

## LivingIT Family Gathering [BASED UPON READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY]



We schedule important things in our lives. This fun, simple and engaging program opens the door for families to experience God alive in their relationships. We urge you to make the commitment and *schedule* it (i.e., if the [30/3 Challenge](#), schedule 3 days/week). Know you're joining in this great adventure with other families throughout the planet.

### Three Simple Rules:

- 1) Love. Respect others. Don't interrupt. Listen with real interest and care. Encourage.
- 2) Environment. Don't allow conflicting media or phones. Light candle when you gather.
- 3) Make It Your Own. This is just a guide. Do what works best for you.

### Part I: Family Relationships

**Getting started.** Everyone gets to answer two [Family Fun Questions](#).

**Daily Q's.** Everyone goes around and shares:

- 1) A victory from the day (something you succeeded in)
- 2) A challenge (something you struggled with)
- 3) An affirmation or gratitude (expression of thanks for one or more in the family)
- 4) Something new (happening, insight, etc.)

### Part II: Family Prayer

#### 1) **Apologies. Confiteor.**

*And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...* (Matt. 6:10-14)

If you want the power of God alive in prayer and relationships, reconciliation is an essential precondition (James 5:16). While pride closes us off, the humility required in forgiveness opens up the floodgates of God's grace. Forgiveness is a definitive trademark of Christians. It is for this reason that frequent receipt of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is highly recommended (particularly for serious sin). This great gift is offered at 6:30 p.m. before every Made2Worship event.

**Part I: "Apologies."** With the word "apologies" you're inviting family members to apologize to other members for their offense(s). This should be simple, *without excuse* or explanation. The reply should simply be, "I forgive you."

#### **Parent Tip**

Often there's a causal loop: "I'm sorry, but you did this...". Invite children to fully own and be accountable for their behaviors, regardless of what others may have done. This takes character and virtue, and invariably paves the way for the other to apologize.

**Part II: "Anything Else?"** For unexpressed apologies, "anything else" gives the offended an opportunity to tell the offender: "John, you hurt me when...". The reply should be a *sincere*, "I'm sorry" followed by the forgiveness.

**Part III: Confiteor.** The Confiteor is the official “forgiveness” prayer of the church. Pray this together.

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## 2) Opening Prayer

Lord God, we thank You for the gift of our family.  
We desire to more fully live the gift we are according to You who are the Giver.

We ask that you more fully awaken us to our identity:  
You have made us in Your Triune Image.  
You have fashioned us for Your indwelling Spirit.  
We ask that you empower us in our mission:  
In the person of Jesus Christ, You have made us to participate in Your Love.  
You have empowered us to make You who are Love known through our mutual,  
self-giving relationships.

Aware of the many challenges to this identity and mission,  
we come seeking Your transforming grace in Jesus Christ.  
Revive us Lord. We recommit our lives to You, that all who encounter us  
may truly encounter You who Are Love,  
and come to live in the fullness of Your Great Love. Amen.

3) **Life Application Questions from [Readings](#)** (you may have to refresh if clicked prior)  
Consider focusing on just one reading per gathering. Make it your own.

## 4) Commitments

Family members are encouraged to identify one or more manageable areas they are committed to growing in. It's good to keep working on the same, key few over time. Members are encouraged to express how they are doing with those commitments.

## 5) Closing Prayer

Enter into prayer with the Sign of the Cross. Invite family members to take their turn expressing directly to Jesus particular prayers from the heart: “Dear Jesus, I pray for...”.

Invite all to raise a hand in blessing over each member in turn, i.e., slowly and intently, pray “God bless [name].”

Close with an *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory Be*.