Lesson at a Glance

THE PLAN

Family
LESSON 1

LESSON TEXT

Ephesians 5:22-6:4; Galatians 3:26-28; Psalm 33:10-11; Psalm 68:5-6

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will describe the role of each family member as stated in God's plan.
- The students will explain how single-parent families can use God's principles to create families that glorify God.
- The students will show honor to their parents in specific ways during the week.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:
- pen or pencil
- 1 sheet of lined paper

For the teacher:
- scissors
- 3 sheets of paper
- marker
- tape
- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world
- dictionary
- extra Bibles
- large manila envelope (9" x 12"), 1 for every 3-4 students
- glue sticks, 1 for each group
- construction paper, 1 piece for each group

Reproducible Pages:
- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page C, 1 copy for each student
- Page D, 1 copy for every 3-4 students
- Page E, 1 copy for each student
- Page F, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
- Teacher Focus
- Teacher Tips

Preclass Activity: Creating Candlesticks

Starting Up
- Welcome and Singing
- Opening Prayer
- Victories
- Good News from the Kingdom

Getting into God's Word

Story: "My Two Homes"

Scripture Study

Activity: Giving Honor

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 6:1-3

Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Ephesians 6:1-3

GENERATION Preteens

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GETTING READY

FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray for wisdom as you prepare for this lesson. Read and study Ephesians 5:22-6:4, Galatians 3:26-28, Psalm 33:10-11 and Psalm 68:5-6. From your study, describe as extensively as possible the plan that God has for the family and the roles described for each of its members. The focus of this lesson is the greatness of God's plan for his people. He puts us into families to meet our needs. Think about your own family or roommate situation, and realize how grateful you should be for the situation God has given you.

TEACHER TIPS

As you prepare for this lesson, think of families in your ministry (both traditional and non-traditional) which are excellent examples of God's plan in action. Talk with one or two of these families to determine some of the special ways that they glorify God with their family. Be sure to share these ideas and insights with your class, giving honor and appreciation to these awesome families.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

CREATING CANDLESTICKS

By approaching an activity in three different ways, the students will find out that it is impossible to successfully complete any task, purpose or mission without a very specific plan.

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:
- scissors
- 3 sheets of paper
- marker
- tape

Reproducible Pages:
- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher

PREPARATION

1. Cut each copy of Reproducible Page A in half, giving you two identical "squares" of puzzle pieces for each student.
2. On a sheet of paper, write out the instructions for each station. Refer to the Instructions section below for what to write on each paper.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Set up three tables as Station #1, Station #2 and Station #3. Create a sign for each station, taping the sign to the front of the table. As your students come into the class, have them attempt the activity that is at each station, allowing approximately four minutes at each station. At each station you will have the instructions written out. The students should complete the stations in 1, 2, 3 order, and three or four students should be able to work at a station at the same time.
2. Station #1: Give each student half of a copy of Reproducible Page A (candle pattern pieces). No other materials should be provided, nor should anything be cut. The instructions should say only "Make a candlestick." (Students will have to tear the sheets and try their best to obey the instructions.)

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GETTING READY

3. Station #2: Give each student the other half of a copy of Reproducible Page A and a pair of scissors. The instructions should say "Cut out the pieces from the pattern. Arrange all the pieces to form an image that looks like a candlestick. When you move to Station #3, take your cut-out puzzle pieces with you."
4. Station #3: Post a copy of Reproducible Page B (candlestick form), which shows how to arrange the pieces The instructions should say "Using all of the pattern pieces given to you, create an image that looks like a candlestick, as illustrated on the sheet."

STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER

Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together? Let a few students lead the prayer. Encourage the students to mention missing students, special church activities, illnesses, etc. Pray that each student will be grateful for his or her family, and for the plan that God has established for all families.

VICTORIES

Take the time to have the students share about the challenge they were given at the end of last week's class. *Did everyone complete their challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times? Who would like to share something they learned this week?*

Praise and encourage all the students' efforts, especially noting any area of significant growth. Offer help and suggestions so they can have even more victories in the coming week.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KINGDOM

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

INSTRUCTIONS

Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom." Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share. Remind your students that the kingdom of God is worldwide, and the victories of our brothers and sisters on other continents can inspire us and spur us on.

