



# conversation week 1 guide.

bottom line: there is no such thing as a perfect family, but God chose family for us.

## materials needed:

- whiteboard & marker (provided)
- family trees sheets (provided)
- mini post-it notes (provided)

## talk with others about our faith.

**do this:** lead your students through an interactive “family tree” experience to talk through what families look like in your group.

- give each of your students a “family tree sheet” and tell them to fill it in with the members of their family.
- go around and have each student share their family tree with the group (*leader note: this could be sensitive for some students because not every family is happy or healthy at the moment.*)
- **ask:** why do you think God created the idea of family?
- **ask:** why do you think family is important to God?
- **ask:** what do you think God wants for our families?

**say this:**  
there's no such thing as a perfect family, because families are full of imperfect people. but God can still use our imperfect families to shape us into who He wants us to be.

## hear from God through His Word.

**do this:** read about Joseph's family in Genesis 37 and what their relationships were like.

- choose four students to each read a part of Genesis 37 and tell your students to circle the names of Joseph's family members as they read along.

student #1 - verses 18-22

student #2 - verses 23-25

student #3 - verses 26-30

student #4 - verses 31-36

- **ask:** who are all of the people mentioned in these verses?
- **ask:** what are your impressions of these relationships:

Jacob & Joseph

Reuben & Joseph

Joseph & his brothers

Judah & brothers & Joseph



**do this:** using your whiteboard and marker, tell your students to come up with a list of the positive things about Joseph's family and a list of the negative things about his family.

- **ask:** *what does this part of Joseph's story teach us about family?*
- **ask:** *which aspects of Joseph's family do we want to see in our own family?*
- **ask:** *which aspects of Joseph's family do we not want to see in our own family?*

## pray by talking to God.

**do this:** lead your students in a time of prayer for their families using their family trees.

- give each student one post-it note for each family member on their family tree. Then, tell them to write down one thing to pray for for each person on their family tree and stick the note by their name.
- tell your students to take a minute to pray for each member of their family and what they wrote on the post-it notes. (**leader note:** *play a worship song on your phone or computer during this time if you think it will help your group focus.*)

## live in a way that honors God.

**do this:** give your students the following **live** challenges for this week.

- **challenge:** *take your family tree home and put it somewhere where you will see it every day. take some time each day this week to pray for the people in your family.*
- **challenge:** *tell each member of your family that you are praying for them this week by writing them a note, sending them a text, or just by telling them.*



### memory verse

*"<sup>2</sup> then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. <sup>3</sup> don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too." philippians 2:2-4*