



family joy

week one: immediate family

week one contents:

- **Inspiration questions**
- **Camera technical assignments**
 - o how to use the remote shutter & tripod
 - o how to pass the camera
 - o other tips for photographing your family
- **Photoshop assignments (these are for photoshop and elements users)**
 - o liquify
 - o head swap
 - o perfect b&w
- **A posing shot list**
- **What to wear resources**
- **13 posing cards (download link)**

inspire:

1. What do you do as a family?
2. What meals do you eat together as a family?
3. Where do you go as a family?
4. What brings peace and happiness to your family?
5. WHERE are you as a family most at peace?
6. What does dad do with each child?
7. What does mom do with each child?
8. What pets are part of your family?
9. What inanimate objects best symbolize your family?

get techie with it!

camera technical assignments for the week:

1. HOW TO USE THE REMOTE SHUTTER AND TRIPOD.

The only way I was able to achieve most of these shots was by using a tripod and a remote shutter release. Please see the welcome document for links to the actual products I used and suggested products.

Basically, I put the camera on the tripod, had the remote shutter trigger plugged into the camera. Then I staged my family (leaving the space for where I was going to sit).

My camera settings to achieve consistent exposure were:

- In aperture priority mode....with an aperture of 3.5 for my family (you may need a higher number aperture for your family...depends on the number of individuals in the shot and how you have everyone situated).
- I did a quick meter reading off of someone's face to get the right ISO. If you don't know what this means, don't worry about it right now. We'll talk about this more the last week. Right now, just focus on figuring out how to put your camera on aperture priority mode.
- If your camera is a point and shoot and does not have aperture priority mode as a setting, then put it on the portrait setting.
- I had my camera set so I could move my selective focal points.
Video link: <http://vimeo.com/19575643> . This really is helpful and key to a sharp focus for the photos.
- If we were doing an "action" shot, then I set my camera to continuous focus mode. Look this up in your camera manual. This is the best way to "track" movement as you're holding down the remote shutter release trigger.
- Here is a video from a previous class I have taught with more info on using the shutter remote/ tripod: <http://vimeo.com/19993684>

2. HOW TO PASS THE CAMERA

I also had my mother in law assist for some of the shots. Once again, I had the camera settings "fool proof" so all she had to do was press the shutter release (and I promise I am NOT calling my mother in law a fool...she's AWESOME!). I placed the focal point over one of our faces, had the camera in aperture priority mode to simplify, and then I handed the camera to my mother in law and instructed her to make sure when she took the photo, the focal point "box" was over the face I had originally set it for. It

was that easy (and she did a GREAT job).

Another tip is that I recommend having another person to stand behind the camera and get your children's attention for when you snap the shutter. This will ensure that they are looking at the camera. Perhaps consider swapping "photo sessions" with a friend – have them assist you with your kids, etc., then you do the same for them.

3. SOME LESSONS I LEARNED FROM MY FAMILY PHOTO SESSION:

- Make sure your kids are happy and feeling well. My daughter had JUST gotten over having a long fever in these photos. She was incredibly crabby – and difficult to work with. This caused a huge stress. If I didn't have to get the photos done for the class, I totally would have "rescheduled" our session.
- Pay attention to the lighting. We did outdoor photos on an overcast day. this was perfect! my other idea (if it had been sunny) was to do them about 1.5 hours before sunset when the sun was low in the sky. Midday photos are tough because of the direct/harsh sun.
- If you HAVE to do them midday full sun, then consider moving to full shaded area or to a covered porch.
- I had m&m's on hand for my daughter. Yes, she is chewing on one in most of the photos, but it is what kept her moving. Toddlers are so hard to photograph!!! The action shots are typically best for kids who want to be on the move.
- Because you are using a tripod and because your children WILL move....there are some instances that the photos will not be tack sharp. This is a hard reality for me to face, but I'm so thrilled to finally have family photos (no matter WHAT the quality), that I quickly have gotten over needing them to be totally perfect. I encourage you to just relax a bit. This is NOT a session for a client. You are attempting to photograph your OWN family without assistance. This is a hard task – super hard. Try to have fun with the photos. You have NO idea how hard my husband and I were laughing during these photos because my kids were being such creeps. We just had to look at each other and laugh over the rodeo we had going on around us. Remember....kids are kids.
- As a rule, I don't typically do any touching up on myself. Part of this is because I am lazy, the other part is that I really don't care if you can see my crow's feet, etc. Just wanted to throw this out there for you all, so if you look at my photos and feel that they are "not finished" you can understand that I'm comfortable with my skin/wrinkles, etc. You are welcome to touch up your own photos, but I generally just leave mine as is.

