

themes for family and friends day at church

themes for family and friends day at church serve as a central element in organizing memorable and meaningful events that foster community spirit and spiritual growth. Selecting the right theme can inspire participation, create a welcoming atmosphere, and communicate the core values of the church to attendees. Whether the goal is to celebrate unity, encourage fellowship, or emphasize faith-based teachings, well-chosen themes help guide the activities, decorations, and messages throughout the day. This article explores a variety of creative and impactful themes for family and friends day at church, offering ideas that cater to diverse congregational needs and preferences. Additionally, practical tips on how to implement these themes effectively are discussed to ensure a successful and engaging event for all participants. The following sections will cover traditional themes, contemporary ideas, seasonal inspirations, and ways to incorporate biblical principles into the day's programming.

- Traditional Themes for Family and Friends Day at Church
- Contemporary and Creative Theme Ideas
- Seasonal and Holiday-Based Themes
- Incorporating Biblical Messages into Themes
- Tips for Implementing Themes Successfully

Traditional Themes for Family and Friends Day at Church

Traditional themes for family and friends day at church often emphasize core Christian values such as love, unity, and fellowship. These themes resonate deeply with congregations that appreciate timeless messages and classic celebrations. Incorporating familiar concepts can enhance the sense of belonging and spiritual connection among church members and their guests.

Unity in Christ

The theme of "Unity in Christ" focuses on bringing together families and friends under the shared belief in Jesus Christ. It highlights the importance of community, harmony, and mutual support within the church. This theme can be expressed through collective worship, group prayers, and collaborative

activities that reinforce unity.

Faith, Family, and Fellowship

This theme combines the three foundational elements of church life: faith in God, the importance of family bonds, and fellowship among believers. It encourages participants to strengthen their relationships with both God and each other through worship services, family-oriented programs, and social gatherings.

Celebrating God's Blessings

Focusing on gratitude, this theme invites attendees to recognize and celebrate the blessings God has bestowed upon their families and friendships. It is ideal for events centered around thanksgiving, praise, and testimonies of faith, fostering an atmosphere of joy and appreciation.

Contemporary and Creative Theme Ideas

Modern churches often seek innovative themes that appeal to younger generations and diverse congregations. Contemporary themes can incorporate current cultural trends, interactive elements, and engaging visuals to make family and friends day more dynamic and inclusive.

Building Bridges, Not Walls

This theme emphasizes reconciliation, inclusivity, and outreach. It encourages the church community to break down barriers and welcome all families and friends, regardless of background. Activities might include community service projects, intergenerational dialogues, and multicultural celebrations.

Rooted in Love, Growing in Grace

Highlighting spiritual growth and nurturing relationships, this theme uses the metaphor of a growing tree to illustrate how faith and love develop over time. It can incorporate nature-based decorations, workshops on personal and spiritual development, and family bonding exercises.

Joyful Noise: Celebrating Togetherness

This lively theme centers on music, worship, and celebration. It encourages families and friends to express their joy through singing, dancing, and

creative performances. It is especially suitable for churches with vibrant music ministries seeking to engage all age groups.

Seasonal and Holiday-Based Themes

Aligning family and friends day with seasons or holidays can enhance the relevance and excitement of the event. Seasonal themes often evoke a festive spirit and provide opportunities for themed decorations, food, and activities that correspond with the time of year.

Harvest of Blessings

Typically held in the fall, this theme focuses on gratitude and the fruits of God's provision. It can include harvest-themed decor, food drives, and thanksgiving services, creating a warm and abundant atmosphere for fellowship.

Spring Renewal and New Beginnings

Spring-themed events symbolize renewal, growth, and hope. This theme encourages families and friends to reflect on spiritual renewal and the promise of new beginnings, often incorporating floral decorations, baptism celebrations, and outdoor activities.

Christmas: The Gift of Family and Faith

Christmas-themed family and friends day events emphasize the joy of Christ's birth and the importance of togetherness. Activities may include nativity plays, gift exchanges, and special worship services that highlight the spirit of giving and love.

Incorporating Biblical Messages into Themes

Integrating scripture into the themes for family and friends day at church strengthens the spiritual foundation of the event. Biblical messages provide guidance, inspiration, and a deeper connection to faith that resonate with attendees on a personal level.

Love One Another

Based on the commandment in John 13:34, this theme centers on the Christian call to love and serve one another. It encourages acts of kindness, family support, and community outreach as expressions of faith in action.

The Family of God

This theme draws from passages that describe the church as God's family, such as Ephesians 2:19. It reinforces the idea that all believers are united as brothers and sisters in Christ, fostering inclusiveness and spiritual kinship.

Walking in Faith Together

Focusing on collective spiritual journeys, this theme reflects themes found in Hebrews 10:24-25 about encouraging one another. It inspires families and friends to support each other's growth through prayer, study, and fellowship.

Tips for Implementing Themes Successfully

Choosing a meaningful theme is just the first step toward a successful family and friends day at church. Proper implementation ensures that the theme resonates throughout the event and engages all attendees.

