

Lesson 9 / August 2, 2009

Your Incredible Family

for use as

STEP 1

Lesson 9

Focus:

Home can be a place where everyone is honored.

Lesson 9

Bible Basis:

Galatians 5:24–6:2,
James 5:16, 1 John
3:16–18

Your teens will discuss how family molds things like relationships, personality, and calling, and will view a video clip from the movie *The Incredibles*.

Materials needed:

- DVD of *The Incredibles*
- DVD player and TV

Relationships. They all start in the home: mom, dad, brothers, sisters, grandparents, step-parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and so on. In the home we learn to express needs, communicate feelings, and develop personality. Psychologists tell us that a huge part of our personality is shaped by the time we are age five.

- ▶ So how are you doing now as a teen? How are all those vital family relationships now?
- ▶ How are things with your grandparents, aunts, and uncles?
- ▶ How are things with your siblings?
- ▶ How are things with your parents?

Allow discussion time and encourage some honesty. Sharing your own family conflicts may help to get the ball rolling. When it feels right, continue.

We know from Genesis that “family” was God’s idea when he presented Eve to Adam and said “Be united, be fruitful and be faithful.” Culture today has pretty much reinvented family to mean: “Choose who you want, when you want, and kill the consequences.” Regardless of cultural pressures like this, family still is the prime and healthiest testing ground for developing relationships, personality, and calling. Families are part school, part battleground, and part retreat. Let’s watch a clip that will illustrate a family functioning at that wonderful relational family time we call DINNER.

Show clip from *The Incredibles* (Last minute and 15 seconds from Chapter 3 and first 2 minutes and 15 seconds from Chapter 4; total of 3 minutes and a half).

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *High School Teacher’s Guide*; your Step 4 appears below)

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 9
Focus:

Home can be a place where everyone is honored.

Lesson 9
Bible Basis:


Galatians 5:24–6:2,
 James 5:16, 1 John
 3:16–18


Your teens will watch another clip from *The Incredibles* and discuss how family and calling can converge in the biblical model of care, honor, and love in action.

Materials:

3 x 5 cards and pens


Remember the *Incredibles* at dinnertime?


 **What was going on?** (*each doing their own thing, teasing, not sharing, mom and dad divided, etc.*)


 **What was missing?** (*real dialogue, real sharing, real communication, confessing, teamwork, etc.*)

We said before that family is where we test and develop relationships, personality, and calling. Maybe the idea of our unique God-given calling or gifting deserves a closer look in the context of family. Let's watch another clip later on in the story of the *Incredibles*.

Show clip 2 (Chapter 15, 3 minutes and 15 seconds into the chapter; show about 2 minutes)

 **What is different about the *Incredible* family in this scene?** (*They have a common purpose, they use their gifts for each other and the common good, teamwork, each has a role to play, care for and protect each other, fight a common enemy, have fun, etc.*)

 **How do these concepts compare to today's lesson?** (*carry burdens, honor each other, love in action*)

 **Have you ever considered your family as a force for good? Have you ever considered that your family could be uniquely gifted in a certain area? Are there ways that your family could grow closer by having a common mission or an act of service that you could do together?** (*give time for some discussion*)

Take time to write on your card each of the names of your family members, and then three gifts that each of them has. Be sure to include your own name and your own gifts. Give a few minutes for this. Now, based on these gifts, pray

Lesson 9
Memory Verse

Love must be sincere.
Hate what is evil; cling
to what is good. Be
devoted to one another
in brotherly love. Honor
one another above
yourselves.

—Romans 12:9–10

and write down what you think might be a good act of service for your family. Give another minute for this. Now, your assignment this week is to encourage each of your family members where their gifting is, and be patient, forgiving, and burden bearing where they are weak. Keep track of how the week goes, and be in prayer about the idea of a family mission.

Close with prayer: **Father, You have given each of us families with unique gifts, personalities, and callings. We ask for Your help as we work to encourage the use of those gifts for Your work. In Your name, amen.**

For more information about *The Incredibles*, go to the official DVD website:
[<http://disney.go.com/disneyvideos/animatedfilms/incredibles/>]

(David C. Cook is not affiliated with and does not endorse any website or DVD listed on these pages.)