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GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

INSTRUCTIONS

Take a few minutes to discuss with the students some of the things they learned from the preclass activity. They should have learned that it is impossible to successfully complete any task, purpose or mission without a very specific plan. The following poem and scripture study will help them see that God has laid out a very specific plan to help us have great families.

STORY

"MY TWO HOMES"

The narrator of this poem is an older child who recognizes and appreciates the way in which each family member helps to build the home and family. More importantly, the child realizes, and is grateful for, the fact that his or her home has been built as a smaller part of God's home.

MATERIALS USED

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute copies of Reproducible Page C (the poem) to the students.
2. Tell the students to listen as you read the poem.
   - *How does this child feel about his or her home?*
   - *What are some of the things that each family member has done to make the home the way it is?*
   - *What is this child's "second home"?*
   - *How well does this child know God? How do you know this?*

SCRIPTURE STUDY

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- dictionary
- extra Bibles

Tell the students that today they are beginning a unit about different aspects of the family, and that in this class, they will study God's special plan for the family.

Begin the discussion by talking about the concept of "roles." Ask the students to give their ideas about the definition of a role. Then, have a student read the definition from the dictionary.

- *When are times that it would be important to define someone's role? (a business / a play / leadership in the church / organizing a function / etc.)*
- *Why are roles important in any organization? What happens when everyone tries to play the same role (i.e., do the same job)? For example, what if everyone in a firehouse only wants to drive the fire truck? Or hold the hose?*

Have the students turn to Galatians 3:26-28. Select a student to read the passage aloud. This scripture shows that we are all one (equal) in God's eyes because of our baptism. God shows no favoritism. However, in the church, people play different roles and function in different ways. This is true of marriage and the family too. Everyone involved has a specific function or role. This plan is what allows a godly family to run smoothly, be joyful and do great things for God.

Have the students turn to Ephesians 5:22-6:4 in their Bibles.

- *Now we will begin to discuss the different roles and responsibilities of each member of a family. Let's begin with the head of the family, the father.*

Select a student to read Ephesians 5:25-33a and 6:4.

- *What are the roles and responsibilities of a husband and father?*
  - ➔ Leader
  - ➔ Love his wife and family
  - ➔ Sacrifice, give himself up for the family
  - ➔ Make his wife pure and radiant
  - ➔ Be sure physical and spiritual needs are met
  - ➔ Keep children from being frustrated or exasperated

Select another volunteer to read verses 5:22-24 and 33b.

- *What are the roles and responsibilities of a wife and mother?*
  - ➔ Respect the leader (the father/husband)
  - ➔ Submit to the leader's authority
    NOTE: Select a student to read the definition of "submit" from the dictionary. Be sure that your students have an understanding of the godly use of the term in the marriage relationship. It is not mindless following, but rather a commitment to follow the decision or judgment of another. When the husband is a disciple also, he will seek his wife's input as he makes decisions that affect the family.
  - ➔ Nurture the family members
  - ➔ Help meet physical and spiritual needs

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GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

Select a third volunteer to read verses 6:1-3.

- *What are the roles and responsibilities of the children of the family?*
  - ➔ Be obedient—even Jesus was obedient to his parents (Luke 2:51).
  - ➔ Honor their parents

The family that follows God's plan is a unified family and one in which all the members work as a team, loving and helping each other. In this way, the family radiates God's joy, and can therefore influence others to know and love God. This plan is the standard that he expects every family to follow.

To heighten the students' awareness of the differences between the world's standard for a family versus God's standard, discuss the types of families that the students see around them and on television.

- *What kind of families are shown on TV?*
- *What types of things do these families do? What is the relationship between the father and mother? Between the parents and the children? How do they compare with God's standard?*
- *Do most of the families around us seem to follow God's plan? What makes you think this?*

God's plan for the family should be the standard, i.e. the "traditional family." However, there are many families in our world who are hurting and scarred. Some are struggling because they have not followed God's plan. Others are trying to make the best of tough situations over which they have little or no control. Some of these families are single-parent families (i.e. families with only one parent due to a death, divorce, legal separation, etc.)

