





FAMILY CONVERSATION CARDS



LETTER TO PARENTS

God designed families to be the primary vehicle for nurturing faith in the next generation, with His Word playing a central role (Deut. 6:5-9). As parents passionately love God and His Word, and intentionally pass on their faith in a Word-centered environment, families become the primary place for discipleship. Join The Journey Jr. is our practical partnership with you in building Christ-centered homes. We encourage you to read together, personalize the questions, and share openly about your own faith journey, aiming to guide your children with authenticity and humility. Together, let's strive for the joy of seeing our children walk in the truth (3 John 1:4).

Praying for you as you lead your family,

Chris Sherrod, Family & Marriage Director csherrod@watermark.org





Welcome to the adventure of reading the Bible together!

Here's why the Bible is so cool:

- It's like a bright lamp guiding your steps (Psalm 119:105).
- It's like water that cleans you up (Ephesians 5:26).
- It's like a powerful sword for battles (Ephesians 6:17).
- It's like a mirror showing who you really are (James 1:22-25).

The Bible helps us understand God and His plan to save us through Jesus. It's totally true and never changes! Join The Journey Jr. helps you read the Bible every day. Talk with your family and Christian friends about what you learn and ask lots of questions!

Excited to have you join us!

Sean Hill, Watermark Kids Director







Grab a card.



Read the passage together (we recommend the New Living Translation).



Parents, ask your kids whatever questions best suit their age(s). Kids, ask your parents any questions that you have!



Discuss and pray!





WHEN TO USE THIS CARD DECK

These cards are crafted to guide your family through our church's journey reading the Bible together. The full reading plan can be found at **JoinTheJourney.com**.

What works best for your family is what's best—every family is different! Use these cards at the breakfast table, while out for dinner, during a devotional time before bed, or even on a road trip. The important thing is that you're reading the Bible together as a family!





While the questions are catered to varying age groups, different parts of Scripture will present their own challenges and blessings!

- Feel like it's going over your kids' heads? Try illustrating the message or main point with a story from one of their favorite books or movies.
- Do your kids think reading is boring?
 Take turns reading the passage in silly voices, try acting out the story, or even listening to an audio Bible.
- Want to increase participation?
 Give leadership away. When it's time
 for Bible time, who's grabbing the cards?
 Who's reading? Give each family
 member a job.





- Want a bit of a challenge for your kids? Pull up the corresponding adult discussion questions from JoinTheJourney.com.
 - Is the passage too advanced for your littles? Try telling them the story in your own words or using a story book Bible!
- Kids can't sit still? Make each day more engaging! What if everyone must balance on one foot while Dad reads the story? What if you made each night's reading time a game or competition?
- Do you feel ill-equipped? Try listening to the adult podcast or reading the adult devotional first before leading your family discussion.



JOURNEY JR.

Join The Journey Jr. is a daily Bible reading plan for kids that invites them to dive into the adventure of reading the Bible as they read alongside their parents! With shorter daily reading assignments, the plan is designed to help kids start forming the daily habit of spending time in God's Word and help parents guide them on that journey.

READ: Full Junior reading plan available for FREE at JoinTheJourney.com

LISTEN: A weekly podcast for kids ages 8 and under available wherever you stream podcasts.

CHAT: Use these discussion cards as a means by which YOU can be the primary spiritual leader in your kids's lives.





JOIN THE JOURNEY (FOR ADULTS)

Join The Journey (JTJ) is a daily Bible-reading plan from Watermark Community Church that invites you to read the Bible, every day, with us! You can jump in with us at any time, and we'd love for you to invite your friends, family, kids, and community group to Join The Journey too!

READ: Full reading plan, deeper study, and daily devotionals available for FREE at JoinTheJourney.com

LISTEN: A daily podcast for adults available wherever you stream podcasts

CHAT: Community group chat channels available through the Join The Journey app







- What if we get behind? No worries!
 Pick up where you left off or skip ahead to wherever we are in the plan.
- What if I'm not sure what we're supposed to read today? The full reading calendar can be found online at JoinTheJourney.com, yet we intentionally left the dates off these cards. What matters most is that you're reading together as a family—no matter what day it is!
- How long should each day take?
 Discussion time will vary based on family size, age of kids, and reading assignment. Expect to spend 5 to 20 minutes each day. Do what's best for your family! If you need to start with one question per day, do it. Doing something is always better than doing nothing.