Aligning Activities with the Theme

All planned activities should reflect and reinforce the chosen theme. Whether it is through worship, games, workshops, or community service, consistency helps create a memorable and cohesive experience.

Decorations and Visual Elements

Decorations should embody the theme's message and atmosphere. Use colors, symbols, and materials that complement the theme and create an inviting environment. Visual cues can significantly enhance participant engagement.

Effective Communication

Promote the event and its theme clearly through church bulletins, announcements, and social media. Explain the significance of the theme to encourage enthusiasm and participation among families and friends.

Inclusive Planning

Engage a diverse planning committee that represents different age groups and backgrounds within the church. Inclusive planning ensures that the theme and activities appeal broadly and meet the needs of the entire congregation.

- Select a theme that reflects the church's mission and values
- Incorporate scripture and spiritual teachings into the event
- Plan activities that encourage interaction and bonding
- Use decorations and music to reinforce the theme
- Communicate clearly to maximize attendance and involvement

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some popular themes for Family and Friends Day at church?

Popular themes include "Faith, Family, and Fellowship," "Celebrating God's Love Together," "Building Stronger Bonds in Christ," "United in Faith and Friendship," and "A Day of Gratitude and Joy."

How can a theme enhance the experience of Family and Friends Day at church?

A theme helps create a focused and meaningful atmosphere, encourages participation, unites attendees around a common message, and guides decorations, activities, and sermons to reinforce the event's purpose.

What are some creative ideas for Family and Friends Day themes that include children?

Creative themes for children include "God's Little Disciples," "Walking in Jesus' Footsteps," "Family Fun in Faith," "Kids of the Kingdom," and "Growing Together in God's Love." These themes can be accompanied by engaging activities and crafts.

How can a church incorporate the theme into activities for Family and Friends Day?

The church can incorporate the theme through themed worship services, family games and competitions, group Bible studies, testimonial sharing, themed decorations, and community service projects that reflect the chosen theme.

What factors should be considered when choosing a

theme for Family and Friends Day at church?

Consider the church's mission and values, the demographics of attendees, the message the church wants to convey, inclusivity for all age groups, and how the theme can be practically integrated into activities and worship for a memorable event.

Additional Resources

1. *Faithful Bonds: Strengthening Family Ties Through Christ*

This book explores the importance of nurturing family relationships within a faith-based context. It offers practical advice on how families can grow closer by incorporating prayer, scripture, and shared worship into their daily lives. Ideal for Family and Friends Day, it encourages unity and mutual support grounded in Christian values.

2. *Friends in Christ: Building Lasting Spiritual Friendships*

Focusing on the power of friendship within the church community, this book highlights how spiritual friendships can provide encouragement, accountability, and joy. It includes stories, biblical examples, and activities designed to help church members deepen their connections. Perfect for celebrating the gift of friends during church events.

3. *Gathered Together: Celebrating Family and Fellowship in the Church*

This title emphasizes the significance of communal worship and fellowship in strengthening both family and church bonds. It offers reflections and discussion guides to inspire families and friends to come together in faith, support one another, and celebrate their shared spiritual journey.

4. *The Heart of Hospitality: Welcoming Families and Friends into God's Home*

Hospitality is a central theme in this book, which encourages readers to open their homes and hearts to others. It provides biblical insights and practical tips on how church members can create a welcoming environment for family, friends, and newcomers. This book is a wonderful resource for Family and Friends Day events focused on inclusion and warmth.

5. *Roots and Wings: Faith Lessons for Families and Friends*

This book combines inspiring stories and biblical teachings to help families and friends grow in faith together. It addresses challenges faced by modern families and offers guidance on nurturing spiritual growth in a loving environment. A great resource for church groups seeking to deepen their collective faith experience.

6. *Hand in Hand: Walking Together in Faith and Friendship*

Exploring the journey of faith as a shared experience, this book encourages families and friends to support each other through life's ups and downs. It includes prayers, devotionals, and activities designed to foster a sense of companionship and spiritual growth. Ideal for Family and Friends Day celebrations aiming to strengthen community ties.

7. *Circle of Grace: Embracing God's Love in Family and Friendship*

This uplifting book focuses on the theme of God's unconditional love as experienced through family and friendships. It offers reflections and practical advice on how to create loving, grace-filled relationships that mirror God's compassion. Perfect for inspiring church members to cultivate kindness and understanding.

8. *Shared Joy: Celebrating Life's Blessings with Family and Friends*

Highlighting the joy found in shared experiences, this book encourages families and friends to celebrate milestones and everyday blessings together. It provides ideas for meaningful gatherings, prayers of gratitude, and ways to make faith a joyful part of communal life. A fitting choice for Family and Friends Day festivities.

9. *Faithful Families, Faithful Friends: Building a Christ-Centered Community*

This book presents a blueprint for creating a supportive, Christ-centered community through strong family and friendship bonds. It combines scriptural teachings with practical strategies for fostering love, respect, and service among church members. An excellent guide for churches aiming to enhance their Family and Friends Day programs.

