

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 1: God

Bible Basis: Genesis 1–2; Luke 3

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14: “May the love that God has given us be with you.”

Key Question: Who is God?

Key Idea: I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 1, “God”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passage from your Bible to help your child remember it. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile ideas provide interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. We can’t see the Holy Spirit or the molecules of hydrogen and oxygen in our water, but we know they’re there. What are some other things we know are real even though we can’t see them? (The wind, the feeling of being loved, etc.)
2. What are some things that you like about God the Father? God the Son? God the Holy Spirit?
3. What’s something you can ask the Holy Spirit to help you with this week?
4. What can we do to take good care of God’s creation? (Recycle, throw trash away, etc.)

Living Faith

Option 1

Help your child re-create the story of creation using video technology. Hang a black towel or T-shirt to make a simple backdrop. Then plan out the props

you can add to show each day of creation. Read Genesis 1 and 2 for inspiration. Some ideas are a flashlight or lamp for light, blue towels for water, a box for dry land, houseplants, paper cutouts of sun and moon, toy animals and people. Record each addition with your child narrating the words of God. Send the video electronically to share with friends and family.

Option 2

Help your child design a creation collage. Cut out pictures from old magazines and glue them into a collage on a piece of paper or poster board. Talk about each element of creation and the day on which God created it.

Extra Mile

- Work together to take care of God's creation. Talk about ideas for helping care for the land (pick up litter at a local park), the plants (plant a tree), the animals (donate old towels to an animal shelter), the water (learn how to reduce your consumption), and the people (perform an act of kindness).
- Interview someone about their baptism. Ask them to describe what it was like (where, when, how) and what led to their decision.
- Help spread the message of Jesus, just like John the Baptist did! Have your child create a drawing and/or write to explain what they have learned about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the Trinity. Deliver the message to someone who may or may not be part of God's family.
- Be sure to include confession of sin in your prayer time with your child. Explain to your child that sin is anything we do wrong that hurts God or other people. Try a simple “praise, confess, thank, request” like this one:

You are a great and loving God. I'm sorry that I sinned by ____.
Thank you that you will always forgive me. Please help me to _____. Amen.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 2:

Personal God

Bible Basis: Psalm 23; Matthew 6:25–34

Key Verse: Psalm 121:2: “My help comes from the LORD. He is the Maker of heaven and earth.”

Key Question: Does God care about me?

Key Idea: I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 2, “Personal God”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either recall the story listed above from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passage from your Bible to help your child remember it. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile ideas provide interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. David took care of his sheep and God takes care of us. What are some things you take care of? How do you care for those things?
2. When are some times that you are the most worried? How can Psalm 23 help you to not worry?
3. How can you be sure that God knows how to care for you, wants to care for you, and can care for you?

Living Faith

Option 1

To help your child remember today’s lesson and to assist with Bible memorization, take time each day this week to go over Psalm 23 together. This is a long passage, but it can easily be memorized when it becomes a family event. Stop your child often during the day and quote the passage or parts of the passage together. If you don’t feel up to that challenge, stick with the Key Verse from this week instead.

Option 2

Record a video of yourself reciting Psalm 23 on your family computer, tablet, or smartphone that your child can have access to. Throughout the day, encourage your child to watch the video and practice Psalm 23 along with it.

Extra Mile

- Discuss with your child the idea of “lost sheep” and how this can apply to people who are not Christians or people who make poor choices.
- Play hide and seek with your child. Take turns as the shepherd and the lost sheep.
- Ask your child what kinds of bad choices he or she sees friends make, or people on TV, etc. If your child has been making poor choices lately, now would be a good time to discuss it using this week’s lesson.
- Ask your child to brainstorm ways to make better choices. Pray together about it.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 3: Salvation

Bible Basis: Genesis 2–3; Luke 24:1–12

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:8: “God’s grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ.”

Key Question: How do I have a relationship with God?

Key Idea: I can have a relationship with God by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 3, “Salvation”

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. How do you think Jesus managed to live his whole life without any sin? (He prayed to God; he listened to God’s voice; he obeyed God)
2. How do you feel when you hear that Jesus died on the cross for our sins? How do you feel when you hear that Jesus rose from the dead? What does that mean to you?
3. God gave us a wonderful gift. If you could give any gift to God, what would it be?
4. What do you think your eternal home in heaven will be like?

Living Faith

Help your child re-create the story of salvation without any words! The wordless book is a popular evangelism tool that uses colors to represent elements of the gospel story. Your child may have created a necklace this week that uses colored beads in a similar way. There are variations on how to use different colors and their order, so feel free to make slight changes as you see fit. Help

your child compile (or color) sheets of paper in these colors and explain what each color means.

Green: God made the Garden of Eden where people could live with him in perfect happiness. Green reminds us of the garden.

Black: Sin separated people from God. We all have sin in our lives that can keep us from being close to God. Black reminds us of sin.

Red: God had a wonderful plan to bring us close to him once again. He sent his Son, Jesus, to die for our sins and rise again. His blood allows us to be forgiven. Red reminds us of the blood of Jesus that saves us from our sins.

White: When we believe in Jesus and ask God to forgive us, we are made clean again. We are able to have a close relationship with God. White reminds us that our sins are washed away.

Blue: God also gives us the gift of his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to always be close to God. Blue reminds us of the Holy Spirit.

Yellow/Gold: God has prepared a home in heaven for everyone who loves him and believes in Jesus. In heaven, we will have eternal life and friendship with God. Yellow/gold reminds us of our home in heaven.

Attach the colored pages into a book format. Practice telling the story of salvation with your child, using the different colors of the pages. As another option, recite John 3:16 with your child and make up your own set of actions to go along with the verse.

John 3:16: “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”

Extra Mile

- No matter what time of year it is, take some time as a family to examine your Easter traditions. How do you typically observe the time from Good Friday to Easter Sunday? Is Jesus the focus of your festivities? Browse the Internet for new ideas on how to keep Christ as the center of this holiday.
- Read with your family *The Parable of the Lily* by Liz Curtis Higgs. Pick up a lily bulb from a garden center and grow it indoors. Your children will enjoy measuring its progress as it grows!
- Many people in the world still haven’t heard the good news of the gospel. Do some research online or through your church about unreached people groups, and start including specific people groups in your prayer time with your child. Choose one day per week to pray that a group hears the gospel and believes in Jesus for salvation.
- Have a family movie night. Choose an age-appropriate Bible movie about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Make a snack, turn off phones, and enjoy the movie together. Make the most of any teachable moments that arise during or after the movie.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 4: The Bible

Bible Basis: Exodus 20:1–17; Matthew 4:1–11

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16: “God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true.”

Key Question: How do I know God and his plan for my life?

Key Idea: I believe the Bible is God’s Word, and it guides my beliefs and actions.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 4, The Bible

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. What would it be like if there were no rules at home? At school? On the roads?
2. What would it be like if everyone followed God’s rules all the time?
3. How do you know the Bible is true and powerful? (Jesus used Scripture against the devil; God is truth; the Holy Spirit inspired the authors)
4. How can the Bible help you when you are tempted to do something wrong? (God’s words remind you of what’s right and true so you won’t be deceived; the consequences of doing what’s wrong; how to ask God for his power to resist temptation)

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments can be a fun story to reenact with your children. Help your child dress up in a bathrobe to get into character as Moses. Find a safe place where your child can pretend to climb up Mount Sinai. Another parent can pretend to give the Ten Commandments

to the child in the form of a large book. Lead your child in reciting the Ten Commandments to you or to other siblings as they stand up on the “mountain.”

Option 2

Help your child memorize the Ten Commandments in a fun way. Quiz your child when he or she is least expecting it. For example, when you see the “10 Items or Less” sign at the grocery store, ask your child to tell you the tenth commandment. When you see a sign for a one-way street, ask your child to tell you the first commandment. Whenever you see a number between one and ten, use it as a great opportunity to make memorization fun.

Extra Mile

- Help your child begin memorizing the Ten Commandments by practicing this simple song to the tune of “Jingle Bells”:

Do not have other gods;
Or worship something fake;
Keep the Lord’s name holy;
Give God a special day. HEY!
Love your mom and your dad;
Don’t hurt or want or take;
No lies, no wanting what’s not yours
This is God’s great way. HEY!

- Help your child to understand the importance of having and obeying rules by making a poster together for household rules. Have your child help you come up with your household rules, along with consequences for not following them or rewards for following them. Explain to your children how each of these rules helps us to stay safe and get along better with our family members. Decorate the poster together, and hang it somewhere in your house where you will all see it.
- Your child can know God’s Word better by memorizing the books of the Bible. There are several different song versions available online to help in this useful task.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 5:

Identity in Christ

Bible Basis: Genesis 12:1–8; 17:1–7, 15–17; Luke 19:1–10

Key Verse: John 1:12: “Some people did accept him and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God.”

