

SPEND some time journaling your answers to the following questions. What type of family do you have? What are your family's strengths and weaknesses? Would you rather have a different type of family? Why? What are the challenges of having so many types of families? LIST some good things which come with diverse families.

CELEBRATE your family's strengths and unique qualities.

## day 2-3: foundation

Although we see the diversity of families today, God began with a foundational family which marked the beginning of community.

READ Genesis 1:26-28a.

DESCRIBE this passage in your own words. What are the key elements? What does verse 28a say? CONSIDER how they could have been "blessed." What's God's heart for them? What's God's heart for your family? Do you see yourself and your family members as being made in God's image? Do you feel blessed? If so, PRAISE your Creator today!

### READ Genesis 1:28b-31.

REWRITE this passage in your own words and FIND the key portions of it. NOTICE that God doesn't ask us if we want to fill the earth or give us the option if we feel like it. It seems to be a declaration or a command to do so. It may remind us of launching our children into adulthood. It could be assumed from this passage that a foundational part of family is the multiplication of generations. Would you agree? Why or why not?

LOOKING at verse 31, God stands back after a day of work and admires what has been accomplished. REFLECT on the last time you had this sort of moment. Maybe you finished a difficult project which took a long time. Maybe your children or grandchildren just left your house for the evening. Maybe you just finished a celebration like a wedding or a holiday. EXPRESS how it feels to live in that moment. PRAY for God to reveal to you His heart for your family.

### day 4: JW families

CREATE three columns labeled home, community and family. Under each column, LIST those people in your life who are key adults with great influence in your family. CIRCLE those people who are meeting you at the crossroads and helping to equip you in spiritual growth. PRAY in thanksgiving for those people this week.

For those you chose not to circle, PRAY for their spiritual growth.

# day 5: opening soon

Because of the generosity that took place during the **NEXT LEVEL** Emphasis this past spring, Jacob's Well is creating a center in which families can find resources and support. It's called **@home**. Our goal is to partner with families on their journey to follow and become more like Jesus. We've also created **Milestones** (or Milestone classes) to help parents with the transitional times in the lives of their children. There are also other resources for many different types of families. More importantly, you can find experienced people to talk to about your particular family and what you may be struggling with.

Is your family growing on purpose? What catches your interest about the **@home** center? What area of growth could your family use help with? What's a next step you could take?

Perhaps you've already raised your children. *Could you be a resource for* other families who are struggling? ASK God to help you find the right path. PRAY for strength and courage to move forward on purpose.