

Activity: Family



**FAMILY TIME
TRAINING**

Teaching Goal: God created the “family” as the primary vehicle to get His children safely to the home in heaven He has prepared for them. (Ben Freudenberg, *The Family Friendly Church*)

Scripture: Proverbs - A letter from a parent to his child on how to gain wisdom.

1 Corinthians 15:42-54 ...The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body... and just as we were borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven...in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Materials: A shoe box
2 raw eggs
2 plastic sandwich bags
Ladder or second story window
Newspaper or other padding
Tape
Permanent marker
Shiny piece of fruit

In Advance: This activity includes statistics from a personal study of Proverbs. These statistics represent one person’s review of Proverbs. You may want to do your own study and categorize the verses differently.

I. Lesson and Discussion

✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. DISCUSSION: Invite a volunteer to read Deuteronomy 6:7. **The Bible tells us how to live. God created families to teach children the Bible. Family Time combines time together as a family with learning God’s plan for daily living. The Bible shows us how to handle good and bad times so we end up with God in heaven.**

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Near the middle of the Bible is a book called Proverbs. Proverbs is a letter from a parent to his child, a letter from King Solomon to his son. In the letter, Solomon is giving his son important advice on how to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

The first 9 chapters of Proverbs talk about the importance of “wisdom.” Definition: **Wisdom is the knowledge of what is true and right coupled with actions and judgments that match the knowledge of true and right.** As you mention the key points below, write them down in a list.

Chapters 10 to 31 teach us the specific attributes to focus on if we are seeking to gain wisdom.

- 102 verses on using words: positively or negatively.
- 52 verses on making good decisions.
- 37 verses on relationships—parents, spouse, friends, enemies
- 36 verses on being teachable, listening to instructions.
- 31 verses on handling money
- 31 verses on having good work habits
- 27 verses on recognizing that God is sovereign, God is right and in control
- 19 verses on justice, fairness
- 14 verses on giving
- 14 verses on the fear of God

Other topics include: leadership (12); pride (11); peace (11); patience (8); integrity (6); planning (6); kindness (4); avoiding drunkenness (4).

These lessons in Proverbs come from God. Our life on earth will be better and we’ll make it to heaven if we believe in Jesus and follow what God teaches.

B. ACTIVITY: Create a path with a starting point, in the middle will be a ladder or an open second floor window and an ending point someplace after the ladder or open window. **This shoebox represents our family. This raw egg represents a member in our family.** Write the name of a family member on the egg. Write the name “Jesus” on a sandwich bag, put the egg in the bag and seal it tightly. **The sandwich bag represents Jesus. The egg being in this bag represents {name} believing in Jesus and follows his teachings.** Put the bag inside the box and tape the box closed so that it doesn’t come open. **We are going to walk together along a path I’ve laid out. Right here is the starting point. In the middle of the path we will stop at the ladder (or second floor window) and then continue to the end of the path. The path represents life with birth at the beginning. There is going to be a crisis in life at the second floor window (or ladder) and then we will continue to the end, which represents passing from this life to life in heaven.** Put the piece of fruit right on the finish line.

Walk the path until you get to the crisis point. **We’ve reached the crisis point in life. What would be a serious crisis to you?** *Listen to answers and use age appropriate suggestions.* A car wreck. A sports injury that keeps you from playing on the team. Long sickness. Moving away from friends. Loss of job. Loss of a loved one. Our country being at war. Losing a very close friend. Climb the ladder or open the window. **Dropping the box represents the crisis. What is going to happen to our family and {name} inside?** You have not put any padding

around the egg inside the box so the egg should break. After you drop the box, pick it back up and take it to the end of the trail.

At the end of the path but BEFORE YOU CROSS THE FINISH LINE open the box. **The egg is broken. But since {name} is in Jesus they can still cross the finish line and go to heaven!** Invite a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 15:42-54 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. Pick up the shiny, attractive piece of fruit. **When we die in Christ we go to heaven and we even get a new body! Instead of living for eternity as a broken egg we are changed into a new body as different as this piece of fruit is from the egg.** Step across the finish line with the piece of fruit.

Let's do it one more time except this time we are going to do something different. **We are going to use strips of newspaper to protect the egg from breaking during the crisis.** Tear the newspaper into strips. **We are going to write on the paper key lessons from the verses in Proverbs.** Write on the pieces of paper: Using positive words, making good decisions; strong relationships; being teachable; handling money; good work habits; God is in control; fairness; patience; etc. While you are writing on the pieces of paper talk about how these lessons could help you through different crises. For example, using positive words will help you avoid fights, having good work habits could make losing a job not as devastating since you would be qualified for other jobs. Not drinking and driving can keep you from having car wrecks.

Stuff the box full of newspaper strips...lots and lots of strips. You do not need to write on every strip of newspaper. Write the family member's name on a second raw egg. Put it inside a second sandwich bag and write "Jesus" on the bag. Make sure the egg is secure and firmly surrounded on all sides by the newspaper strips. Tape the box closed. **Remember, these strips of newspaper represent having God's wisdom in our lives. Let's see what happens in a crisis when we know and follow God's wisdom.** Repeat the course. If packed securely the egg should not break. At least, it shouldn't be as smashed as the first egg.

At the end of the path but BEFORE CROSSING THE FINISH LINE, open the box. Point out that the person is in Jesus and can cross the finish line into heaven. Also point out that knowing and living in God's wisdom kept the person from breaking or there may be cracks but the egg is not smashed. Pick up the shiny piece of fruit. **Remember, the box represents our family. The most important thing is that each of us believes and follows Jesus represented by being in the sandwich bag. Next, as a family, we need to follow God's plan, the Bible, which will keep us from being smashed by tragedies. And, we get a new body and better body in heaven represented by the fruit.**

II. Close in Prayer

III. Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on* to another family.