

DEVELOPMENTAL ASSET™ #1
✘ Family Support ✘

FAMILY LIFE PROVIDES HIGH LEVELS OF LOVE AND SUPPORT.

By Colby Anderson

Edited by Lyle Griner & Marie Sundet © 2006 The Youth & Family Institute, Bloomington, MN

Colby is from a small town in SW Minnesota. He loves golf, playing piano, and eating out. Future plans include finishing college, going to seminary, and becoming a pastor in a church somewhere on the face of the earth.

2 Corinthians 1:19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not "Yes and No"; but in him it is always "Yes."

- Why do parents say "No?"
- My parent(s) never let me...
- I see support in my family when they...
- I don't feel support in my family when...



What does the ideal family look like?

- What happens in families when there isn't much love or support?
- Who do you consider family beyond your family of origin?
- If you were/are a parent what is most important for raising a family?
- What is support? How do you show it for friends? Family?
- Think of families in the Bible, how did they show support for each other?
- How might they have not shown support?
- Why does God say, "No?" (Thou shalt not.)
- What does it mean that in Christ there is always a, "Yes?"
- How might the word "No" really be a "Yes" in your family? With friend's? In God's family?
- How does support, or lack of support, affect you as a person?

EXPLORE



- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Ephesians 5:1-2 | Be imitators of God, therefore... |
| Ephesians 6:1-3 | Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for... |
| 1 John 4:19 | We love because He first loved us. |
| Deuteronomy 8: 4-9 | As a parent disciplines a child so the Lord... |
| Psalms 103:13-14 | As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord ... |
| Psalms 133:1 | How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together... |

So What?

Pick one of the following that describes your reflection on this discussion. Complete the sentence with your own thoughts.

- I need...
- I hope...
- I learned...
- I will pray...
- I am still wondering...
- I am feeling...
- I will take action by....



Candle Time

Thank God for a time you heard the word "No" that was really a positive "Yes." eg. "Thanks for...
...voices that say "No" to drugs, but keep me healthy.

...a parent who says "No" to working on Sunday, but keeps me close to God.
...a God who says "Don't steal," but teaches me to care for others.
As each member says a prayer, turn and put hand on the next person's shoulder until the whole group is showing support for each other.



Leader Page

Discussion Goal

Recognizing family love and support.

Background

Let's face it, parents have strong ideas as to what is right and what is wrong for kids. Discipline is a word that makes someone turn around and wonder, "What did I do wrong now?" However, discipline is not punishment. Discipline is the ensuring of positive direction using methods, such as practice, redirecting and motivation always with love. In ensuring positive direction parents have to say "No," to some things, but with love are really saying, "Yes."

As I grew up, I always viewed my parents saying "No" as a negative. Never had I thought of it as a positive until I read 2 Corinthians 1:19. In Christ, it is not a matter of yes or no, because in him, the answer is always yes. All of those times that my parents told me that I couldn't do something, the purpose was actually to keep me out of trouble and keep me safe. After all, my parents always wanted the best for me, even though I didn't always think they did.

While no family is perfect, God sets us in families where we learn values, patterns of behavior, attitudes and beliefs. When support and love is mixed in, even when not everything is perfect, we have a much higher chance of moving through life successfully.

Motivate

Choose 3 volunteers. It is their job to come up with as many different ways to say "NO" as they can.

e.g. -No -Nix that -Negative -Forbidden -Zero chance -Negator -Uh-ah -No way

They are to give these responses while the other group members ask common questions that kids may ask parents. Keep it going as long as the volunteers can come up with new ways to say no.

Pick three more volunteers. Repeat the activity with but with as many positive responses as they can think of.

e.g. -Sure -Yes -Absolutely -Of course you can -Go for it -OK -Sure -Why not?



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