Family Fun Fridays (F3)

# Proposal

Berachah Church currently provides separate classes for children during Sunday School, Little Church, Children’s Church, Junior High Youth Group and Senior High Youth Group. In addition, the women meet weekly and the men meet twice per month. In essence we’ve targeted every level of development with its own unique approach and thus are implicitly teaching everyone that their church experience is a very uniquely personal and catered to the needs of individuals.

Yet in scripture, we see multiple verses that exhort parents to teach their children the ways of the faith (Proverbs 22:6, Deuteronomy 4:9, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Joel 1:3, Psalms 78:4). We also learn from research that the greatest authority and influence in the life of any child/adolescence remains their parent.

Therefore, I propose that we shift our approach to maintain the age-appropriated programs we already have but develop a new approach to incorporate the family. I propose we call it the Family Fun Friday.

We learned from Family Adventure that the experience works, it brings families together and allows us access to both adults and children. We are not only teaching biblical truths but we are providing opportunities for family bonding, growth and empowerment in family teaching biblical truths.

# Proposed Plan

I propose that we designate Friday evenings as our day for Family Fun Fridays. This is based on a small survey we conducted with families that participated in Family Adventure during the month of July 2019. Most families indicated they would participate on Fridays and once or twice a month on average. Based on this information I propose we do the following:

1. Initiate Family Fun Fridays twice a month (2nd & 4th Friday)
   1. Invite families to attend as a unit to participate
   2. Make it a fun night out with a Biblical truth associated
   3. Offer light snack to begin
   4. Begin at 6:30 to 8:00 pm
2. First Friday of each Month (Present the Bible Lesson)
   1. Offer a story hour (reading of story) or
   2. Present a puppet presentation or
   3. Show a film
   4. Provide scripture to reflect on
   5. Follow up with an activity that will affirm the story
   6. Offer a game or activity
3. Second Friday of each Month (Dive Deeper)
   1. Review scripture and discuss what it means
   2. Identify practical ways to implement lesson of scripture
   3. Offer a game or activity
      1. Example: Christmas make this Craft Day, For Easter Egg Hunt
   4. End with a family snack
4. Create a curriculum that highlights the same truth on Sundays
   1. Doctrinal curriculum over the year
   2. Teach children their faith not just stories
   3. Equip parents with guidelines to discuss and pray over week
      1. Encourage conversations at home
      2. Crucial element for children to hear parents establish foundational truths

# Curriculum

The following includes the overarching teaching for the year. The same cycle can be taught over and over again using different examples. The first title is for the Family Fun Fridays and the title in parenthesis represents the Doctrine being taught.

1. September 2019: What Is the Bible? The Word of God (Authority of Scripture)
2. October 2019: What Does Bible Say About God? (Nature of God)
3. November 2019: Who is the Holy Spirit? (Nature of Holy Spirit)
4. December 2019: Who Is Jesus Christ? (Nature of Jesus)
5. January 2020: What Did Jesus Teach? (Kingdom of God)
6. February 2020: What Did Jesus Do? (Ministry of Jesus)
7. March 2020: Resurrection of Jesus? (Salvation & Redemption)
8. April 2020: What Bible Teaches about Sin & Satan? (Nature of Humanity)
9. May 2020: What is the Church? (Ministry of the Church)
10. June 2020: What Does Bible Say about Family? (Doctrine of Family & Marriage)
11. July 2020: Vacation Bible School Theme
12. August 2020: Vacation Break

# Volunteers

The following volunteers will be required to implement this program throughout the year. The purpose behind the below composition is to allow people a break from having to serve every month. In each case we want redundancy in order to allow people a break for personal things while maintaining a consistent approach. Teens are welcomed to serve as leaders and volunteers except for Bible Teachers.

* Pastor oversees program
* Family Fun Fridays Directors – two adults team up to coordinate volunteers and plan implementation of program, over see day to day operations
* Curriculum Team – three adults with education background interested in helping to develop lesson plans and activities
* Club Leaders – 1 or 2 persons to lead groups from place to place
  + Each club will consist of no more than 12 people (adults & children)
* Bible Teachers
  + 2-3 teachers to alternate teaching Bible story to groups
  + Each Bible teacher will commit to one month at a time
* Activity Leaders
  + 2-3 people willing to make crafts, experiments, or activities
* Follow-up Crew
  + 2-4 people interested in calling people and following up on families and connecting with new families
* Game Leaders
  + 2-3 leaders to lead games
* Nutrition Crew
  + 2-3 people to help with kitchen, snacks, serving

# Special Events

It is intended to incorporate a special event on the fourth Friday of each month. This is an opportunity for the occasional pizza party, ice cream social, holiday celebration, and special event.