Themes For Family And Friends Day At Church

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Themes for Family and Friends Day at Church

Want to plan a Family and Friends Day at your church that's truly memorable and impactful, but feeling overwhelmed by the possibilities? Do you struggle to find a theme that resonates with all ages and backgrounds, while also aligning with your church's mission? Planning a successful event requires creativity, organization, and a clear vision. This ebook provides the tools and inspiration you need to create a meaningful and engaging Family and Friends Day that strengthens your church community.

"Celebrating Together: A Guide to Meaningful Family and Friends Day Themes"

Contents:

Introduction: The Importance of Family and Friends Day and Planning Strategies.

Chapter 1: Themes Based on Biblical Narratives: Exploring stories that resonate with families.

Chapter 2: Themes Focused on Community and Service: Highlighting unity and outreach.

Chapter 3: Themes Centered on Fun and Fellowship: Ideas for enjoyable activities for all ages.

Chapter 4: Themes Emphasizing Growth and Discipleship: Fostering spiritual growth within families.

Chapter 5: Practical Planning and Implementation: Budgeting, logistics, and volunteer coordination.
Conclusion: Making Family and Friends Day a Lasting Tradition.

Celebrating Together: A Guide to Meaningful Family and Friends Day Themes

Introduction: The Power of Connection and Shared Faith

Family and Friends Day at church is more than just a social gathering; it's a strategic opportunity to strengthen bonds within your congregation and reach out to the wider community. A well-planned event can foster a sense of belonging, encourage spiritual growth, and create lasting memories. However, many church leaders and event organizers struggle with the initial planning phase. Choosing the right theme is crucial; it sets the tone, inspires activities, and shapes the overall message. This guide provides a comprehensive framework for selecting and implementing impactful Family and Friends Day themes. We'll explore diverse options, offer practical advice, and empower you to create a celebration that truly reflects your church's values and mission.

Chapter 1: Themes Based on Biblical Narratives (SEO Keyword: Biblical Themes Family Day)

Drawing inspiration from powerful biblical narratives offers a rich foundation for your Family and Friends Day. These stories provide relatable characters, compelling plots, and timeless lessons that resonate with people of all ages and backgrounds. Consider these options:

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32): This classic story highlights the unconditional love of God and the joy of reconciliation. Activities could include role-playing, discussions about forgiveness, or creative expressions of gratitude.

The Feeding of the Five Thousand (Matthew 14:13-21): This miracle demonstrates God's provision and abundance. You could organize a food drive, potluck, or community service project focused on feeding the hungry.

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37): This story emphasizes compassion, service, and reaching out to those in need. Consider partnering with a local charity or organizing a service project within the community.

The Story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50): This epic tale explores themes of perseverance, forgiveness, and God's faithfulness. Activities could include storytelling, dramatic presentations, or discussions about overcoming adversity.

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20): This powerful mandate calls believers to share the Gospel with the world. You could incorporate a mission project, testimonies of global impact, or

outreach initiatives.

Remember to adapt the chosen narrative to your specific audience and context. Engage visual aids, interactive elements, and age-appropriate activities to make the story come alive.

Chapter 2: Themes Focused on Community and Service (SEO Keyword: Community Service Church Events)

Building a strong sense of community is paramount to a thriving church. A Family and Friends Day centered on community and service can foster unity, collaboration, and a spirit of giving back.

"Serving Together": Organize a community cleanup, visit a local nursing home, prepare meals for the homeless, or partner with a local charity for a service project. This theme emphasizes the importance of collective action and shared responsibility.

"Celebrating Our Unity": Focus on showcasing the diversity and richness of your congregation. Include performances, food from different cultures, and testimonies from members representing various backgrounds.

"Building Bridges": This theme encourages reaching out to those outside the church community. Consider inviting local leaders, organizations, or individuals from different faiths to participate in the event.

"Celebrating Our Heritage": This theme could focus on the history of your church and the community it serves. You can incorporate historical displays, slideshows, or storytelling sessions.

Chapter 3: Themes Centered on Fun and Fellowship (SEO Keyword: Family Fun Church Activities)

While spiritual growth is crucial, don't underestimate the power of fun and fellowship. A Family and Friends Day should be enjoyable for people of all ages.

"Family Fun Fest": Organize games, bounce houses, face painting, carnival games, and other activities that appeal to children and adults.

"Talent Show Extravaganza": Encourage members to showcase their talents through singing, dancing, comedy acts, or instrumental performances.

"Outdoor Adventure Day": If weather permits, organize outdoor games, a picnic, or a hike.

"Game Day Extravaganza": Organize sports tournaments, board game competitions, or video game challenges.

"Family Movie Night": Screen a family-friendly movie followed by snacks and discussions.

Remember to ensure accessibility for all ages and abilities, and consider providing options for different interests.

