



PARENT NEWSLETTER 2 | 2016-17 GEMS SEASON

WHAT! YOU TOO?

C.S. Lewis said, "Friendship is born that moment when one person says to another, 'What! You too?' I thought I was the only one." And in that moment you find someone who understands and sees what you are going through.

The best place for your daughter to experience love and understanding is within her home. Love overflows in families when we step into one another's shoes to see things from the other person's perspective. When tensions run high and you want to spew, "What did you do?!" Walls go up. Instead, take a deep breath and ask, "Can you help me understand what you were thinking?"

BIBLE VERSE

*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground
outside your Father's care. And even the
very hairs of your head are all numbered.
So don't be afraid; you are worth more than
many sparrows (Matthew 10:29-31).*

And when individuals or maybe your entire clan feels hopeless, isolated, overwhelmed, and misunderstood remember the truth of God's love for you. God sees you. God cares for you. God understands. When no one else gets what you're going through, He does.

At GEMS, your daughter(s) is discovering how deeply God understands and cares for us, from the overflow of His love we are able to understand and care for others, too.

AT THE TABLE

How many tables do you sit at in a single day? There are tables in the kitchen, break room, coffee shop, picnic tables, and more. Here a table, there a table, everywhere a table. And the most important table is the one that you share with your children. Make this space a sweet spot where they know they are loved and belong.

The next time your family gathers around the table, use these theme-related table talk questions to get your family talking about the things of God:

1. Finish this sentence. When you see me I want you to see a person who is _____.
2. Finish this sentence. What I want you to understand most about my day is that it was _____.
3. Finish this sentence. The best way to show me that you care about me is by _____.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a theme-related devotional book available for families. It's called the *Love Overflows Object Lessons/Devotional Thoughts* book. It contains 18 short, theme-related devotional thoughts and Family Connection Time questions to help you dig deeper into this theme with your entire family. Contact GEMS Girls' Clubs at gemsgc.org or call 616-241-5616, ext. 2 to learn more.

FAMILY FUN

Feed the Birds: Shape a pipe cleaner into a heart, circle, or triangle. Before tying the ends, string it with Cheerios®. Attach a ribbon and hang it from the tree. Or smother an empty toilet or paper towel roll with peanut butter, roll it in birdseed, string yarn through the middle, and hang outside. If God cares about birds, how much more will He care for your family!

Encouragement Boxes: Have each family member decorate a shoebox (wrap the lid separately) in the ways and colors that correlate to his or her personality. With paints, markers, or stickers clearly mark your name on the lid. These are encouragement boxes. Keep them in a family-shared space where anyone can add short notes, cartoons, Bibles verses, and treats that will encourage one another.

Word Search: Go online and search for "Create My Word Search". Then create a personalized word search for your family that includes your names, favorite foods, colors, hobbies, etc. Print one for each person and complete your puzzles together.

