

Families Count 6 Week Outline

What to Expect:

The classes are based on God's word, the Bible, and what it says about how we are to view our families and children. Since many of these parents have been separated from their children, the focus of the teaching is on re-establishing familial relationships. Childhood development and nurture in every stage are emphasized, and parents are challenged to view their families as created in God's image with inherent value.

The following is an outline of the classes:

Count One: Families are Meant to Be Successful

This session emphasizes the purpose and benefits of family and the valuable contributions that every family member makes. The circumstances and/or choices we make that draw us away from the ones we care most about are identified, along with ways to re-focus on the unique strengths and abilities every parent possesses.

Count Two: Families of Origin and How They Affect Our Families Today

This session highlights families of origin and how both positive and negative learned behaviors are passed down from one generation to the next. Participants will be able to identify both positive and negative cycles within their families and how they affect their families today.

Count Three: Families Function as Teams

This session uses a "teams" analogy to help participants gain a better understanding of parental roles versus children's roles and the unique contributions that fathers, mothers and children make within their families. Childhood development is explored and explained, helping parents recognize the importance of a child being a child.

Count Four: Families Thrive with Discipline

This session distinguishes between punishment, or punitive methods of behavior change, and discipline, or teaching positive behaviors. Participants will learn alternatives to physical punishments that they can use within their families and how their responses to misbehaviors can lay a foundation of trust between themselves and their children.

Count Five: Families Were Created with a Purpose and for Permanency

This session focuses on families serving a purpose within their communities and neighborhoods. Participants will have an enhanced understanding of how families are not accidental, but put together for good things. Permanence and its importance to all family members, especially children, will be explored. Personal responsibilities, such as managing family finances and performing in a job, are closely examined, and practical tools for balancing a budget and interviewing for a job are presented.

Count Six: Broken Families Can Be Restored

This session discusses the brokenness of families in care and how restoration can be achieved in part by recognizing the gifts that families are.