Chapter 4: Themes Emphasizing Growth and Discipleship (SEO Keyword: Spiritual Growth Family Activities)

Family and Friends Day presents an exceptional opportunity to nurture spiritual growth within families.

"Growing in Faith Together": Focus on workshops, seminars, or discussions related to family discipleship, prayer, Bible study, or faith-based parenting.

"Building Strong Families": Offer sessions on communication skills, conflict resolution, or strengthening family bonds.

"Passing the Faith to the Next Generation": This theme could focus on mentoring, intergenerational activities, or sharing family faith stories.

Chapter 5: Practical Planning and Implementation (SEO Keyword: Church Event Planning Guide)

Successful event planning requires careful organization.

Set a budget: Determine how much you can spend and allocate funds for different aspects of the event.

Form a committee: Assign roles and responsibilities to different individuals or groups.

Choose a venue: Select a location that can accommodate your expected attendance.

Secure necessary permits and licenses: Ensure you comply with all local regulations.

Promote the event: Use various methods such as flyers, social media, announcements, and email blasts.

Recruit volunteers: Enlist the help of church members to assist with various tasks.

Develop a schedule: Create a detailed schedule for the day's activities.

Gather supplies and equipment: Ensure you have everything you need before the event.

Evaluate the event: After the event, gather feedback and learn from your experiences.

Conclusion: Building Lasting Traditions

Family and Friends Day is a powerful tool for strengthening your church community and creating lasting memories. By carefully selecting a theme that resonates with your congregation and implementing a well-organized plan, you can create an event that fosters spiritual growth, builds strong relationships, and leaves a positive impact on all who participate. Remember that the most successful events are those built on prayer, collaboration, and a shared vision of celebrating

together in faith.

FAQs:

1. How do I choose a theme that appeals to all ages? Consider themes with broad appeal, offering diverse activities for different age groups.
2. How can I involve the entire church community in the planning? Form a committee representing various age groups and interests.
3. What's the best way to promote the event? Utilize multiple channels: flyers, social media, announcements, and email.
4. How do I manage the budget effectively? Develop a detailed budget early on and secure sponsorships if needed.
5. What if the weather doesn't cooperate for an outdoor event? Have a backup plan, such as an indoor venue or alternative activities.
6. How do I ensure everyone feels included and welcome? Create a welcoming environment, offer diverse activities, and be mindful of accessibility needs.
7. How can I measure the success of the event? Collect feedback through surveys, testimonials, or informal conversations.
8. What if I don't have many volunteers? Divide tasks into smaller, manageable parts and recruit volunteers from different areas.
9. How can I make Family and Friends Day a yearly tradition? Establish a planning committee, document successful strategies, and build anticipation each year.

Related Articles:

1. Creating Engaging Activities for All Ages on Family and Friends Day: Tips for planning activities that appeal to children, teens, and adults.
2. Budgeting for a Successful Church Family and Friends Day: Strategies for managing finances and securing sponsorships.
3. Marketing Your Church's Family and Friends Day Event: Effective promotion strategies for maximizing attendance.
4. Building Community Through Service on Family and Friends Day: Ideas for community service projects that involve families.
5. Incorporating Intergenerational Activities into Family and Friends Day: Strategies for creating activities that bring together different generations.
6. Using Technology to Enhance Your Church's Family and Friends Day: Ideas for using technology to improve communication and engagement.
7. Making Family and Friends Day Accessible to All: Strategies for ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities.
8. Post-Event Evaluation for Family and Friends Day: Learning from Your Successes and Challenges: A guide to analyzing your event and making improvements for next year.
9. Inspiring Testimonies and Stories for Family and Friends Day: Ideas for sharing inspiring stories of faith and community.

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themes for family and friends day at church: I Love Jesus, But I Want to Die Sarah J. Robinson, 2021-05-11 A compassionate, shame-free guide for your darkest days “A one-of-a-kind book . . . to read for yourself or give to a struggling friend or loved one without the fear that depression and suicidal thoughts will be minimized, medicalized or over-spiritualized.”—Kay Warren, cofounder of Saddleback Church What happens when loving Jesus doesn't cure you of depression, anxiety, or suicidal thoughts? You might be crushed by shame over your mental illness, only to be told by well-meaning Christians to “choose joy” and “pray more.” So you beg God to take away the pain, but nothing eases the ache inside. As darkness lingers and color drains from your world, you're left wondering if God has abandoned you. You just want a way out. But there's hope. In I Love Jesus, But I Want to Die, Sarah J. Robinson offers a healthy, practical, and shame-free guide for Christians struggling with mental illness. With unflinching honesty, Sarah shares her story of battling depression and fighting to stay alive despite toxic theology that made her afraid to seek help outside the church. Pairing her own story with scriptural insights, mental health research, and simple practices, Sarah helps you reconnect with the God who is present in our deepest anguish and discover that you are worth everything it takes to get better. Beautifully written and full of hard-won wisdom, I Love Jesus, But I Want to Die offers a path toward a rich, hope-filled life in Christ, even when healing doesn't look like what you expect.

