

Your Family Has a Kingdom Purpose

Dear Facilitator: This week, we will focus on your Kingdom purpose. The scripture story is from Genesis 1:26: “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

The setting of this scripture is the story of creation. God created everything with a purpose, including our families, our workplaces, and our communities.

As we reflect on Gen 1-2, we see that God has a purpose for humanity, to flourish in the world in all aspects of life, including family life, our work, and in our community. We see our work in the world as an act of worship to God and a partnership with Him in the ongoing flourishing of humanity. In this session, we focus more directly on ways to live out this calling and be God’s image in the world.

It might be helpful for you to know what we hope to accomplish through this lesson.

Participants will:

1. Reflect God’s image to others.
2. Take care of the earth.


During the lessons on family legacy, we will articulate the “why” of each lesson, and our hope is that at the end, all will have better understanding of God’s plans for families. Why does my family have a kingdom purpose? Because God made families to reflect His image and to rule over the earth.

We pray that God will give you direction and clarity as you prepare the lesson and activities.


We hope that the families in your group will grow together in God’s love and become a source of friendship and support for one another.

Blessings


Welcome 5 minutes

 **Say:** Welcome back! I hope it's been a good week for all of you, as you have been working diligently on many things that positively influence and help you lead your family.

Last week we spent time discussing hopes and dreams.

 **Ask:** Did anyone try something that made a positive difference in your family this past week that you would be willing to share?


Introduction 5 minutes

 **Say:** The New Testament has a name for followers of Jesus, “disciples”. This word means “learner”, “student”, or “apprentice” and this emphasis provides an important foundation for this session. This week we will focus on learning and education, which involves more than just formal schooling, and includes all of how we learn and grow throughout our lifetime. As we learn, we become better equipped to fulfill God’s vision and call for our lives and families and lead others. Learning helps us understand better the needs of others in our communities and cities, and it allows us to imagine new possibilities and solutions to challenges that can make a real difference.

Today’s teaching objectives are to:

1. Explain the value of education and learning.
2. Be ready to do what God calls us to do.

Family & Table Talk 20 minutes

 **Say:** Being a good neighbor is part of how we can fulfill our purpose as a family. Every family has a purpose. God created families specifically to reflect His image in a unique way. God also created families to rule over the earth. This means to take care of the earth and all that is in the earth.

1. What does your family take care of?
2. When or how does your family show others about God?
3. What are some words or pictures or colors that make you think of family?

After the meal, children are dismissed to their group.

As you begin this portion of the evening, explain that each time you will start with the overview and then the lesson time.

Notes

<i>40 minutes</i>	
<h1>Parent Training</h1>	
<i>Legacy</i>	KINGDOM PURPOSE

How was the dinner discussion? Did anyone learn anything about how your family reflects God? Did anyone learn anything about what represents your family? Tonight, we want to consider our family purpose and then create a log that shows everyone that purpose.

Let's reflect on all the lessons we have covered in this series. Review lessons.

When we think about our purpose, we can sometimes get overwhelmed or a little discouraged. Am I living up to the plans and intentions God has for me, or the plans and intentions I have for myself? In previous lessons we've touched on the importance of purpose by understanding our unique identity, values, our hopes and dreams, and how we pursue learning and education. As we do all these things, we also remember that who we are as friends, co-workers, and neighbors ought to reflect God's image in the world.

All these topics have led us to discover our personal and family's kingdom purpose.

Remember the "why" questions and answers? We might often think of purpose as it relates to an individual when we talk

about it at church; however, it is not unusual to think about a group having a purpose—companies do it all the time.

The Bible tells us about God's special purpose for us in the creation story. Genesis 1:26 says, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

The setting of this scripture is the story of creation. God created everything with a purpose, including our families.

God created not only a man but also a woman so that they could live together in relationship. He instructed them to fill the earth. Genesis tells us that God gave a job and a purpose to those He created to reflect His image and to "rule" over the

earth. As humanity lives out this purpose, it allows people to flourish as they work together, solve problems, and build healthy communities. Ruling over the earth means taking care of the earth and seeing our work as partnering with God's work in the world. For each of us, this might look unique. How my family "rules" over the earth may look very different from your family. Other examples beyond family life might include a manager who oversees people and policies at work, how someone takes care of recycling or how a local committee manages a community park. How we "rule" in our families and work will look different from person to person, and how we "rule" in our community will also be uniquely shaped.

DISCUSS

- In what practical ways does your family show wise rule over, or care for, the world around you?
- In what specific ways does your family reflect God's love for others and wise rule over the earth? How can you encourage each family member to play their part in this?

We want to help everyone represent their unique family purpose by creating a memorable logo for your family. We will take everything we have done the last few weeks and create a unique family logo. Logos are simply images and words that represent a group.

Think of popular logos in fashion, music, food, or other areas. (Bring pictures of logos.)

Create a family logo.

1. Review your notes from "Family & Table Talk" time with your children and any other notes from this series.
2. Think about what image most represents your family. It can have your family initials. It can be an object that symbolizes your family. It can be several images together. You can also think about different colors that represent your family.



Scripture SUPPORT

Mark 12:30-31

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Joshua 24:15

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

Matthew 5:14

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Genesis 18:19

For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just...

Hebrews 13:16

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

3. Choose from the art supplies provided.
4. Create your family logo. You can get started and complete this with the assistance of your children.

SUMMARY

We covered a lot of material in the lesson.

Our objectives were to:

1. Reflect God's image to others.
2. Take care of the earth.

Is there anyone who would like to share their family logo?

We hope you have been encouraged as you think about how special your family is in God's kingdom.

