

## WEEK FIVE

## FAMILY ENCOUNTER

Supplies:

- Bible
- Sacred Candle & Matches/Lighter
- Dominoes

## WELCOMING GOD:

Gather together, and welcome God into this time and space through the lighting of a candle. Take this moment to pause briefly and sit quietly in this light for a few moments allowing time for everyone to relax their body, mind, and spirit for this time. In these moments, the invitation is to become aware of God's presence with and amongst you as a family.

## SHARING WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER:

Say: "If anything is on our minds that makes it difficult for us to focus, let's share it now and then let it go."

- Whoever leads this portion might share what is on his or her mind to model this. Give time for each person to respond. When everyone has responded that would like to, invite everyone to place their hands out and lift them up as we give these distractions to God.

OR you can invite the family to pray together as one person leads, saying the following:

"Dear Loving God, The One who knows our hearts, celebrates our victories, grieves with us during our losses, and gives us the strength to overcome our challenges. Please help us to let go of the distractions we name now, so that we can openly share with our family and may encounter you in a special way today. Our distractions are... (let there be silence here, so everyone has an opportunity to name aloud what is distracting them).

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen."

## ENCOUNTERING GOD:

Read aloud: Acts 28:30-31

- Take turns reading the Scripture or have a different family member read the Scripture each week.

Acts 28:30-31

"He lived there for two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance."

## ENCOUNTERING EACH OTHER:

### Activity:

Take turns sharing your favorite story or memory. Then, go around the table and share why that story is your favorite. As you tell these stories set up dominos on the table or floor by standing them up in a row. Then, when everyone is finished, someone read:

“When we tell stories that move us, it moves others, and the stories spread. This is the way it was with Paul telling God’s story. Our stories impact others.”

Then, push the dominos and watch them fall.

Say: For two years, while under house arrest, Paul told others his story—the story of how Jesus saved him and worked in his life. He taught people about God, and they taught others about God, and they taught others about God, and... it just kept going! People kept telling their God stories until one day, someone told that story to us and we were affected by it.

### Discussion Questions:

- How is telling stories like setting up and knocking down dominos?
- What is your favorite God-story? (Either God working in your life or your favorite story from the Bible)
- How can you tell someone about God this week?

## ENCOUNTERING GOD TOGETHER:

Say: “May we pray together as a family...

Let us share our prayers for the world: for our country and leaders, for other countries and their leaders...

Let us share our prayers for the church, ministers, and spiritual leaders...

Let us share our prayers for our teachers, first responders, friends, and others in the community...

Let us share our prayers for our family and our own specific needs...”

If you would like to record the people for whom you pray, use the next few lines to do so:

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## ENCOUNTERING TRANSFORMATION TOGETHER:

Pray aloud together:

God, we welcomed you here and read Your Word,  
we prayed and we spent time with you,  
we rested in your love for us,  
and we did this all together.  
Now, we promise to love one another and others as you love us.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.

## BLESSING ONE ANOTHER FOR OUR ENCOUNTERS WITH THE WORLD:

Invite family members to bless one another using any of the examples below or their own blessings.

Examples:

- "I love you. God loves you. I pray God blesses you."
- "God loves you exactly like you are—and so do I."
- "I love the gifts God has given you and how you bless the world with them."