

## Getting Started

(Choose one of these activities to get your group started talking.)

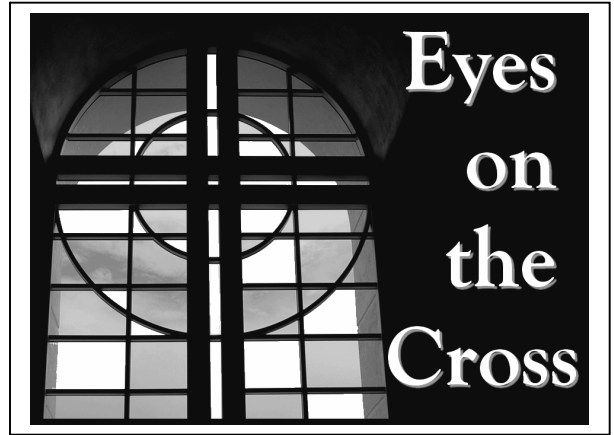
### Activity One: Fictionalized TV or Movie Families

Which was/is your favorite family? Why?

Which one(s) did you not like/appreciate? Why?

### Activity Two: Families You've Known

Share about a family you've observed and admired? What is it about this family that you most admire? What have they taught you?



## In the Word (Most groups won't answer all the questions or read all the texts.)

1. Mark 3:20-21 records a time in Jesus' life when his family thought he was "out of his mind." Soon after, his family came to see him and asked to speak to him (Mark 3:31-35).
  - a. What do you think it was like to be a part of Jesus' family? Why do you think they came him (3:20-21)?
  - b. What was Jesus' response to his family's request to speak to him (3:31-35)?
  - c. Who does Jesus speak of as being members of his family? How do you think his family responded?
  - d. From what you know about Jesus, what was the point of his statement?
2. Read Matthew 26:31-46 together.
  - a. What are some possible motivations for Peter's statements? Do you think he believed what he said?
  - b. When they later read these words, how do you think the Apostles would have reacted? Why?
  - c. How did the Apostles get from the Matthew 26:35 to 26:56?
3. Read John 19:25-27. While the other gospel writers speak of the moment when Jesus dies (and his friends and family are standing at a distance), John shares this story prior his death when they are able to stand "near the cross."
  - a. Who is mentioned here as being near Jesus' cross? What do you think they were thinking?
  - b. What do Jesus' words say about his thoughts at this time?

## Application

Jesus' friends and family appear to have often been confused. Who was he? What did he believe to be his mission in the world? What did it mean to be his friend? Who is a part of his family?

Almost 2000 years later, people still struggle with those same questions.

1. With Friend Day this Sunday the church had a chance to be reminded of the need to be helping people find Jesus. How does this fit with what it means to be a part of Jesus' family? How can the group pray for you as you try to live as a member of his family?
2. Have you ever felt like Peter and the other Apostles? Are there area(s) where the group can be praying for you as you try to live for Jesus?
3. Look around... are there people who needed to be cared for (like Mark, Jesus' mother) by his friends? What could your group do, concretely, to help a specific person (or group of people) as Jesus' family?