

Activity 1.1

Thinking Back

These questions are just to jumpstart your thinking. Jot down phrases and ideas; this is just a way to organize your thoughts. We will discuss these!

1. What kind of family did you live in when you were in grade school? If your family changed its structure, when and in what ways?
2. If the church or community leaders who shaped your childhood world were asked to define family, what do you think they would say?
3. If you grew up participating in a congregation, what do you remember learning in church about families? If you didn't grow up participating in a congregation, what shaped your ideas about family? Include things you were intentionally taught, as well as things that were simply taught by example. List as many as you can think of:
4. If your family participated in congregational life, what memories do you have of the way the church helped/strengthened relationships in your family? If you didn't grow up participating in a congregation, who or what gave your family support and strength?
5. If your family participated in congregational life, what memories do you have of the way the church created problems or even undermined relationships in your family? If you didn't grow up participating in a congregation, who or what challenged or undermined your family's strength?
6. Brainstorm about the things you learned at church (or if not church, in other ways in your community)—either through direct teaching or through examples—that gave you skills for living faithfully and lovingly and skillfully in a family:
7. What is the most important thing for you to get out of this course (besides a passing grade)?

After students have had opportunity to answer the questions above, discuss the following:

- a. What families are represented in the class? What kinds of families are not represented? Why or why not?
- b. In what ways were intentional programming for families important? In what ways were congregations simply communities for nurturing family life, albeit in unintentional ways?
- c. What has changed in the years since these students were in congregations? What do you think students in 2012 would say to these questions (those who are children now)?

<http://www3.baylor.edu/CFCM/old/TR/activity01-1.htm>