# Overview

The evening will begin with a gathering of all the participants in one area for welcome, introduction of theme and prayer. The schedule will look something like this. We will rotate activities by teams:

**Time Activity**

7-7:15 pm Welcome, Gathering & Opening Prayer

7:15 – 7:35 Bible Teaching

7:35 – 7:55 Activity Session

7:55 – 8:15 Game & Snack Session

8:15 – 8:30 Closing Session

# Summary

The Family Fun Fridays will have a two fold purpose, (1) to encourage dialogue and discussion within the family thus empowering families to grow in their devotions, discussions and understanding of our core beliefs and (2) to use this as an activity to draw the Unchurched to explore this with their children. The hope is that this will grow in popularity and parents will be interested in participating with hopes of getting their children in the faith and participating in a fun family night.

***6****These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.****7****Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. – Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

***Curriculum sample:*** Pastor Emilio created this template and it establishes an outline for what the curriculum team will put together for each month.

# Week 1: Teaching the Authority of Scripture

**THEME**: The Bible is the Word of God (Authority of Scripture)

**GOAL**: To help participants understand that the Bible is the Word of God and it has authority in our lives.

**OBJECTIVES**:

* The learn the Bible is the story of God as given to us by God
* To learn The Bible is given to us by God
* To understand The Bible teaches us to be Christians in the world
* To explore how the Bible guides us

**Memory Verse:** “If you love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15

**Songs**: Thy Word by Amy Grant; B-I-B-L-E; How firm a Foundation

**LESSON: The Word of God is Our Compass**

**Opening Illustration:** People travel all around the world everyday on planes, trains, and automobiles. Most people today use GPS (Global Positioning System), but in some cases where GPS is not available we have to rely on maps and compasses. Even the GPS relies on an internal compass to show where we are going. Next time you are in a car look at your GPS and it will indicate what direction you are moving. N=North, NE=Northeast, NW=Northwest, E=East, S=South, SE=Southeast, SW=Southwest or W=West.

A compass is a tool that helps us determine what direction we are facing. On a compass the black needle uses the earth’s magnetic force to always point north.

How do we use a compass?

* Hold the compass in front of you
* Allow it to stabilize
* The black arrow will always point north
* You then take the outer ring of the compass and align the N for North to be where the needle is pointing.
* Now, if you know where north is, you’ll also know where South, West and East are and you can navigate your way through the terrain with the help of a map.

This is how the Bible works in our lives too. If we turn to the Bible we will learn a few key things in lives. We will learn …

* The Bible is the story of God. We learn how God created us, loves us and calls us to behave in the world. (Genesis 1:1)
* The Bible teaches us how to live. (Job 23:12) Job treasures the word of God more than food. That's how important it is to us. 2 Timothy 3:8 tells us the Bible helps us to learn to be godly, like God, in every way. 2 Timothy 3:16 states the Bible teaches us to grow, to behave and live like God wants us to live.
* Some examples how the Bible teaches us to be God’s children.
  + Ephesians 6:1 – obey your parents
  + Galatians 5:22 – says if we have the Spirit of God in us we will experience love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.
  + Romans 12:9 – teaches to hate evil and love one another.
  + Matthew 22:37-39 calls us to love God and love our neighbors
* Can you think of other examples of how the Bible instructs us to behave differently than the rest of the world?

**FINDING OUR WAY**

Provide teams with one of three directions and have them follow the instructions.

Place directional signs throughout building, North ->, South ->

Team 1: Travel northeast in the hallway to room. In this room find jar with a key. Use door on eastern wall to go up stairs. Travel west through the glass doors. You will find a red box with a surprise inside. Use key to open box.

Team 2: Travel southwest through double doors. On the back of doors is a key, take it. Go through doors on the western wall, up the stairs, make a turn to east and you will find a blue box with a surprise. Use key to open box.

**BIBLE STORY: Ten Commandments**

In the Bible, God called Moses to free the people of Israel who were slaves in Egypt. He used Moses to get the people out. After he had freed them he gave them the 10 Commandments to help them live according to his rules. The rules were important; they were called the 10 Commandments.

