

# heartfelt Newsletter

September 2010

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:38-42

THEME: We Are Family!

family  
'round  
the  
table

EATING TOGETHER



Decorations: Create a Family Tree. Take a bare tree branch and place in flowerpot. Secure branch with clay and fill with raffia or tissue paper. Hang photos of family members on tree. Add items that represent family members such as music notes, paintbrush, balls, computer disk, etc. These could be pictures of items or miniatures found in craft stores.

## MENU

Use favorite recipes from your family. These might include for example: Grandma's mashed potatoes, Dad's grilled spareribs, Suzie's chocolate cake, etc

## Blessing:

*Almighty God, you open your hand, and we are fed so richly. Be at this table today, we pray, and bless all in our family. Amen.*



# PLAYING TOGETHER

## Activity One: Family Reunion Bingo!

**Materials:** list of family traits (see below), beans or other counters, Bingo cards (one per family member). You can find these on line at [www.teachnology.com/web\\_tools/materials/bingo](http://www.teachnology.com/web_tools/materials/bingo) or you can create a form on the computer using the “Table” function.

**Directions:**

1. Ahead of time, create a list of at least 25 traits and characteristics that refer to various family members. Examples:
  - loves to fish
  - plays the guitar
  - lives in (city, state, etc)
2. Each person writes the name of a family member in each square. These can include immediate family, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. Each card will have names in different spaces, so each card will be different.
3. Provide family members with stickers or beans to use as markers.
4. As each trait is mentioned, each person finds one person who fits that trait and covers the name. Only one name can be covered at a time.
5. Winner can be 5 in a row, corners, black out, etc. When the card is complete, shout “We are Family!”

F	A	M'	L	Y
		Free		

## Activity Two: Family Portraits

**Materials:** drawing paper, markers, crayons, or colored pencils

**Directions:**

1. Distribute paper and drawing implements.
2. Encourage family members to draw a portrait of the family and label the people.
3. As a final step, draw a fancy frame around the completed drawings and display them along a hallway or on the refrigerator.



## STUDYING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

· Begin by inviting everyone to imagine that the family is preparing for special guests for dinner. This might be a traditional holiday family gathering or a birthday or anniversary celebration. Encourage a discussion by asking:

1. What kinds of things do we do when we are expecting company?
2. Suppose someone really famous were coming to lunch? Who could that be?
3. When the guest arrives, what would you do?

· Share that in the Bible story today two sisters, named Mary and Martha, have an honored guest visit their home. Listen for how they each extend hospitality. Invite a family member to read aloud Luke 10:38-42.

### Reflection Questions for the Family

1. What do you think “hospitality” means? How does your family show it to others?
2. Have you ever felt like Martha, doing all the work while others seem to be doing nothing important?
3. What did Mary choose to do? How do you think she was extending hospitality?
4. What do you think Jesus meant by “One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it’s the main course, and won’t be taken from her”?
5. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach Martha?
6. If you were in this story, where would you be?
7. We should always be ready to invite Jesus into our lives. What ways can you think of to be hospitable to Jesus in your life? What can get in your way of extending hospitality to Jesus?



# PRAYING TOGETHER

- Light a worship candle and place the open Bible next to it.
- Sing one or more of these hymns: “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” <http://ingeb.org/spiritua/ihavedec.html>, “Seek Ye First” or [www.oremus.org/hymnal/s/s078.html](http://www.oremus.org/hymnal/s/s078.html), “Open Our Eyes, Lord” or <http://my.homewithgod.com/heavenlymidis2/openeyes.html>.
- Pray together, allowing time for family responses where indicated:

*Lord, we thank you today for our family. In our family we first received love. Love from parents, and grandparents and brothers and sisters. Each one of us is unique, Lord, with special gifts and abilities. We thank you for... (share names and special gifts of family members). We give you thanks for times shared with friends and family when we experienced or extended hospitality. Some of those times we remember are... (invite sharing). Lord, we give you thanks for sharing Jesus with us. We know he is always ready to enter our lives and receive our hospitality. Let your Spirit open our eyes to see Jesus in our lives and open our ears to hear his words of faith and his call to discipleship. Open our hearts to respond as good and hospitable disciples. Amen.*

- Responsively read Colossians 1:26-28 as a benediction as adapted from The Message:

Leader: This mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open.

**Others: God wanted everyone to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out.**

Leader: The mystery in a nutshell is just this:

**Others: Christ is in you, so therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory.**

Leader: It's that simple.

**Others: We preach Christ so that we can bring each person to maturity.**

Leader: To be mature is to be perfect in Christ!

**Other: No more, no less.**

[www.thelogosministry.org/heartfelt.html](http://www.thelogosministry.org/heartfelt.html)