

Beyond Expectations

By Lee Yates



Relationships can be complicated. Often, a job description would be helpful to understand what a friend expects from us or what a family member needs from us. What God expects from relationships might be a good starting point for how we relate to each other.

For
Teen Family

Season

Winter

Needed

Bible, paper and pencils, copies (video) of marriage or union vows / commitments.

Prepare in Advance

If parents have a copy of wedding vows, or video of family weddings, get them out.

Activity Plan

1. Begin with a short prayer. Here are some words if you need them.

Lord, your steadfast love is ways with us. May we feel you near and try to be as present for each other in this time together. Amen

2. From your Bible read Micah 6:6-8 (or see text here)

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

3. Discuss these questions:
 - How does this passage guide our relationship with God?
 - What else, beyond what is discussed in this reading, is needed for a relationship with God?
 - What do you expect to receive in your relationship with God?
4. Ask each person in the family to write as simple "job description" (this can be a simple list) for what God expects from them. Also write one for God, explaining God's role in the relationship. Share these with each other.
5. Now, have each member of the family make similar job descriptions for the different roles represented in your family. Write out what it means to be a "parent," "son or daughter," "brother or sister." You can

even extend this to other family roles that are central to your life. Avoid such specifics as, “feeds the dog.” Focus on relational needs rather than chores.

6. Share your thoughts together, then work as a family to write a rough draft of job-descriptions for each role, then look back at Micah 6:6-8 and see what advice the prophet might offer as you edit your projects. Once you have looked over the job-descriptions and made any edits, talk about how these might help avoid conflicts or arguments in the family.
7. OPTIONAL: If you have time, look at wedding videos or copies of wedding vows from adults in the family. Share how the vows were decided on and how the meaning might have changed over time.
8. Close in prayer. Here are some words if you need them.

God, we give thanks for our relationship with you. Help us be present for each other and form strong relationships in our family. May our relationship with you make our family relationships stronger. Amen.

9. Every family is unique but we can learn from each other. If you are willing, post your job descriptions with us at [Vibrant Faith @ Home](#). Check back to see how others have expressed their family's relationship expectations.

