

Getting on together in the family

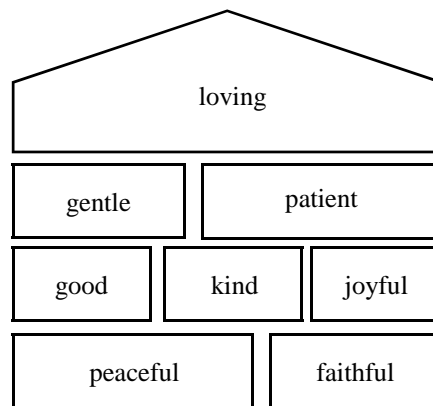
For the teacher:

The Bible teaches that there are eight 'ingredients' of a happy family. They are love, peace, joy, kindness, patience, gentleness, goodness and faithfulness.

The following activities aim to introduce these to younger children and help them use these Christian teachings to think about ways to behaving the help families live happily together.

PREPARATION:

Make large word cards that can be put together to make a floor puzzle in the shape of a house.



Circle Activity

Taking one card at a time, ask children to give an example of how we can be patient, gentle, kind, loving, good at home in our families, and why we aren't always like this. As each is discussed, place the card on the floor to build the shape of a house. Ask children if they would like to live in a home like this.

Mime Game

Children could choose a card and mime an action to show the quality, then the other children could guess which.

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What makes a house a home?

For the teacher:

Key Questions to explore:

What makes a house a home?

What might you find in different people's houses which tells something about who they are?

Why is 'the home' so important to so many people? What do they do which shows its importance?

What do religions have to say about the home?

What about people who are unhappy at home or who have no home?

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Activities for Pupils:

Talk about the difference between a house (or flat or bungalow) and a home. The former can be described in terms of what it looks like, the latter in terms of what it feels like (and how it makes you feel). Talk about 'descriptive' words and 'feeling' words. Make a list of these then get the pupils to write a poem using one, two or three words from each list (depending on age and ability).

Using the drawing of a house (on the page below) could in triangles (red), squares (blue), circles (green), hexagons (yellow) and rectangles (orange). Talk about the shapes and how they fit together. Use this as an analogy for a family. Talk about how, although each person is different - age, interests, personality - everyone 'fits together' to make a happy family. What is the 'current' that holds them together?

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