Key Question: Who am I?

Key Idea: I believe I am significant because I am a child of God.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 5, “Identity in Christ”

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. When someone is doing wrong, how can you try seeing them as a special child of God? How will this help?
2. God loves you just the way you are, but he also wants you to grow. What are some ways you'd like to grow and change as a child of God?
3. What makes each person in our family unique? What makes us all special?

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of Zacchaeus is a great Bible story to act out at home. Provide your child with a safe place where he or she can pretend to be Zacchaeus climbing up into the tree. Have an adult or older child pretend to be Jesus walking by and inviting Zacchaeus to come down and spend some time with him.

Option 2

Play 20 Questions with your child, where you think of a person or animal, and your child gets to ask questions about the person's or animal's identity. By asking questions about what makes that person or animal special, your child can figure out its identity.

Extra Mile

- Help your child to learn this week's Key Verse by playing Bible Memory Tag. Review your child's Key Verse several times, and then play a round of Bible Memory Tag in which you begin the game with the adult as "It." When you tag your child, they must recite the verse correctly. If they can, they will be "It" and get to chase you. When they tag you, you must recite the verse back.
- Help your child retain the story of Zacchaeus by reading the Bible story together a few times during the week. Have your child draw you a picture.
- Sing the song "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" together. You can find videos with lyrics for this song on the Internet.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 6: Church

Bible Basis: Genesis 15:1–7; 17:15–22; 18:10–15; 21:1–7;
Acts 2:1–41

Key Verse: Ephesians 4:15: “We will speak the truth in love. So we will grow up in every way to become the body of Christ.”

Key Question: How will God accomplish his plan?

Key Idea: I believe God uses the church to bring about his plan.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 6, “Church”

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. What would you like to do for a job when you grow up? What is the purpose of that job? What tools would you use?
2. How do you think God shows us his plans or how we can help achieve them? (He uses the Bible, the church, the people of God)
3. What is your favorite thing about being a part of our church?
4. What do you think are the most important things for people to know about Jesus?

Living Faith

Option 1

Make a simple treasure hunt for your child. Write out clues to hide around the house, leading to a final small prize. Tell your child that following God’s plan will lead to treasures in heaven. We won’t always see the whole plan but will have to trust and obey as God leads us forward.

Option 2

Have your child draw a picture of what they think Pentecost looked like, complete with flames on the disciples' heads. Glue pieces of tissue paper to the paper to represent the flames. If you really want to get creative, arrange tissue paper and tape it to a plain headband, and let your child wear this “tongues of fire.”

Extra Mile

- Does your family know anyone who speaks another language? Just like the disciples were able to communicate the gospel in various languages, you and your child can help spread God's love by learning another language. Use Internet tools or a library book to learn and practice phrases like “Hello” and “God loves you” in another language. Share them with your friends.
- Serve your family a “tongues of flame” dessert. Your child will enjoy helping you prepare this treat that will remind everyone of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the early church. Slice pound cake and lay flat on plates. Have your child help spread whipped cream on each slice. Slice strawberries vertically to create flame shapes. Have your child prop up a few slices in the whipped cream, with the narrow end sticking up like a flame.
- Learn the history of your family's church. Many churches have year-books or histories that include photos. As a family, look through these to learn the age of your church, how it began, and how it has grown or changed. Talk about what you are doing as part of the church body to help carry out God's plan.
- There are many employees and volunteers who help your church to carry out God's plans. Work with your child to create a few simple homemade thank-you notes for some of these people who probably don't hear “Thank you” often enough. Your child can decorate the cards and dictate words for you to include in a message of thanks.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 7: Humanity

Bible Basis: Genesis 4:1–16; Matthew 18:10–14

Key Verse: John 3:16: “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”

Key Question: How does God see us?

Key Idea: I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 7, “Humanity”

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. What do you think caused Cain to give God less than his best? Are there times when you are tempted to give God less than your best?
2. What does it mean to feel jealous?
3. Have you ever felt jealous of your brother/sister/friend? How can you deal with these feelings?
4. When other people do wrong, how can you try seeing them the way God sees them?

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of Cain and Abel is a very important story for siblings to understand. Sibling rivalry can be a very real, very harmful problem for families. Helping children to recognize these feelings early on is important in order to avoid future problems and resentment. Using role-playing activities can help

children to discuss these feelings in a comfortable setting. Have your children act out the parts of Cain and Abel. Have the children use problems that they really have in their own relationships in the role-playing. When children feel they are playing, they are often more comfortable with sharing their feelings. If your child does not have siblings, have them role-play with you about a situation they encounter with a friend.

Option 2

Play a game of “Marco Polo” with your child, pretending to be Jesus finding his lost sheep. The person playing Jesus closes his or her eyes and says, “Where are you?” The person pretending to be the lost sheep says, “Here I am!” while moving about the room. The person pretending to be Jesus follows the sound of the sheep’s voice to “find” the sheep and catch it. Take turns being Jesus and being the sheep.

Extra Mile

- Help your child memorize their Key Verse by playing Bible Freeze. Throughout the day, freeze your child, saying they must remain frozen until they recite the verse to you. Encourage your child to freeze you during the day as well, and you must quote the verse to be unfrozen.
- Use the story of Cain and Abel to reinforce the concept of punishment and forgiveness. The next time your child does something wrong and earns a punishment, take an extra moment to tell them that you are disappointed they did something wrong, but you still love and forgive them, just like Jesus still loves and forgives us when we make mistakes.
- Sing a song with your child and do the motions (see below) based on the words of Ephesians 2:8, sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”:

By grace you have been saved,	<i>(hold open arms toward heaven, then hug self)</i>
By grace you have been saved,	<i>(hold open arms toward heaven, then hug self)</i>
It is by grace you have been saved,	<i>(hold open arms toward heaven, then hug self)</i>
Through faith in Christ.	<i>(hold hands in prayer position)</i>
It is not from ourselves,	<i>(cross arms in front of chest, open arms)</i>
It is not from ourselves,	<i>(cross arms in front of chest, open arms)</i>
It is not from ourselves,	<i>(cross arms in front of chest, open arms)</i>
it is a gift from God.	<i>(hold open arms toward heaven, bring to heart)</i>

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 8:

Compassion

Bible Basis: Ruth 1–4; Luke 10:25–37

Key Verse: Psalm 82:4: “Save those who are weak and needy.”

Key Question: What should we do about people in need?

Key Idea: I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to people in need.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 8, “Compassion”

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. Tell me about a time when someone was kind or helpful to you. How did it make you feel?
2. Tell me about a time when you were kind or helpful to someone else. How did it make you feel? How do you think it made the other person feel?
3. Have you ever been in a situation where you could help, but you didn't? What stopped you?
4. Have you ever been in a situation where you needed help, and someone ignored you? How did you feel?

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of the Good Samaritan makes for a fun role-play. You may even need to act out the scene twice so your child can play the Good Samaritan and also the injured man. Prepare your child to play the injured man by wearing a

bathing suit or similar garment under some loose clothing. Use stuffed animals for robbers so your child can wrestle around with them during the “attack.” The Good Samaritan will need a container of water, a blanket, a bag of coins, and a donkey (use an ottoman or large pillow for this). You may even enlist siblings to play the parts of the priest and Levite who walked by without stopping. Talk to your child after the role-play about how important it is to be a good neighbor to the people around us who may be hurting.

Option 2

Your child can act out this scene with dolls or other toys. Provide your child with adhesive and rolls of bandages so they can attend to the injured doll or toy.

Extra Mile

- Children this age can be very fixated on the idea of what is “fair.” Create a small poster to help settle this issue when it comes up in your household. On a piece of construction paper, copy the following:

“It’s not fair!”

1. What happened?
2. Was it equal?
3. Was it fair?
4. Was it good?

When faced with an “It’s not fair!” situation, talk through these four points with your child. Remind your child that some things can be unequal but still fair (such as older children doing more chores than younger children). Some things can be unfair but still good (such as letting your brother play with a toy even though he took it without asking). Remind your child that, above all, God wants us to treat one another with love.

- Find a way for your family to help those in need in your community. Depending on your resources and the needs, this may involve visiting a nursing home to spread cheer, donating old towels to an animal shelter, or sponsoring a child from another nation. Keep in mind the idea that you are giving of yourselves simply because there is a need.
- Catch your child being caring. Keep some paper clips handy in your purse, car, or drawer at home. Explain to your child that you will add a link to a chain of paper clips anytime you catch him or her showing kindness or compassion. When the chain reaches a certain length (use your judgment), share it with your child. Explain that you have been noticing their kindness and have added onto the chain with each example. Celebrate with a special treat, such as a trip to the park, a movie night, or some other reward your child will appreciate.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 9:

Stewardship

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 1:1–28; 3:1–11; Mark 12:38–44

Key Verse: Psalm 24:1: “The earth belongs to the LORD. And so does everything in it.”

