

Fathers' Studies: Family Responsibilities

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 40 OF 52

FAMILIES DOING THINGS TOGETHER

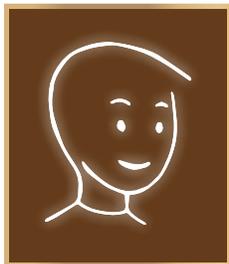
LESSON AIM: To show how important it is for families to do things together.

KEY VERSE:

1. **LUKE 1:17** The Bible says that one thing John the Baptist would do to prepare the people for the Lord was to bring together the _____ and their _____.
2. **ACTS 21:5** When the apostle Paul was leaving Asia, all the believing men, along with their _____ and _____ met with him for a prayer meeting.
3. **JOSHUA 24:15** Joshua showed that he and his family were planning to stick together when he said, "As for me and my family, we will _____."
4. **ACTS 16:34** The Philippian jailer took Paul and Silas into his home. He and his _____ found joy in trusting the Lord Jesus.
5. **EPHESIANS 5:32-6:1** Families will enjoy being together when every man _____ his wife, every wife _____ her husband, and children _____ their parents.

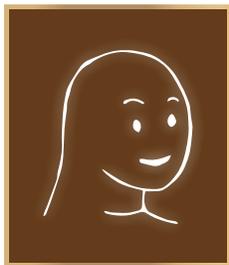
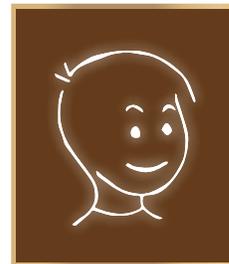
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



By Yourself

Count the number of hours for one week that your family spends doing something together. Sleeping does not count, unless it is a special event like camping out. Think of some ways that you can increase this amount of time.



With Your Wife

Ask her for a list of things that she would like to do together as a family. Sit down with her and write them on your calendar.

With Your Children

Sit in a circle and "brainstorm" some ideas for family time together. Do not throw out any wild ideas that the children give. Ask them to do the planning.

FAMILIES DOING THINGS TOGETHER

LESSON 40 OF 52

God likes families to do things together. The old ways of life often kept families together better than the modern ways do. Families worked together for a living. Fathers and sons hunted, fished, made boats, raised crops, and built houses together. Mothers and daughters prepared food and made clothing together.

Today all of this is changing. Machines do much of the work. More people live in towns and cities instead of on the land. Education has brought a change in values. More money and more ways of entertainment are available. People are as busy as ever, but their activities often take the family apart. Doing things together is not as easy as it was in the past. Now fathers must choose and plan and make an effort to build family togetherness.

ACTIVITIES THAT DRAW A FAMILY TOGETHER

FAMILY HISTORY Learn who your ancestors were. Learn where and how they lived. Draw a family tree and put it on your wall. Knowing your past helps your family to know who they are and where they are going.

FAMILY NIGHT Plan one evening a week when the family is together. This is a time for family fun and sharing.

FAMILY GOALS On New Year's Day, plan and set dates for family events and projects for the year. Then your family has the fun of looking forward to them.

FAMILY MINISTRY Visit the sick, the elderly, the widows, and people with disabilities in your community and do things for them.

FAMILY WORSHIP (see Lesson 44) Have a daily time for Bible reading, prayer, and singing.

FAMILY MEMORIES Keep scrap books and photo albums. Tell over and over again the stories about family events.

...HE WILL TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THEIR CHILDREN, AND THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS. (MALACHI 4:6)

God wants families together.

Fathers must choose, plan, and work at family togetherness to make it happen.

WINDOW TO LIFE

Ralph had moved to the city from the country. He had a job and provided well for his family. But after ten years in the city, Ralph saw a lot of things wrong in his family. He was often away from home. The children were not at home very much because they had many activities in the neighbourhood. School seemed to be having bad effects on them. Ralph hardly knew his children.

Ralph and his wife prayed about this matter. They decided to spend more time with the children. They put their children in a Christian school. At this school the parents took part in their children's education. Each Saturday morning Ralph took one of his children with him in his delivery truck as he did his work. One night each week the whole family did things together. Now the family is closer, and all the children want to be with their father as much as they can.

