

Remember the Love

Faith Building Activities for the Family

by George Langland

Road Less Traveled

When I was young my Daddy taught me, keep the golden rule.
Do to others just what you would have them do to you.
He said it isn't how a lot of people choose to live their life.
It's a narrow way, but you gotta stay on the road less traveled by.

Matthew 7:12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Faith Building Activity: For a family meal together, make a rule that no one is allowed to ask to have any items passed to themselves. Instead try to anticipate the needs of the other family members and pass them what they need. This would work well for a special meal such as Thanksgiving when extended family members are gathered together. Take this opportunity to enjoy serving each other and allow others to serve you.

Graduation Day

He's waiting there in line, this child of mine
I hear them calling out his name
Things will never be the same.
Have I taught him well, have I listened, have him shown him all my love?
Will he be okay, trusting every day in the Lord above?
I cry "Oh God, please help me, there's just so little time 'til graduation day, for this child of mine.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Faith Building Activity: Just as Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and men, so too are our children growing very fast toward adulthood. In a place where you won't be tempted to cover with paint, measure the child's height against the wall, using a separate place for each child. This should be done on special occasions every year, such as Christmas, New Years Day, or the child's birthday. Also include a picture of the child and maybe some of their accomplishments. This activity will show how quickly the child is growing and how little time you still have with them at this stage of life.

Remember the Love of the Family

Remember the love of the family. In this world it's a forgotten thing.
You see, it's a love that was made up above, and the way it was all meant to be.
Now I leave it to you, like it was left to me, remember the love of the family.

Psalm 68: 5-6 A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families

Faith Building Activity: Build a caring scrapbook collecting mementos that show how your family cares about each of the others. Recognize sacrifices made for each other in a small family ceremony. Also you will notice that sacrifices made for those you love do not seem like sacrifices at all to the ones making them (Genesis 29:20)

Diamonds in Place

Promises broken that should have been kept
Words that were spoken that now we regret
But love is forgiving and memories can heal
And love that will last forever is real

Song of Songs 8:7 Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

Faith Building Activity: Make a list of some of the hard times and notice how your love has grown through them, either from the giving end, such as caring for a family member who has been ill, or from the receiving end, when someone was there to care for you.

Jesus Will Be Their King

Starting today they're building a castle
A kingdom of love, such a beautiful thing
She'll be the princess and he'll be the prince
And Jesus will be their king.

Lord come and take Your place on the throne
Of this castle and kingdom, make it your home

Luke 7:8 "For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

Faith Building Activity: Whether you are a newly married couple like one in this song or have been a family for decades, take time to hold a small ceremony in which you declare Jesus to be your king and you accept the rights and responsibilities as next in command. This will help you make better decisions and will serve as a reminder in days to come.

It Is Dawn

The sun had set upon my life, darkness had fallen.
The night was so long, on God I was callin'
his precious grace, it was sufficient to help me carry on
But I cried tears of joy when He finally whispered, "It is dawn."

Psalm 23:4 Even though I was through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me

Faith Building Activity: As a family, memorize Psalm 23. Its' tremendously encouraging words have served for centuries to comfort people in darkness and lift them from the deepest of depression.

Love Goes Round

Who'd have ever thought that one day the two would ever meet
Fall in love and marry and raise a family
And all these years would pass and still the love would last.
A love together that they found, a love they keep on passing down
A love that keeps on goin' round and round.

Deuteronomy 11:19-21 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your fates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

Faith Building Activity: How did your grandparents meet and fall in love? How about your parents? Why did they choose to live and work where they did? What events and decisions changed the courses of their lives? If it is possible, ask them! If it is not, piece together what you can from people who knew them and from any other source you can find. Build a sense of family history and see how the lives of past generations have affected your lives today.

I've Heard It Said

I've heard it said, when it's your time to go, you can't take anything with, but it just isn't so.
'Cuz you can take your family, and you can take your friends.
Just show them the way and help them to believe, and they can go there with you to heaven for eternity.

John 9:25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Faith Building Activity: Intentionally share with your family and friends why you love Jesus, and how you know that God is real and what you have seen Him do. Share how you know that God loves you. Tell the simple truth of how these things have happened in you life. Pray with them so that they can see God at work too. This is part of your story. It's same as the former blind man saying, "I know I was blind but now I see." Just tell the facts as they are.

We Are Sorry

But we think about it often and we know it wasn't right
To take the sunshine in your life and turn it into night.
We are sorry, no excuses, we broke the promise and broke your hearts.

Matthew 5:23-24 Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother, then come and offer your gift.

Faith Building Activity: This faith building activity can be very difficult and painful to do, but it is also vitally important. This is repairing the damage we have done that has hurt others and accepting responsibility for our part in causing this pain. The longer we delay, the deeper the hurt will be. We all know of family ties that were broken. Some for decades and some never repaired. Don't let your family break apart because of something you have done.

Note From Mother

Dearest Son,

This box of things is for you. If I should not be here to give it to you, God bless you and keep you in the hollow of His hand 'til we meet home in glory. Let's not one of us be missing there.

Lots of love,
Mother

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Faith Building Activity: How can you be sure that you won't be missing for eternity in heaven? The answer is in this well know verse. It began with God's love for each of us, for you. Love is shown by giving, and God gave us the most precious gift He could, his one and only Son. We are created with God's loving nature so that we can know Him intimately, and love and care for people as He does, but everything that we do that is motivated by selfishness (sin) and not by love is something we will regret for all eternity. This is what it means when it says that we are perishing. What is God's answer for our problem? It is this precious Gift He has given us. Jesus has perished in our place. What is our response? It is to believe in Jesus. This can begin with a simple prayer recognizing that God loves each of us, that our own sin is causing us to perish and that we need the Savior He has given us. Prayer is simply recognizing that God is listening and talking to Him truthfully about what is on our hearts. He is listening for your prayer right now, the next step is yours.