

# **G-Force** Parent Connection

## Family Really Matters

### Jesus Connected with His Family

**(Y) Luke 2:1-7, 41-52; John 19:25-27**

**(O) Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 13:54-56; John 19:25-27**

#### Memory Verse:

Younger children: Honor your father and mother. *Ephesians 6:2a HCSB*

Older children: And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people. *Luke 2:52 HCSB*



## Family Treasures

Families are special gifts from God to us, and each family is different. Jesus had a Heavenly Father, and He had an earthly home with Mary and Joseph. In many ways, Jesus set an example by showing us how important families are. Even from the cross, Jesus took care of His mother by asking John to care for her.

Families can be related by blood and bound together by love. You can celebrate the gift of family God has given you.

- Establish Family Night. Once a week, turn off the television and spend time together. Cook a meal, play a game, or watch videotapes of your child's school play. It does not matter what you do, just that you do it—regularly.
- Take lots of pictures of family members in action. Be sure to get doubles when you have pictures developed, and let your child make a scrapbook from the extra prints.
- Visit, call, or e-mail extended family members often. Geography no longer has to separate families.
- Let your child observe the respect you have for your own parents. "Yes, ma'am" and "no, sir" will never go out of style!
- Show your child photo albums of your own childhood. Tell stories of your proudest and most embarrassing moments.
- Begin to pray now for the person your child will eventually marry. Ask God to bless this future spouse's home and to give him or her a heart for Christ. Pray that your own child will grow up with a desire to have a Christian home, too.
- Remember to say "I love you" often.

## Act On It!

Celebrating your family's heritage gives your child a sense of belonging and identity.

- Search photo albums to find photographs of you, your child's grandparents and, if possible, great-grandparents. Inexpensively reproduce each photo by scanning and printing them on your computer, or make color copies at a copy store.
- With your child's help, mount the photos in a photo album or on a sheet of poster paper.
- Beneath each photo, write the ancestor's name, date of birth (and death when appropriate), and city and state of longest residence. Older relatives may be great help in filling in any gaps in your information.
- Look at the photos often with your child, recalling memories or long-told stories about each family member.
- Pray and thank God for each member of your family and for the memories you have of your ancestors.