Key Question: What is God’s call on my life?

Key Idea: I believe everything I am and everything I own belongs to God.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 9, “Stewardship”

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. Why is it important to give to God? (It pleases God)
2. What ways can you give to your family at home? (Helping with chores, obeying parents right away)
3. Even though we do not give each other money at home, why is it important to give to one another with our time and energy? (It shows we love each other and God)
4. Why should we be willing to give? (Because everything already belongs to God, and he will make sure we always have what we need)

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of Hannah and Samuel is a great story to reenact to help children learn the importance of giving even when we may want to keep things for

ourselves. Explain to your child how precious baby Samuel must have been to Hannah after she had prayed so hard for him. While reenacting this Bible story, instruct your child to show the emotions that Hannah must have felt when she prayed and then the emotions she must have felt when she was willing to give him back to God. While acting this out, make sure to include how God used Samuel when he grew older and how it was a reward for Hannah to see her son serve God.

Option 2

Ask your child to be a “Sneaky Giver.” Over the next week, challenge your child to watch for ways to help in your home, giving of their time and energy without making a huge announcement. This will give you an opportunity to talk about how it’s nice to give of yourself just because you want to, not because you will get something for it.

Extra Mile

- Your child learned a lot about giving this week. As a family, brainstorm different giving projects that you could all do together. Start a coin jar or use the coin can your child made this week. Come up with creative ideas, such as can collecting, to help you raise money for your family giving project.
- If your child receives an allowance, talk about where that allowance goes each week (or month, etc.). If you haven’t done so already, talk to your child about setting aside a portion of the allowance to give in the offering at church or to give to another mission or charity project.
- Remind your child that, even though they don’t have a lot of money to give to God, they have other things they can give. Stewardship isn’t just about money, but about giving back to God with time and talents as well. Let your child use his or her gifts and talents to serve God in other ways, such as helping to serve food at the next church meal.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 10: Eternity

Bible Basis: 2 Kings 2:1–17; Revelation 4:1–8; 7:9; 21:11–22

Key Verse: John 14:1–2 “Do not let your hearts be troubled . . . There are many rooms in my Father’s house.”

Key Question: What happens next?

Key Idea: I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus will return to establish his eternal kingdom.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 10, “Eternity”

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. What are some things you enjoy now that you didn’t even know about when you were a baby?
2. What are some things you care about now that probably won’t really matter when you are in your heavenly home with God?
3. What song would you like to sing to God when you see him in heaven?
4. What do you think (name of a familiar person who is now in heaven) is doing right now?

Living Faith

Option 1

This week, help your child reenact the story of Elijah and Elisha. If weather permits, take the activity outside. First, you’ll need some Bible-era clothing. An old towel with a hole in the middle (for the head) can be worn with a rope belt. Elijah will need some type of cloak over the top of his clothes. Outdoors,

you can get creative with the Jordan River, but indoors two white or blue blankets will do the trick. For a fiery chariot, decorate a bicycle with red and orange streamers or ribbons. Indoors, you can use a chair with wheels.

Option 2

Use the Internet to look up images and information about chariots. Your child will learn some things about biblical history. Draw a picture of Elijah in the chariot of fire or maybe even wash the “chariot” (vehicle) in your driveway, weather permitting.

Extra Mile

- This week’s lesson caught just the tail end of the story of the prophet Elijah. However, the Bible has much to say about his life and ministry. Take some time with your family to refresh your memory of how God used this prophet. Read 1 Kings 17–22 and 2 Kings 1–2 over the course of this week or watch a good Bible movie or cartoon about him.
- The concept of eternity is a tough one even for adults to wrap their head around. Help your child understand the vastness of time by creating a timeline together. Look up the dates of important changes throughout the past, such as the first airplane flight, the invention of cell phones, or the exploration of the Americas. Mark these milestones on a poster and have your child add illustrations. Talk about how these changes take place over a matter of years, but God’s kingdom will last throughout eternity.
- Create a simple flip book called “Heaven Is ...” Look through Revelation 4 and 21 for details, and use your own imagination as well. End the book with “The Beginning” rather than “The End.” When your family or someone you know loses a loved one, this book will be a sweet reminder of our promised home in heaven.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 11: Worship

Bible Basis: Daniel 6; Acts 16:16–35

Key Verse: Psalm 95:1: “Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD. Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us.”

Key Question: How do I honor God in the way he deserves?

Key Idea: I worship God for who he is and what he has done for me.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 11, “Worship”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. If you were in charge of leading worship at your church one Sunday, what would you choose to do? What would your worship service be like?
2. God wants us to worship him by giving him praise and thanks, even when things don't seem to be going the way we like. How can we be thankful and offer praise even when we don't understand or like what's happening?
3. Daniel, Paul, and Silas were all punished for doing good. Have you ever gotten into trouble for something you didn't do wrong? How did you feel?
4. How do you think your family can include more worship time (or improve your worship time) in your week?

Living Faith

Set up a “Worship Scavenger Hunt” for your child to enjoy! You’ll need to write the instructions ahead of time and hide them in key locations. Each clue should instruct your child to perform some type of worship and then lead your child to the next clue. Hide a small surprise of some kind at the last location. Here’s what a sample scavenger hunt might look like, but you’ll need to adapt it to your situation:

- Clue #1** (hand to child): Welcome to the Worship Scavenger Hunt! Go look up Psalm 95:1 in your Bible to get started!
- Clue #2** (hidden in Bible at Psalm 95): We can worship God through song! Sing a favorite worship song. Then go look in the place where we keep butter.
- Clue #3** (hidden in refrigerator): We can worship God through prayer! Say a prayer to God, praising him for who he is. Then go look under the place you sit to watch movies.
- Clue #4** (hidden under the couch): We can worship God with poetry. Read this poem aloud: “Thank you for the world so sweet, thank you for the food we eat, thank you for the birds that sing, thank you, God, for everything!” Then go look in the place where you use shampoo.
- Clue #5** (hidden in the bathtub): Great job! Don’t forget to worship God from your heart every day! (include a small prize)

Extra Mile

- Have your child try their hand at being a psalmist. Choose a simple, familiar tune such as “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” or “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” Encourage your child to come up with new lyrics that make it a worship song. Enjoy teaching the song to others, performing it as a family, or playing along with toy instruments.
- Have a family worship time. In addition to worshipping at church and praying before meals and at bedtime, set aside a special time to have a family worship session. Choose a passage of Scripture to read aloud. Have your child recite memory verses or tell a favorite Bible story. Sing a few worship songs or hymns, perhaps incorporating some play instruments. Close in prayer, with each person praising God, giving thanks, or asking for a blessing.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 12: Prayer

Bible Basis: Judges 6–7; Luke 11:1–13

Key Verse: Psalm 66:19–20: “God has surely listened. He has heard my prayer ... He has not held back his love from me.”

Key Question: How do I grow by communicating with God?

Key Idea: I pray to God to know him and find direction in my life.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 12, “Prayer”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. Gideon understood the importance of prayer. Why do you think prayer is important?
2. What directions did God give Gideon? (To defeat the enemies) What kind of helpful directions does God give you when you pray?
3. Sometimes it's hard to know when God is talking to us. How do you listen to God?
4. What prayers do you say with the family at bedtime? At mealtimes?

Living Faith

Option 1

Go on a “Prayer Quest” as a family. People often make a prayer “request” when they ask for something for themselves. However, a “Prayer Quest” is when you actively seek to find out what someone else needs or is praying about, and you take part in answering that request if you are able. Encourage your child to pay attention at church when others make prayer requests, and then discuss as a family how you could participate in helping an individual with a specific request. Also encourage your child to pray with the person for their need.

Option 2

As another option, keep a notebook nearby when it's time to tuck your child in at night. Ask what he or she would like to pray about and jot those things down in the notebook. When a prayer has been answered, be sure to talk about this with your child during bedtime prayers.

