

Family

Word Forms:

- family (n) "How many people are there in your family?"
- extended family (n) "My extended family is very large."
- family tree (n) You can learn a lot about a person by looking at his family tree.

Related Words:

- relative (n) "Some of my relatives are coming to visit me tomorrow."
- relationship (n) "What's your relationship to him?" "We're cousins."
- be related (to) (v) "We may look like each other, but we're actually not related at all."
- household (n) "How many people are there in your household?"
- ancestor (n) John's ancestors moved to the United States in the 1860s.
- descendant (n) Sarah is a descendant of George Washington.
- filial piety (n) Filial piety is an important part of Chinese culture.
- filial (adj) Larry is not a very filial child.
- be married (to) (v) Wendy is married to Allen.
- get married (v) Wendy got married in 1979.
- divorce (v) (also n) Wendy divorced Allen in 1985.
- get divorced (v) Wendy and Allen got divorced in 1985.
- stepparent (n) When divorced people remarry, they often become stepparents.
- stepchildren (n) Bruce has two children and three stepchildren.

Exercises:

1. Carlos was born in the United States, but his _____ came from Mexico.
2. Are you single, _____, or _____?
3. Most Chinese _____ try to spend time together during Chinese (Lunar) New Year.

Questions:

1. How many people are there in your family? How many brothers and sisters, sons and daughters do you have?
2. Are families important in your own culture? If so, how does your culture show the importance of families?
3. What makes a "good" family?
4. Where do you think the idea of "families" came from?

Bible Readings:

1. Jesus said, "When God made the world, 'he made people male and female. That is why a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. And the two people will become one.' So the people are not two, but one. God has joined those two people together. So no person should separate them." (Mark 10:6-9, Easy-to-Read Version)
2. "Wives, submit to your husbands, for that is what you should do as Christians. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents always, for that is what pleases God. Parents, do not irritate your children, or they will become discouraged." (Colossians 3:18-21, TEV)
3. "[Jesus] gave the right to become God's children to everyone who believed in him." (John 1:12, God's Word)

Questions:

1. Where does the idea of "families" come from? Does God want families to stay together? (reading 1)
2. What responsibilities do the different members of a family have? (reading 2)

3. How do people become members of *God's* family? (reading 3) What do you think it means to be a member of *God's* family?