

# Learning to Play on a Team

## Preparing Your Heart to Teach Session 13:

We tend to take for granted things we once valued quite highly. One mom said, “I remember when we first got our new sofa. I wouldn’t even let the kids sit on it. It’s been years now and I laugh at how much use we get out of it.” Unfortunately, the same thing is true of relationships in the family. We tend to take people for granted. One teenage boy observed that his mom treated the customers at work better than she treated him sometimes.

Jesus said the same thing in Mark 6:4, “Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor.” Honor seems to diminish over time in families if it isn’t encouraged and developed. Are there some ways that you may have let your honor slip away in family life? What might be some ways that you could develop honor more?

The saying, “Familiarity breeds contempt,” can be too true when it comes to family relationships. Pray and ask God for a few ways that you might treat each of your family members as special and show them honor this week. It may mean making an extra phone call or sending a card. Don’t keep putting honor off. It’s too important for nurturing healthy relationships.

## What Children Learn in Session 13:

Parents want to have a cooperative working relationship with their children but unfortunately their children may not embrace the same goal. In this session, children will learn that all believers, including parents and children, are part of a new family. That means that we view each other as part of the same team. Children explore the idea of the family as a team and look for ways that they can contribute to a good team spirit.

## A Summary of the Video Session 13:

Honor comes when we value each other. This session talks about viewing our children as brothers and sisters in Christ. When families grasp this truth, they see the tremendous value of children and parents. Several practical ideas are shared to help families grow closer together as a team. *(parent training video series is optional)*

## Read Along in the Book, “Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes... In You and Your Kids”:

Pages 179-188 talk about how we view each other in family life. Fathers and mothers are really brothers and sisters to their children when family members have accepted Jesus into their lives.

## Welcoming Activity

5-10 minutes

Cut out pictures of family members from magazines. Bring a large assortment for the children to choose from. Photocopy the Family Portrait frame from the end of the lesson so that each child can have one. Have children glue the pictures they choose into the frame. Fill the child's last name into the blank space on the bottom of the frame.



## Together Time

15-20 minutes

Use the thoughts and ideas below along with your own thoughts and the Bible to talk about how we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Introduction:

How many of you have ever gone to get a picture taken with your family? Did you get all dressed up? I want to tell you about a trick one store played on people to see what they would do. When people came to pick up their pictures the photographer had used a computer to take another person and put him right in the picture with the family. Can you imagine looking at a picture of your family and finding an extra person in the picture that you didn't know?

Then they asked the people if they would be interested in buying the picture. Of course, people said, "No, way. That person isn't a part of my family."

The photographer said, "Well maybe we could sell you the picture at a discount. Would you take it then?"

"No way," they continued. "That person is not a part of my family."

Finally, the photographer told them it was a joke and then brought out the real picture for them and they all laughed together about it.

### Object Lesson:

Beforehand, cut string into 3' lengths, one piece of string for each pair of children. Tie the string into knots. For older children you may tie as many as 50 knots, but younger children may only be able to handle 3-4 loose knots. Divide the children into pairs. Give each team a knotted string and ask them to work together to untie it.

After the knots are undone, talk about problems. Did you feel like you wanted give up? How did you work together to solve the problem? Did only one person do all the work while the other watched?

### Bible Story with Application:

Read Matthew 12:46-50 and use the ideas you read in the Bible and the following thoughts to tell the Bible story, teaching children that believers of all ages are part of the family of God.

I want to tell you another story that comes from the Bible. One day Jesus was helping a lot of people and the house they were in was crowded. In fact, it was so full that not even one more person could fit inside. Someone leaned over to Jesus and said, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside and want to speak with you."

Did you know that Jesus had brothers? What would it have been like to be a brother of Jesus growing up? Do you think that Jesus fought with his brothers and sisters? Do you think he yelled or said mean things? Do you think he shared his toys and helped his mom around the house? It's fun to think about that isn't it? Jesus loved his mother and brothers. In fact, when Jesus was on the cross dying, he took time to care for his mother and told his disciple, John, to take care of her.

But on this occasion Jesus wanted to teach the people something very important. He wanted to teach them that they have a spiritual family of brothers and sisters when they choose to follow him. Did you know that when you trust Jesus as your savior you enter a new family? God is the father and all the other people who have trusted Christ are your brothers and sisters. If you're a Christian and I'm a Christian, what does that make us together? It makes us brother and sister.

Why did Jesus want the people to know that? Because Jesus knew that if people would recognize this truth then they would treat each other differently. A family is a special thing and when we become Christians we join the family of God. That means that we need to learn how to get along with our new brothers and sisters in Christ. It means that we get to know our Heavenly Father.

It's fun to think about having a big family and getting to know everybody that way. But one of the nicest things is that if you and your parents

are Christians then your mom and dad are your brother and sister in Christ. Now, that is a different thought. Isn't it?

## Bible Verse:

Mark 3:35 "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

## Prayer:

*Lord, teach us to treat each other kindly. Help us to treat parents in kind ways as our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for giving us a big family so that we can learn and grow. Amen.*



# Session 13

## Craft and Activity Time

15-20 minutes

### Create a Team Pennant

Photocopy the pennant onto card stock. Encourage children to draw pictures of their family or write their family name on the pennant and decorate the edges with the markers provided. Fasten the pennant to a plastic straw so children can wave it as a pennant.

### Activity The Communication Game

**For Older Children:** Pair up your students or have them work in small groups. One student of each group needs a pencil and paper while the

other has a common object like a key or a soda can. The "drawer" is not to see the object but must draw it simply by following commands from the person holding the object. Afterwards talk about how communication can be difficult because what we think is clear, may be unclear for others.