Extra Mile

- To help make the power of prayer more real to your child, create a family prayer list. To increase visibility and interest, have your child help decorate a large poster board featuring the list. Let each member of the family add something to the list that is really important to him or her. Post the list where everyone can see it and be reminded to pray for these things each day. When an item on the prayer list is answered, have a simple celebration to drive home to your child the fact that God really does hear and answer our prayers.
- Try to emphasize praise and thankfulness into each family prayer time to help your child understand that praying is not just about asking for things, but also about worshiping God. Try structuring your prayer time in the Praise-Thank-Ask way to help your child start to learn the different ways to pray to God:
 - **Praise:** “Dear God, you are so good to me!”
 - **Thank:** “Thank you for giving us good weather for my baseball game.”
 - **Ask:** “Please help me to be more patient with my little sister, and please protect me while I sleep tonight. Amen.”
- Work on memorizing the Lord’s Prayer with your child, using this version (NIRV) or another Bible version of your choice:

Our Father in heaven,
may your name be honored.
May your kingdom come.
May what you want to happen be done
on earth as it is done in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us.
Keep us from sinning when we are tempted.
Save us from the evil one.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 13:

Bible Study

Bible Basis: Joshua 1:1–11; Matthew 13:1–23

Key Verse: Hebrews 4:12: “The word of God is alive and active.”

Key Question: How do I study God’s Word?

Key Idea: I study the Bible to know God and his truth and to find direction for my daily life.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 13, “Bible Study”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passage from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. Where should we keep our Bible? How often do you take time to read it?
2. Do you prefer to read your Bible by yourself or with other people?
3. How do you think studying the Bible together could help our family grow closer together and closer to God?
4. What do we need to do in order to really know God’s Word? (We need to study the Bible and pray for God to help us understand it)

Living Faith

Option 1

The parable of the sower is a great hands-on Bible study. Take your child to a community garden or local farm—or, even better, plant a garden as a family! Study the types of soil that you encounter, talking about how they would be good or bad for growing plants. If you are able to plant a garden together, keep track of the progress of your plants. Discuss with your child how plants thrive

in good soil with the proper nutrients, just like the Bible gives us the spiritual nutrients we need to grow in our faith in God.

Option 2

As another option, read the story of the sower and the seeds to your child, then help your child find an online time-lapse video of seeds sprouting and growing. Explain to your child how, when we study God's Word, we are like the fast-growing seeds. We grow in our understanding of God by learning God's Word.

Extra Mile

- Practice this simple action poem called "I'm a Little Seed" together, doing the actions as you read the poem aloud.

I'm a little seed hiding deep in the ground,
(Squat down and cover head with hands and arms)
And the sun shines, and the rain falls, and I pop up my head,
(Quickly uncover head and look up on "pop")
I reach up my leaves,
(Begin to stand and stretch arms up)
And I stretch up to the sky,
(Stand tall and reach up)
Now I'm a beautiful flower,
(Bring hands to sides of face)
Blowing in the breeze!
(Gently sway from side to side)

- Help your child practice the memory verse by playing "Bible Memory Freeze." After reviewing the memory verse with your child several times, throughout the day tap your child on the shoulder and say, "Freeze." Your child stays frozen until they recite the verse. Allow your child to freeze you throughout the day and require you to recite the verse. This will help your child understand that memorizing the Word of God is important to you as well.
- Explain to your child that sowing seeds of the gospel — the good news about Jesus — means sharing with others what we have learned when we study the Bible. Encourage your child to tell others this week what he or she has learned from the Word of God.
- This would be a great week to really focus on your family Bible study time. Use the *Believe Storybook Bible* or another children's Bible to discover some of the many great Bible stories. Help your child become excited about exploring Scripture by making it a special one-on-one reading time during the day, after a meal, or before bedtime.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 14:

Single-Mindedness

Bible Basis: 2 Chronicles 20:1–30; Matthew 14:22–33

Key Verse: Matthew 6:33: “Put God’s kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you.”

Key Question: How do I keep my focus on Jesus?

Key Idea: I focus on God and his priorities for my life.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 14, “Single-Mindedness”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. Sometimes our schedules get very busy, and it becomes hard to keep our focus on God. If you could take one thing out of our family schedule, what would it be?
2. What are the things that you think most distract you from focusing on God?
3. You’ve never faced an enemy army or walked on waves, but what are some scary situations in your life? How can focusing on God help calm your fears?
4. What can we do as a family to strengthen our desire to put God first?

Living Faith

Option 1

Using action figures, act out the story of King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah. You’ll need a couple of main characters—King Jehoshaphat and

Jahaziel—as well as some of the people of Judah and the enemy army. Use a simple shoe box for the temple, or perhaps a dollhouse or toy castle. A good way to reenact the story is for you to read aloud from the *Believe Storybook Bible*, pausing to let your child act out the various events such as “All of the people bowed down” or “He made the enemy army fight each other.”

Option 2

As another option, watch a reenactment of Jesus and Peter walking on water in movie or cartoon format. There are many short clips of this scene available on video-sharing websites. The power of the storm comes across strongly in this visual format.

Extra Mile

- Work on building habits that direct your child’s focus to God. Think of spiritual practices that can help you stay focused on God, such as daily prayer, Bible reading, and loving others. Write these ideas on a paper that fits inside a picture frame. The framed list can serve as a reminder throughout the week of giving attention to God. Give your child a dry-erase marker to use on the glass; your child can check off items as they are completed each day.
 - **NOTE:** This visual, tangible approach is a good way for young children to practice the spiritual disciplines. However, the goal as we mature in our faith is for these to become a natural part of everyday living, without having to keep a checklist.
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 with your child:
 - “Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus.”

Discuss how this verse was illustrated in the story through the actions of King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah. Note that they did not give thanks *for* the enemy army attacking; they simply praised God in the midst of the threat. Talk about how your children can use this approach when faced with challenging circumstances..
- Think of a time when your child showed single-minded determination toward a goal. Discuss this experience together; talk about the motivation and effort that were required, as well as the reward, for their single-mindedness. If you have pictures or artifacts from the experience, look at those as well. Compare that situation to what God is asking of us in being single-minded toward him.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 15:

Total Surrender

Bible Basis: Daniel 3; Acts 6:8–7:60

Key Verse: Romans 12:1: “When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping him in the right way.”

Key Question: How do I grow a life of sacrificial service?

Key Idea: I dedicate my life to God’s plan.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 15, “Total Surrender”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. Even though you haven’t had drastic experiences like Stephen or Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, what are some of the hardest things you’ve ever been through? Was it hard to surrender to God?
2. What does *sacrifice* mean? (It means to do something even when you don’t want to; it’s when you decide to do something that will be hard on you or that will cost you something)
3. What are some things at home that you need to do but sometimes don’t want to do? (Answers will vary)
4. Why is it important to sacrifice at home? (It’s important to practice sacrifice and service with the people closest to us; it’s a way to love our family well and model Christ for one another; it’s good to help one another in daily activities, even when we don’t feel like cleaning or doing our chores)

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of the fiery furnace is a great way to introduce the topic of peer pressure to your children. Peer pressure is something faced by children of all ages, and it is important to equip your child with scriptural tools to deal with peer pressure when it occurs. Review the story of the fiery furnace with your child, then suggest a role-playing game in which you play a child close to the same age as your child, who is tempting your child to do something wrong. Guide your child on how to deal with the situation and practice saying words that could be used to stop the situation.

Option 2

As another option, you and your child can play the “Secret Servant” game at home this week. See if you and your child can perform sacrificial services, such as making the other person’s bed or performing someone else’s chore, without the other person finding out.

Extra Mile

- Acquainting your child with sacrificial giving at an early age is an important way to teach them humility and generosity. Donating food to a food bank, clothes to a shelter, or toys for toy drives will give your child a hands-on experience in giving. When children give away personal belongings, it helps them to understand the concept of sacrifice and the satisfaction of giving to others.
- Sacrifice does not just apply to things. Often sacrificing at home involves sacrificing our wants, our time, and ourselves. Take time to point out to your child certain things that seem hard for him or her to do for others, such as sharing, participating in chores, or obeying quickly. Explain how sacrificing what they want in order to serve others is pleasing to God.
- During family prayer time, make sure to mention the importance of sacrificing our things and our time for other people.
- Play the “Secret Servant” game with people outside your family too. Perform sacrificial services for members of your community, neighbors, etc. Make sure the things your child does are actually sacrificial and a challenge. Surrendering to God’s provision is never easy, so make sure to stretch their comfort zone.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 16:

Biblical Community

Bible Basis: Nehemiah 2:11–3:32; 6:15; Acts 2:42–47; 4:32–37

Key Verse: Acts 2:44: “All the believers were together. They shared everything they had.”

Key Question: How do I develop healthy relationships with others?

Key Idea: I spend time with other Christians to accomplish God’s plan in my life, in the lives of others, and in the world.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 16, “Biblical Community”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. Think about some of the different roles in our church (pastor, teacher, singer, greeter, etc.). Which one do you think you might be good at when you’re older?
2. What did the people in the early church do together? (Eat; pray; share their money, houses, food, etc.)
3. What’s nice about being friends with other Christians? (They can encourage you, pray for you, remind you about God’s promises, show you God’s love)
4. What are some things you can do when you are having trouble getting along or working together with someone?

