

MY IMPERFECT FAMILY

Though no family is perfect, God’s plan of redemption brings hope to my family.

Lesson Plan

Prepare For It
(Teacher prep, before class)



Get To It
(Begin the lesson)



Dig Into It
(The meat of the Bible lesson)



Make It Real
(Hands-on activity)



Own It
(Lesson wrap-up, review, & challenge)



COLLIDE WITH THE WORD


Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. [1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NLT]

PREPARE FOR IT

This time is for you to prepare for the week’s lesson—heart, soul, mind, and strength. Read, contemplate, and pray.

Welcome, leaders, to the greatest adventure around—teaching and influencing preteens! Next to the changes from infancy to toddlerhood, this is the most significant time of change in a person’s life. Your attentiveness, kindness, humor, and faithfulness have the opportunity to change lives—how cool is that? As you move through this lesson, remember that everyone’s experience with family is different. Do your best not to assume your family experience was the same as a student’s experience. For some, it’s the safest place in their chaotic world. For others, it’s the source of their chaos, pain, and disappointment. The good news? No matter where on the spectrum a student falls concerning family, God wants to add life and love into that reality!

*Check out the words in **BOLD** throughout the lesson. This is suggested conversation for you to use with preteens. Remember to use your own words and to speak naturally.*

-  Watch a short training video about this lesson. Access it on the WordAction Publishing YouTube channel (Collide Life and Others playlist) or at bitly.com/lifeandothers.

Related Topics

Family
Redemption
Commitment

Primary Texts

Genesis 37:1-36
Romans 3:23

Grab It

- Bibles
- *Crashbooks* (always grab pens and colored pencils)
- *Crashcards* (on DVD, send these home with parents)
- *Collide* DVD
- DVD player
- pictures of different families (printed off or pulled up on a phone or computer)
- white board and dry erase markers
- scissors
- tape
- access to YouTube, opt.

GET TO IT

Dive into the lesson and encourage conversation.

MEMORIZE IT

View It: Play the *Collide with the Word* video for this unit. Access it on the DVD, on the WordAction Publishing YouTube channel, or at bitly.com/collidewiththeword. You will watch this video each week during the unit.

Collide with the Word: Pass out the *Crashbooks* and fun pens or colored pencils. Have preteens turn to page 4 and do the memory verse activity. They will follow the path so they can read the verse in correct order.

1. **Before class**, find 6-8 pictures of different kinds of families from pop culture that preteens will recognize. Some great options are: Nemo and his dad, *Full House*, *Despicable Me*, *The Brady Bunch*, *The Lion King*, the sisters from *Frozen*, and other shows your preteens watch. If you're pulling up these pictures on your phone or computer, you might have your students offer other suggestions. Also bring in a picture of your family from when you were a preteen. Your picture is incredibly important—students see you only as an adult and may assume that you don't know what they're going through. This is your opportunity to literally show them that you were once their age and to describe your insecurities, tensions, and joys from being part of a family as a preteen.
2. Just before you show the pictures, say something like, **We all come from a family, but not all families are the same. As I show you images of these families, give me words that you would use to describe each family or any facts you know about the family.**



Grab It

Crashbooks
Collide DVD
DVD player
pens or colored pencils
pictures of different families (printed off or pulled up on a phone or computer)
access to YouTube, opt.

DIG INTO IT

The meat of the Bible lesson: where you and your students will discover the BIG POINTS and what God has to say

Big Point #1: *There is no such thing as a perfect family.*

1. Ask students to use two words that describe their own families. Write seemingly positive characteristics in one color and typically negative ones in another color.
2. **What characteristics do you wish your family had?** Write these responses on the board. Use the same color scheme as before. **Your family might have some of these ideal characteristics, but they won't have all of them. More than likely, they have a blend of some of these positive and negative qualities.**



Grab It

Bibles
Crashbooks
white board and dry erase markers
pens or colored pencils

What Does God Say About It?