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figures such as John Broadus, whose first sermon promoted temperance, David Barrow, who formed an anti-slavery association in Kentucky, and in a Savannah church that started a ministry to the homeless. Not only did Baptists promote piety for the good of their churches, but they did so for the betterment of society at large. Though they aimed to change America one soul at a time, that is only part of the story. They also engaged the political arena, forcefully and directly. Simply put, Baptists were social reformers. Relying on the ideas of rank-and-file Baptists found in the minutes of local churches and associations, as well as the popular, parochial newspapers of the day, *Politics and Piety* uncovers a theologically minded and controversial movement to improve the nation. Understanding where these Baptists united and divided is a key to unlocking the differences in evangelical political engagement today.

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themes for family and friends day at church: *True Worshipers* Bob Kauflin, 2015-09-01

Everyone worships. But Jesus tells us that God is seeking a particular kind of worshiper. In *True Worshipers*, a seasoned pastor and musician guides readers toward a more engaging, transformative, and biblically faithful understanding of the worship God is seeking. True worship is an activity rooted in the grace of the gospel that affects every area of our lives. And while worship is more than just singing, God's people gathering in his presence to lift their voices in song is an activity that is biblically based, historically rooted, and potentially life-changing. Thoroughly based in Scripture and filled with practical guidance, this book connects Sunday worship to the rest of our lives—helping us live as true worshipers each and every day.

themes for family and friends day at church: *Working With Families: Guidelines and Techniques* John T. Edwards, 2011-10-25 A complete guide for helping professionals, with tried-and-true techniques for practicing family counseling therapy Now in its second edition, *Working With Families: Guidelines and Techniques* is filled with up-to-date, systems-oriented techniques focused on field-tested results. Outlining the dos and don'ts of working with different types of families and the various complications, nuances, and complexities that can occur, this practical guide provides a broad and proven selection of interventions, processes, and guidelines for working interactively, systematically, and compassionately with families. *Working With Families, Second Edition* covers a range of topics including: Family work in different settings Session-by-session guidelines Therapeutic themes by family type Managing adolescents in family sessions Dealing with fear of family work Family mapping Strategic child assessment Chemical dependence and its impact on families Informed by the author's many years of experience in the field, both as a clinician and as a trainer, *Working With Families, Second Edition* offers an invaluable systems-oriented, goal-directed, problem-solving approach to family counseling therapy for all mental health professionals.

themes for family and friends day at church: *The Purpose Driven Church* Rick Warren, 2007-09-04 The issue is church health, not church growth—if your church is healthy, growth will occur naturally. So how do we make healthy churches, driven by purpose? In order for any church to thrive, it must be built around the five New Testament purposes given to the church by Jesus Christ. In this classic of Christian church stability, pastor and bestselling author of *The Purpose Driven Life* Rick Warren unpacks this proven five-part strategy that will enable your church to grow: Warmer through fellowship. Deeper through discipleship. Stronger through worship. Broader through ministry. Larger through evangelism. Every church is driven by something. Tradition, finances, programs, personalities, events, seekers, and even buildings can each be the controlling force in a church. But Warren will show you how to concentrate on building people and let God build the church. In other words, healthy, consistent growth is the result of balancing the five biblical purposes of the church. And *The Purpose Driven Church* will show you how to do that. “The Purpose Driven Church has brought focus and direction to more pastors and church leaders than you can count. What a gift!”—John Ortberg, bestselling author.

themes for family and friends day at church: *Eat Your Way to Life and Health* Joseph Prince, 2019-10-01 Let the holy Communion revolutionize your life and health! Through engaging Bible-based teaching, Pastor Joseph Prince unpacks a revelation of the Communion that has never been more relevant than right now. Along with showing you why the holy Communion is God's ordained way to release life, health, and healing to us, Pastor Prince also tackles the tough questions: Is God punishing me with sickness and disease? Is it really God's will to heal me? Do I qualify for His healing power? What do I do when I don't see results? Can God heal my loved ones? The enemy wants you to believe that God doesn't care and that your situation is hopeless. But because of the cross, you can have full assurance in your heart that God wants you healed and whole. Learn how you can access His healing power with just the simple act of eating. In *Eat Your Way to Life and Health*, discover a God who loves you so much, His Son paid for your healing on Calvary's cross. Be deeply encouraged as you read powerful testimonies from people who have received healing through a revelation of the Communion, despite being told their conditions were terminal or incurable. Whatever circumstances you are confronted with today, God has a word for

you: Don't give up. There is hope. He has made a way for you!

themes for family and friends day at church: *The Mission of Motherhood* Sally Clarkson, 2009-01-21 Discover how understanding God's purpose and design can empower you to be the mother you long to be. No calling is greater, nobler, or more fulfilling than that motherhood. Every day, as we nurture our children, mothers influence eternal destiny as no one else can. Tragically, today's culture minimizes the vital importance of a mother's role. In *The Mission of Motherhood*, Sally Clarkson helps you rediscover the joy and fulfillment to be found in the strategic role to which God in all his wisdom has called you, for a purpose far greater than you can ever imagine.

