



Homework for Session Ten Dynamic Families

Parents: Read over the proposed ideas for family projects. Prayerfully consider which might fit your family best, giving thought to the ages and personalities of your children. At the family meeting, be prepared to describe the choices and then listen to your family's feedback about which project they prefer. Be enthusiastic while setting appropriate expectations for whichever project the family chooses.

Kids and Family: None

Family Meeting: Consider the following ideas to begin work on this week, with the idea being to make them long-term family projects. Discuss them as a family and choose the one that fits best. (Note: If more than one project is appealing to your family, that's great! Choose one to begin this week for the class and make plans to initiate another one at a later time.)

Ideas for Projects:

Family Scrapbook. This scrapbook can be comprised of letters, pictures, programs from concerts or retreats, etc. You can write short captions for items describing their importance. If a family member enjoys journaling, have that person maintain a running history of items and their significance. Family members can write short paragraphs about special days they enjoyed with the family. There are no minimum requirements, no particular design—it is simply a book where you can record memories and impressions that will be fun to review from time to time. The scrapbook could become a family heirloom of sorts, to be passed on to future generations.

Memory Box: In contrast to a scrapbook, a Memory Box could contain more than paper items. Items are placed in the box as a reminder of events or times that were important to a family member. For instance: a baseball that a father and son spent time playing catch with; a ticket to a movie that a mother and daughter attended together; a piece of a cast from a broken arm with signatures of the siblings...you get the idea. Pulling out the Memory Box at a set special time will bring the family together and evoke memories of important times. When your family is going through a tough time, it can be a symbol of the ties that bind you together and reaffirm that you will make it through whatever difficulty you're facing. Or it can be a chance to share a good laugh over some of the goofy items you place in the box over time.

Make a gift for each other: (If not chosen for the activity this week, your family could pick a Christmas or a birthday or just a special week when the family decides to do this activity.) "Make" gifts for one another. Think beyond traditional gifts to giving some "thing" or some "service." Mom and child could "make" someone's favorite cake. A teenager could "make" the bed for someone. A younger child could "make" a picture with the assistance of a sibling or parent. Dad and child could "make" a birdfeeder. Different combinations of family members could team up to "make" dinner. The end result does not need to be a masterpiece and the project itself is not really the important thing—the fun of working together and the time spent together is the real treasure. Get creative, have fun, and think of the term "make" in very broad terms.

Word of appreciation: Family members are there for each other and help each other out often. But isn't it hard sometimes to say thank you? Wouldn't it be nice to know that someone noticed that you helped them? Wouldn't it be a nice surprise to learn that you made his or her day brighter or easier and you didn't even know it? Make a place where family members can drop a card or piece of paper with just a paragraph or a few lines. It could provide a place to say thank you for something a family member did for you. It could be a place to say I'm sorry for the way I treated you—I love you and I'll try to do better. It could be a place where a child could put a picture of a smiley face for Mom or Dad. Let it be a safe place for family members to put their thoughts when they find it hard to say them out loud—nothing fancy or eloquent, just heartfelt.

Please bring the results of your first week; i.e., the whole Memory Box or an item representative from it, if that is the project your family chose.

Class Discussion Questions

1. Which project did your family choose? Why?
2. What was the most enjoyable part of the project?
3. What was the most difficult part of the project?
4. What results have you already seen from the project you chose?

Pray with your family and ask God to bless your project over time—that it brings you closer together and that it helps you value each other more.