



RUAH WOODS INSTITUTE'S PARISH FAMILY IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Family Day Overview



| Family is a Gift from God Theme by Age Group | Ruah Woods Institute's REVEALED K-12 Theology of the Body Curriculum Lesson to Teach by Age Group |
|--|---|
| K-1 st | Grade 1 — Lesson 8: My Family is a Gift from God |
| 2 nd -3 rd | Grade 3 — Lesson 4: Families are a Gift of God |
| 4 th -5 th | Grade 4 — Lesson 5: Marriage is a Gift of God |
| 6 th -8 th | Grade 8-Unit 3: Sacrament of Marriage |
| High School CTBM | Course 4 — Lesson 5: The Domestic Church OR Course 7 — Lesson 3: The Family as the Cell of Society |
| Suggested Prayer: | USCCB Prayer for Families https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-families |
| Suggested Parish Project: | Use Grade 2, Lesson 8: My Family is a Gift from God Pages 81-82: Read and present Family Crest Activity *If time allows read page 84 and show examples of Pope Crests (pages 85-90) Give one copy for each family on white cardstock of page 91 (SAB pg. 63) |





RUAH WOODS INSTITUTE'S PARISH FAMILY IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Family Day Overview



Introduction: (10 min)

Welcome all parents and children together for this special Family focused day.

Distribute the prayer below (or have it displayed on a screen to pray together). Encourage everyone to say the prayer with you.

Prayer for Families (USCCB):

We bless your name, O Lord, for sending your own incarnate Son, to become part of a family, so that, as he lived its life, he would experience its worries and its joys.

We ask you, Lord, to protect and watch over these families, so that in the strength of your grace its members may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home, bear witness in this world to your glory.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Before dismissing the grade level groups read aloud:

SAY: "The family is the first and fundamental school of social living, it finds in self-giving the law that guides it and makes it grow."

(Pope St. John Paul II, The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World)

Breakout sessions/activities: (45-60 min)

Grades K-1st:

*DRE/Catechist: Read Grade 1 Lesson 8: My Family is a Gift from God pgs. 65-75 in the Teacher's Guide.

See **Lesson Materials Needed** to prepare head of time for the day: pg. 66. Each student will need their own Grade 1 Student Activity Book pages/worksheets indicated.

Grades 2nd-3rd:

*DRE/Catechist: Read Grade 3 Lesson 4: Families Are a Gift of God pgs. 31-35 in the Teacher's Guide.

See **Lesson Materials Needed** to prepare head of time for the day: pg. 32. Each student will need their own Grade 3 Student Activity Book pages/worksheets indicated.





RUAH WOODS INSTITUTE'S PARISH FAMILY IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Family Day Overview



Grades 4th-5th:

*DRE/Catechist: Read Grade 4 Lesson 5: Marriage is a Gift of God pgs. 42-49 in the Teacher's Guide.

See **Lesson Materials Needed** to prepare head of time for the day: pg. 44. Each student will need their own Grade 4 Student Activity Book pages/worksheets indicated.

Middle School 6th-8th:

Grade 8 Unit 3: Sacrament of Marriage (pgs. 31-46)

Each student will need their own Grade 8 Common Place Book.

High School:

Course 4: Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church

Lesson 5: The Domestic Church

OR

Course 7: Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society

Lesson 3: The Family as the Cell of Society

("Called to be More" Online Modules at <https://app.ruahwoodsoinstitute.org>.

You may print out the lesson, if you wish).

Group Four-Parent Session:

See Appendix One

Closing Activity/Prayer (Together) (20 min)

Recap the theme

Announce family project if you choose to do one (see below)

Closing prayer

Suggested Family Project:

Use Grade 2, Lesson 8: My Family is a Gift from God

Grade 2 Teacher's Guide Pages 81-82: Read and present Family Crest Activity

*If time allows read page 84 and show examples of Pope Crests (pages 85-90)

Give one copy for each family on white cardstock of page 91 (it is also in the Grade 2 Student Activity Book pg. 63)





RUAH WOODS INSTITUTE'S PARISH FAMILY IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Family Day Overview



Appendix 1

Ruah Woods Institute Parish Family Day: My Family is a Gift from God

Parent Break-Out Session

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION (provide an area for the large group that is convenient to transition to small group discussions)

Introduction (5-10 minutes)

Leader/Clergy/Catechist: We welcome all our parents gathered here today. Our goal here today is to be witnesses of hope in these confusing times. God has created our families to be visible signs of His love and presence among us. It is time for us to reclaim our true identity of being created in the image and likeness of the Holy Trinity, and by living this reality in our families, we will truly be a light to all those around us in our community.