themes for family and friends day at church: *A Little Life* Hanya Yanagihara, 2016-01-26 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A stunning "portrait of the enduring grace of friendship" (NPR) about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. A masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century. NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • MAN BOOKER PRIZE FINALIST • WINNER OF THE KIRKUS PRIZE *A Little Life* follows four college classmates—broke, adrift, and buoyed only by their friendship and ambition—as they move to New York in search of fame and fortune. While their relationships, which are tinged by addiction, success, and pride, deepen over the decades, the men are held together by their devotion to the brilliant, enigmatic Jude, a man scarred by an unspeakable childhood trauma. A hymn to brotherly bonds and a masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century, Hanya Yanagihara's stunning novel is about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. Look for Hanya Yanagihara's latest bestselling novel, *To Paradise*.

themes for family and friends day at church: *The Art of Being a Good Friend* Hugh Black, 1999 These pages show readers how to transform superficial friendships into soul-nourishing relationships, bringing them from shallowness and frivolity to a deep communion of mind and heart -- a communion that will become, for those who read this book and for their friends, a means for emotional and spiritual growth. Married couples will find here new ways to appreciate the gift God has given to them in their spouse. Best of all, readers will learn how to achieve friendship with God. As they enjoy this divine friendship and enrich their human friendships, they'll come to see how truly author Hugh Black speaks when he says that no one would care to live without friends, even if he had all other good things.

themes for family and friends day at church: *Jesus Heals* Danielle Hitchen, 2020-01-07 God Cares for Every Body Your family will love this unique board book! Using colorful, engaging artwork, *Jesus Heals* introduces little ones to different parts of the body through the healings Jesus performed, pointing to His ultimate miracle—healing our sin by His death on the cross. Children will delight in the beautiful illustrations and learn about basic human anatomy as they see how Jesus healed various body parts. You will appreciate the artistic design, theologically sound content, and helping your little one understand that God cares for our physical bodies. *** Baby Believer® primers are designed to grow with children, from early infancy through elementary school. In addition to basic Bible theology, Baby Believer® board books are filled with quotations from the Bible, creeds, hymns, church fathers, and other articles of faith to help reinforce the content and provide intellectual handholds for older children who possess a greater capacity for learning and memorization.

themes for family and friends day at church: *Women Living Well* Courtney Joseph Fallick, 2013-10-08 Women desire to live well. However, living well in this modern world is a challenge. The pace of life, along with the new front porch of social media, has changed the landscape of our lives. Women have been told for far too long that being on the go and accumulating more things will make their lives full. As a result, we grasp for the wrong things in life and come up empty. God created us to walk with him; to know him and to be loved by him. He is our living well and when we drink from the water he continually provides, it will change us. Our marriages, our parenting, and our homemaking will be transformed. Mommy-blogger Courtney Joseph is a cheerful realist. She tackles the challenge of holding onto vintage values in a modern world, starting with the keys to protecting our walk with God. No subject is off-limits as she moves on to marriage, parenting, and household

management. Rooted in the Bible, her practical approach includes tons of tips that are perfect for busy moms, including: Simple Solutions for Studying God's Word How to Handle Marriage, Parenting, and Homemaking in a Digital Age 10 Steps to Completing Your Husband Dealing With Disappointed Expectations in Motherhood Creating Routines that Bring Rest Pursuing the Discipline and Diligence of the Proverbs 31 Woman There is nothing more important than fostering your faith, building your marriage, training your children, and creating a haven for your family. *Women Living Well* is a clear and personal guide to making the most of these precious responsibilities.

themes for family and friends day at church: *Things Fall Apart* Chinua Achebe, 1994-09-01 "A true classic of world literature . . . A masterpiece that has inspired generations of writers in Nigeria, across Africa, and around the world." —Barack Obama "African literature is incomplete and unthinkable without the works of Chinua Achebe." —Toni Morrison Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's The Great American Read *Things Fall Apart* is the first of three novels in Chinua Achebe's critically acclaimed African Trilogy. It is a classic narrative about Africa's cataclysmic encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent. Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, *Things Fall Apart* explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order. With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, *Things Fall Apart* provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. Achebe does not only capture life in a pre-colonial African village, he conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our contemporary realities.

