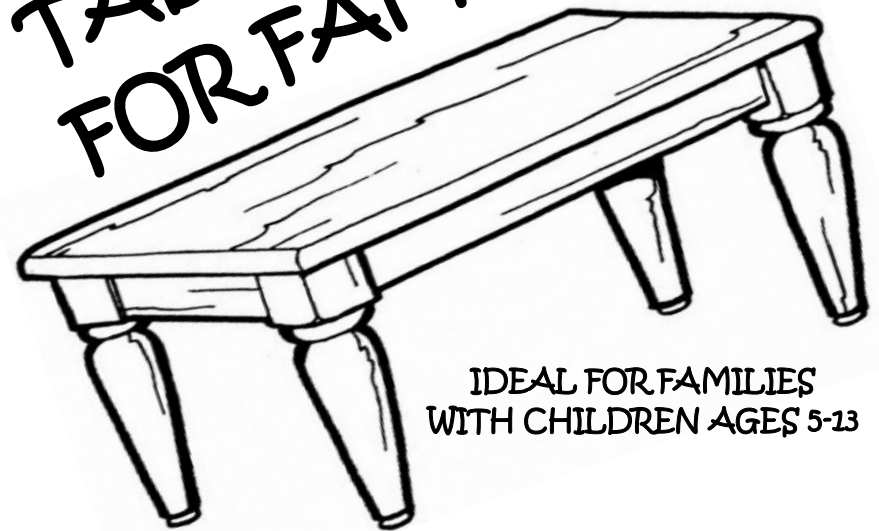


OUR FAMILY PLAN	
This week we can serve others by	
This week we can pray for these following families	
This week we can have fun as a family by	
This week we can grow closer to God by	
This week the kids can help parents by	
This week parents can help the kids by	
Other suggestions	

LIVE IN COMMUNITY

TABLE TALKS FOR FAMILIES



IDEAL FOR FAMILIES
WITH CHILDREN AGES 5-13

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples." JESUS (John 13:35)

THEME: LIVE IN COMMUNITY

MONDAY

READ: John 17:21-24

In a *Peanuts* cartoon, Lucy demands that Linus change the TV channel, threatening him with her fist if he didn't. "What makes you think you can walk right in here and take over?" asks Linus.

"These five fingers," says Lucy. "Individually they're nothing, but when I curl them together like this into a single unit, they form a weapon that is terrible to behold."

"Which channel do you want?" asks Linus. Turning away, he looks at his fingers and says, "Why can't you guys get organized like that?"



1. When fingers work together it is a whole lot better than when they work apart. With that in mind, why is it important for people to work together?
2. In our Bible verses for today, what is Jesus praying for His people to do?
3. Do you work well together with your family?
4. What can help you do even better?

PRAYER

- ♦ Thank Jesus for giving you a family
- ♦ Ask God to help you learn to work together

SATURDAY

READ: Colossians 3:16,17

I have had the great opportunity to teach at a Bible camp every year for the last twelve years. Even though twelve years is a long time, I still remember the first year I taught at this Bible camp. Every day kids would come up to me during Bible class or during the evening church service and ask just one question, "Can I go to the bathroom?"

One evening, while I was speaking during a church service, a boy around 11 or 12 came up to me. I, of course, thought, "Oh brother. Not another kid who needs to go to the bathroom!" But this boy had tears in his eyes, and this is what he said, "I want to know Jesus. I want Him to be my Savior!"

That was one of the most awesome experiences of my life! Wow! Teaching God's Word does great things!

1. How much time during the week do you spend learning about the Bible?
2. Why do you think that our Bible verses say that Christians should help each other learn the Bible?
3. What is something you learned while being taught the Bible?
4. What is something in the Bible that you can teach someone else?

PRAYER

- ♦ Thank God for people who teach you the Bible
- ♦ Ask God to help you teach things to others

FRIDAY

READ: Colossians 3:13-15

(This is a true story.) Bob was in his early 20s when he took the only job he could get—driving a bus in the city of Chicago. One day a gang of tough teens got on board and refused to pay. After a few days of this, Bob spotted a policeman on the corner, stopped the bus, and reported them. The officer made them pay, but then he got off. When the bus rounded a corner, the gang was so mad at Bob that they robbed him and beat him severely.

The gang members were arrested for this and found guilty. But as soon as the jail sentence was given, Bob felt sorry for these gang members because he knew that they needed Jesus. He forgave them in his heart and visited them often in prison. Because of that, many of those gang members became Christians.

1. When someone does something mean to you, do you forgive them or do you refuse to forgive?
2. What do our Bible verses say about forgiveness?
3. Because Bob forgave the gang members, what happened?
4. What good things can happen if you forgive?

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank God that He is willing to forgive your many sins
- ◆ Ask God to help you be willing to forgive those who say or do mean things to you

TUESDAY

READ: Acts 2:42-47

Did you know that in Morgantown, Pennsylvania, it once snowed 38 inches in one day? That is over three feet of snow! But that is nothing. At Gunn's Ranch, Washington, it once snowed 48 inches in one day. That is four feet of snow! And at Thompson's Pass, Alaska, it once snowed 62 inches in one day. That is over five feet of snow!

This is incredible when you think that one snow flake is so small that you cannot even see all of its detail without a microscope! Yet, when many snowflakes join together, it can really make a difference.

This is kind of like all of God's children. By ourselves, we can't accomplish too much. But when we all join together, then we can really make a difference!!

1. Do you work well with others? Why or why not?
2. What were some things that the early church was able to do in our Bible verses for today because they worked so well together?
3. If you worked together with other Christians, what kinds of things do you think you could do?
4. Think of something you can do with others this week to make a difference in someone's life:

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank God for fellow Christians to work with
- ◆ Ask God to show you who you can help this week

WEDNESDAY

READ: John 13:34,35

Jonny was a great hugger and always said, "I love you" to his parents. Yet, when he was upset, he would yell at his parents, talk back, and be very rude. When he was tired, he would refuse to do his chores even after promising. And when he had friends over, he practically acted like his parents didn't exist. Meanwhile, Jenny was also a great hugger and always said, "I love you" to her parents. Now, she was certainly not perfect, but she tried to speak to her parents respectfully, do all her chores when asked, and involve her parents in activities with her friends.

1. Both Jonny and Jenny *said* "I love you," but which one really *showed* that love?
2. In our Bible verses for today, what commandment did Jesus give His followers?
3. If Jesus' followers do a good job *showing* this, what will be the result according to Jesus?
4. Do you do a good job of showing love?
5. What can help you do an even better job of showing love?

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank God for the people in your life who show you love
- ◆ Ask God to help you really show your love for Him and for others

THURSDAY

READ: 1 John 3:14-18

Imagine you are walking down the street one day and you see a little four year-old boy sitting on the curb with tears streaming down his puffy, red cheeks. You go over and sit next to him, asking, "What's wrong little guy?"

Barely able to talk because he is crying so hard, he tells you that his family hasn't eaten in a whole day. He is so hungry that his stomach hurts. You feel bad for him, so you gently pat him on the back and say, "I'm sorry. I will pray about this for you." With that, you stand up and walk away.

1. If you did that, would you be doing a good job of *showing* love?
2. How could you really show love to this little boy?
3. What do our Bible verses say about showing love?
4. Why is *showing* love way better than just *saying* that you love?
5. Who have you been showing love to this week?

PRAYER

- ◆ Thank Jesus that He showed you His love for you by dying on the cross for your sins
- ◆ Ask God to help you show love to Him and to others