* The 10 Commandments helped them to know God, to love God and trust God
* Ten Commandments also helped them to learn how to live with each other, to respect one another and each other’s property
* These rules were the compass God gave his people

**VIDEO**: Watch ShareFaith Video on 10 Commandments or other video depicting 10 commandments

**DISCUSSION:**

* **Think of your experience**
  + **What happens if you don't follow the instructions?**
  + **How important were the instructions to guide you along the way.**
  + **What do you think happens if we don't follow the Bible?**
  + **What do you think happens if we do follow the Bible?**
  + **What kind of things does the Bible help you with?**
  + **Why is the Bible the most important compass in our lives?**

**ACTIVITY**

Make a homemade compass. See <https://www.rookieparenting.com/make-your-own-compass/>

### Materials

* Ferromagnet
* Needle
* Paper
* Water

### Tools

* Bowl
* Scissors
* Adult supervision

### Instructions

1. Rub one end of the needle on one side of the magnet 30 times (the north pole if your magnet is labeled). Always rub in the same direction.
2. Flip the magnet over and rub the other end of the needle on this other side 30 times. Again, rub in the same direction.
3. Cut a circle about 2 inches in diameter out of the paper.
4. Carefully thread the needle through the paper circle twice, but not all the way through, so that the needle lays flat on the paper.
5. Place the paper and needle on the surface of the water. Both ends of the needle should be above the floating paper circle.
6. Watch it slowly rotate and then stop.
7. Check the directions with a compass. One end of the needle (the one that you rubbed on the north pole of the magnet) should point to north and the other south.

Label the circle with the corresponding N (north) and S (south) directions. You now have a homemade compass!

**GAME:** Scavenger Hunt with a map

**CLOSING EVENT**

Remind everyone that we are the children of God and that means that we are different from the rest of the world. We are not mean, angry, disrespectful or hurtful to other people. God calls us to love one another and be helpful.

To be the children of God means that we follow God’s commandments. In John 14:15 Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments.” The way we love God is we follow his commandments. How do we do that?

* We learn about God’s ways by reading the Bible
* We study the Bible to teach us about everything
* We ask God to help us do what the Bible teaches
* We live out what the Bible teaches
* We pray for God’s help.

Memory verse recited: “If you love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15

**FOLLOW-ON ACTION**

* In the next two weeks do the following:
  + Read Bible readings with your parents each night and pray
  + Be ready to tell us all about what you learned next time we meet.

**HOME DEVOTIONS: How the Bible Teaches Me**

* **Saturday**
  + Read Exodus 20:1-17 (10 Commandments)
  + Pray God helps you to understand the Bible
  + Discuss what God wants us to do in the 10 commandments
* **Sunday**
  + Read Job 23:8-14 (Job reflects on God)
  + Even if we cant see Him, God is there guiding our ways
  + We find our way by reading his scripture
  + Pray the Bible is as important to you as food
  + Discuss how God is with you
* **Monday**
  + Read Genesis 1:1-10 (Creation)
  + Pray that you understand that the God who created all of these things also created you and loves you
  + Discuss what the Bible teaches us about God
* **Tuesday**
  + Read Ephesians 4:20-24
  + Bible tells us that we are different in Jesus, we are to have a new attitude
  + Discuss what this attitude should look like
  + Pray God helps you with your new attitude in Christ
* **Wednesday**
  + Read Ephesians 4:25, Exodus 20:16
  + The Bible teaches us to speak the truth
  + Discuss why its important to speak truth
  + Pray God helps you speak words of truth in love
* **Thursday**
  + Read Ephesians 4:26
  + The Bible teaches us not to be angry and sinful
  + Discuss what does this look like and why God doesn't like it
  + Pray God help you with your attitude & give you peace so you don't get angry in a sinful way.
* **Friday**
  + Read Ephesians 4:28, Exodus 20:15
  + The Bible teaches us not to steal or take from others; we must earn what we have. Discuss what why this is important.
  + Pray God teaches you to respect other peoples property, to share nicely and to work hard for the things you’d like
* **Saturday**
  + Read Ephesians 4:29, Proverbs 4:24
  + The Bible teaches that we should not use bad words
  + Pray that God will help you in how you speak, may your words be words that reflect God’s goodness in you
* **Sunday**
  + Read Ephesians 4:31, Acts 23:9
  + The Bible teaches us that we are not to be mean, angry or bullies
  + Pray God will give you peace of heart to be a nice person and the courage to not allow others to make you react angrily or mean
* **Monday**
  + Read Ephesians 4:32
  + The Bible teaches that we are to be compassionate, kind and forgiving
  + Pray God helps you be a kind person
* **Tuesday**
  + Read Ephesians 6:1-4 (Children obey parents)
  + Bible teaches obey our parents & parents teach children about Bible
  + Pray for your parents
* **Wednesday**
  + Read Ephesians 6:18-19, 1 Thessalonians 5:17
  + The Bible teaches us to pray on all occasions
  + Pray for your family, the church, and yourself
* **Thursday**
  + Read Matthew 5:21-24
  + The Bible teaches that we should not call other people unkind names
  + Pray that God may give you patience and love to be kind to others