



FAMILY FAITH NIGHT

A Parable of seeds and soil.

THINGS TO GET READY

Before starting the family time get all the following ready:

- Candle + matches.
- Popped popcorn or similar
- 2 mugs

OPTIONAL: OBJECT LESSON

Find different types of soil and seeds to plant in them. Plant them somewhere they will get sun and water and see what happens to which seed after a few weeks.

A VERSE

Find and read this bible verse together inviting everyone to give an answer as to what they think the passage means.

Proverbs 3: 6 - 16

6 Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

7 Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil!

8 Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life!

9 Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best.

10 Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over.

11 But don't, dear friend, resent God's discipline; don't sulk under his loving correction.

12 It's the child he loves that God corrects; a father's delight is behind all this. The Very Tree of Life

13 You're blessed when you meet Lady Wisdom, when you make friends with Madame Insight.

14 She's worth far more than money in the bank; her friendship is better than a big salary.

15 Her value exceeds all the trappings of wealth; nothing you could wish for holds a candle to her.

16 With one hand she gives long life, with the other she confers recognition.

A TIME FOR THE FAMILY TO COME TOGETHER AND SHARE THEIR FAITH AND HAVE FAMILY CHURCH WITH ONE ANOTHER.

BEGINNING - PRAYER

Sit together and pray as a family.

Light the candle to indicate a family time has started. Invite different members of the family to light the candle before each family faith night.

Hold hands and pray a prayer together or recite this prayer:

*Dear God, we thank you for all the wonderful stories you have given us called parables. They teach us so much like today's parable. God we invite you into our family and this time together.
Amen*

Other ways to pray

- Popcorn prayer
 - Allow anyone to pray for something randomly like popcorn would pop randomly.
- Pray for one person in the family each family faith night until all people in the family have been prayed for.

MIDDLE - STORY TIME

A parable

Read the story on the next page aloud as a family. Take turns reading or pick a story teller to capture the wonder in the story.

DISCUSSION TIME

1. What do you think it is that God wants to plant inside our hearts?
2. What kind of things can be like the thorns – things that we worry about and that can become more important to us than God?
3. Do you sometimes find it hard to understand God's word, or understand His Stories sometimes?

What the parable could mean:

Jesus uses the parable to teach that the sower in the parable is Jesus and the seed is the word of God. The hard ground is someone with a hard heart not wanting to listen to God. The Stony ground is someone who shows some interest in God, but he is not fully there; so when trouble times come he will not be strong enough. The thorny ground is someone who listens to God, but there are other distractions in life, like worries, riches other people and so these other things become more important than God in their life. Finally, the good soil is someone who

has heard and received the Word of God and allows it to take root and grow.

ENDING – ACTIVITY

Popcorn mug challenge.

Might get a little messy

Put 2 mugs centre of the table where the family is surrounding.

Split the family into 2 groups with a hand full of popped popcorn. The objective is as quickly as possible to fill up the mug allocated to each group. Find a distance for the mugs and throwing ability; which is good for the entire family. See which group fill their mug first. Add whatever rules you would like to make the game more interesting.

Story

A Parable

Read Matthew 13: 1 - 10

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.

Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.

Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."