Try reading the full chapter instead of the assigned portion.

Give your kids the opportunity to ask the family their own questions.

Memorize the weekly verse (found online and in the app).

Introduce your kids to resources like a concordance or Bible Atlas.

Periodically perform pop quizzes or milestone check ins for a fun dessert or a family movie night—what have we learned so far? How much have we read? Celebrate together!

Begin teaching your kids that we read the Bible for connection rather than completion. As they get older, can they read on their own first and then come together for discussion?



GOD'S GOOD DESIGN

READ Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31

"So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Genesis 1:27



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Who made YOU?

What else did God make?

LEVEL 2

What does today's reading teach you about God?

Why are people important?

LEVEL 3

What do the scriptures teach about marriage and gender? Does this align with what you hear at school or online? Explain.

What does being made in the image of God teach you about the sanctity of life?



THE SOLUTION FOR SIN WILL COME

READ Genesis 2:20-25; 3:1-15

"And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Genesis 3:15





LEVEL 1

Who is the enemy in the story?

Who will win in the end?

LEVEL 2

Draw a picture describing what will happen to the snake!

Who is the child that's coming and will crush the serpent?

LEVEL 3

What do you focus on when life seems like it is taking a turn for the worse? Do you think about the redemption we have in Jesus?

How can we live today with hope for the future?



OBEDIENCE IN ACTION

READ Genesis 6:11-13; 7:6-16; 9:11-15

"When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life."

Genesis 9:14-15



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What did God put in the sky?

What does the rainbow remind us of?

LEVEL 2

Who helps us obey God when we are asked to do something?

What are some challenges in your life that God is helping you through?

LEVEL 3

What does this passage mean for you today? What does it mean for the future?

What have been some consequences as a result of people denying the worldwide flood?



WHERE DO LANGUAGES COME FROM?

READ Genesis 11:1-9

"That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world."

Genesis 11:9





LEVEL 1

Who did the people want to be like?

What did God do?

LEVEL 2

What do you think would have happened if God had not intervened?

Describe a time when God or a parent intervened to protect you.

LEVEL 3

How are humans acting like this today? What do you think will happen as a result of man's prideful desire for autonomy?

What does this passage teach you about God's sovereignty over everything?



HOW WERE PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT SAVED?

READ Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-6, 12-18

"And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith."

Genesis 15:6





LEVEL 1

How did Abraham trust God?

Do you know the song about father Abraham? If not, ask mom or dad to look it up. Sing it together!

LEVEL 2

What does it look like for you to have faith in God?

Can we earn righteousness on our own?

LEVEL 3

How do you think faith and action work together?

How was Abraham's faith radical/ counter-cultural? How can we have similar faith today?



GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM

READ Genesis 17:1-14

"What's more, I am changing your name.
It will no longer be Abram. Instead,
you will be called Abraham, for you
will be the father of many nations."

Genesis 17:5



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

How did your parents pick your name? Ask a parent.

How do you think Abraham reacted to this promise?

LEVEL 2

Why did God change Abraham's name? Why are names important?

What does God make promises about? How can you trust God today?

LEVEL 3

What do you think generational faithfulness mean? What does this have to do with Abraham?

How can you be faithful with your children or pass your faith on to others?



OBEDIENCE CAN BE SCARY, BUT IT IS GOOD

READ Genesis 22:1-19

"'Don't lay a hand on the boy!' the angel said. 'Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.' Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son."

Genesis 22:12-13



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What animal is in the story? What sound does it make?

How did Abraham trust God?

LEVEL 2

Why was Abraham confused by God's request? How do you think you would have felt?

How do you see God fulfilling His promises in this passage? How does this encourage you?

LEVEL 3

How do you respond when God asks something that feels confusing?

How does this story foreshadow Jesus's coming?



TWO NATIONS!

READ Genesis 25:21-34

"And the Lord said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.' And the Lord said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."

Genesis 25:23





LEVEL 1

What is the mom's name in the story?

