

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

## Unit 9

### “Celebrating The Joy of the Christian’s Journey”

#### Opening Prayer:

Dear heavenly Father, be with us today as we celebrate the joy of the Christian's journey through earthly life to eternal life. Help us focus on you as our guide through all our days as we serve, honor, and glorify you with our whole being. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Unit Goal:** To rejoice in God's blessings showered upon the Christian family from cradle to grave.

**Key Scripture:** “Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.” Philippians 4:4

#### Unit Lessons:

##### 1. The Christian Family - The Growing Years

- Ephesians 6:1-3 (Children obey parents)
- Luke 2:41-52 (Jesus in Temple)
- Mark 16:16 (Believe/baptized)
- Luke 1:41 (Baby leaped)
- I Samuel 3:10 (Speak, Lord . . .)

Discuss: How are the growing years of a Christian's life a blessing to our family?

##### 2. The Christian Family - The Strongest Years

- Psalm 127:3-5 (Son are a heritage)
- Hebrews 13:45 (Chastity/marriage)
- Ecclesiastes 12:13b (Fear God)
- Genesis 2:22-24 (Marriage)
- Ephesians 6:4 (Nurture/admonition)
- I Corinthians 7:17 (Place in life)
- II Samuel 22:33 (God gives us the strength)

Discuss: How are the strongest years of a Christina's life a blessing to our family?

### 3. The Christian Family - The Middle Years

- Romans 8:18 (Present suffering compared) - John 10:10 (Life to the fullest)
- I Corinthians 15:57, 58 (Give self fully to the work)
- Philippians 3:12 (Pressing toward the goal)

Discuss: How are the middle years of a Christian's life a blessing to our family?

### 4. The Christian Family - The Older Years

- Psalm 107:1 (Appreciate the goals achieved)
- Psalm 42:4 (Reflecting on the past)
- Proverbs 22:6 (Happiness is established family tradition)
- Exodus 3:15/Proverbs 17:6 (Joy of nurturing Christian grandchildren)

Discuss: How are the older years of a Christian's life a blessing to our family?

### 5. The Christian Family - The Closing Years

- Job 12:12 (Long life - a gift from God)
- Psalm 89:48 (Death the gateway to heaven)
- Proverbs 16:31 (Growing old is a blessing)
- Psalm 116:15 (The Lord his own home)

Discuss: How are the closing years of a Christian's life a blessing to our family?

#### **Unit Activities:**

- Interview grandparents - ask how the Lord has blessed them through the years.
- Family Field Trip - church, cemetery, etc. of ancestors, back to family roots.
- Confirmation Invitation - include special sheet of paper on which Bible passages and encouragements can be written, then brought to confirmand's gathering.
- Special Anniversary - (25, 40, 50) - develop a "memory book," write a tribute, include photographs.

- Sponsors send cards to grandchildren on anniversary of baptism.
- Grandparents tape memories for descendants.
- Begin a family annual camp out.
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**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:** “Lord Of Our Growing Years”

Lord of our growing years, with us from infancy; laughter and quick-dried tears, freshness and energy.

Refrain: Your grace surrounds us all our days - for all your gifts we bring our praise.

Lord of our strongest years, stretching our youthful powers; dreamers and pioneers, when all the world seems ours. Refrain.

Lord of our middle years, giver of steadfastness; courage that perseveres, when there is small success. Refrain.

Lord of our older years, steep though the road may be; rid us of foolish fears, bring us serenity. Refrain.

Lord of our closing years, always your promise stands; hold us, when death appears, safely within your hands. Refrain.

**Closing Prayer**

Dearest Lord, you continually bless our families as we travel through the various stages of life. We rejoice in all you have done. Help us always to rely on your almighty wisdom and power to preserve our families. Grant us the ability to see your loving hand in all the stages of our lives. We ask all this in the name of our Savior. Amen.

