

Spirit Play Story Lessons

Families All Matter (1, 2, 3)

Materials:

- Copy of each lesson's books
 - Theme for first lesson – Families are all different but love makes them the same!
 - *All Families Are Special*
 - *The Family Book*
 - Theme for second lesson– Adoptive Families
 - *Tell Me Again*
 - *Jin Woo*
 - *We Belong Together*
 - Theme for third lesson – Divorce (email will be sent to parents with pre-class discussion prompts)
 - *Mom and Dad Don't Live Together Anymore*
 - *Mama Bear and Daddy Bear's Divorce*

- Blank paper (8" x 5 ½") and crayons for drawing prompts
- Oversized class journals for pasting kids' drawings into
- Construction paper and glue sticks for collages
- Quilt squares for kids who bring in a family photo
- Copy of the church photo directory

Each lesson will follow the same general format:

1. After regular greeting and circle routines, including Joys and Sorrows, we'll read the story aloud from the book. Be mindful of the whole class' need to see the images. You may choose to have them sit in a formation different than the usual circle on the rug. If you shake up that routine, review your expectations for this story time. Encourage kids to sit "crisscross applesauce" style with legs crossed and hands in laps.

2. Follow each story with discussion questions like the following:
 - I wonder if you think the best part of this story is the words about families or the pictures of families?
 - I wonder how we know that a family is a family?
 - I wonder how this family is the same as your family?
 - I wonder how this family is different from your family?
 - I wonder how our church is like a family?
 - I what was the best thing about the family in the story?
 - I wonder how this family showed love?
 - I wonder what this family did together that many families do together?

3. Provide each child with a half sheet of white paper and crayons. Give them a prompt to draw a picture based on the story. ("Draw your family as penguins." or "Show your family doing something fun together.") Help with words if they want to label or describe their images. Use the lap desks if table space is at a premium. Glue or tape the drawings onto the blank pages of the big Class Journal. You can review the pictures over Feast if you'd like. This activity can be done as a collage using construction paper and glue sticks.

4. At pick-up time, encourage parents to send a family photo to church with their child (we'll have notes for you to pass out...). If on future Sundays a child brings a family photo, we'll incorporate it into our photo quilt. Materials will be in your classroom: photos slide into the clear pockets and squares get tied together with ribbon.