Ask how many of the two-parent students are at home for an extended period of time with only one of their parents. (Maybe one parent travels for their job or the parents work opposite shifts.) Have some volunteers describe what this is like. Help your students to see that this is somewhat similar to everyday living in a single-parent family.

Read Psalm 68:5-6 to the students.

- *How does God feel about single-parent families?* (He loves them. / They have a special place in his heart. / He wants to help their situations be awesome.)

Help the students see that God wants every person to be part of a great family, regardless of their situation. Single-parent families can also use the principles of God's plan to be a unified, loving family.

- *How do you think this can happen? What roles would each family member perform?* (The single mom or dad can be like Jesus for the family, and the children honor and obey the parent.)
- *Children from single-parent families have been protected, loved and chosen to carry out great plans by God.*

Summary:

1. God's plan for the traditional family provides for the father, mother and children to have specific roles and responsibilities. When each person carries out his or her role in a godly way, the family is happy and loving, and it glorifies God.
2. The principles of God's plan also work in non-traditional families. These families should not be discouraged, but rather should know that God loves them and that he wants the best for them.

ACTIVITY

GIVING HONOR

Many preteens struggle with respecting or showing honor to their parents. To help students focus on doing this, the students will write down their own ideas for honoring their parents.

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- pen or pencil
- 1 sheet of lined paper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give each student a pen or pencil, and a piece of lined paper. Instruct the students to write the word "HONOR" down the left side of the paper, putting one letter on every other line.
2. Using the letters in "HONOR" as the first letter of each phrase, the students should work individually to think of different, specific ways to honor and appreciate their parents. For example:
   - H—Help my mother wash the dishes.
   - O—Obey my parents at all times.
   - N—Never be disrespectful to my parents.
   - O—Offer to help Dad mow the lawn.
   - R—Return my belongings to the proper place.

   NOTE: Your students should write ideas that meet the specific needs in their own family, but you may offer these as ideas to help them get started.
3. When the students are finished, have them set these sheets aside to be used as part of the Weekly Challenge.

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GETTING IT TO OTHERS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3

MATERIALS

For the teacher:
- large manila envelope (9" X 12"),1 for each group (3-4 students)
- glue sticks, 1 for each group
- construction paper, 1 piece for each group

Reproducible Pages:
- Page D, 1 copy for each group (3-4 students)
- Page E, 1 copy for each student

PREPARATION

1. Cut each copy of Reproducible Page D (Scripture Memory Puzzle) into its pieces.
2. Put the pieces for each puzzle into a separate envelope along with a piece of construction paper and a glue stick, and seal the envelope.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Depending on the size of your class, group your students into teams of three or four students.
2. Give each group an envelope containing a set of puzzle pieces, a piece of construction paper and a glue stick.
3. At the word "Go," the teams will race to arrange their puzzle pieces and glue them into a complete, correct picture onto the construction paper.
4. The goal is for each group to work together to solve the puzzle without using their Bibles. The first team to complete their picture (neatly and correctly) and bring it to the front of the class is the winner.
5. When all the teams have completed the puzzle, distribute a copy of Reproducible Page E (Memory Verse) to each student.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

MATERIALS USED

For each student:
- pen or pencil

For the teacher:
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:
- Page F, 1 copy for each student

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you explain to them the challenge for the week.

Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page F (Honor Coupons). The students should fill out the four coupons, based on the ideas they wrote on their "HONOR" sheets. When they finish their coupons, have the students cut them out.

Tell the students to present the coupons to their parents throughout the week, carrying out their ideas for honoring and appreciating their parents, and sharing the things they have learned in the class. The students should also encourage their friends with some of the things they learned during the class, sharing with them that God loves them and their families.

CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

At various times throughout this week, present the honor coupons you have made to your parents. Use this week to honor and appreciate them in the specific ways you have written, sharing about the things you have learned in this class. You should also encourage friends and classmates, sharing with them that God has great plans for their families.

