

GOD AND FAMILY (Grades 4-5)

Curriculum Goals:

- To provide an opportunity for young people and families to explore their faith together
- To learn six ways of strengthening families through faith
- To help families grow in God's love
- To memorize the Ten Commandments

General Description

The God and Family curriculum is designed to help youth understand the importance of family and God's role in a healthy family. The God and Family Program provides an opportunity for young people and their families to explore their faith together. Children will read about different families in the Bible, which can teach them about God's plan for strengthening families. To remember these lessons, children will compare families and "pizza." The six steps for making pizza will give students a concrete, "hands-on" model on which to build their understanding of God's love for their families. They will make a pizza as they study how families can grow together in God's love, and they will choose "family projects" to be done with their family at home.

Outline:

Introduction

Joshua's Family Will Serve God – Joshua 24:14-15

Step 1: Crust-Foundation – We are God's Family

Every pizza needs a crust or foundation. Families need foundations, too. Students will read passages from Deuteronomy and Matthew to learn how families need to build their foundations on God and on God's love.

- God's Great Big Family – Deuteronomy 6:4-8
- New Family in Christ – Matthew 28:1-10; John 3:16

Step 2: Sauce – Family Heritage, Spiritual Heritage

Every pizza has sauce (which has simmered over time). Like the sauce, a family's heritage grows over time. A family's heritage, especially its Christian heritage, is an important part of its identity. Students will learn about Ruth (how she came to faith through marriage) and Jesus (how he was brought up in the faith from infancy on) and realize that even though our faith journeys may differ, our faith in Christ is the same.

- Ruth – Ruth 1:1-18
- Mary, Joseph, and Jesus – Luke 2:21-24, 40

Step 3: Toppings – Our Talents and Gifts Strengthen Our Families

The toppings on a pizza make each pizza unique. Like the toppings, the individual members of a family bring unique gifts and talents that strengthen and make their family special. Students will read about Moses and Aaron, two brothers with very different gifts, and Timothy, a young man with the gift of faith. Students will be challenged to name their own gifts and the special gifts in each member of their family.

- Moses & Aaron – Exodus 4:10-17, 27-31, 17:8-13
- Timothy – 2 Timothy 1:1-7, 3:14-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2, 6

Step 4: Cheese – In God’s Family We’re Loved No Matter What! Because We’re Loved, We Follow Rules

The cheese on a pizza covers everything and holds it together. Families need to be held together, too. Christian rules and guidelines can help families relate to each other and live together as God’s family. Students will study Jesus lost in the temple and the parable of the prodigal son and discuss WHY we need rules. They will then be required to memorize the Ten Commandments.

- Mary, Joseph, and Jesus – Luke 2:41-52
- Prodigal Son – Luke 15:11-32
- 10 Commandments – Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21

Step 5: Bake – Being in God’s Family Helps Us When Things Are Tough

When pizza comes out of a hot oven, it’s better than ever! Families can be like pizza: by relying on God, families can come through the heat of tough times and be even stronger. Students will study Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace, and Paul and Silas in prison, and be challenged to name the “faith tools” that can help their families in tough times.

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – Daniel 3
- Paul and Silas – Acts 16:19-34

Step 6: Eat, Share, Enjoy! – In God’s Family, We Share as a Response to God’s Love

Pizza tastes good: it nourishes our bodies and satisfies our hunger. Pizza is fun to share: everybody loves a pizza party. Families are like pizza: they need to provide spiritual nourishment for family members, and they need to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those around them. Students will read about the feeding of the five thousand and the Great Commission to learn the importance of sharing God’s love with other people.

- Boy who shared his lunch – John 6:1-15
- Apostles – Matthew 28:16-20

Schedule

A typical schedule for completing the God and Family curriculum might include seven different sessions (an introductory meeting plus six sessions to complete the six lessons).

Eligibility Guidelines

Girls and boys in grades 4 & 5 are eligible to participate in the God and Family program even if they do not belong to a Girl Scout, Boy Scout or Camp Fire group (church youth and Sunday School members are eligible to participate in this program). Each participant must have his or her own copy of the student workbook. A pastor’s signature is required on the application/order form.

Adult Mentor Program

Parents have the option of enrolling in the God and Family Adult Mentor Program. In this program, the parent is an active learning participant alongside the child. The parent would have lessons and projects to complete in the Mentor Workbook just like the child, and then both parent and child would work on the student curriculum together. The mentor program is designed to provide the adult with

additional opportunities to model his or her Christian faith and to help a young child talk about his or her belief in God.

Materials Available:

#33597 - God and Family Student Workbook - required booklet for each child

#33598 - God and Family Counselor Manual - resource guide for the pastor/counselor

#33595 - God and Family Adult Mentor - optional program for parents if they want to participate in the program alongside their children

Booklets may be ordered online at www.praypub.org or call 1-800-933-7729. They may also be available at your local council store.

Awards

Students must complete all the requirements before ordering any awards. The last page in the Student Workbook is the Award Application Form. This form must be submitted to P.R.A.Y.

(awards are not available in local scout shops).

Visit http://www.praypub.org/god_country/family/god_fam_awards.htm to view the awards.

The following items are available for the adult leading the program. These items may be purchased in advance so that the counselor may wear them while teaching the class.

#001FC – God and Family Counselor Patch

#001F8 – God and Family Counselor Pin