

Family Shield

By Heath Howe



At Easter we renew our Baptism, our identity as children of God. And with that identity, Christ calls us into action. In this activity you will create a “family shield” which celebrates your identity as a family, and discuss how you are called to serve.

For

Young Family

Season

Spring, Easter Season

Needed

Template of a shield (www.busybeekidscrafts.com/designashield), crayons/markers/paint, family photo, magazine photos (optional)

Prepare in Advance

- Print template of shield or create your own out of poster board
- Gather or take family photo
- Optional: Cut out magazine photos that might be used to decorate shield
- Optional: Explain the activity in advance if your family members need time to think about ideas before creating.

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

Of God of new beginnings, we thank you for the gifts of hope, joy, peace, and love that you have given to us in Jesus. As we begin the Easter season may we share these same gifts with one another and in the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

2. Brainstorm together a few goals for living your faith now that Christ has risen and Easter is here. Discussing these questions will help you get started:
 - How could we improve our outreach and service to others?
 - How could we enhance our family prayer life?
 - How could we spend more play time together?
 - How could we have meaningful conversations with each other?Consider what God is calling your family to do. Decide on two or three ideas together.

3. Place the blank shield before everyone. Place the family photo in the center of the shield. Drawn/paint/write the family name either under the photo or at the top of the shield. If desired choose other photos from magazines or elsewhere to make your family shield reflect who you are. Leave the four corners blank.
4. In the upper right portion write or draw pictures that answer the following question, "This Easter season as a family we HOPE to..." This will reflect the resolutions you chose in step 2.
5. In the upper left portion, list with words or pictures, how you will put these hopes into practice by answering this question, "With JOY as a family we will achieve our goals by..."
6. In the lower right portion, name the ways you will hold one another accountable by answering this question, "With LOVE in our hearts, we promise to help one another keep our goals by..."
7. In the lower left portion, write or draw something that represents PEACE, for it is with peace that we are able to live in the present moment, and see that God walks with us always.
8. Have each family member sign the shield, and display it prominently in your home. Return to it as you achieve a goal, or change them as needed.
9. Close by asking each family member to name their favorite part of your family shield and the hope it represents. Say the Lord's Prayer together.

