

# HEART CONNEX

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

## PARENTS PAGE

**November 4-7, 2009**

*God's Design for the Family—Richard Ross, Ph.D.*

**1. Heart Surprise (Today a parent goes first):** Say: **If I happen to be the first in this immediate family to die, the rest of you may have to choose an epitaph for my tombstone. I would like to live my life in such a way that you might choose the phrase . . .**

**2. Read Scripture:** Invite a family member to pray. Ask family members to read Genesis 1:22; Mark 10:6-9; and 2 Corinthians 6:14. Discuss the Truth and Untruths in light of these passages.

### **Truth**

- In general, God's design for the family is a Christian man and woman raising children in a lifetime marriage, but God will bless and use all forms of family when the members of that family love Him and obey His commandments.

### **Untruths**

- The Bible doesn't really have a lot to say about families.
- Gay couples are just as much a family as anyone else.
- God won't bless blended families or single-parent families.

**3. Explore Scripture:** Read Mark 10:6-9 and 2 Corinthians 6:14. Discuss how these verses relate to the issue of same-sex marriages. Say: **God and His people never can really view same-sex "marriages" as families from a biblical perspective.** Emphasize also that Christ followers are directed to only marry other believers. Use Genesis 1:22 to explain that a marriage relationship is the proper setting for bringing children in the world. Say: **While not all married couples can have children and others may choose not to have children, a healthy, biblical marriage lays a solid, spiritual foundation for children and families.**

**4. Think It Through:** Read aloud Genesis 21:14-18. Explain that Ishmael was born outside of marriage and ended up being raised in a single-parent home. Say: **But God watched over him and still had a plan and purpose for His life.** Ask your children to name a family that has experienced a moral failure, found God's forgiveness, and now serves as an example of how God works in the lives of families.

**5. Nail It Down:** A teenager will lead this activity.

**6. Pray:** Listen as your teenager leads the prayer.

**7. Blessing:** Ask your children to stand in front of you. Say: **I bless you, and I commission you to build Christian homes that will bring great glory to God.**

**Parent Tip:** Family mission trips—whether international or domestic—require money. God may be calling families to choose a frugal lifestyle to release funds for mission work. Some years, saving for a family mission trip may need to take priority over the newest gadgets and toys.