Is the mom having one baby or two?

LEVEL 2

What did the Lord promise Rebekah?

Describe a time when you really wanted God to answer your prayer.

LEVEL 3

Do you know what a birthright is? If not, look it up. What's a modern day equivalent?

Have you ever felt like one of the brothers? Explain.



GOD SEES THE FULL PICTURE

READ Genesis 37:3-5, 18-28; 39:21-23

"So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt."

Genesis 37:28



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What is happening in the story? How do you think Joseph feels?

Why did Joseph's brothers not like him?

LEVEL 2

Have you ever related to how the brothers felt?

What does God say about jealousy? What should the brothers have done?

LEVEL 3

Are you going through a time in your life where you feel wronged? How can you respond rightly?

How can we have confidence in God in times like this?



GOD CAN EVEN USE BAD THINGS FOR GOOD!

READ Genesis 41:14-15, 28-30, 37-40; 43:1-2; 45:1-11

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people."

Genesis 50:20





LEVEL 1

How do you think the brothers felt about being forgiven? How would you feel?

Why did Joseph forgive his brothers?

LEVEL 2

Have you ever sinned and saw God redeem the situation?

How can you extend grace like this to others today?

LEVEL 3

How has Christ extended grace to you?

Why is it so rare for people to act like this? How can Joseph do this?



FEAR GOD, NOT MAN

READ Exodus 1:6-22

"But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king's orders. They allowed the boys to live, too."

Exodus 1:17



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What was the king's plan? Why?

Act it out. Perform a play and pretend to save the boys from the king.

LEVEL 2

Why did the midwives not listen to the king? What were they risking in not obeying?

Do you think you have this kind of courage? If not, how can you?

LEVEL 3

How can we grow our fear of God to where we fear man less?

How can we have confidence and obey God when we have no promise of earthly reward?



GOD LISTENS TO US

READ Exodus 2:2-10, 23-25

"God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act."

Exodus 2:24-25





LEVEL 1

What did God hear? If you get really really quiet, what do you hear? Try it.

What did God remember?

LEVEL 2

What did God promise Abraham?

How should we wait patiently for things God has promised us?

LEVEL 3

Why did God wait so long to act?

How can you trust God when you don't see things working out the way you want?



WHO IS GOD?

READ Exodus 3:2-15

"God replied to Moses, 'I am who I am. Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you."

Exodus 3:14



LEVEL 1

How does God approach Moses? How would you have felt?

Why does God talk to Moses?

LEVEL 2

Why might God have called Himself by "I AM"?

Do you think Moses ever expected to talk with God? How do you talk with God? Does that need to change?

LEVEL 3

What do you think Moses's perspective of God was like up to this point?

How can we respond when God shakes up our plan for our lives?



GOD IS BIGGER THAN OUR DOUBTS

READ Exodus 5:1-2; 6:1-13

"I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt."

Exodus 6:7



LEVEL 1

Have your parents written your name on any of your stuff? Why? Who is God claiming as His own?

What is God's promise to Moses? How did he respond?

LEVEL 2

What did God want the people to know?

Have you been claimed by God? How is this even possible?

LEVEL 3

Why does God say that the Israelites will know He is their God after He claims them?

Has God claimed you? How do you know based on Scripture?



GOD HAS POWER OVER EVERYTHING

READ Exodus 7:1-5, 10-22; 8:1-4, 16-17, 21-23

"But when Pharaoh saw that the rain, hail, and thunder had stopped, he and his officials sinned again, and Pharaoh again became stubborn."

Exodus 9:34





Is Pharaoh stubborn a lot?

What did Pharaoh see? What sounds do those things make?

LEVEL 2

How do you see God's power in the story?

Describe a time when you were stubborn.

LEVEL 3

Is Pharaoh stubborn in suffering or afterward? What do you think this means?

What is your relationship with God currently like? How can you grow in obedience?



SAVED BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

READ Exodus 11:1-8; 12:21-29

"For the Lord will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the Lord will pass over your home. He will not permit his death angel to enter your house and strike you down."

Exodus 12:23





What did God tell the Israelites to do?

How is God protecting them?

