

Family Fun Night

by Carol Duerksen

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

This session will take quite a bit of prep because it is a family fun night for your youth and their families. Mold it according to your own group and what you want to do, but here are some suggestions:

“GETTING TO KNOW YOU” GAME.

This is a take-off on the newlywed game. Parents go out while youth answer questions about them, then they come in and compare answers. Then send the youth out ask parents questions, and bring youth back in to compare. You'll need someone to write down the answers and keep track of points. Here are some questions you can use—feel free to create your own.

- 1 Tell us about your parent's birthday—day/month/year; where, time of day, anything unusual about it.
- 2 What would your parent do if he/she won a million dollars?
- 3 What is your parent's biggest pet peeve?
- 4 What is your parent's favorite part of the Bible?
- 5 Tell us about one of the most fun times you've ever had as a family.
- 6 What are your parent's political views?
- 7 If your family could take a trip together anywhere in the world, where would you all like to go?
- 8 If your family has a free evening, what do you enjoy doing together?
- 9 What is one of the student's favorite musical groups?
- 10 What would the student do if he/she won a million dollars?

“I'M GOING ON A TRIP AND TAKING ...” GAME

Sit in a circle of 10-20 people. Make sure everyone knows the first name of everyone in the circle—wear name tags if necessary. Leader begins the game by saying “I'm going on a trip and taking (an item that begins with the first letter of the person's first name to the leader's left.)” The leader is the only one that knows the secret to what is allowed on the trip and what isn't. Go around the circle with each person saying what they are going to take. The leader says whether that is allowed or not, based on if the item starts with the first letter of the first name of the person to the left of the person making the statement. Play this until everyone has caught on to the game.

FAMILY FEET

Tie or hold a blanket up across the room. Ask parents to line up on one side of the blanket in their bare feet, and their sons/daughters on the other side of the blanket in their bare feet. Without speaking, tell the kids to look at the parent's feet and line up so they are opposite their family member, with the blanket between them. When everyone thinks they are across from their family member, drop the blanket.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU FONDUE

Prepare fondue pots and gather families around them for food, fun and fellowship. The "catch" is that they must ask someone a question that helps them get to know the other person before they can dip into the fondue. If you didn't play the Getting to Know You Game, you can use those questions or make others up that are similar. Another resource is "The Book of Questions"—a little book full of conversation-starter questions.

FAMILY PHOTOS

Bring an assortment of "dress-up" clothes, hats and props for families to use to take silly pictures. Take the pics with a digital camera, load them into a computer, and show them on a big screen for everyone to enjoy. Make the photos available to the families as well.

Other games: Use a game book or choose some of your favorites that you do with your youth and do them with the parents and youth.