themes for family and friends day at church: *The Catholic Parents' Survival Guide* Julianne Stanz, 2023-06-06 A USER-FRIENDLY GUIDE TO SHARING THE FAITH WITH CHILDREN Raising a Catholic family is never easy, especially when it comes to discussing our faith with our children. Despite trying our best, sometimes we all need help addressing issues of faith respectfully, honestly, and accurately. Written by Julianne Stanz, bestselling author, catechist, lay church leader, and mother of three, *The Catholic Parents' Survival Guide* is a practical manual for talking with children about how to navigate life through the lens of the Catholic faith. Featuring an accessible question-and-answer format, Julianne not only equips readers with tools to help explain Catholic beliefs, ethics, morality, and faith practices, but she also prepares us for how to deliver this information in a manner that will resonate with children. She addresses such questions as: Who is God? What is the Holy Spirit? What happens if you miss Mass? What happens after we die? Does God answer prayers? What will we do in heaven? Why do Catholics pray to Mary? Why can't women become priests? In addition, each chapter includes key takeaways, notes for reflection, recommended resources, and tips for putting these insights into practice. *The Catholic Parents' Survival Guide* provides reliable information about the Catholic faith and parent-tested methods for sharing it with children.

themes for family and friends day at church: *The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family* Patrick M. Lencioni, 2008-10-03 A singularly relevant application of organizational leadership to the home and family In this unique and groundbreaking book, business consultant and New York Times best-selling author Patrick Lencioni sets his sights on the most important organization in our lives—the family. As a husband and as the father of four young boys, Lencioni realized the discrepancy between the time and energy his clients put into running their organizations and the reactive way most people run their personal lives. Having experienced the stress of a frantic family firsthand, he and his wife began applying some of the tools he uses with Fortune 500 companies at home, and with surprising results. In the book, you'll learn to answer questions like: What makes my family unique? What is my family's biggest priority—its rallying cry—right now? How can my family use the answers to these questions today, next week, and next year? An indispensable resource for busy professionals with full family lives, *The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family* belongs on the bookshelves of anyone who has ever struggled to balance leading people at work with leading a family unit.

themes for family and friends day at church: Walk with Me Bill Mowry, 2021-03-02 Have we over complicated, over systematized, and over formalized making disciples? When our hearts are changed by Christ, it's natural that we should want to help others come to know Him too. And while Scripture clearly sets forth how to do so, modern Western society has formalized, professionalized, and systemized disciplinemaking to a point that it seems too complicated to practice. What happened to the simple, heart-to-heart ministries of the New Testament? In Walk with Me, you'll return to the essential biblical practices that help people grow as Christ-followers in simple, slow, and deep ways. Learn how you can connect with your neighbors, coworkers, or anyone you want to reach with the gospel in ways that are relational and Spirit-led. You'll learn five kingdom principles that will reshape how you can pass on the faith: In heart-to-heart ways By keeping it simple By going slow By building deep By living on mission

themes for family and friends day at church: The Living Church , 1997

themes for family and friends day at church: The Gospel-Driven Life Michael Horton, 2009-10-01 In his well-received Christless Christianity Michael Horton offered a prophetic wake-up call for a self-centered American church. With The Gospel-Driven Life he turns from the crisis to the solutions, offering his recommendations for a new reformation in the faith, practice, and witness of contemporary Christianity. This insightful book will guide readers in reorienting their faith and the church's purpose toward the good news of the gospel. The first six chapters explore that breaking news from heaven, while the rest of the book focuses on the kind of community that the gospel generates and the surprising ways in which God is at work in the world. Here is fresh news for Christians who are burned out on hype and are looking for hope.

themes for family and friends day at church: Lead Me, Guide Me [Anonymus AC01411086], 1987

themes for family and friends day at church: *Breakfast with Jesus* Vanessa Myers, 2019-12-09

themes for family and friends day at church: *The Hunger Games and the Gospel* Julie Clawson, 2012-03-05 In a globalized world full of uncertainty and injustice, Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games series has captured the imaginations of readers looking for glimmers of hope. The tale of Katniss Everdeen's journey of survival in the post-apocalyptic country of Panem, where bread and circuses distract the privileged and allow a totalitarian regime to oppress the masses, parallels situations in our world today. At the same time, the series' themes of resistance to oppression and hope for a better world, portrayed honestly as messy and difficult endeavors, echo the transformative way of life Jesus offered his followers. The Hunger Games and the Gospel explores these themes in The Hunger Games series that have resonated so deeply with readers by examining their similarity to the good news found in Jesus' message about living in the ways of God's Kingdom. Taking the rich statements of the Beatitudes, which serve as mini-pictures of God's dreams realized on earth as in heaven, each chapter reflects on how those pictures are exhibited both in the narrative of The Hunger Games, and in Jesus' time, and then explores their significance for our own world. Thought-provoking questions provide direction for personal reflection and group discussion. Readers are invited to allow the inspiration of The Hunger Games help them live in the ways of the Kingdom of God by discovering how they too can work toward the possibility of a better world. ***** PRAISE FOR THE HUNGER GAMES AND THE GOSPEL My favorite analysis of The Hunger Games... Clawson does a fantastic job of reminding readers that Collins' world of occupation, oppression, excess, and poverty is not so far removed from our own, and that it is exactly the kind of world in which Jesus himself lived. -- Rachel Held Evans, author of A Year of Biblical Womanhood It shouldn't surprise anyone that Julie Clawson finds everyday justice in the Hunger Games trilogy, but what may surprise and delight is that she reads the story so well and writes so beautifully about the lessons she finds there. Everyone who loves The Hunger Games should read this book. -- Greg Garrett, author of Faithful Citizenship, One Fine Potion: The Literary Magic of Harry Potter, and The Other Jesus Are we living in the United States of Panem? The Hunger Games trilogy's depiction of a wealthy, totalitarian regime that exploits its conquered neighbors is more than fiction. The series