PROPS I FOUND HELPFUL FOR OUR FAMILY PHOTOS:

- A bench
- A chair (for daddy to sit in)

- M&m's (to keep my daughter from being a total punk)
- Tripod/remote shutter release
- The help of another adult (to keep kids looking in camera's direction)

photoshop/elements technical assignments for the week:

1. LIQUIFY (CHEAPER THAN PLASTIC SURGERY):

This tool is great for thinning out bodies/faces (I'm NOT suggesting that you do this...just wanted to offer it as an option).

Video link: <http://vimeo.com/29269553> the password is: familyjoy

2. HEAD SWAP:

I cannot even begin to tell you how painful it is to get a great family photo of my family without one of us clowns making a silly face. I have had to learn how to head swap on my photos to make it look like all of us are at least slightly photogenic.

Watch the following video tutorial on how to achieve a natural looking head swap in photoshop (the same basic steps are also applicable to photoshop elements).

Video link: <http://vimeo.com/29268218> the password is: familyjoy

3. PERFECT B&W:

Watch my video tutorial on how to achieve a nice black and white that isn't "muddy" looking.

Video link: <http://vimeo.com/29268498> the password to view is: familyjoy

Once you watch the video, you're welcome to download any of my free photoshop/elements action sets (that includes my black and white) or one of my lightroom presets here: <http://willettedesigns.com/?cat=19>

There are also literally hundreds of great black and white action sets and presets for sale on the internet. Just do a search on photoshop actions and you'll be amazed at what you find.

posing shot list

Here is a posing shot list to help you in your joy seeking. I always find that a shot list helps job my brain/ ideas. These are merely suggestions for you as you think about how you can capture your family.

<input type="checkbox"/> Eating	<input type="checkbox"/> With each child individually as a couple
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooking	<input type="checkbox"/> Each child with one parent
<input type="checkbox"/> In car	<input type="checkbox"/> Both/all kids with one parent
<input type="checkbox"/> On a walk	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoes all lined up
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Feet
<input type="checkbox"/> Snuggling	<input type="checkbox"/> Holding Hands
<input type="checkbox"/> Playing	<input type="checkbox"/> Tying shoes of child
<input type="checkbox"/> At the store	<input type="checkbox"/> Taking care of the children together
<input type="checkbox"/> In front of your house	<input type="checkbox"/> With family pet
<input type="checkbox"/> At church	<input type="checkbox"/> All laying in grass looking up at camera
<input type="checkbox"/> Dressed for church	<input type="checkbox"/> In your living room just "being"
<input type="checkbox"/> At a sporting event	<input type="checkbox"/> Wearing your favorite sports team regalia
<input type="checkbox"/> Tickle	<input type="checkbox"/> Praying
<input type="checkbox"/> Playing outdoors	<input type="checkbox"/> Silly faces
<input type="checkbox"/> Nighttime routine	

what to wear:

COLOR COMBINATIONS:

- We decided on a Brown and light blue color combination for our family (this way we could wear jeans!)....we are a really casual family (but I DO like to dress up baby girl).

RESOURCES FOR WHAT TO WEAR TO HELP YOU FIND OUTFITS.

- On facebook: wardrobe wednesday
- Google: <http://www.google.com/search?q=what+to+wear+photographer+sessions&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&aq=t&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a>
- Joyce smith's what to wear guide: <http://wordsmith-for-photographers.myshopify.com/products/what-to-wear>
- What to wear on pinterest (LOVE this site): what to wear posts

the posing card download file

I uploaded the posing cards to my ejunkie account. Please visit this link to download your first set of posing cards. You will have to enter your name and email address to access the cards. This file will be an instant download to your email address and will be a winzip file that you must unzip prior to use.

download the first set of pose cards here: <https://www.e-junkie.com/ecom/gb.php?c=cart&i=994211&cl=129974&ejc=2> (you will be prompted for your name and email address - this is for me to keep record of who is downloading the file).

There are 13 cards in this set...all centered on your immediate family.

Once the class is over, I will package all of these up electronically for your own "family joy" posing guide.

These posing cards include:

- Posed ideas
- Unposed/casual action shots
- Photos of the entire family
- Photos of just ONE spouse with the kids/kid