

## Youth Group Lesson: It's A Family Affair Joshua 24:15

Find some funny family photos. (**Create a small poster board and yours may be featured this week!!!**) **Have a good time with this activity.**

Families can be super funny.

What emotions come to your mind when we talk about families? Would it surprise you to hear that there are more dysfunctional families in the Bible than there are good ones?

There are some really messed up families in the Bible - brothers who sell their brother and then pretend that he is dead (Joseph), a brother who tricks his blind dad to think that he is his other brother (Jacob), a son who chooses his Dad's enemy over his dad (Jonathan), and then there are some really troubling stories in the Bible that we won't go into here, but just trust me...it gets really dark. You should read it! But here is something to think about - why do you think that God created families?

What do you think God had in mind with moms and dads and children and grandparents?

Some of you sitting here might be the only Christian in your family, but this passage of scripture could be a reminder to you that YOUR family, when you are a parent, could be a picture to others of God's love.

If you have a story from your life of someone in your family who might have come to faith, or a relationship that has been reconciled, share it!

Ask yourself, if my family were asked to make a choice right now, would we serve God even if everyone around us was not choosing God?

What if your family didn't choose God, would you be able to say to them like Joshua did - "I am choosing God"?

Because for some of you, your family might not ever take the stand that Joshua made, but you won't always be the 'youth' or child in your family, right? Someday, you will be the adult and maybe today you need to hear that YOU can be the one even right now to make that stand for your family, both now and in the future.

**God can do amazing things in even the worst families.**

Maybe some of us here have seen families changed by the love of God...and it is these stories that remind us to pray for our family.

Because God is in the business of redeeming lost lives.

Just like the Bible is full of stories of dysfunctional families and messed up people in them, the Bible also is full of stories in which truly messed up people are transformed into beautiful testaments of God's power. Stories of lives changed and people who were hateful, selfish, and mean became true people of God. Stories of forgiveness. Stories of joy and redemption. And God can do that in your family.

It might not happen tomorrow or the next day or even in a year, but begin praying even today for God to do amazing things in the lives of your family members.

Some of you might have amazing parents, and if you do, thank God and thank them because it can be really easy to take them for granted.

Sure, they might nag you or not let you stay out until 2 am, but if they love God, love you and are trying....you are one of the lucky few.

Maybe things that are really tough and hard are going on in your family, and if that's the case, please find an adult that you trust to share these things with because it is never ok for family to hurt you on purpose.

But know this: God sees your family issues and He is listening. I want you to think of one relationship in your family that is not what it should be, and honestly, sometimes this is not your fault at all. But picture them in your mind, and right now, let's pray for those relationships.

Pray with me: God, I lift up (say the name of your family member to yourself right now).

God, you are in the business of doing amazing things in people's lives, and I ask that you cover us in your love. Help us to choose you, God. Amen.

\*\*\*\*YOUTH CHALLENGE\*\*\*\*

**How could your family serve God and share his love? How could your family serve God and share his love as a family?**