LEVEL 2

What would have happened if the Israelites had not listened to God?

How can we listen to God in our lives today?

LEVEL 3

How does this passage point to Jesus? What other important "pass over" do you know of?

How can you trust God's promises and take Him at His word today?



GOD PROVIDES A WAY OUT

READ Exodus 13:21-22; 14:13-31

"But Moses told the people, 'Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm."

Exodus 14:13-14





Why were the Israelites scared? Would you have been?

How did God rescue the Israelites?

LEVEL 2

Would you have trusted Moses and God and stayed calm?

Describe a time when you were afraid. What did you do?

LEVEL 3

How is God asking you to trust Him today? Are you remaining calm?

What does it mean that God fought for his people?



GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE

READ Exodus 16:4-12; 19:1-9

"'And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."

Exodus 19:6



LEVEL 1

What does God call the nation of Israel?

Do you know what a priest is? Ask a grown up for help.

LEVEL 2

Read 1 Peter 2:9. Who is Peter talking about? How is this similar to today's key verse?

Why did God want Israel to be set apart?

LEVEL 3

Who is our high priest? How does He help us to be priests unto God?

God wanted Israel to be set apart so others would ask about Him. What does it mean to be set apart today?



GOD GIVES ISRAEL THE LAW

READ Exodus 20:2-17; 21:1; 22:5-6

"You must not have any other god but me."

Exodus 20:3



LEVEL 1

What are some of your favorite things?

Do they ever distract you from obeying God or your parents?

LEVEL 2

What is God's main concern for us? Why?

Are you giving God your whole heart? What may be holding you back from Him?

LEVEL 3

A. W. Tozer one said that "what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." How would you describe God?

What was the result when the Israelites worshiped other gods? What happens when we fall into that temptation?



GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

READ Exodus 23:20-22, 25-32; 24:1-8

"Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it aloud to the people. Again they all responded, 'We will do everything the Lord has commanded. We will obey.'"

Exodus 24:7



LEVEL 1

Ask a grown up to read today's key verse in a silly voice.

Did the Israelites always obey God? If not, why didn't they?

LEVEL 2

What are some of the instructions in the 10 Commandments? Can you obey all of them?

Do you think the Israelites are being too self confident? Have you ever been this way?

LEVEL 3

How have you ever had false expectations of your own performance?

What did God do, knowing that the Israelites would never be perfect on their own?



GOD'S PLACE WITH HIS PEOPLE & THE LEADERS OF HIS PEOPLE

READ Exodus 25:1-9; 26:30-36; 29:35-37, 42-46

"Then I will live among the people of Israel and be their God."

Exodus 29:45





Where was God going to live?

Would you have liked to live back then?

LEVEL 2

How is God with us today? How was this made possible?

Read Exodus 29:46. Why is it meaningful?

LEVEL 3

Read Exodus 29:44. What do you think being consecrated means? Why is it important?

What does this passage teach you about holiness?



THE GOLDEN CALF

READ Exodus 32:1-20

"How quickly they have turned away from the way I commanded them to live! They have melted down gold and made a calf, and they have bowed down and sacrificed to it. They are saying, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt."

Exodus 32:8



LEVEL 1

Why is God upset?

What animal was the idol made into? What sound does that animal make?

LEVEL 2

What happens as a result of the Israelites' disobedience?

Why did Aaron go along? What does God think about this? Do you ever try to excuse sin?

LEVEL 3

What are our "cow statues" that we turn to instead of God?

Does God need to destroy any idols in your life today? How can you turn to Him instead of things that don't last?



ONLY THOSE WHO WERE PURE COULD ENTER

READ Exodus 40:34-38; Leviticus 1:1-9; 2:1-3; 3:1-5

"Moses could no longer enter the Tabernacle because the cloud had settled down over it, and the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle."

Exodus 40:35



LEVEL 1

What filled the tabernacle?

Could Moses enter the tabernacle?

LEVEL 2

Have a family competition. Try building your own tabernacle replicas using art supplies or blocks. Ask a parent to look up a picture.

What was the difference between Moses and God?

LEVEL 3

Describe the significance of the tabernacle back in Exodus, then read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. How important is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit today?

What does this passage teach you about how God views history?



