

Family Autographs

This activity will provide an entry point for individuals and families to consider ways families are unique, valued and similar but distinct from other families. It will invite families and/or family members to record or request autographs of family names as an expression of diversity in community.

Notes for the leader along with any needed preparations and supplies are outlined below.

Supplies:

- Family Autograph sheet (PDF file)
- Ephesians 3 reference sheet (PDF file)
- Pencils, markers or pens

Leader Notes:

Reproduce copies of the Family Autograph sheet for each family or family member. If you are including this activity in a congregational event, you may wish to complete this activity as you mingle with one another and share autographs of your family names. You might also enlarge the Autograph sheet, using a transparency and overhead projector and do this exercise as a large group congregational activity.

Individual families may choose to do this as a group or individually first and then share their insights with one another.

Activity:

Use the following guidelines to facilitate this activity.

- Suggest that there are obvious similarities and differences in families today.
- Refer to the first verse of the Ephesians 3 reference sheet as you introduce this opportunity to identify various family names that have been ordained and blessed by God, the creator and sustainer or caretaker.
- Distribute the Family Autograph sheets and invite children, youth and adults to record and/or acquire autographs of family surnames. Encourage people to add the family names of other people they know.
- Invite participants to take a look at the autographs on their sheet. What do the various names reveal? Point out that some names reflect their heritage, e.g., Scandinavian, Latino, Italian, African, or Asian, etc.
- Suggest that they will discover many other defining characteristics about families today.

You may wish to use the Leader-led prayer or blessing as you transition to other activities.