### Blind-Folded Follower Game

**For Younger Children:** Pair up children and have one wear a blind fold and have the other lead the first around the room. If children are ready you might have them use words instead of touch to communicate. After the game, sit down and talk about the value of team work, listening and following instructions. How do the pair of children work together? Talk about the value of teamwork in a family.



## Game

15-20 minutes

Play "Untie the Human Knot" game. Group the children so that there are about 5-10 per group (the older the children, the larger the group can be). Have children form a circle and grab hands across the group, careful to not grab the hand of the person next to them and not grab two hands

of the same person. After everyone is holding two different hands, the group must slowly "untie" itself until the children are all holding hands in a circle. No one is allowed to let go of a hand during the game. When completed, some children will be facing out while others are facing in. Adults should be quiet, allowing children to direct each other and figure out how to "untie the knot."



## Snack

5-10 minutes

Provide a snack that one might eat at a ballgame or other sports event. This could be popcorn or soft pretzels or some other fun snack. Talk about how we root for our home team at a game and how we can root for one another in our families.

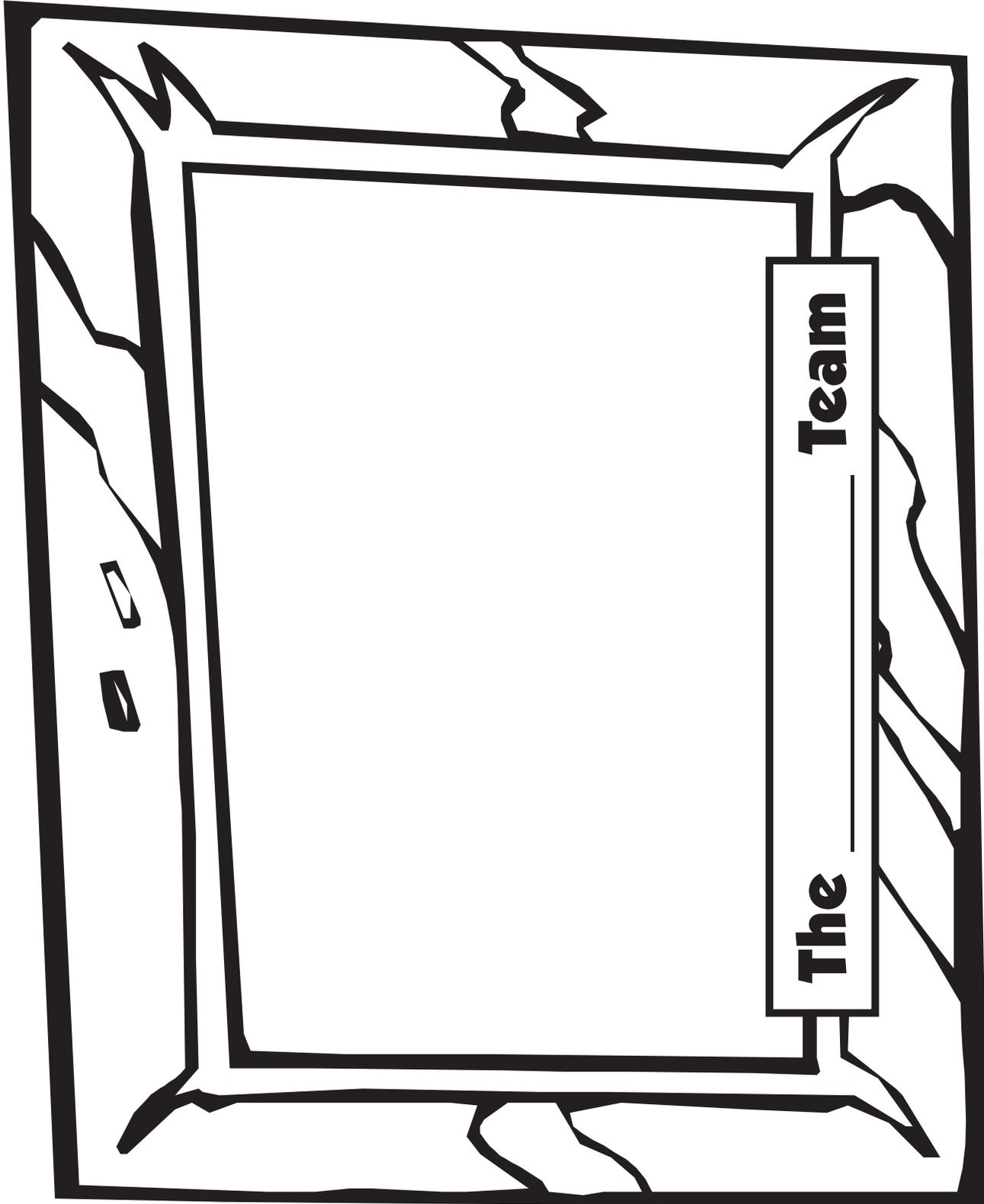
## Review and Close

5-10 minutes

Have the children do some sort of task like building a tower or cleaning up the toys. Stress the importance of teamwork. Review the Bible verse and take time to thank each child for their participation in the Kids Honor Club. See if anyone can remember the definition of honor. You may want to give each child a small gift as a reminder that showing honor is like giving a gift.

# Welcoming Activity: A Family Portrait

**Instructions:** Cut out pictures of family members from a magazine. Paste them inside the frame. Write the last name of the family in the blank space between “The \_\_\_\_\_ Team.”



# Session 13

## Team Pennant Craft

