

Activity: The Tie That Binds



FAMILY TIME
TRAINING

Teaching Goal: We need the church and the family working together to build up the next generation for Jesus Christ.

Scripture: Hosea 11:4
I led them with cords of human kindness,
with ties of love.
To them I was like one who lifts
a little child to the cheek,
and I bent down to feed them.

Galatians 3:28
There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there
male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 133:1
How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!

Materials: One rope approximately 2-3 feet in length each for each person
key ring for each person

In Advance: Loop the rope around the key ring using the Lark's Head knot. Ensure one side is about twice as long as the other. You can find a video of the entire sequence of knot tying at Famtime.com/knot-activity.

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and discussion

✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. This activity is called "The Tie That Binds." That phrase comes from an old hymn that reminds us of three important things:

- 1) The body of Christ is bound together by love.
- 2) As Christians, we suffer and rejoice together.
- 3) The unity of believers through the Holy Spirit cannot be broken.

What are some ways that our family loves one another? Listen to answers. **Have you felt loved by someone in our church family?** Adults, share your own story and encourage children to think of something even if it is something small such as being greeted on a Sunday

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morning, a note from a Sunday School teacher, or the pastor kneeling down to talk to them personally.

Love creates unity. How would you describe “unity?” Listen to answers.

B. The Tie That Binds is based on the truth of the Bible. Let’s see what the Bible says about unity and love. Invite a family member to read Hosea 11:4. **Who is our example for loving one another? God.**

Read Psalm 133. **What does this Psalm tell us about living together as Christians?** Listen to answers. *Unity is beautiful and honoring to the Lord. It brings blessing from the Lord.*

C. ACTIVITY: Show the colored rope. For younger children, explain that one side of the rope represents parents and the other side of the rope represents the children. Because God wants us to be bound together in love and unity, He gives us instructions (the Bible) for living together. We’re going to follow instructions to create a strong knot that represents how we want our relationship to look.

Older children will understand the ropes representing unity between discipleship in the church and discipleship in the home (parents) creating a strong knot (relationship) that will help children to know Jesus Christ and to love and live for Him.

I want to show you a special knot that is strong and beautiful. This represents how God wants us to be bound together as believers in our family and with our church.

“Half Hitch Chain” KNOT INSTRUCTIONS: Remember, you can watch us demonstrate this knot on our website at: Famtime.com/knot-activity.

- 1) Start by tying your rope around the key ring using a Lark’s Head knot.
- 2) Ensure one side of the rope is about twice as long as the other side so you have plenty of rope to work with as your knotting.
- 3) With the longer piece of rope on the RIGHT, begin looping the right rope over the left rope, under the left rope (above the initial pass), and finally over the right rope.
- 4) Pull the knot tight.
- 5) Continue making this chain knot always beginning with the rope on the right (this is why this side MUST be longer or you risk running out of rope before completing the design).
- 6) Once you’ve created your knot design (you’ll have a spiral of knots), tie one last knot as you would to tie a shoe to finish your key chain.

We want this key chain of knots to remind us that God is with us, binding us to one another through His Holy Spirit. This bond cannot be broken. When we love each other with the love of God, we bring glory to Him!

VI. Close in Prayer

VII. Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on* to another family.