

# God's BETTER STORY FOR FAMILY

## **We have an irrational commitment to each member of the family.**

We will display an illogical love for one another, spread lavishly and without discretion. Driven by 1 John 3:1, stunning amounts of love, kindness, and forgiveness are shared to family members.

## **We communicate with truth and grace.**

Mom and Dad model Ephesians 4:15 and create an atmosphere where truth can be discussed, regardless of how difficult it may be to talk about.

## **We affirm the value and uniqueness of each member of the family.**

Each person is loved for free and without judgment. His or her opinions and feelings are always honored (Romans 15:7).

## **We vow never to abuse, shame, control, or intimidate one another.**

Understanding that children can be impressionable and fragile - no emotional, verbal, or physical abuse is tolerated in any way and is immediately confronted (Philippians 4:5). Unkind words are not tolerated. "We don't talk to each other like that in our family."

## **We share a strong spiritual foundation.**

Parents recognize that a "mild dose" of God will never cultivate a life that has Christ at the very center, guiding every aspect of life (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). In fact, half-hearted spiritual devotion produces a cultural Christian. Parents lead the way by being involved in the church and worshipping God in the home and in all of life. Parents ask: What is our ultimate goal in parenting?

## **We teach respect for others and it starts with us.**

Racism, arrogant superiority, or disrespect for people who are different is never tolerated (Matthew 22:39). It all starts in the home.

## **We instill a sense of responsibility in one another.**

Each member knows that they must take responsibility for their own actions and face the consequences of their poor choices (1 John 1:8-10). Parents: Let the consequences do the teaching. It's God's way with us, too. When you let the consequences do the teaching you place that child in the hands of God.

## **We play together.**

This is so important. Laughter and fun mark a family that builds strong relationships with one another (Proverbs 17:22).

## **We celebrate rituals and traditions together.**

It gives the family a sense of constancy and permanence. They know that the love and commitment of the family will never change - this year, next year, and the next. (Job 8:8-10)

## **We seek help when we come to an impasse.**

They understand that all families have issues that may need outside help and they are not afraid to ask for help when needed (James 5:14-16).