

HOW GOD SAVED HIS PEOPLE

UNIT TWO: God Led His People

Lesson 5: Loving in a Family

CONTENT:

1. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are loving and work together. God wants our families to live like the Holy Trinity.
2. Jesus also lived in a family. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph ate, worked and prayed together like any of our families. Jesus was obedient to his parents. We celebrate the feast of the Holy Family on the Sunday after Christmas.
3. The Fourth Commandment tells us to honour our parents. God wants children to respect and obey their parents because they have received life through them and because they teach them about God.
4. A Christian family is like a little church. We should pray every day and read God's Word. This will help us to love.

ASSIGNMENT: Find the verse that says that Jesus was obedient to his parents. Do the family prayer given for one week. Find out what the 5th Commandment says.

REFERENCES: Luke 2:51. CCC 221-267; 531-533; 2197-99; 2204-5; 2216, 2219.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts; slips of paper with names for game; family prayer handout.

I. STARTER:

[Take the students to an open area and give each one a slip of paper with the name of a member of a family. The names should be jumbled. The students find their families by acting out the surname, but without using words. When they find all 7, they sit down, holding hands. Example of a family: GRANDPA HAPPY, GRANNY HAPPY, PAPA HAPPY, MAMA HAPPY, BROTHER HAPPY, SISTER HAPPY, BABY HAPPY. Other family names could be SLEEPY, SNEEZY, DANCEY, GREEDY, HOPPY, SAD etc After the game return to class. Congratulate them on their acting.]

- Did you find it easy to find your family?
- Which family would you like to be part of, if you could choose? All of us would like to be part of a happy and loving family. Today we are going to see how we can make our families more loving and happy.

II. DEVELOPMENT:

[Give out the handouts.]

- Look at the picture on the top. What do you see? Who do you think the figures are? What do you notice about them? *[Talk about the Holy Trinity, bringing out the following points:]*
- The picture represents God the Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. We call them the Holy Trinity. (Trinity means three.)
- They are one God, but three persons.
- They love each other very much and do everything together.
- God wants our families to be like the Holy Trinity, loving and together.

[The students fill in beside the picture: FATHER, SON, HOLY SPIRIT, LOVE, WORK, HOLY TRINITY.]

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

When you were baptised, Father said, 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. At that moment you became part of God's family. Close your eyes for a little while and think about this. Talk to God.

NEXT CLASS:

- Last time we talked about families, and we also talked about God. How many Gods are there? [*One.*] How many persons in the one God? [*Three: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*]
- What name do we give to the three-in-one God? [*The Holy Trinity*]

When God the Father sent his Son Jesus to the world, he decided to send him to live in a family, like any of us. And so he sent him to Mary, who became his mother. Her husband Joseph became a father to Jesus, though he wasn't his real father. Who was Jesus' real father? [*God!*]

We call Joseph a 'foster-father'. He took care of Mary and Jesus. He was a carpenter and made things out of wood. As Jesus grew bigger, Joseph taught him how to make tables and chairs, cupboards and other things.

- What does your father do? Have you ever helped him in his work? [*Allow students to share.*]

Mary, like the other mothers, cooked the food and looked after the house. Jesus must have helped her with jobs around the house, maybe fetching water from the well, or setting the table, or going to the market for her.

- Do you ever help your mother with the house jobs? What do you do?
[*Allow students to share. Affirm and praise the students for helping.*]

Jesus and his parents also prayed together and read from the Holy Book. On the Sabbath (like our Sunday) they went to the synagogue to pray with the other Jews. They had a special prayer before they ate. They travelled together to the Temple in Jerusalem with their uncles and aunts and cousins.

- Do you pray as a family? Do you pray before meals? Do you read the Bible together? Have you ever been for a trip with your family? [*Students share.*]
- Do you think Jesus obeyed his father and mother? Yes he did, even though he was God!
- The 4th Commandment which God gave Moses said, 'Honour your father and mother.' Honour means to respect. Why do you think we should specially respect our parents?
[*Because God gave us life through them. And also because they taught us about God, so we have life in our souls too.*]
- Is your family always happy, or do you sometimes get sad, angry, shout at each other?
All families have sad times! God wants us to be like him and to learn how to love and forgive each other. He wants us to be happy families. There are two things that we can do which will help us. They are: praying and reading the Bible together.

[*Read the remaining part of the handouts and fill in the missing words: HONOUR, FATHER, MOTHER, RESPECT, OBEY, LIFE, GOD.*]

IV. ACTIVITY:

[*The students draw their family praying/reading the Bible together.*

[*If time permits, let the groups from the family game get together and make a tableau showing a family doing something together. They do not move or speak. The rest of the class try to guess what they are doing. Eg. Having a picnic; marketing.*

[*End by singing 'We are Happy Christians'*

[*Give out prayer handouts and show the students how to fold it. Encourage them to use it the whole week.*]

Home assignment:

Read the handout at home. Find the verse that says that Jesus was obedient to his parents. Do the family prayer given for one week. Find out what the 5th Commandment says.