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Lesson at a Glance supplement

THE PLAN

Family
LESSON 1
(SUPPLEMENT)

LESSON TEXT

Ephesians 5:22-6:4; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 11:3

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will define Jesus' role as the head of the church.
- The students will compare the roles of family members with the roles of the members of the church.
- The students will show honor to their parents in specific ways during the week.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:
- pen or pencil

For the teacher:
- 2 lengths of butcher paper or brown paper (7')
- 2 lengths of butcher paper or brown paper (4')
- 4 sheets of white construction paper
- markers
- magazines
- glue sticks
- transparent tape
- scissors
- extra Bibles

Reproducible Pages:
- Page G, 1 copy for each student
- Page H, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
- Teacher Focus
- Teacher Tips

Preclass Activity: A Godly Family

Starting Up
- Welcome and Singing
- Opening Prayer and Review
- Great News Sharing

Getting into God's Word

Scripture Study

Activity: Spiritual Family Tree

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Ephesians 6:1-3

Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Ephesians 6:1-3

GENERATION
Preteens

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GETTING READY

(SUPPLEMENT)

FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Read and meditate on Ephesians 5:22-6:4, Ephesians 2:19-22 and 1 Corinthians 11:3. Be sure you feel confident in your understanding of the roles God has given to each member of a family and to the roles of the disciples as part of God's church. Think about your own roles in each of these areas, and consider how God blesses each of us when we fulfill the specific responsibilities he has given us.

TEACHER TIPS

The focus of this lesson is the correlation between the roles God has given family members and the roles of Jesus and the disciples in his church. Look around your ministry this week and see this correlation for yourself, noting examples that you can share with your class during this lesson. In addition, you will want to complete a copy of the "Spiritual Family Tree" Activity before class. This will give you a great appreciation of the many great people God has given you in your spiritual family.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

A GODLY FAMILY

As your students create a godly family on paper, they will come to understand that, when each family member fulfills the roles God has given them, they are then able to fulfill their roles in his kingdom in a greater way.

MATERIALS

For the teacher:

- 2 lengths of butcher paper or brown paper (7')
- 2 lengths of butcher paper or brown paper (4')
- 4 sheets of white construction paper
- markers
- magazines
- glue sticks
- transparent tape
- scissors

PREPARATION

1. With a black marker, trace the figure of a man on one of the large sheets of butcher paper and a figure of a woman on the other. (See illustration on the next page.)
2. With a black marker, trace the figure of a boy on one of the smaller sheets of butcher paper and a girl on the other. (See illustration on the next page.)
3. Divide your class into four equal groups, balancing the talents and characteristics of each group.
4. Using one sheet of construction paper for each group, write the members' names in a random order on the paper, using brightly colored markers.

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GETTING READY

(SUPPLEMENT)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Hang each team sheet on the wall in a different area of the room. On the floor below the sheet, stretch out one of the four butcher paper figures and tape it to the floor. Place magazines, markers, glue sticks and tape on the floor at each station.
2. As the students arrive, instruct them to find and circle their names on one of the four team sheets. The students should then begin to look through the magazines to locate words, phrases or pictures that they can use to describe the roles and responsibilities of that particular person as a family member. They should glue or tape these words and pictures within the lines of the figure on the paper. The students may also write in or draw their own ideas on the figure.
3. Let each group know that they should appoint a spokesperson to share some of the ideas about their figure. Ask the students to think about the following: When people fulfill the roles they have been given within their families, they are able to fulfill the roles in the kingdom much more effectively.

STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER AND REVIEW

- Open with one of the students praying for each student to be carrying our their role in their family in a great way, and to be sharing their faith daily.
- Have one student recite the memory verse for this lesson: Ephesians 6:1-3.
- Have a student briefly review the previous lesson (Core Lesson).

GREAT NEWS SHARING

Allow several minutes for the students to share great news about their lives. This could be about a family member who became a disciple, someone healed from an illness, someone studying the Bible, great grades, etc. Remind the students to be brief so as many as possible can share.

