

HEART CONNEX

Truth Flowing from One Generation to the Next—Through Strong Heart Connections

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Unbiblical Definitions of Family—Richard Ross, Ph.D.

1. Heart Surprise (Today a parent goes first): Walk to your teenager, hold both of his or her hands, and look into his or her eyes. Say: **(Call your teen by his or her full name) . . . I love you.** Repeat with each of your children.

2. Read Scripture: Invite a family member to pray. Ask family members to read Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; and John 17:17. Discuss the Truth and Untruths in light of these verses.

Truth

- Any definition of “family” that contradicts God’s definition is false.

Untruths

- The biblical idea of family is narrow and out of date.
- Most people are smart enough to create their own definitions of family.
- Any group of people who lives together and likes each other is a family.

3. Explore Scripture: Read aloud Matthew 19:4-6. Explain that the Greek phrase in verse 5 literally means a husband and wife are glued to each other. Say: **This beautiful marriage union between husband and wife (and the children they may bring into the world) is the one and only biblical definition of marriage and family.** Read aloud Genesis 2:24 and point out that God established this biblical definition of family from the beginning of human history. Read aloud John 17:17. Say: **God’s Word is truth because He is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. What God declares to be true is true, so any definition of marriage that contradicts His definition from Scripture is false.**

4. Think It Through: A teenager will lead this step.

5. Nail It Down: Say: **God has words of warning for those who want to include living together and homosexual unions in the definition of marriage.** Read aloud Isaiah 5:20-21. Emphasize that God’s definition of family—not human ideas—should shape our definition of family.

6. Pray: Walk behind your teenager and place a hand on him or her. Pray that God will reveal His plan related to marriage and family. Thank God for His brilliant plan for family. Repeat with each child.

7. Blessing: Say: **I bless this family for standing as a clear example of God’s definition of a family.**

Parent Tip: Talk with your teen about the various family structures he sees among his friends. Discuss how these compare to God’s definition. For examples that may not line up with God’s plan, identify ways he can respond to his friends in love and grace, instead of judgment or condemnation.