

FAMILY FIRST SUNDAY

CONNECTED & ESTABLISHED

Bringing Heaven to Our Home

God doesn't just want us to attend church together. He wants our homes to become places where His presence is experienced every day. Before we step into the second half of the year, we stop, celebrate God's faithfulness, and recommit our family to Him.

Ice Breaker

Everyone answers:

What has been your favorite memory as a family so far this year?

or

If you had to describe the first half of this year with one word, what would it be? Why?

Allow everyone, even the little kids, to answer.

Read Together

Colossians 2:6-7 (CSB)

"So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude."

Then read:

John 15:4-5

"Remain in me, and I in you... The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me."

Family Devotional

The Bible compares our lives to a tree. Healthy trees don't become healthy because someone paints fruit onto the branches. They become healthy because their roots are healthy. That's exactly what God has been teaching us this year. He wants us to stay **connected** to Him. He wants us to become **established** in Him. When our roots grow deeper, our lives become stronger. Storms may come, difficult seasons may happen, but deeply rooted people continue to stand. Jesus also reminds us that apart from Him, we can do nothing. The goal isn't simply to become busier Christians. The goal is to stay connected to Jesus. When we stay connected to Him, our homes begin to look a little more like Heaven.

We forgive more quickly.

We love deeper.

We encourage more.

We pray together.

We laugh together.

Heaven isn't just our future destination.

God wants HIS Kingdom to be seen in our homes today.

Family Reflection

Go around the room and allow everyone to answer.

Looking Back

1. Where have you seen God working in your life or our family this year?
2. What prayer has God answered this year?
3. What has been the biggest challenge our family has faced?
4. How did we see God help us through it?

Looking Within

1. Is there anything we need to forgive each other for today?

Give everyone an opportunity to apologize if needed. Parents should model humility.

1. What is one way each of us can become more connected to Jesus during the rest of this year?

Examples:

- Pray more, Read the Bible, Be kinder
- Spend less time on screens, Serve others

Looking Ahead

1. If someone visited our home, would they experience a little bit of Heaven?

Why or why not?

What can we do differently?

Family Challenge

Each family member chooses ONE commitment for the rest of the year.

Complete this sentence:

"For the rest of this year, I want to stay connected to Jesus by..."

Examples:

"...reading my Bible."

"...being more patient."

"...praying every day."

"...encouraging people."

"...serving others."

"...forgiving quicker."

Family Prayer

Pray together.

Father,

Thank you for bringing us through the first half of this year. Thank You for every blessing, every lesson, and even every challenge because You have been faithful through it all. Help our family stay connected to You. Establish us in Your truth. Let our home become a place filled with Your love, peace, joy, forgiveness, and presence.

Strengthen our relationships. Heal what needs healing. Restore what needs restoring. Help us reflect Jesus in the way we love one another.

May our home truly become a place where Heaven touches Earth.

We surrender the rest of this year to You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.