Living Faith

Option 1

Recruit family and friends to work together to tackle a big job. It might be raking leaves for an elderly neighbor or sorting the craft closet at church. Choose an activity that can involve your child and explain how this is similar to the Israelites working together to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem! You'll be teaching your child about teamwork and showing kindness to others.

Option 2

Talk with your family about how you are participating in community with other Christians. Coming up short? What a great reminder to invite friends over for dinner or visit and encourage someone who doesn't know Jesus.

Extra Mile

- Does your church support any overseas missionaries? Take some time as a family to learn about the culture and community where they serve. Find out what they are doing to bring the good news of Jesus to people in that community and to serve their needs. Write a letter of encouragement to the missionaries; if possible, send a care package.
- How can you help your child keep God at the center of his or her friendships? Before a playdate with a friend, talk about one simple way to incorporate your child's faith. It may be watching a Bible cartoon or making a snack that has a fun Bible-story tie-in. There are lots of great ideas online! It can be as simple as telling the friend, "Our family prayed for your (event or situation) this week" or talking with your child about modeling Christ by being kind and loving as they play.
- Sort through a closet, toy box, or pantry to find items that you can share with others by donating them. Working with your child, fill a bag and explain that some people might need the things that you don't need or no longer use. Tell your child that God wants us to show Christian care by sharing with others. Take your bag of items to donate to a food pantry, shelter, or thrift store.
- Youth sports can be a testing ground for caring behavior, teamwork, and community building. If your child participates in any team activities, lay out a few "ground rules" to make sure they are practicing Christlike kindness and teamwork. Ideas include cheering others on, sharing the ball with others, winning or losing with a good attitude. It's never too early to start practicing good sportsmanship.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 17:

Spiritual Gifts

Bible Basis: Daniel 2:1–47; Acts 3:1–10

Key Verse: Romans 12:6: “We all have gifts. They differ according to the grace God has given to each of us.”

Key Question: What gifts and skills has God given me to serve others?

Key Idea: I know my spiritual gifts and use them to bring about God’s plan.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 17, “Spiritual Gifts”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What is a spiritual gift? (Spiritual gifts are things God’s Spirit gives us the power to do; things we wouldn’t be able to do without God’s help; spiritual gifts are used by God to serve people and to show his love to the world)
2. Do you have a spiritual gift that can be a blessing here at home? (Serving, mercy, giving, encouragement)
3. What are some spiritual gifts you see in other members of our family? Are they the same as yours or different?
4. How can we practice serving one another at home using our spiritual gifts?

Living Faith

Option 1

Reenacting Bible stories helps your child to retain what they learned in the lesson. In this lesson, you can reenact Peter healing the crippled man. Review the story and then take turns with your child being Peter or the crippled man. This is also a good time to discuss with your child the importance of showing compassion to those who have a disability. Discuss ways we can use our spiritual gifts to be a blessing to others, including people with disabilities.

Option 2

To help your child develop a sense of mercy for others, ask your child to perform a simple task that would be much harder to do if they did not have the use of their arms, legs, or eyes. Discuss with your child why it is so important that we use our spiritual gifts to help others who need physical assistance, like the crippled man in the story.

Extra Mile

- Some children have a hard time identifying their own spiritual gifts. It is important to point out skills and abilities that your child could use to help others and to please God. Help your child make a list of things he or she is good at or enjoys doing, and then write out specific ways these abilities and spiritual gifts can be used for God and others. See Romans 12:3–8 and 1 Corinthians 12:1–12 for more on spiritual gifts.
- As a family, choose a volunteer project in which your child can use their abilities or spiritual gifts to be a blessing to others, such as visiting a nursing home to read or sing, or visiting a children's hospital to play games with the patients. There are many opportunities that can help to teach your child the value of spiritual gifts.
- During family prayer time, mention the importance of using our spiritual gifts to help others and to please God.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 18:

Offering My Time

Bible Basis: Haggai 1:1–15; Luke 2:41–52

Key Verse: Colossians 3:17: “Do everything you say or do in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Key Question: How do I best use my time to serve God and others?

Key Idea: I offer my time to help God’s plan.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 18, “Offering My Time”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. Why didn’t the people continue to build the city once they had started? (They got tired)
2. Haggai (HAG-eye) encouraged the people to use their time wisely and build the city. Do you think you use your time wisely?
3. What changes can you make so that you use your time wisely at school and at home? (Think about how to love others, serve others)
4. Jesus spent time in the temple learning more about God. How can you spend time each day learning more about God? (Read the Bible, pray, take walks and talk to God)

Living Faith

Option 1

Reenacting Bible stories is a great way to help your child retain what they have learned in the lesson. The story of Jesus in the temple as a boy can be a fun story to act out with your child. Start by reviewing the Bible story together, and then combine a game of hide and seek with the reenactment. You and your child can take turns being Jesus or being Mary or Joseph searching for Jesus.

Option 2

You and your child could create a Bible time plan together. Jesus spent time in the temple in order to learn more about God. Your child can learn more about God each day by following a Bible time plan. Make sure to explain to your child that a Bible time plan could include reading the Bible (or having it read to them), prayer time, and listening to praise and worship music.

Extra Mile

- To help your child better offer their time to God, it is important to teach time management skills. Establishing a schedule your child can be responsible for is a good step toward prioritizing chores and school-work. In this way, your child can learn how to schedule some time to offer to God. You can help your child do this by creating a schedule together and placing it somewhere highly visible so it can be reviewed daily. Use pictures or words to portray things your child does each day (such as brush teeth, set the table, make your bed, go to school, go to sleep), and be sure to add spots for reading the Bible, praying, and having family devotions.
- Learning to offer our time to God can begin with volunteer work. There are many local opportunities that provide ways for children to use their time to serve God and others. Make an effort once every month, or every few months, to participate in volunteer work as a family. Your church should have a list of organizations where your family could volunteer to help. The Internet is also a great tool for finding places in your area that could use some extra hands.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of offering our time to God and to others. Make a special effort to show your child that you take time out of your busy day to read your Bible and have devotions. The best way to teach your child how to offer their time to God is to lead by example.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 19:

Giving My Resources

Bible Basis: Exodus 35:4–29; 36:1–6; Matthew 2:1–15

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 8:7: “Make sure that you also do well in the grace of giving to others.”

Key Question: How do I best use my resources to serve God and others?

Key Idea: I give my resources to help God’s plan.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 19, “Giving My Resources”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What is a resource? (It is like a treasure; it’s something we own or have; it’s anything we can use to carry out God’s plans or to bless others)
2. Our family doesn’t need you to give us money, so what kind of resources can you use to be a blessing to our family? (I can use my energy to help around the house; I can encourage my parents or my siblings; I can clean up after myself)
3. Is helping at home the only way to use our resources? (No, we can be a blessing to others every day—at home, at school, at church, on the playground)
4. A good attitude can also be a resource. When is it hardest for you to have a good attitude? What other resources do you have to offer others?

Living Faith

Option 1

You can reenact the building of the tabernacle by first reviewing the story and then building a blanket fort with your child. You can pretend that pillows and cushions are the resources the Israelites brought. While constructing your blanket fort, let your child pretend to be Moses and supervise you as you build.

Option 2

Find Internet sources that show how grand the tabernacle was. Use this to point out how generous the Israelites must have been to give so many beautiful things for the building of the tabernacle.

Extra Mile

- Children love to learn about different ways to give to the church or to organizations that help people. When children receive a small allowance, you can teach them how to set aside a portion of their money. Ask your child if there is a specific ministry, missionary, or nonprofit group that your child might want to support financially. Encourage your child to give a portion of their money each month.
- Help your child make a list of all their resources. Brainstorm the many ways your child can give to God and others, and hang the list in a visible place in your home so your child can see how blessed he or she is!
- If your child does not receive an allowance, encourage your child to begin a change jar for a worthy giving goal and encourage all family members to give to the cause. Your child can be in charge of counting the money at the end of the month.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of giving our resources to God. Discuss as a family all the ways you give, together and individually, and make any adjustments you can to give more.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 20:

Sharing My Faith

Bible Basis: Jonah 1–4; Acts 8:26–40

Key Verse: Ephesians 6:20: “Pray that I will be bold as I preach the good news.”

Key Question: How do I share my faith with those who don’t know God?