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GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

(SUPPLEMENT)

SCRIPTURE STUDY

MATERIALS

For each student:
- pen or pencil

For the teacher:
- extra Bibles

Reproducible Pages:
- Page G, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute a copy of Reproducible Page G (roles) and a pen or pencil to each student. The students may work alone or in pairs to fill in the blanks in the left column of the page.
2. Using their Bibles, the students will follow the scripture references to fill in the blank spaces that define the roles of family members according to God's plan, which is outlined in Ephesians. The students should complete only the left side of the sheet.
3. When all the students have finished, discuss the answers, reminding the students that when God's plan for the family is implemented, the results are great blessings for everyone in the family.
4. Tell the students that, as you go through today's lesson, they will also be filling in the blanks on the right side of the page, which outline the roles of members of God's church.

Begin the scripture study by having the spokesperson for each preclass activity team share the ideas that their team had regarding the roles of their "family member." What were some of the things that person would do as part of the family? Give each team two to three minutes to share their ideas.

Today we are again going to discuss roles, but this time we will be talking about the roles we have as members of God's church. You may be surprised to learn that if we understand the roles of family members, we will also have a good understanding of the roles of disciples in the church.

Have the students open their Bibles to Ephesians 2:19-22. Select a volunteer to read the passage.

- *What does God compare his church to?* (a house, a building)
- *What does this passage say we are members of?* (God's household)
- *If we are members of God's household, then consequently, we are members of _____?* (God's family)
- *God has patterned his church after the family. Since we already know what the roles of family members are, let's see how these compare to the roles of those in God's church.*

Have the students open their Bibles to 1 Corinthians 11:3. *We know that, in a traditional family, the father is the head and leader of the family. Who do you think is the head of the church?* Select a volunteer to read the passage. Explain to the class that this passage not only reinforces the idea that the man is the head of the family, but also lets us know, in no uncertain terms, that Jesus is the head of his church, and he answers directly to God. Remind the students that, while men (e.g. evangelists, elders, etc.) lead the church on earth for organizational purposes, these men follow Jesus' direction, and submit to his authority as he gives direction in the Bible. Therefore, Jesus is the only head of his church.

- *Can anyone lead God's church in the way that Jesus leads? Is there any man who can take Jesus' place as leader of his people?* (No)

Have the students turn to Ephesians 5:22-6:4 in their Bibles. Select a student to read verses 23-24.

- *This again tells us that Jesus is the head of his church, just as the husband/father is the head of the wife and family. Let's read further and look at the way that Jesus leads his church.*

Select a student to read verses 25-33.

- *What does this passage say about how Jesus leads his church?*
  - ➔ Loves the church (v. 25)
  - ➔ Gave himself up for the church (sacrificed) (v. 25)
  - ➔ Makes the church pure, radiant, holy and blameless (v. 26-27)
  - ➔ Feeds and cares for it; makes sure spiritual and physical needs are met (v. 29)
  - ➔ Does not exasperate/frustrate it (6:4)
  - ➔ Teaches and trains it (6:4)
- *How do these things compare to the role of the husband/father in the family?* (They are the same.)

Take out your worksheet on the roles of the family. In the right hand column, let's list these things under "God's plan for his church." These should be in the box labeled "Jesus." Go through the list again, slowly, giving the students time to write down each item.

We have seen that Jesus' role is similar to a husband's/father's role. Who in the church would have a role similar to the mother's and children's role? (disciples/church members)

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GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

(SUPPLEMENT)

Select several students to read Ephesians 5:22-24, 33, 6:1-2.

- *This gives some specifics about the roles that church members should have. They are similar to those of a wife and children in a family. Who can name them?*
  - ➔ Submission to the leader/followers (vv. 22,24)
  - ➔ Respect (v. 33)
  - ➔ Obedience (6:1)
  - ➔ Honor (6:2)
- *Let's fill in these things in the right column of your worksheet under "Church Members."*
- *What are some of the things not listed here which families do for each other?*
  - ➔ Love each other
  - ➔ Have fun together
  - ➔ Share with each other
  - ➔ Take care of each other

These things also apply to our family in the church. We should be loving each other, having fun together, sharing with each other and taking care of each other.

Help your students to see that, by doing the things we need to do as church members, we are glorifying God and accomplishing his mission. *What is the mission of a disciple?* (seek and save the lost) *Do you think we can be great disciples and not great family members? Can we be great family members without being great disciples?*

ACTIVITY

SPIRITUAL FAMILY TREE

In their classes, students are often given the assignment of doing a family tree. Since the church is like a family, it is good for the students to be aware of and to appreciate the branches of their spiritual family tree. NOTE: This is a simplified form of a family tree, meant only to show that we are in the same family, not to show who "begat" whom.

