

Busy Bee - My Family - Families Care for Each Other

Requirement

- A. Discover what the fifth commandment (Exodus 20:12) tells you about families.
- B. Act out three ways you can honour your family.

Goal of this track

To empower the children to be happy and productive members of the families God gave them.

Concept Included in This Component

Authority and respect, appreciation, family activities.

Objective of this component

Upon completion of the Adventurer requirements the children will:

- Know: what family members must do in order to live, work and play together happily for God's glory,
- Feel: a growing love for family members and ease in communicating with them, and
- Respond: by working to enhance positive relationships with each member of the family.

Background Information

One of the main ways in which children honour their mothers and fathers is by obeying them. Family rules are essential because they describe how people can get along with one another. This includes living safely and happily together within their environment. Families have rules concerning the use of space (such as where to eat or play); time schedules (such as when to get home after school); belongings (such as borrowing or sharing); work (such as chores); play (such as what or where); and habits or customs of the family (such as ways of doing different things). Parents are responsible for the well-being of the family (caring for, teaching, and encouraging). They have the final responsibility for setting the rules.

The words we speak and the way we say them also may honour or dishonour our parents. It is important to speak to parents and family members in a respectful, kind way. Disagreements and feelings may be expressed in a reasonable way, but the parent's decision must be accepted.

Carrying one's fair share of family responsibility is another way to honour one's family. Many responsibilities need to be taken care of for the benefit of the whole family, and it is unrealistic and unfair to expect that one or even two people should shoulder the burden for tasks that will benefit all. This attitude is as unhealthy for the non-participant as it is for the person left to do all the work.

Ask the children to tell some of the types of responsibilities that must be taken care of in the average family such as:

- * manage finances
- * shop
- * earn money
- * food preparation
- * cleaning
- * car maintenance
- * yard and garden work
- * household repairs
- * child care
- * pet care

Parents are also responsible for caring for the children and making sure that they are safe and healthy and that they have what is necessary for them to grow into happy and successful Christians. Parents must teach the children how to care for themselves, how to treat others, and how to handle the problems and challenges they will face in their lives. Above all they must encourage and affirm the children in their struggle to grow and learn. It is for this reason that parents are given authority over their children - to care for and encourage them as they learn to be responsible Christian individuals.

"But let them also learn, even in their earliest years, to be useful. Train them to think that, as members of the household, they are to act an interested, helpful part in sharing the domestic burdens, and to seek healthful exercise in the performance of necessary home duties." (*Child Guidance*, p 301.)

Keep in mind, also, the maturity level and abilities of each child and the responsibilities for growth through school and play that are essential at this age.

Teaching Tips

- Help children understand what the word honour means in the text. Discuss with the children how we can honour our parents today. Divide into groups to act out several of these suggestions.
- Children may dramatise the following:
 - * obedience to several specific family rules, even when it is hard;
 - * how they will act toward their parents when they feel grumpy, angry, or sad;
 - * ways to help parents with family responsibilities.
- Follow the dramatisations with a discussion of why these things are important and how they plan to put them into practice in the future. Each child may choose one special area and make plans to work on it.
- Bible stories, texts and quotes:
 - Samson (Judges 13-16)
 - Miriam watches Moses (Exodus 2)
 - David tending sheep (1 Samuel 16)
 - Boy Jesus (Luke 2)
 - Exodus 20: 12 - "Honour thy father and thy mother. . ."
 - Ephesians 6:1-3 - "Children, obey your parents. . ."
 - Proverbs 3:11 - "Whom the Lord loveth He correcteth. . ."
 - Proverbs 1:8 - "Hear the instruction of thy father. . ."
 - Psalms 19:7 - "The law of the Lord is perfect. . ."
 - Hebrews 13:17 - "Obey them that have the rule over you. . ."
 - Galatians 6:2 - "Bear one another's burdens."

"Administer the rules of the home in wisdom and love, not with a rod of iron. Children will respond with willing obedience to the rule of love." (*Counsels for Parents, Teachers, and Students*, page 114)

"Every principle involved in them (rules) should be so placed before the student that he may be convinced of its justice. Thus he will feel a responsibility to see that the rules which he himself has helped to frame are obeyed. Rules should be few and well considered; and when once made, they should be enforced." (*Education*, page 290)

"Children may be taught, when young, to lift daily their light burdens, each child having some particular task for the accomplishment of which he is responsible to his parents or guardian. They will thus learn to bear the yoke of duty while young." (*The Adventist Home*, page 286)

"The faithful mother will not, can not . . . be a domestic slave, to humour the whims of her children and excuse them from labour." (*Child Guidance*, page 349)

Norm's Notes

In the world today children are continually bombarded with things that are their "rights". The honour that should be given to parents is ignored in this emphasis.

Rights received require responsibilities to match. "Families Care for Each Other" means mutual benefits - child to and from parents.

In the good family, parents protect the children. Children need to recognise their share in caring for other members of their family.

The material here is taken from pages 14, 24 and 53 - 54 of the printed manual.