

HopeNET



Family Night Loxton Uniting Church

Posted on June 29, 2016 by hopenet

To grow in Christ in our families and with each other. Pastor Nathan Whillas

On Tuesday nights during the school term from 5:30 pm several families gather at Loxton Uniting Church for fellowship, to support one another and to worship God. The aim of Family Night is to empower families to nurture faith in Christ together. We believe that faith is best passed on by parents or care givers, within the context of a loving, caring family unit. As we come together as families, we aim to help start the faith conversation between parents and children.

As families come in all shapes and sizes, we have quite a range of age groups from new born to grandparent. This of course presents a number of difficulties. Where do we pitch it? I have come to the conclusion we are not going to hit for every age group every night. Sometimes it will be more for the younger children, sometimes for the older, and sometimes for the adults. There will, however, be something for everyone every night. Again the main aim of the game is to start the conversation.

A number of the families that come have experienced or are experiencing hardship in some form or another. Thus the support we offer one another on Tuesday nights is vital. Another simple but significant way we support families is through food packages that can be sent home if there is left over food from tea. Prayer has been another vital way we support each other. One night we prayed for a lady from the congregation, and all the children rushed to lay hands on her. This moved her deeply as she had been a help to all of these families and the children simply responded to her love for them.

The night begins with a meal together, which is usually cooked by Rebecca with some helpers. Just recently we hit a record cooking for 40 people, which was such a blessing! The meal is followed by a game with the children while tea is being cleaned up. When the dishes are done, we gather in the church for worship, which includes singing, a teaching time, and prayer.

When we gather for Worship we sing a couple of songs, pray and then gather around the Word in families. When we have our teaching time, we do it in a variety of ways. One night

we might have an activity to do in our families. Another night we might role play one of the Biblical stories, followed up with some life application questions. Another night Nathan might speak on a particular theme and ask families questions for them to think about and respond. And on another night we might have "Someone Unplugged" where we ask someone from Family Night, from the morning congregation or from the community some questions about who they are, their faith journey and what faith in Jesus Christ means to them. Although we have already talked about prayer, it is still worth mentioning arrow prayers ala Colin Buchannan which the children simply love. We pretend to hold a bow and arrow and shoot up a simple prayer to God. Common prayers include: "Thank you God for food," "Thank you God for Grandma," "Thank you God for flowers and butterflies," and so on. We finish the night with a blessing.

Although there are many challenges with such a wide group of ages, backgrounds and attention levels, we have seen God at work at Family Night. We have seen people respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have seen people grow in faith and in their personal life, and we have seen people reach out to others in love. We have seen people loved and supported through extremely difficult circumstances and this has given them space to make the changes they need. Overall though, we have seen a group of families come together and create a community of faith, love and support for one another.

Posted in [Around the Churches](#)

[permalink \[http://hopenet.unitingchurchsa.org.au/family-night-loxton-uniting-church/\]](http://hopenet.unitingchurchsa.org.au/family-night-loxton-uniting-church/)