brings to life the Roman Empire of Jesus' day and suggests a searing indictment of contemporary American imperialism. Using a framing structure of the Beatitudes, Julie Clawson powerfully explores Katniss's suffering as a lens for understanding Jesus' passion for loving our neighbors and building a better world. -- Jana Riess, author of *Flunking Sainthood* and *What Would Buffy Do?* Julie Clawson writes with intelligence, thoughtfulness, and nuance. This is a collection of fascinating and insightful reflections, a set of mirrors that we as Christians must confront, even though they come to us from the unlikeliest of places: a story we've all read for fun. -- Shauna Niequist, Author of *Cold Tangerines & Bittersweet* There is no question that the Hunger Games trilogy has touched something deep in the psyche of its millions of readers, stirring up questions and uncertainties that we all foster about our future. With sharp clarity and stunning insight, Julie Clawson helps us understand our visceral response to the series by interweaving the narrative with Jesus' Beatitudes. The result points to a realistic hope for today and tomorrow. -- Jamie Arpin-Ricci, author of *The Cost of Community: Jesus, St. Francis & Life in the Kingdom*

themes for family and friends day at church: Strengthening Our Families David Curtis Dollahite, 2000

themes for family and friends day at church: Stations of the Cross for Marriages and Families Daniel Allen, 2014-02-17 As part of the long-standing Christian tradition of meditating on the Way of the Cross, Stations of the Cross for Marriages and Families is a series of reflections that focus primarily on how the sufferings of Jesus impact us in our marriages and families. Written with a varied audience in mind, it can be utilized for personal, family, group, or church prayer.

themes for family and friends day at church: A Christ-Centered Wedding Catherine Parks, Linda Strode, 2014-05-01 Wedding planning has spawned a major industry. The average cost of the occasion now exceeds \$25,000, and societal pressure to create the "perfect day" is so strong that even Christian couples forget what God originally intended for the sacred marriage ceremony. While paying attention to the good fun that follows that special proposal (the dress, the flowers, the cake, the gatherings, etc.), *A Christ-Centered Wedding* first serves as a guide to believers who want their wedding to portray the relationship of Christ with the church and to reflect the gospel to all in attendance. From the start, this thoughtful book looks to the Creator of weddings for guidance in planning by emphasizing the sacrificial love of the Savior more than the modern world's idealistic view of romantic love. There are chapters filled with practical information about everything from pre-marital counseling and choosing a wedding location to other resources like a planning checklist and timeline, music suggestions, guidance on potential issues of conflict, a listing of traditional financial responsibilities, sample vows, and other great ideas from couples who have successfully put together a Christ-centered wedding.

themes for family and friends day at church: Holy Habits Andrew Roberts, 2016-01-04 The call to Christian discipleship is a call to adventure. *Holy Habits* explores the nature of that adventure through a rich mix of biblical material and inspiring stories. The nurturing role of the ten holy habits of discipleship as seen in Acts 2 is then explored. The ten habits are: biblical teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer, giving, service, eating together, gladness and generosity, worship and making more disciples. Each chapter has suggestions for further reflection and action that can be used individually or by smaller or larger Christian communities.

themes for family and friends day at church: Hostility to Hospitality Michael J. Balboni, Tracy A. Balboni, 2018-09-18 Spiritual sickness troubles American medicine. Through a death-denying culture, medicine has gained enormous power-an influence it maintains by distancing itself from religion, which too often reminds us of our mortality. As a result of this separation of medicine and religion, patients facing serious illness infrequently receive adequate spiritual care, despite the large body of empirical data demonstrating its import to patient meaning-making, quality of life, and medical utilization. This secular-sacred divide also unleashes depersonalizing, social forces through the market, technology, and legal-bureaucratic powers that reduce clinicians to tiny cogs in an unstoppable machine. *Hostility to Hospitality* is one of the first books of its kind to explore these hostilities threatening medicine and offer a path forward for the partnership of modern

medicine and spirituality. Drawing from interdisciplinary scholarship including empirical studies, interviews, history and sociology, theology, and public policy, the authors argue for structural pluralism as the key to changing hostility to hospitality.

themes for family and friends day at church: New-Church Messenger , 1911

themes for family and friends day at church: The Concise Garland Encyclopedia of World Music, Volume 1 Garland Encyclopedia of World Music, 2013-01-11 The Concise Garland Encyclopedia of World Music comprises two volumes, and can only be purchased as the two-volume set. To purchase the set please go to: <http://www.routledge.com/9780415972932>

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