

Leading a Family Ekklesia Group

Congratulations! Starting a Family Ekklesia Group and making time to meet weekly for a Family Ekklesia Time is a really powerful step of faith! The investment of time that you sow to gather as a family to focus in on the Lord will result in much reward. It is so important for our families to grow in the Lord.

When the nation of Israel was about to enter the Promised Land, here was God's instruction in **Deut. 6:4-9**. *"Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

As you start up your Family Ekklesia Group, here are a few ideas and suggestions:

General ideas:

- **Make your weekly Family Ekklesia Time a priority.** This is a great time for the family to gather and grow together in your relationships with God.
- **Schedule a regular day and time for your weekly Family Ekklesia Time.** It is so much easier to keep the schedule than trying to find a day and time every week. You may want to make it a special time on Sunday nights after dinner.
- **Make it a special time for your family.** Do something special to make your time together special. A special dinner before your weekly meetings. A special dessert. You could even do small prizes for people correctly reciting the Memory Verse for the week.
- **Encourage everyone to do their Daily Lessons.** For elementary school age children, have them practice the Unit's Memory Verse.
- **Pray for your family ekklesia group daily.** Pray for every member of your family and encourage everyone to pray for each other during the week.

A general schedule you can follow:

1. **Gather your family together.** Make sure everyone has their workbooks, Bibles and memory verse cards.
2. **Welcome God into your gathering.** Ask the Holy Spirit for the manifest presence of Jesus and for His leading. Pray for God to speak to every person and that you would all experience God in a deeper way.
3. **Celebrate Communion together.** Take time to thank God for His love and sacrifice for us through Communion. Some verses you could read aloud and use: Matt. 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-30
4. **Sharing time.** Take time to share any stories where family members experienced God during the week or any answers to prayer. Celebrate what God has done!
5. **Introduce the main truth and memory verse for the Unit for the week.** There is a short story at the beginning of every unit. Read that story aloud. There are memory verse cards in the back of the workbook. Remove the verse for the week and share that with the family. Have your family repeat it as you read it aloud. Have your family write out the verse on a card for them to practice with.
6. **Share memory verse with each other.** Every week, have everyone recite the verse from memory. Cheer everyone on!
7. **Discuss.** Pick a question from the Discussion Questions for the Weekly Broadcast (you can find this on our website under "watch."). You can also pick an item from the Unit to discuss as an alternative. Give everyone an opportunity to share.
8. **Pray.** Share prayer requests and have everyone write them down. Take time to pray for each other.

9. **Encourage.** Close your time together by encouraging each other to do the Daily Lessons and memorizing the memory verses.