I would like you to rest for a moment in silence and peace, and listen to these beautiful words that reflect the call to live this mystery:

- “The family is the original cell of social life. It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life” (CCC 2207). (pause)
- “The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom. Family life is an initiation into life in society (CCC 2207). (pause)
- “The Christian family ... should be called a domestic church. It is a community of faith, hope and charity (CCC 2204). (pause)
- In short, the family is the first school of love. (pause)
- “The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit” (CCC 2205). (pause)

We have so many challenges in our families. It is difficult to prioritize our relationship with God and with our own family members when the burdens of life weigh without intermission upon our shoulders.

We are going to take some time to share and network with one another on how we can face these challenges together and build our families with a stronger foundation of faith and love. When we make this a priority, our families will become homes that are filled with joy and peace, and we will experience a deeper satisfaction of our longing for true love.

Let us break into small groups to continue our discussion further.





RUAH WOODS INSTITUTE'S PARISH FAMILY IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Family Day Overview



SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT:

1. Provide an area for each group of 4-6 to have their own discussion.
2. Provide a copy of the small group discussion questions below for each parent.
3. Assign a small group leader to facilitate, using these guidelines and ask them to briefly share Respect and Sacred Confidentiality with their group:
 - a. Respect — Listen with attention and concentration, and try to understand before being understood. Avoid interrupting others, and give everyone a chance to speak.
 - b. Sacred Confidentiality — What the group shares remains within the group unless given permission by the participant to share with the larger group. Avoid gossip.
 - c. Flow — The facilitator should not use this time to answer questions or teach, but to allow each participant a short amount of time to share without dominating the conversation.

Small Group Discussion (25-35 minutes)

"...the family is 'the first and vital cell of society.' " (Familiaris Consortio)

1. *What are the biggest threats to the flourishing of your family and is there something you could do to diminish those threats?*
2. *What does your family need in order to fully live the family life God called you to?*

It is within the family that a child is introduced to God, the Church, and what it means to be a human person.

1. In your family life, how are you introducing and teaching these themes to your children?
2. What are some ways you can improve in your mission to educate your children in the Faith?

In short, the family is the first school of love.

1. In what ways does your family love one another as Christ loves us?
2. What are some obstacles that get in the way of giving and receiving the love of Christ?

***If time allows you may share the following question within your group and with your family later.**





RUAH WOODS INSTITUTE'S PARISH FAMILY IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Family Day Overview



DINNER TABLE QUESTION/DISCUSSION TO SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY:

- *"The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit" (CCC 2205.) Made in the image and likeness of God, the family reflects the Holy Trinity, and it is from the Trinity that the family finds its identity as a communion of persons.*
- Read slowly from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2-3x): "God, 'HE WHO IS', revealed himself to Israel as the one 'abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness' " (CCC 214). What are some words or phrases that stood out to you?

The goal is for us to participate in the love and life of the Holy Trinity for all of eternity. The family is the place where we learn to be open to receive the love of the Trinity, and then live it out in our families.

1. What could our family do to be more open to receiving the light and love of God?
2. What could our family do to be more open to spreading God's light and love in our family, school, and church community, and the world around us?

LARGE GROUP WRAP UP (10-15 minutes)

Leader/Clergy/Catechist: Thank you for your participation and sharing with one another. Are there any highlights that each group would like to share with the large group? Please select a representative and keep your submission to 2 minutes or less.

Before we return to our children, I want to remind you of the beauty of family life that God is calling each of us to deepen and grow within our homes. Here are three reminders to take with you:

(Share the details of the following)

1. Dinner Discussion that was given in small group
2. Family Crest Activity
3. Parish Pro-Life Project

Let's return to our children where we will conclude with prayer.