Key Idea: I share my faith with others to help God’s plan.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 20, “Sharing My Faith”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. Tell me about someone outside of our immediate family who is a good example of faith for you.
2. Have you ever shared what you believe about Jesus with someone?
How did that person react?
3. What makes it hard for us sometimes to share our faith?
4. Why does God want us to share the story of Jesus with others?
(Because it’s good news; because God loves people who don’t yet know or love him)
5. How can you share God’s love with others? How can you tell them about Jesus? (Through words and actions)

Living Faith

Option 1

Have your child create a “Jonah diary” based on his three days inside the belly of the fish. You can use a video device to record your child acting the story, or your child could draw pictures and write a journal entry for each day on paper. Talk over what Jonah might have been thinking and feeling each day. On Day One, he might describe his situation and his rotten “luck.” On Day Two, maybe he starts to consider the error of his ways. On Day Three, he could pledge, if he ever gets out of this fish, to obey God no matter what!

Option 2

Role-play with your child some everyday situations that provide opportunities to share faith with others. Take turns being the “witnesser” and the “witness-see.” Talk through the situation before you act it out to think of ways to tie in the message of God. Some situations you might try are buying a Christian-themed book from a cashier, giving up your seat on a crowded bus, helping someone who dropped things, and attending a birthday party.

Extra Mile

- Pray together, asking God to go before you and your child as you share your faith with others. Understand that God has called us to share the good news of Jesus, but whether people believe is between them and God. Praying for opportunities to share our faith, and praying for people, makes it easier for us to share with confidence.
- Tell your child how you came to faith. Who shared the gospel with you? How did believing in Jesus affect your life? Were there many different people who planted seeds of faith in your life along the way?
- Sharing your faith means knowing what you believe in. Do a quick recap with your family of the lessons from the past nineteen weeks. Read through the Key Idea from each lesson as a reminder of these cornerstones of faith. Discuss ways your family has been putting each idea into action.
- In lieu of reading your child a bedtime story, play “Philip and the Ethiopian man” a few times over the next few weeks. Flip through a children’s Bible to a familiar story. When taking on the role of the Ethiopian man, act confused about the story and ask questions about the pictures. Allow your child to take on the role of Philip and explain the story to you.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 21: Love

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 18:1–4; 19:1–7; 20:1–42; John 10:14–18

Key Verse: 1 John 4:11 “Since God loved us this much, we should also love one another.”

Key Question: What does it mean to sacrificially, unconditionally love others?

Key Idea: I will try hard to love God and love others.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 21, “Love”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What is sacrificial love? (It means loving others more than you love yourself and being willing to give up things for them)
2. How can you show sacrificial love at school and at church?
3. What are some sacrificial acts of love that you’ve seen your parents or other family members do for you? How does that make you feel?
4. Is it always easy to show love to your friends and family? What about to people you don’t know very well, or people you don’t get along with?

Living Faith

Option 1

Reenact the story of David and Jonathan to help your child understand sacrificial love. The story of David and Jonathan is an exciting story to act out outside. You and your child can take turns being David, Jonathan, or Saul. To

add to the excitement, you could let your child use a stick, toy sword, or foam pool noodle to represent Saul's spear.

Option 2

To help your child understand sacrificial love, simple role-playing games can be used to stimulate thinking. Come up with different scenarios that would require sacrificial love from your child. How could your child show sacrificial love while on a family vacation? (Your child could let Mom and Dad choose the music in the car, or let a sibling sit next to the window in the airplane.) How could your child show sacrificial love in regard to chores at home? (Your child could unload the dishwasher even if it's not his or her turn; your child could help make a family member's favorite meal even if it's not your child's favorite.) Try to come up with specific situations that fit your family. Encourage your child to provide ideas or solutions to the scenarios that would exhibit sacrificial love.

Extra Mile

- Spend time as a family discussing a specific person who could use a little extra love. Come up with ideas for ways your family can show love to this person.
- Talk about the word *sacrifice*. Come up with specific, tangible things that your child and/or family can sacrifice to show love to another person or to God. For example, your child might set aside some of his or her weekly allowance to give to a charity. Or your family might decide to give up some of your "fun" time on the weekend to join in a service project or visit people in a nursing home who may need some cheering up. Let your child suggest ideas for sacrifice that he or she would enjoy doing, either alone or as a family.
- Spend some time making valentines with your child no matter what time of the year it is. Make and decorate some heart-shaped cards and write this week's Key Verse inside each card. Deliver the valentines with your child to a nursing home, a hospital, or to friends or neighbors. Spend some time showing the love of Christ to those around you.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of showing our love to others even if it requires sacrifice. Discuss ways outside of your normal everyday routine to live sacrificially as a family and how you might adjust to accommodate those ideas.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 22: Joy

Bible Basis: Nehemiah 8:13–17; Luke 2:1–20

Key Verse: John 15:11: “I have told you this so that you will have the same joy that I have.”

Key Question: What gives us true happiness and contentment in life?

Key Idea: No matter what happens, I feel happy inside and understand God’s plan for my life.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 22, “Joy”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What are some things that bring you happiness? How can you still be joyful when you don’t have those things?
2. What is something that makes you sad? Can you feel joy even in times of sadness?
3. What has God done for you that brings you joy?
4. How can you share your joy with others? Is it easy or hard to spread joy to others?

Living Faith

Option 1

Have your child take on the role of Ezra, reading God’s Word to the Israelites. Use a bathrobe or similar article as a costume. Create a scroll from two paper towel tubes and some paper. Though Ezra read from the first five books of the Bible, try reading Psalm 100—a short, readable passage that’s all about joy! Practice the reading a few times with your child. Then let your child stand on

a platform (maybe the steps to your house or a sturdy coffee table) and proclaim God's Word!

Option 2

Read Psalm 100 each day this week as a family. It could be at a family meal or even in the car. Take turns each day reading the psalm. After it is read, have each family member tell about something that brought them joy that day.

Extra Mile

- Pull out an old toy, game, or piece of clothing that used to be your child's favorite but has been forgotten. Talk about how your child obtained it, the feelings associated with it, how it was used, and how it came to be forgotten. Use this experience to teach about the difference between material happiness and lasting joy.
- During prayer, remind your child that although we sometimes feel sadness and pain, the joy that God gives us lasts forever. Read some of the Bible's descriptions of heaven with your children. See Revelation 21:1–5 and Isaiah 65:17–25.
- Look through family photos together and reminisce with your child over happy times your family has shared. Be sure to include pictures of when they were born and tell them what a joyful event this was for your family. If an unhappy image, such as a broken arm, crops up, look for ways to be joyful, such as appreciating how well it has healed.
- Celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth all year round. If you have a child-friendly nativity set, don't pack it away with the Christmas decorations. Let it become part of your child's regular playthings. An ornament with the word *Joy* can be a reminder for the whole family when it hangs from a cabinet knob or in a window. An angel proclaiming "The Savior Is Born" can be part of your regular decor.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 23: Peace

Bible Basis: 1 Kings 3:1–15; 4:20–25; Mark 4:35–41

Key Verse: Philippians 4:6–7: “Don’t worry about anything . . . God’s peace will watch over your hearts and your minds.”

Key Question: Where do I find strength to battle worry and fear?

Key Idea: I am not worried because I have found peace with God, peace with others, and peace with myself.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 23, “Peace”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What is peace? (Peace is offered by Jesus to those who believe in him; it helps us be calm and trust in him despite what we feel scared of or worried about)
2. Does our home feel like a peaceful place? What about school, church, or other places you go regularly? If not, how could you ask Jesus to bring peace into those places?
3. When do you have the most peace?
4. Is it easy or hard to explain peace to other people? How would you explain the peace of Jesus to someone who doesn’t know God?

Living Faith

Option 1

You can reenact Jesus calming the storm by allowing your child to use a bed or couch as a ship. Take turns with your child either being Jesus or one of the disciples. Make sure your child remembers the words “Peace, be still” during

the part of the story when Jesus speaks to the storm. Encourage your child to use these words whenever your child is worried or afraid.

Option 2

Help your child develop a sense of peace by creating a list of things the two of you can do together when your child is feeling worried or afraid. Your list can include things such as praying together, sitting and cuddling, going for a walk, singing praise songs, etc. Post this list where your child has easy access to it.

