

Families Sunday Gathering Proposal

Summary

A weekly 25 minute Zoom that serves as a gathering point for Hope Families to provide emotional connection and friendship, to deliver family-focused bible teaching and ministry, and to be a momentum builder for families to continue to do faith at home and outreach into their communities. Given the age range of children, their parents will most likely be with them, so the time slot given would probably be best not opposite our central Hope Gathering. Proposal is for it to be from 10- 10:25 on a Sunday.

The Need

Children and families need emotional and relational connection with each other, and specific teaching that can spark spiritual conversations and life change throughout their week together, and inspire them to continue to serve others. By providing a mini-service alongside the other pastoral provisions proposed, we can see families not only being resourced, but woven together with each other and with the church, as well as having the children feel needed and valued as part of the church.

The Flow -

The Box - To start off, each household will receive a box from Hope which will contain everything they will need to participate in the gatherings for the month. In it will be supplies for craft projects, outreaches, and games that we will play during gatherings. We want no family to be unable to participate because of lack of money or resource and so this box will contain everything you need. This box can be put on a shelf and pulled out each Sunday with anticipation for what will come out of the box that week.

Being Needed – Everyone is needed in a church family and to help everyone feel that, each week on the Monday, a video will go out inviting families to participate in the next Sunday's service. Sometimes it will be a request for a picture to be drawn that will be used in the Bible story on Sunday, or a short video of their answer to a question. Families can send in their participation throughout the week digitally and look forward to it being used during the Sunday gathering. Bigger opportunities will arise as well, asking families to tell stories, feedback on adventures, and more.

On the Sunday – Running order –

- Video Countdown – There will be a three minute countdown played, ideally created by individual families and sent in.
- Welcome – A brief time where everyone can say hi, wave, show off themselves if we had a fancy dress challenge, and a visual timetable run through of the session. (30 sec)
- Check-in for last week's encounter/outreach challenge – People to tell stories of what God has been doing over past week, identified through chat function first, or through previous text/email (3 min)

- Intro to topic – Constructed sometimes from invited contributions mid-week, other times through an object lesson or video, or quiz, the topic will be briefly introduced (2 min)
- Game – A fun game to play at home as all households laugh together (5 min)
- Teaching – A brief bit of teaching on the topic. The topics are chosen to provide theological grounding in a topic that can be tricky for families to bring up, and to equip them to grow in knowledge together so they can talk about it in an ongoing way. (6 min)
- Encounter/Activity -Teaching always needs to be followed with an opportunity to engage with what the Holy Spirit is saying and doing. This time will facilitate all families to encounter God together about the topic and be equipped to lead ministry for each other in this area at home going forward. Some weeks will have an activity to do together which will serve as a tangible reminder of what God said or did in the ministry and teaching. (5 min)
- Q and A – Lots of things come up in daily life with God and this will be a short slot to answer any question anyone, adult or child has about God, the bible, or life with him. Questions to be sent in ahead of time. (3 min)
- Set-up next week – We will introduce the outreach challenge for the week, and preview a bit of the following week. (2 min)
- Goodbye.

Outreach – Church cannot be the church unless it is also serving and loving those around us, sharing the hope that we have in Christ. Therefore, at the end of every gathering we will be giving an outreach challenge. This will be a small, easy thing to do to think about others and how to give of ourselves and what we have to those in need.

Month 1

Date	Topic	Bible	Response	Midweek	Game	Outreach	Additional Fun	In Pack
March 29	What is church?	Acts 2:42 – 47 and other references to early church - Different models of the early church, church is about the people together, whether their bodies are in the same place or not	Chat and catch about how we feel about the change, pray for each other and for God teaching us to be church, open profiles for us to pray for	Fill out a profile for your family Draw pictures of a church without walls	Post-it notes dance race	Stick up profile on wall, commit to praying for them every day, check in once each week		Other people's profile Post-its notes Nuggets Church box
April 5	Hope – what is hope?	Matthew 4:1-11 and Matthew 26:36-56, What hope is, and how to grab onto Hope while we are in the valley of the inbetween, how find courage in truth and scripture -	Connect with God about the unknowns, write verse on the ropes/straps to remind us to grab onto scripture in the inbetween	Video of 5 seconds answer to the question “what does it feel like to wait”?	After-eights	Challenge to give chocolate with a note for easter sunday		Ropes/straps Pens to write on rope straps Page of scripture After eights
April 12	Hope – the reason for Hope	Luke 24 and the resurrection, 1 Peter 3:15 Because of the resurrection we have hope... what is hope? How does the resurrection give you hope?	Salvation response, share the reason you have hope..	Recipe for resurrection rolls Seeds to start growing	Hold hands and unwind the circle game	Make a hope display for your window that says the word hope... offer prayer, or a kind message... what will help people hope?	EASTER FANCY DRESS... FLOWERS OR story themed	Paper for posters Colouring pens/crayons White tack Seeds Easter gift to them?
April 19	God – the Provider	Exodus 16 and Matthew 6 – God is our provider, he sees what we need and moves to provide for us	What are feeling the lack of...friendship, food, peace... write it down in book and watch for what God is going to do...	Photos of 5 things you can't live without	Thumb wrestle championship	Food bank (we will pick up with the delivery of next month's box contents)		Little book/papers to record our needs and what God does in response...

Going forward (will be flexible to response to theological and pastoral needs as they arise)

April 26 – Intercession

May 3 – Away with God – Great time in the quiet

May 10 – God – Active and ministering in the world

May 17 – How to share Hope

May 24 – Psalms - Lament

May 31 – Sung worship in everyday life

June 7 – Joy of the Lord

June 14 – God – the restorer

The Cost –

Each month will vary. Given we have 50 households, and the variety of the activities, I guesstimate we would be comfortable at a budget of £200-250 a month. I'm sure with strategic shopping we could stay at the low end of that.

In addition, if we want to provide boxes to families, we have a wide range of opportunity, from cardboard boxes costing £50 to plastic good quality boxes costing £200 for all the families.

As with all things, we can reduce the cost to zero, but I think that would take away from some of the anticipatory joy and interaction ability. But the success of the gathering isn't tied to cost. Money just facilitates part of the vision rather than being the centre of it.