

# The Christian Family At The 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Unit 7 “Functioning As A Team”

### Opening Prayer:

Dear Father in heaven, bless our family's efforts to work together as a team. We praise and thank you for your unconditional love. Help us to mirror that love in all our relationships and to work together as one body, making use of our various individual gifts. Move us by your Spirit to use words and actions which build others up and which ultimately give you glory. Amen.

**Unit Goal:** To demonstrate that, with Christ as the core of the family, the individuals of the family will work together to be stronger than the separate parts.

**Key Scripture:** “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.” I John 3:16

### Unit Lessons:

#### 1. The Christian Family Develops Goals Together

- Hebrews 10:25
- I Corinthians 3: 8,9
- I Corinthians 1:10

Discuss: Which will be more successful? A basketball team trying to win a game or five players, each trying to be high scorer? How does this apply to a Christian family?

#### 2. The Christian Family Shows Unconditional Love

- Romans 5:8
- I Corinthians 13:4ff
- Ephesians 4:32
- Luke 15:11-32

Discuss: What is “unconditional love?” How can family members show the same unconditional love to each other as the father showed to his lost son?

### 3. The Christian Family Values Diversity As A Strength

- I Corinthians 12:12-26

Discuss: What are the different gifts we have in our family? How do they all contribute to our family being a team? What would life be like if we were all clones?

### 4. The Christian Family Builds Bonds During Adversity

- Romans 5:3-5

Discuss: How could a Christian family become stronger through the loss of dad's job, a mom's illness, a family vacation going awry?

### 5. The Christian Family Works to Encourage Each Other Through Positive Words and Actions

- Philippians 4:8,9

- Proverbs 25:11

- I Thessalonians 5:11

Discuss: How do we feel when we receive criticism/compliments? How does one best give constructive criticism/feedback?

#### **Unit Activities:**

- Act out a family skit which demonstrates unconditional love.
- Discuss the difference in difficulty between breaking popsicle sticks one at a time, two at a time, three at a time, etc.
- Write on a card at least one thing you appreciate about each family member.

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

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**Unit Song:** “Blest Be The Tie That Binds”

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds, is like to that above.

Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one; our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows, the sympathizing tear.

When here our pathways part, we suffer bitter pain; yet, one in Christ and one in heart, we hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil and pain and sin we shall be free, and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

**Closing Prayer**

Gracious heavenly Father, we ask for your continuing presence in our home and in our lives. Thank you again for the opportunity to study your Word together. Forgive us for the times we have failed to love unconditionally. Grant us the ability to use our diversity to strengthen our family. Use each member of our family as a building block working together to unify our family and strengthen your Kingdom. We ask this in our Savior’s name. Amen.