Please share your logo with your children and get further input from them. It is a great way to remind your whole family who you are and what you want to reflect to others.

Why does my family have a purpose? Because God made families to reflect His image and to rule over the earth.

To end our lesson, please answer the following:

1. Who has an insight tonight about something you've learned or want to try?
2. What will you change or improve in your role as parents this week?

Ages 4-16

40 minutes

Student Training

Legacy

KINGDOM PURPOSE

Objectives

- Help children to be aware that their family has a Kingdom purpose.
- Help children to be aware of the meaning of Kingdom purpose.
- Help children be aware of parents' responsibilities in a Kingdom-focused family.
- Help children be aware of children's responsibilities in a Kingdom-focused family.
- Help children to be aware of how being in a Kingdom-focused family prepares them to serve God.

We discussed that God has a plan and purpose for our lives as individuals. But did you know that God also has a kingdom purpose for your family?

God wants families to represent Him on earth by being good neighbors. Being good neighbors means reaching out and touching lives in the community and positively affecting the world around you (Mark 12:31).

Everything that God created has a purpose to fulfill His plans and desires. God loves families, and they are a very important part of His kingdom plan.

God joins just the right people together in a family, and He has plans to use each family to make a difference on earth by

serving Him in a special way. God created the family to be a partnership with spiritual responsibilities to its family members, community, and the world. Parents are the leaders of the family. When parents ask Jesus to be the head of their lives, it is then up to them to ask Jesus to be at the center of their family. In the Bible, Joshua said, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Once parents decide that their family will serve the Lord, God gets involved and begins to use the entire family to impact the community positively.

This is a kingdom-focused family—a family seeking to be used for God's purpose.

Being in a Christian family is like being in a training camp that prepares God's

servants—parents and children—to serve as bright lights in a dark world. God tells us that as His children, we are the light of this world. He tells us to “let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). What we do in our daily life reflects our love for God, as individuals and as families.

Family provides a safe place where all members can experience a taste of God’s unconditional love and support through one another. God created the family to be your first place for learning about His Kingdom purposes for your family, your responsibility as a child of God, and sharing the good news about Jesus Christ (Genesis 18:19). Parents are responsible for guiding their family in learning how the Word of God instructs us to be good neighbors as followers of Christ. Parents then model these behaviors for their children by practicing what the Bible says. Parents are also responsible for teaching their children how to communicate with God by leading their family in prayer. They show their children how to love God through worship, praise, and giving.

Your parents are reminded that they are to teach you and your siblings to respect, honor, and obey God’s Word through everyday living. Family is where children learn about love, giving, sacrifice, and serving others in home, school, church, and community.

When parents lead and guide their children in these ways, your family will become kingdom focused.

As Christians, everything we do as individuals and as families should bring glory to God. The way we live our lives each day makes God proud of us—that is our true way of worshiping Him and making Him happy (Hebrews 13:16). God did not create families just to care for themselves; instead, He created families to reach out to others in the community for Him. God’s kingdom purpose for your family is that you demonstrate His love, compassion, generosity, joy, and peace so well that it makes others ask you about the God you are serving. We are to be His hands caring for others, His smile brightening

someone's day, His eyes seeing the good in someone who has been downtrodden, His feet running that errand for someone who needs support or His voice for someone needing an encouraging word. God's kingdom purpose for the family is to raise children to love, honor, obey, and serve God by working for Him in the world and by bringing others into God's family.

DISCUSS

- Lead children in a discussion about the meaning of "kingdom purpose."
- Lead children in a discussion about what makes God get involved in a family so they become kingdom focused.
- Lead children in a discussion about why being in a family can be like being in a training camp.
- Ask children what kinds of things children should learn in a kingdom-focused family training camp.
- Lead children in a discussion about ways families can show that they are a kingdom-focused family.



Activities

Activities are age appropriate. One is focused on ages 4-11, and the second is for older children ages 12-16.

AGES 4-11

Materials

Paper lunch bags

Stickers

Markers/Crayons

Pink and red (cut-out) paper hearts (at least 10 per child)

Have children view YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/p9diFwUly4M>

(If not possible, do activity without video.)

Love Prayer Bags

Give each child a lunch bag to decorate with markers and stickers. The child will then be given cut out hearts

Notes

to write a name of someone they know on each heart. Then have children place all the hearts INSIDE the lunch bag. Encourage the children to take one heart out of the love bag each day and say a prayer for that person to experience God's love that day. Let children share some of the names they are writing on their hearts and why they chose them. Tell them at the end of the week, they can put them all back in the bag and start over the next week or add more of their own hearts.

AGES 12-16

Materials

Large, long roll of paper

Markers

Glue

Pictures from magazines

Have children view YouTube:

https://youtu.be/vzXy_97tyDI

(If not possible, do activity without video.)

God's Love Banner

Find a very large area for the children to roll out the paper as one, long banner. Let children write Ephesians 3:18-19 on the rolled-out banner and make colorful, big letters for the words: HOW WIDE, LONG, HIGH, DEEP is GOD'S LOVE FOR ME! Decorate with pictures that help illustrate things that represent God's love. This very long banner is fun to hang along a hallway wall for children to enjoy for a couple of weeks!



CHALLENGE QUESTION

DO I SHOW OTHERS THE LOVE OF GOD
THROUGH MY WORDS AND ACTIONS?

CHALLENGE COMMITMENT

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO
TO WORK ON THE CHALLENGE
QUESTION THIS WEEK?

	AFFIRMATION <i>Have children repeat:</i>
	<i>My light shines brightly as I show others the love of God!</i>