

Operation Family Blueprint



Each of the four Operation Family Nights are designed to help build God's big idea of family into your family.

So tonight is FORT NIGHT and it's all about your family learning to TALK together.

1

PREP STUFF:

You will need:

- Fort Building Supplies (see the "fort" pg for ideas)
- Pajamas for everyone
- Sheet of paper/poster board for "rules of the fort"

-A bin full of wacky stuff from around your house. (cooking utensils, Tupperware, dress up clothes, stuffed animals, weird stuff from the garage) make sure you have at least 5 things per family member.

-A candy heart for each person (watch Parent Secrets video for what to do)

- A bowl of ice cream for each person
- Sundae supplies (whipped cream, sprinkles, cherries)

-5 Post it Notes/note cards for each family member (different colors if possible) Write the family member's name on the back of the stack and rubber band them together.

2

FIRST STEPS:

- Watch the Mr. Take-Out video to get hyped about the night.

-Parents, watch the "Parent Secrets" video at www.kidstuf.com/parents



Part 1: Fort Building

If you want to have a fort night, you gotta build a fort, right? So get creative and make one out of anything you can find – blankets, pillows, sheets, tents – anything!

The only RULE is that it has to fit all of your family inside it comfortably.

1



Here's some ideas:

The Super Fast:
Put a sheet over the dining room table. Throw some pillows and a flashlight in there. Done. 😊

The Gutsy:
Take all the chairs in the house, put them in a circle, and cover them in blankets.

The Black Diamond of Forts:
Pull a couch away from the wall, set up one heavy chair facing the couch, and used another chair to join the two in a horseshoe. They stretched a fitted queen-size sheet over the top and secured it by the elasticized edges. Foam noodles propped against pillows and chair and couch arms kept the roof elevated. Under the sheet, add a sea of pillows on the floor.

2



The Kidstuff staff built a fort for a meeting the other day. It looked like this: *

Now once you've got your fort, everyone needs to go put on their PAJAMAS!! Cause when are you more comfortable than when you're in your jammies? So everyone has 2 minutes to go put them on...so, GO!!

3

Fort RULES:
Pajamas on? Good, now you can enter the fort. Once you're in there, it's time for the KIDS to decide the fort rules. What would make this fort a safe fun place for your family to talk? Grab your poster board/paper and a marker and kids you tell your parents what you want the 3 Fort Rules to be. Examples: Nobody can bring their cell phones, no name calling, 4



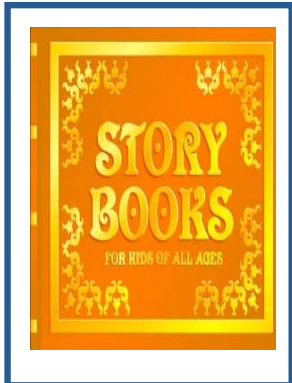
Extra Fun: Make up fun fort nicknames to use while you're in the fort.

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PART 2: Find-A-Way-To-SAY StoryTelling



This next game is called Find a Way to Say Storytelling. (see the Parents Secrets video at www.kidstuf.com/parents for hints on this game)

Story Options:

Noah and the Ark
The Three Little Pigs
Humpty Dumpty
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

To Play:

-Take out the bin of wacky stuff you pulled from your house. Have each family member pick out 5 things randomly.

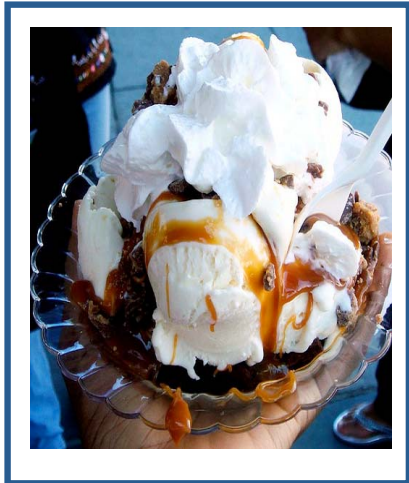
Now each of you has to take turns telling your family a story. You can pick one below or make up your own. But keep it short, we don't need a retelling of the Lord of the Rings trilogy tonight.

THE TWIST: You have to use ALL 5 "props" you pulled from the bin in order to tell the story. You can use them however you want - make them characters, use them for sound effects, but you have to use all 5. 2

TALK when you're done about how hard it was to find a way to say the story using the props you had. And then give each other family high fives for being super creative. Then Parents (more about this on the Parents Secrets video) talk with your kids about how you want to hear from them and that they can tell you anything. And that even if it's hard, or embarrassing or you don't know how to say it - find a way to say it. Find a way to TALK to your family. 3



Part 3: I Scream Sundaes!!!



Hope you're hungry, cause it's time to have some I-SCREAM Sundaes. Go pull out the pre-made bowls of ice cream out of your freezer along with all your sundae toppings. 1

Give everyone a bowl and a spoon, but don't add any toppings yet!!! 2

TALK about how every family gets on each others nerves. We know each other the best so we know how to push each other's buttons. This game is all about telling your family what frustrates you..or makes you SCREAM!
So have everyone go around the circle and say one thing that makes them Scream. Like "I Scream when this family leaves wet towels on the floor!" "I scream when this family borrows my stuff without asking" "I Scream when we're late getting in the car in the morning." 3

Hint: try to keep this relatively fun. Nobody needs to *actually* scream, this is just a way to vent in a funny way their frustration. (if it does get heated, see the Parent Secrets video for tips on how to handle it)



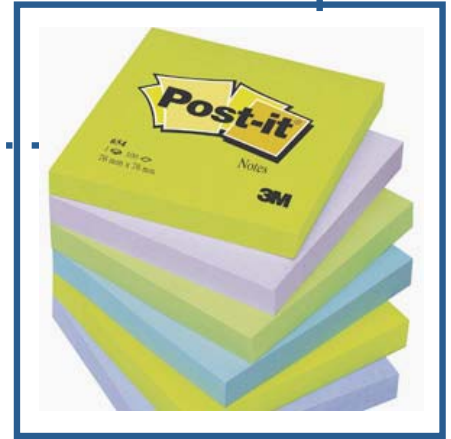
Then after everyone has "screamed," talk about ways that you could express that frustration in a healthy way. If you come up with a good one, you get to add a topping to your sundae. The more good ways you come up with to deal with family conflict, the more toppings you get on your sundae. 5

Then everyone start eating your sundaes. When someone in the family hits the heart at the bottom TALK about this: Yes, we are going to get upset at each other some times. We are going to want to scream. But we have to remember underneath it all - in this family there is LOVE. (aww shucks!) 6





Part 4: Hidden High 5's!!



This game is called Hidden High Fives. You should have a set of 5 post it notes (notecards) for each family member rubber banded together. Everyone grab a stack, but DON'T take your own. 1

Wrap it Up
TALK as a family to God about what you learned during Fort Night and the kind of family you want to be. Thank God for helping you build his big idea of family into your family. 3



Now grab a marker and your job is to secretly write 5 "high-five" notes to the person you picked. Things you want to tell them. things you love about them. things you hope for them. Then everyone take your 5 high fives and go hide them where only your person will find them. (ideas - hide them in their sock drawer, by their towel, in their car, at their chair in the kitchen)

Then meet back in the fort. You have 3 minutes, GO!!! 2

ONE MORE THING!!! We want to hear about your fort night. In fact, the first three families to send us a picture of your family in the fort will be featured in his next Operation Family Webisode on Friday night, June 26th. So send us your stories by going to www.kidstuf.com/ofb/stories. 4

