

# Writing a Family Covenant

This activity introduces the focus scripture, Colossians 3:12–17, from which the verses for the *Family Values* poster are taken.

For this activity, you need

- ▶ Copies of the handouts, Colossians 3:12-17 and *Write a Family Covenant Together*
- ▶ Bag of supplies for each family group: large sheet of construction paper, markers, and any other art supplies you wish

Provide each family group a copy of the text, *Colossians 3:12–17*, along with copies of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. If young children are present, you may also want to provide other versions of the Bible, such as the Contemporary English Version or the Good News Bible, that the children may find easier to understand.

Also give them copies of the directions, *Write a Family Covenant Together*, so they can work at their own speed.

When the families are ready, conclude the activity by asking each family to read their Family Covenant aloud together.

At a concluding worship service, bless these Family Covenants as they are offered. ■





## Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Draw a picture that illustrates this Bible passage. It might be something your family does that demonstrates compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, love, thankfulness. It could be an expression of how you have experienced one of these values.



## Write a Family Covenant Together

- ▶ Read Colossians 3:12-17 aloud.
- ▶ Make a list of the values that are important to your family. Begin with those you find in Colossians. Add others that are important to you.
- ▶ In considering values important to you, examples of some other Bible passages you may want to read together include the Great Commandment, Matthew 22:34-40, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind... You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”; or Micah 6:8, the Lord’s call “to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”
- ▶ Get the packet of materials for your family covenant from the supplies table.
- ▶ Together create a Family Covenant. Here is a sample to get you started, but feel free to create your own style.

Our family holds these values dear: kindness, patience, forgiving each other, laughing together, time together, helping others, and praying for each other. All this we do because we love God and thank God for creating us and loving us so much, because we love one another and God’s whole creation, and because we want to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

- ▶ Copy your covenant on the large sheet of paper. When you have finished your family covenant, everyone signs it. If you have time, decorate the covenant.
- ▶ Decide where you will keep it in your home so you will all remember your covenant.
- ▶ Once a week, at a family meal, renew your covenant together.

**FAMILY VALUES: A TAPESTRY OF CHOICES**