1. Ask students to grab their Bibles and turn to Genesis 37. **To start our series on the family, we're going to focus on a big family that had a lot of kids.**
2. Divide **Genesis 37:1-36** into sections, and have students take turns reading it.
3. Have preteens turn to page 6 in their *Crashbooks*. (They'll do page 5 later.) As a class or individually, complete the activity. They will number the different pictures of the story in order. (Answers: 4, 3, 1, 2, 5, 6)

- Obviously, Joseph’s family had some problems. Let’s claim this truth: There is no such thing as a perfect family because families are made up of imperfect people.
- Everyone who belongs to a family has sinned. Romans 3:23 says, “. . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Everyone has disobeyed, been disrespectful, or told a lie at some point.
- There are also imperfections that pop up in families—miscommunications, disagreements, and feelings that get hurt.
- Share a personal family story from when you were a preteen that will support this Big Point. Share how it affected your family.
- What is something you’ve done in the last month that did NOT help your family relationships?

HELP FOR IT

As students answer, be sure to affirm them for being part of the conversation. Give them positive feedback when they step out so they’ll step out again with more confidence!

Big Point #2: *God wants my family to be close-knit, safe, and loving.*

- Even though our families aren’t perfect, God still desires that our families be close-knit, safe, and loving. What might hold our families back from this? (*resentment, tension, pride, bad communication skills, excessive fighting, selfishness*)
- God loves the family and is still at work in a mighty way. God wants to use those in your family to shape you into the young woman or man He wants you to be.
- This lesson may bring up some difficult questions, particularly if you have a student from an abusive home: *Was it God’s plan to give me an abusive parent? Why am I in this environment that I hate?* These questions aren’t easy to answer, but be aware that they might come up. **Note:** If one of your students tells you about abuse in the home, you are required by law to report it to an authority.
- Have preteens turn to page 5 in their *Crashbooks*. Give these instructions:
 - Inside the house, draw a picture of each of your family members, including pets.
 - Next to each person and pet write two reasons why you’re glad God put them in your family.
- Point back to the board. **What part do you play in making your family who they are?** (*I make my family laugh, so that helps us have fun. I am sometimes mean to my sister, which adds to the tension.*)



Grab It

Crashbooks
white board
and dry erase
markers
pens or colored
pencils

MAKE IT REAL: THE REAL LIFE

A hands-on activity to solidify the lesson

- Sometimes when there are problems, we like to assign blame. There are probably times when you contribute to a problem. Other times the problem might have nothing to do with you. Make sure this point is especially brought out. There are some things that will never be the fault of a child—like divorce or abuse.
- Turn to page 7 in your *Crashbook*. On the top half of the page are scenarios you might be experiencing at home. Cut out three things you can relate to. (These might not be the exact situations you’re going through, but pick ones that are close enough.) There’s a blank space where you can write your own scenario if you want. Tape them in the designated spaces on the bottom part of the page. Write words or phrases that

describe what you do to add to the tension of the problem and what can be done to make the situation better, either by a change in attitude or action or by communicating what you need. Definitely help students lean toward figuring out what they can do to make a situation better or easier.

3. Do this for yourself as well, and share your thoughts with the class. Encourage them to share too.



Grab It

Crashbooks
scissors
tape
pens or colored pencils

OWN IT

Wrap up the lesson and challenge students to OWN the theme in everyday life.

1. **Are you willing to do your part, with God's help, to change?** Have students turn to page 8 in their *Crashbooks*. Have one person read **Romans 12:18** out loud twice.
2. **Sometimes, because of imperfections and sin, peace is really hard to come by. Ask God for help to do your part. That might be changing your attitude so your parents feel better respected. It might be communicating what you need. But peace is the responsibility of everyone in the family, not just yours.**
3. **Even though Joseph didn't do a great job modeling family harmony for us (he *did* like to share his dreams of superiority), what part do you play in pursuing a close-knit, safe, and loving environment in your own family?**
4. **Ask God to reveal to you something you can stop doing or start doing this week in your family to help it be more close-knit, safe, and loving. Fill in the blank statement in your *Crashbook*.**



Grab It

Crashbooks
Crashcards, one per family
Collide DVD
pens or colored pencils

Here's your challenge:

1. Practice your commitment. To get started, try doing this once a day. It will eventually become a habit.
2. Look for the positive things your family offers.

Keep in touch with parents. Send home the *Crashcards* for this week, found on the DVD. This is a short discussion question or activity parents can do with their preteens to reinforce the lesson.