



# Lesson 17

## Welcome to the Family of God

### Intermediate Small Group Lesson

#### **Bible Story**

The Prodigal Son

*Luke 15:11-32*

#### **Bible Verse**

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”

*Ephesians 2:19, New Living Translation*

#### **Key Teaching Point**

Receive welcome into God’s family.

#### **Materials**

- Name tags
- Snacks
- How Are You Feeling? emoji chart
- A squishy ball
- Sticks (twigs, branches, or craft sticks), at least a dozen
- ZAP cards
- Question pack
- A pad of paper and a pencil



## Small Group Session 1

(15 Minutes)

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while students eat their snack:

### Icebreaker Options (Choose one):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Let students take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" emoji chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- As the students are eating their snacks, ask, **"What does your family do to make people feel welcome in your home?"**

### Pray Together

[Collect prayer requests from the children](#) The leader or a student can pray for the entire group, or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

### Small Group Game: Wise Guy

**Materials:** ZAP cards and the Question pack from the Crossroads Games Bag and a pad of paper and pencil to keep score

Divide students into two teams and assign a scorekeeper. Ask a student from the first team a question from the Question Pack while playing ZAP. After the student reads and answers their question, let them draw a point-value card from the ZAP game. They receive the number of points on the card they draw for their team. They can continue to draw additional point-value cards to accumulate points, or they can stop (with their accumulated point total). If they draw a ZAP card, they lose all their accumulated points and must start again. A student from the second team can answer a question and take a turn at ZAP. Whichever team ends with the most points wins.

## Small Group Session 2

(35 Minutes)

### Life Application Activity

Show the children the sticks you brought with you. Ask a child to break one of the twigs to show how easily a single stick may break. Next, put several sticks together and ask the child to break them. Point out that it is now much harder or even impossible.

**Families give us strength. How can a family give strength to each part of the family?**

Take student responses.



**Our Heavenly Father welcomes us and forgives us even when we have messed up. Because we are all sinners, we often turn away from God and go our own way. God is always ready to welcome us back to the family.**

**Our human families are often very broken and sometimes they don't support us and love us like God wants them to, but God welcomes us into a new family—a spiritual family. We each have two families: a biological family and a spiritual family. In God's family, we have a safe place to learn and to grow. God's family is called the church. The people in God's family can help you to resist temptation and to grow strong in the Lord.**

### **Receive the Gift!**

**Service:** Freely giving to others what God has given to us.

**Those who are in God's family are brothers and sisters of the household of God. What do you think this means for how we are to treat one another?**

Take student responses.

**What gifts do members of God's family receive?**

Take student responses. Throw around the squishy ball from the Crossroads Games Bag. Whoever is holding the squishy ball shares an answer.

(Examples: unconditional love, mercy, joy, peace, the Father's provision and/or delight, etc.)

Discuss together: **This week, how can you give what you have received from your heavenly Father to others?**

### **Bible Verse Game**

Review the Bible verse with a [Bible verse game](#).

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”

*Ephesians 2:19, New Living Translation*

### **Reflection**

Give each child their reflection journal. Invite them to reflect on the following questions and to record their answers in their journal. They may also draw their responses if they wish:

1. What gift can I receive from God?
2. How can this gift impact my life?