MATERIALS

For each student:

- pen or pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page H, 1 copy for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute a copy of Reproducible Page H (Spiritual Family Tree) and a pen or pencil to each student.
2. Have your students think of the names of people in the church whom they feel close to (their spiritual brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles, parents and grandparents). Then have them write some of the names of those people on the fruit on the spiritual family tree.
3. Share with the students some of the special people in your own spiritual family tree.
4. Have the students share their "tree" with the people they have listed during the coming week. Remind them to express their own gratitude and appreciation to these people.

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GETTING IT TO OTHERS

(SUPPLEMENT)

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3

Review the memory scripture with your students several times. Remind them to not only be memorizing it, but also to be living it out at home.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you remind them of the challenge for the week.

The challenge for the week is for the students to present honor coupons (made during the Core Lesson) to their parents throughout the week, doing specific things to show honor and appreciation to their parents, and sharing the things they have learned in class. The students should also encourge their friends with some of the things they learned during the class, sharing with them that God loves them and their families.

CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

At various times throughout this week, present the honor coupons you have made to your parents. Use this week to honor and appreciate them in the specific ways you have written, sharing about the things you have learned in this class. You should also encourage friends and classmates, sharing with them that God has great plans for their families.

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE A

Core/Getting Ready/1 copy for each student

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE B

SOLUTION

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE C

MY TWO HOMES

Henry Hallam Tweedy

Of all the houses in the world
The one I love the best
Is that in which I wake and play
And lay me down to rest.

My father built it by his toil;
My mother makes it home;
You cannot find a lovelier place
No matter where you roam.

The rooms are clean and bright and fair
With pictures, books, and toys,
And food, and clothes, and beds, and chairs
For all the girls and boys.

We children work and care for it,
And help to keep it clean,
Our palace of true happiness,
Where mother reigns as queen.

And father guards us with his strength,
A wise and gracious king,
To whom we pay the honor due,
And glad obedience bring.

So full of love and joy it is,
So safe and bright and warm,
I would not go too far from it
Lest I should come to harm.

And yet when I go out of doors
And look up at the sky,
I know I'm in my Father's house,
And that his love is nigh.

For God is Father – Mother, too!
The world is my big home;
The green grass is the carpet,
And the blue sky is the dome.

On every side are pictures;
The fields are full of food;
And all the things that God has made
Are beautiful and good.

He keeps me by His mighty power,
He loves me as His child;
His paths are bright with happiness,
His laws are just and mild.

And all His children in this house,
So wonderful and fair,
Should love each other, learn His truth,
And trust his love and care.

I thank you, Father, for these homes,
Where we may dwell with you,
And cast our fear, and share the joys
You give us full and free.*

William J. Bennett, ed with commentary, *The Moral Compass, Stories for a Life's Journey* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1985), pgs 47-48.

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE D

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Ephesians 6:1-3

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE E

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

EPHESIANS 6:1-3

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

At various times throughout this week, present the honor coupons you have made to your parents. Use this week to honor and appreciate them in the specific ways you have written, sharing about the things you have learned in this class. You should also encourgae friends and classmates, sharing with them that God has great plans for their families.

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COUPON

This coupon is for: _____

To show my honor and appreciation for you, I will _____

With love, _____

COUPON

This coupon is for: _____

To show my honor and appreciation for you, I will _____

With love, _____

COUPON

This coupon is for: _____

To show my honor and appreciation for you, I will _____

With love, _____

COUPON

This coupon is for: _____

To show my honor and appreciation for you, I will _____

With love, _____

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE G

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FAMILY		GOD'S PLAN FOR THE CHURCH
_____	JESUS' ROLE	_____
_____	FATHER'S ROLE	_____
_____	MOTHER'S ROLE	_____
_____	CHILD'S ROLE	_____
_____	CHURCH MEMBER'S ROLE	_____

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Write across each piece of fruit the name of someone in the church to whom you feel close: spiritual brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, moms, dads, grandmothers or grandfathers

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