

The Christian Family At The 21st Century

Unit 2 “Establishing A Positive Environment”

Opening Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, in Your Word You give us the important command to love one another. Satan tempts us each day to focus on ourselves rather than others. Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts and move us to love and serve those You bring into our lives, especially the members of our own families. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Unit Goal: To help families establish a positive Christian family climate.

Key Scripture: “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” I Corinthians 10:31

Unit Lessons:

1. The Christian Family: Motivated by what Christ did for us

- I John 4:19
- Romans 5:8

Discuss: How a family decision was motivated by what Christ has done for us.

2. What is a positive Christian climate?

- I Peter 3:1- 8
- Galatians 5:22
- John 13:1-17
- John 13:34, 35
- Mark 12: 30, 31

Discuss: Apply the “fruits of the spirit” to Christian family life. Analyze your role in your family. Is your focus to serve or to be served?

3. Love is a choice.

- I Corinthians 13:4-8
- Philippians 2:8
- Luke 22:61
- John 21:15-19
- Romans 12:19, 20

Discuss: Relate an incident at work/school in which you were able to repay an unkindness with love.

4. Christian discipline.

- Genesis 3
- Hebrews 12:11
- Proverbs 10:17
- Proverbs 22:6
- Proverbs 3: 11, 12

Discuss: Describe a time in your life when discipline felt hard but worked for your good.

5. Forgiveness.

- Luke 15: 11-31
- Matthew 18:21, 22
- Romans 12:21
- Luke 22:61
- John 21:15-19

Discuss: “Forgive him. It will teach him a lesson.”
How does the parable of the Lost Son sit with your sense of justice?

Unit Activities:

- Praying together - family worship.
- Keep track of “withdrawals and deposits” in the emotional bank account.
- Family meetings.
- Build each other up.
- One-on-one time.
- Make home a loving and safe place for family and friends.
- Model loyalty, charity to others.
- Role play: How to practice forgiveness.
- “Listen” to yourself communicate for w week . . . positive or negative?

Unit Commitment: Each participant is invited to write a personal goal, which blessed by God, will further individual and family growth.

Unit Song: “Love Is The Gracious Gift”

Love is the gracious gift of your goodness; Love is the patient fruit of your care;
Love is the gentle work of your Spirit, who is the source of love everywhere.

You loved me first, Lord, sending me Jesus. Then I responded, trusting your Son. Now you invite me to love my neighbor, showing your true love to everyone.

Love in a marriage, love freely given, Love of a husband, love of a wife -
Made to continue, blossom and flourish, Grow ever deeper throughout this life.

Love among Christians, love in the family, Love for the Savior, whose blood was shed,
Love and submission one to another, as unto Christ, who reigns as our head.

Closing Prayer

Gracious Lord, we ask you to be the constant Guest in our home. Thank you for this opportunity to study your Word together. May it bring forth abundant acts of love, forgiveness, understanding and kindness in our home. Shine upon us with your daily benediction; invigorate us when we rise and soothe us as we close our eyes in sleep. Draw us to the Savior’s cross where, mindful of our sins, we have assurance of forgiveness, peace with God and membership in the heavenly family of believers. We ask this through faith in Jesus. Amen.

