



## **“Dealing with Family”**

Purpose: Get teens thinking about the roles we each play in our families and that we honor God by responding to family in the right way when things get tough!

Supplies:

- Make signs
- Sticky notes or index cards (tape)
- Marker

Total Time: 40-45 minutes

### **ACTIVITY**

**Crowd Breaker: Minute to Win It, Trivia, Etc**

### **ACTIVITY**

Video Clip: Simpsons <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUUwPYEnydQ>

Video Clip: Cosby Show <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ivDpnyQ1Zs>

Video Clip: Modern Family <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lCgzecKwg9A>

### **LARGE GROUP**

**Role Plays (Good Role Play, Bad Role Play) (10 minutes)**

**Allow teens to role play good ways....then bad ways.**

Explain that we are going to role play situations that occur in the common American house-

Explain the first situation then ask who would like to be the characters for that role-

**SITUATION #1**

Last night the son or daughter came home an hour late. It's breakfast, and the subject is being discussed.

**SITUATION #2**

Family is sitting down discussing oldest brother or sister's future- parents see college, kid sees a job and living with his friends.

**SITUATION #3**

The subject of dating has come up around the dinner table. Son or daughter has been dating same person for long time now and parents want to make sure that he or she is being careful (the sex issue, dating one person too much issue).

### **Family Scenario's**

*Created by the YFC Juvenile Justice Ministry. Ask for permission to duplicate.*

Signs: Mom, Dad, Oldest child, Middle child, youngest child  
Sticky notes/index cards (tape) for more characteristics

**Discussion Starter** (20-25 minutes)

Get some students who can come up to represent family members in a typical American family. (No acting is required here; they will just hold signs as you explain.)

**I need 5 volunteers to help me be the average American family-** Dad, Mom and 3 kids- Tim, you would be a good Dad...

Have a paper labeled “Dad” ready to stick on him. Do the same for the whole family, labeling 4 more volunteers (mom, oldest, middle, and youngest). Have a helper with a marker, tape and 3x5 cards ready to write down responsibilities of each family member.

**So what does a Dad do?**

*You could get answers like "Nothing!", "Beats his kids!", "Goes to Work!"*

Try to filter the joke answers and encourage the truthful ones.

**So, would everybody agree that the average family has Dad as the primary wage-earner?** *Write “\$” on a piece of paper and stick it on Dad (with tape) if they say he is the wage earner.*

**Cool, is he also the one who handles discipline?** *Write “discipline” on a piece of paper and stick it on Dad when they agree that he is the discipliner.*

Repeat the steps for each family member until each has several pieces of paper stuck on them.

Family members might have the following words stuck to them:

Dad- Discipline, money, yard care

Mom- money, nurture, clean house

Oldest bro- chores, beat up kid brother

Middle child- babysit, fun

Little sis- no responsibilities

**Now if this is the typical home in America- let's say that Dad leaves.** Tear up the Dad sign, pull off Dad's responsibilities (that were taped onto him), and sit Dad down. **Now we have to transfer Dad's responsibilities to the rest of the family.** (Holding up the \$ piece of paper) **Who is going to replace the income?"**

*You could get answers like "A boyfriend!", "Alimony!"*

**Well might some of this financial responsibility fall on mom? Well she is already**

**working some now; she will have to increase hours and we'll give some of the responsibility to older brother.** *Tear \$ in half, tape half on Mom and half on older brother. Divide the rest of the responsibilities and adjust everyone else's responsibility so it balances (those little pieces of paper being switched from person to person and the adding of more responsibilities on each family member really demonstrates the drastic affect of divorce in a very visual way).*

**Now what if a step-dad shows up? Bring guy in from audience and put "Step-Dad" sign on him. What responsibilities does he take? Does he marry the mom or the whole family?** *(This question will affect whether the rest of the family will rely on him to take responsibilities. If there is no trust- then there probably won't be any transfer except from the mom.) Continue discussion and switching as desired.*

Questions:

1. What is your family situation like?
2. What roles do you play in your family
3. If you could change one thing about your family what would it be?
4. What role do you see playing in a family one day?

## **SMALL GROUP**

(15-20 minutes)

1. What is a family?
2. Why are family problems usually the toughest to deal with?
3. How important is your family to you?
4. How much of an influence do you think your family has on you?
5. What is the best way to deal with family problems?

## **WRAP UP**

1. There is no Cosby Family...No family problems get solved in 30 mins
2. Don't believe what you see on TV
3. Families are tough! They are work! Maybe you are the one who keeps the family together.
4. Remember that YOU play a role in your family. You have an important job to play!!!

## Optional Content

Read Genesis 37. Joseph and His Brothers - Sold into Slavery etc

After reading...Allow time for the teens to share what stood out to them and maybe even discusses how they might relate to Joseph.

Question: How can you respond and be more like Joseph with your Family? *Encourage the teens to do the right thing even when it doesn't feel or make sense! Pray for each teen in your group that their desire will be to please God in their families, even if the teen feels like he/she is in a family with strife.*

## CHALLENGE

Read Genesis 37.

## SALVATION VERSES

Romans 5:8 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>a</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.