Extra Mile

- Some children have specific issues that bring them a lot of fear or anxiety, such as being afraid of the dark or dogs or making new friends. Pinpointing these issues and helping your child address them is important for their spiritual growth. With your child, come up with specific ways he or she can look for God's peace when feeling afraid. Some ideas include praying to God (listening to and talking to God), reading a favorite verse or story in the Bible, memorizing and reciting a memory verse about peace, drawing a picture or doing other art, going outside into nature, etc.
- Many families experience certain times of the week that are less peaceful at home, such as mornings when everyone is rushing about before school or work. Have a family meeting to discuss these chaotic times and to create a "family peacefulness plan," which can help everyone remain peaceful during stressful periods. Be sure to include your child in the planning. Listen to your child's ideas and validate them by including those ideas in the plan.
- With your child, use the Internet or some magazines to find images that make your child feel peaceful. Print them or cut them out and hang them up in your child's room or on the refrigerator. Looking at those peaceful images throughout the week will be a visual reminder of God's peace to you and your child.
- During family prayer time this week, remind your child that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Help your child bring fears and worries to Jesus. Spend time with your child picturing Jesus taking away those things and bringing peace in their place.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 24:

Self-Control

Bible Basis: Judges 13–16; Luke 15:11–32

Key Verse: Titus 2:12: “We must control ourselves. We must do what is right.”

Key Question: How does God free me from sin and bad habits?

Key Idea: I have the power through Jesus to control myself.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 24, “Self-Control”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What do you think is the opposite of self-control? (Acting impulsively; acting without thinking; being irresponsible, selfish, or self-indulgent)
2. How can you do what is right even when you *feel* like doing something else?
3. When do you need self-control at home? At school?
4. How do you think your parents feel when you lose control? How do you think God feels? (God forgives us if we are honest with him; he welcomes us back; he loves and cares for us)
5. How do you feel when you ask for forgiveness?

Living Faith

Option 1

Have your child (and maybe a sibling) act out the story of the lost son. The lost son will need some fine clothes to start off in and some rags to change

into once things start going downhill. Fill a small bag with coins to represent his inheritance. Build a pigpen out of couch cushions and fill it with stuffed animals! Have a fancy ring, some nice clothes, and a snack ready to welcome your child back at the end of the story.

Option 2

Have your child retell the story of Samson. Use two action figures to represent Samson and Delilah. A bit of string or yarn can serve to tie him up, and a simple tower of blocks can represent the columns in the temple.

Extra Mile

- We all lose control sometimes, but we can all be forgiven, just like the son in the parable of the lost son. Whenever applicable, include in your child's prayer time a simple request, such as "Dear God, please forgive me for acting without thinking when _____. Please help me to use self-control in the future."
- Play the "What If" game to help your child plan to use self-control. On the way to a playdate, ask, "What if Simon takes the toy you want to play with?" On the way to the doctor, ask, "What if we have to sit and wait for a long time?" Help your child visualize what self-control would look like in these situations.
- Recognize good self-control in your child by asking, "What was something you felt like doing (or not doing) today, but you chose the right thing instead?" As this becomes a regular part of your conversations, your child will start looking for opportunities to show self-control during the day in order to share them with you later!
- Help your child develop self-control through everyday experiences. For example, on your next trip to the grocery store, say, "We're going to practice self-control today. The game is to get through the whole store without asking for anything. When we get to the checkout, if you've used self-control, we can talk about one thing you'd like to have." Use this tactic whenever you foresee a situation that will test your child's self-control. You can practice along with your child by telling your child all the things you'd like to buy and deciding at the end on one thing to buy together.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 25: Hope

Bible Basis: Isaiah 40; Luke 2:22–35

Key Verse: Hebrews 6:19: “Our hope is certain ... It is strong and secure.”

Key Question: How do I deal with the hardships and struggles of life?

Key Idea: I can deal with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 25, “Hope”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What is hope? (Hope is wishing for something good to come true)
2. What is the greatest promise God made and kept? (He promised that he would send a Savior; he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin and to give us eternal life)
3. Do you always keep your promises to people? Have you ever broken a promise to someone? How do you think that made them feel?
4. Have you ever felt disappointed that what you hoped for did not happen in the way you wanted?
5. Why should our hope be in God? (Because he always keeps his promises)

Living Faith

Option 1

To reinforce this week’s lesson, try acting out the story of Simeon by allowing your child to use a doll, figurine, or stuffed animal as baby Jesus. You and

your child can take turns being Mary, Joseph, and Simeon. Wrap the baby up carefully in a blanket and then ceremoniously present the baby to whoever is playing Simeon. Be sure to stress how Simeon thanked God for allowing him to see what he had hoped to see for so long.

Option 2

Help your child create a “Prayer Hope List.” Creating and sustaining a spirit of hope in your child is important for spiritual growth and emotional well-being. Our prayer requests are often things we are hoping for. During family prayer time, review the list. Be sure to mark off prayers as they are answered to emphasize to your child that our hope is in God and that he really does always keep his promises.

Extra Mile

- Our own hope can be greatly encouraged when we help others make their hopes come true. God often uses others to answer prayers. Ask your child if they know something that a family member (a parent, grandparent, sibling, etc.) has been hoping for. Brainstorm ideas of ways your child could make this hope come true for the family member.
- Even if it is nowhere near Christmastime, you and your child can make a craft for when the season does arrive. Using whatever craft materials you choose, make an ornament to hang on your Christmas tree that says, “Our HOPE is in Jesus.” You could decorate this with a picture of the baby Jesus, or Simeon, or anything else you choose.
- As parents it is important to help children learn how to balance hope and disappointment. Discuss with your child the reality of not always getting everything we hope for. Explain that God has a reason for sometimes not giving us something we may be hoping for. Discuss specific times your child did not get what he or she had hoped for, and then ask your child to think of reasons why God maybe did not choose to fulfill that hope in that instance. Explain to your child that God loves us so much and that even when we do not understand, God is still in control.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of remembering that God loves us so much and that he always keeps his promises shared in the Bible.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 26:

Patience

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 24:1–22; John 5:1–15

Key Verse: Proverbs 14:29: “Anyone who is patient has great understanding.”

Key Question: How does God help me wait?

Key Idea: I do not get angry quickly, and I am patient, even when things go wrong.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 26, “Patience”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What does it mean to be patient? (Waiting for something you want)
2. When is it hard for you to be patient?
3. Who is someone you know who is patient? How can you tell?
4. Which stories in the Bible, besides David and the man who couldn't walk, show patience?
5. What is one area in which you'd like to be more patient? How can we make that happen?

Living Faith

Option 1

Encourage your child to build a shoe-box diorama illustrating the healing at the Pool of Bethesda. Gather craft supplies such as paper, pipe cleaners, fabric, craft foam, glue, scissors, and a shoe box. Use clear plastic wrap or blue paper

for the pool. Be sure to include the mat! Will your child choose to show the scene before or after Jesus heals the man?

Option 2

Make a 3-D picture of David taking part of Saul's robe. Have your child color a picture of the scene on sturdy paper, or print one from an online image search. Add interesting dimension and texture to the picture by gluing some pebbles around the mouth of the cave, adding a scrap of real fabric, or replacing swords with toothpicks covered in aluminum foil.

Extra Mile

- Teach your child patience by planting seeds together and watching them grow. You may choose a small indoor herb garden or outdoor flowers or vegetables. Follow the care instructions on the seed packet to provide the seeds with the proper amount of sunlight and water. Once you begin to see sprouts, you can have your child measure the plants every few days to track progress.
- Come up with a family theme song for times that challenge your patience. When you anticipate a long wait or notice your child becoming impatient, sing the song together. It will help take your child's mind off the immediate circumstances and be a reminder of the value of patience. We recommend the classic hymn "Soon and Very Soon" by Andraé Crouch or the more contemporary "Desert Song" by Hillsong.
- If your child struggles with impulsivity, play the "Silence Is Golden" game. Set a timer, starting with five minutes, and have nobody talk for that time. If someone breaks the silence, start over. Increase the time as your child adjusts to silence. This game works especially well in the car. Describe it to your child's teacher if your child has an especially hard time talking out at school.
- If electronics are taking over in your home, declare a screen-free day of the week or period of time. The constant stimulation of movies, video games, and online entertainment can cause children to expect constant, instant stimulation. Enjoy some slower-paced family activities, such as baking or playing a board game. No multitasking allowed.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 27:

Kindness/Goodness

Bible Basis: 2 Samuel 9:1–13; 16:1–4; 19:24–30; Luke 14:1–14

Key Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:15: “Always try to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.”

Key Question: What does it mean to do the right thing?

Key Idea: I choose to be kind and good in my relationships with others.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 27, “Kindness/Goodness”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. Part of goodness is learning to obey or to listen and do what is asked of you. Who do you obey? (Parents, teachers, authority figures)
2. How did Jesus show kindness? (He healed a man; he died to save people)
3. Tell me about a time someone showed kindness to you.
4. Tell me about a time you showed kindness to someone.
5. When is it hard for you to be good or kind?

Living Faith

Option 1

Sometimes it’s actually hardest for us to be kind to those closest to us. Help your child to remember to show kindness at home to parents, siblings, or other family members. Give your child one piece of paper for each person living in your home. Help your child write one kind thing to each family member and

encourage your child to give it to that person whenever they choose. Your child could give a note of kindness to Dad after he's had a stressful day at work. Or give a note of kindness to a sibling after they've fought over doing chores. Or a note of kindness could be given to Grandma when she is sick. Encourage your child to watch for signals that people in the family need an extra special helping of kindness.

Option 2

Role-play the wedding meal that Jesus talked about. Use chairs around a table in your home. Make one chair the “best” by putting it in a good position and decorating it. Provide another chair that is clearly the “worst,” maybe far from the table or a low footstool used as a chair. Take turns with your child dressing up as the groom. The guest can choose a chair, and the groom can move the guest up or down, according to the parable.

Extra Mile

- When it comes to obedience, it's easy to focus on the negative (disobedience). Help flip your focus by creating an obedience jar. Use a glass jar and keep lots of change handy. Whenever you notice your child obeying (immediately, joyfully), drop a coin in the jar. They will become familiar with the little *plink* and know that they have done a good job showing obedience. When the jar is full, have fun thinking of a good way to use the money—perhaps donate it or buy a gift for someone.
- Praise your child for acts of kindness and goodness that you observe. If you anticipate a difficult situation, such as sharing a new toy with friends who visit, cue your child with a comment like, “I'm sure Tommy will like your car too. That will be a great chance to show kindness by sharing with him. Imagine how good everyone will feel when you show kindness!”
- Make a “Kindness Jar” to encourage your child to perform random acts of kindness. Gather several craft sticks and write a simple “kindness idea” on each, such as “Give a compliment,” “Color a picture for someone,” “Help a family member,” etc. Put the sticks into a clean, empty jar that you decorate with paint, markers, or paper. Every so often, allow your child to choose a stick from the jar and carry out the action.
- Encourage your child to perform acts of kindness by being a “Secret Kindness Agent.” You may choose to use the same craft stick actions as in the option above, but challenge your child to complete these kind actions in secret, without ever being discovered. This will also help teach your child about being kind and good, without necessarily receiving praise or a reward for doing so.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 28:

Faithfulness

Bible Basis: Genesis 37–46; Luke 1:26–38

Key Verse: Psalm 36:5: “LORD, your faithful love reaches up to the skies.”

Key Question: Why is it important to be loyal and committed to God and others?

Key Idea: I can be trusted because I keep my promises to God and others.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 28, “Faithfulness”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What does it mean to be faithful? (Our friends can depend on us to do what we say we will do, to keep our promises, and to do what is right)
2. How is God faithful to us? (He loves us; he provides for us through family, friends, food, etc.; he sent his Son, Jesus, to be our Savior; etc.)
3. In what ways can we be faithful or dependable at home? (Doing our chores on time; helping without complaining; doing what we say we are going to do; keeping our promises)
4. How did Joseph act when his brothers did mean things to him? (He remained faithful to God and acted kindly to his brothers; he forgave his brothers) How did God bless Joseph for his faithfulness? (He made him a ruler in Egypt)
5. Can you think of a time when you have been faithful to a friend or family member? What about when you were faithful to Jesus?

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of Joseph is a great one to reenact. Give your child a very colorful shirt or coat to wear, and use dolls or other toys as Joseph's brothers. Joseph can pretend to forgive his brothers. You can end this fun dramatic time with a viewing of the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, which tells the story of faithful Joseph with some great music. Sing along with your child if you already know the songs.

Option 2

Visual aids often help children to track their behavior patterns and can be powerful tools to help change unwanted behaviors. Creating a simple chart to help your child improve in an area in which they need to show greater faithfulness can help your child apply the Bible lessons and replace unwanted behaviors with positive behaviors, such as doing chores, taking care of a pet, getting to bed on time. Help your child pinpoint areas that need improvement, and then use a simple chart with stickers to track this behavior daily. Take time to review the chart so your child can see their pattern of faithful behavior.

Extra Mile

- When children see faithfulness being practiced by their parents, it helps them to understand the importance of faithfulness in their own lives. Ask your children if there is an area in which you need to improve your faithfulness, such as making promises that don't get fulfilled, showing up late for important things, etc. Making yourself accountable to your children will have a huge impact on their personal accountability.
- Many people struggle with being faithful to a healthy lifestyle. Choose a healthy family activity that will get your family outdoors and moving around. Make a commitment as a family to be faithful to this activity once a week or so. This will not only improve the health of your family but will also help your child understand the importance of faithfulness in all aspects of our lives.
- Make a special promise to your child this week. Be sure to keep that promise, and use this teaching opportunity to talk about faithfulness—how God always keeps his promises to us and how he loves it when we keep our promises to one another.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of faithfulness to God and others. Talk about ways that you have seen your child model faithful behavior in relationships at home and outside the home.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 29 |

Gentleness

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 25; John 21

Key Verse: Philippians 4:5: "Let everyone know how gentle you are."

Key Question: How do I show thoughtfulness and consideration?

Key Idea: I am thoughtful, considerate, and calm with others.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 29, "Gentleness"

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What is gentleness? (Gentleness is being thoughtful and careful with other people's feelings, using soft touches and soft voices)
2. What are some things in life that need us to be gentle? (Chickens, eggs, babies, people, etc.)
3. How can you show gentleness with other people? (You think about your words before you say them to make sure they will not hurt people's feelings)
4. What happens when we do not use gentleness? (We hurt other people's feelings; we say mean things)
5. Can you think of a time when you showed gentleness by listening to someone who was upset?

Living Faith

Option 1

Your child can reenact the dialogue between Peter and Jesus. You can take turns with the roles with your child. Use this week's Bible story to recall how Jesus spoke gently to Peter—his disciple and friend. You can also ad lib with your child, imagining how Jesus spoke and how it made Peter feel.

Option 2

Play a game that requires gentleness. An egg toss or water balloon toss can help teach your child the physical act of gentleness. You can easily relate physical gentleness to emotional or spiritual gentleness. Playing games like this can provide opportunities for family discussion of gentleness and how to better practice gentleness in our lives.

Extra Mile

- Many families face challenges with speaking gently to one another. To help your family become more aware of how you speak to one another, you can call for a “Whisper Day.” Instruct your family to go an entire day speaking to one another only in whispers. Being aware of how we speak to one another is a great step toward treating one another more gently in general.
- Coming up with more gentle words to replace the harsh words your family members normally use when feeling frustrated can help create a spirit of gentleness in your home. Create a list of harsh words that usually are used in your home and brainstorm as a family more gentle words to be used in place of these. For instance, the words “Shut up!” could be replaced with “Shh” or “Be quiet, please.”
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of showing gentleness toward others. As a family, discuss times when others have been thoughtful or sensitive to your feelings. Pray that God will teach your family to be sensitive to others and sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 30:

Humility

Bible Basis: Daniel 4:1–37; John 13:1–17

Key Verse: Philippians 2:3: “Value others more than yourselves.”

Key Question: What does it mean to value others before myself?

Key Idea: I choose to value others more than myself.

Resource: *Believe Storybook Bible*, Chapter 30, “Humility”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What does it mean to be humble? How can you show humility?
2. Jesus washed his disciples’ feet. What are some ways you can serve others?
3. Talk about a time when you or someone acted with too much pride.
4. Why do you think pride is dangerous?
5. When is it hard for you to put others before yourself?

Living Faith

Option 1

Have your child re-create King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream by creating a shoe-box diorama. Use a real stick to represent the tree, broken in two with the stump in the ground. Add plastic or paper cutout birds and animals. Choose a verse from the story to write on a banner on top of the shoe box.

Option 2

Help your child write a pattern sentence. Use this simple structure to illustrate the difference between pride and humility:

When _____, instead of _____, I will _____.

Have your child fill in the blanks with a real-life example, such as “When my baseball team wins a game, instead of shouting rude comments at the losing team, I will go shake hands with them.” Repeat this structure a few times for a practical poem about pride and humility.

Extra Mile

- Jesus tied a towel around his waist to show that he was ready to serve. Make or buy a child-sized apron for your child and encourage them to serve others. You might be amazed how this simple change in uniform gives them the mind-set of a servant. You can even set a timer and say, “For ten minutes, wear the apron and see how much you can serve others.”
- Discuss with your child the difference between showing humility (a choice) and being humiliated (an accident or caused by someone with bad intentions). Explain that although *humiliation* has a negative connotation, choosing to show *humility* is very positive.
- One way to exercise humility is by giving God credit for our victories. Practice this with your child by imagining different scenarios that your child might experience (winning a spelling bee, helping friends settle a dispute, etc.). Compliment your child on their wonderful performance and have your child practice responding by crediting God rather than self.