ALL SIN COMES WITH A COST

READ Leviticus 4:1-2, 27-31; 5:17-19

"Remember, it must never be prepared with yeast. I have given it to the priests as their share of the special gifts presented to me. Like the sin offering and the guilt offering, it is most holy."

Leviticus 6:17



LEVEL 1

Have you ever gotten a special present before? What was it?

What kind of offerings did God want?

LEVEL 2

Why is God so specific when it comes to offerings?

How is asking forgiveness of God different today? Do you need to ask God for forgiveness?

LEVEL 3

How do you think the Israelites viewed sin because of these sacrifices?

How can you be more serious about asking God for forgiveness today?



HOW TO BECOME A PRIEST!

READ Leviticus 8:1-15, 27-36

"Everything we have done today was commanded by the Lord in order to purify you, making you right with him."

Leviticus 8:34





What did God want the priests to do?

Do you think being a priest was easy?

LEVEL 2

Why did the priests need to be right with God?

Can you be right with God on your own? What is your relationship like with God?

LEVEL 3

How is Jesus our high priest? How is what He did different and more lasting?

How does the Holy Spirit help us follow God's commands today?



THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

READ Leviticus 16:6-22, 34

"On that day offerings of purification will be made for you, and you will be purified in the Lord's presence from all your sins."

Leviticus 16:30



LEVEL 1

What animals are mentioned in the story? Who can make the best animal noises?

Are there any words in the story you don't know? Ask a parent for help.

LEVEL 2

List all the animals mentioned in the story.

How was atonement in the Old Testament different than it is in the New Testament?

LEVEL 3

Do you try to do things to become right with God? How can you grow in dependency on Him?

In your own words, explain what atonement means.



THE WAY GOD'S PEOPLE WERE TO LIVE

READ Leviticus 19:1-19

"Give the following instructions to the entire community of Israel. 'You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.'"

Leviticus 19:2





Who is holy?

Take turns pretending to give instructions to Israel.

LEVEL 2

What do you think holiness means?

How can you grow in holiness today?

LEVEL 3

How do you think the Israelites responded to this command? How would you have?

How can we, as believers, become holy? Are you listening to the Holy Spirit as He purifies you?





CONSEQUENCES FOR DISOBEDIENCE

READ Leviticus 26:3-24

"However, if you do not listen to me or obey all these commands, and if you break my covenant by rejecting my decrees, treating my regulations with contempt, and refusing to obey my commands, I will punish you."

Leviticus 26:14-16a





Why is God warning the Israelites?

Why is listening to God so important?

LEVEL 2

Play a game of telephone as a family. Who's the best listener?

Did the Israelites listen to God? If not, what happened?

LEVEL 3

Has there been a time in your life when you didn't listen to God? What was the consequence?

How can you take steps to obey God's warnings?



WHO WERE THE PRIESTS AND THE LEVITES?

READ Numbers 1:1-5, 16-19; 3:5-13

"And the Lord said to Moses, 'Look, I have chosen the Levites from among the Israelites to serve as substitutes for all the firstborn sons of the people of Israel. The Levites belong to me, for all the firstborn males are mine. On the day I struck down all the firstborn sons of the Egyptians, I set apart for myself all the firstborn in Israel, both of people and of animals. They are mine; I am the Lord."

Numbers 3:11-12



LEVEL 1

Who did God set apart for Himself?

What does the word firstborn mean? Who is the firstborn in your family?

LEVEL 2

Do you remember all the plagues from the Exodus story? See who can remember the most!

Who does God say belongs to Him now? What does it look like for you to be claimed by God?

LEVEL 3

What is a substitute?

What is your attitude toward the book of Numbers? Pray and ask God to correct it if necessary.



GOD TAKES CARE OF OUR NEEDS

READ Numbers 9:15-23; 11:1-6, 10-15, 18-20, 31-33

"Soon the people began to complain about their hardship, and the Lord heard everything they said. Then the Lord's anger blazed against them, and he sent a fire to rage among them, and he destroyed some of the people in the outskirts of the camp."

Numbers 11:1





Why were the Israelites complaining?

Who can make the best angry face?

LEVEL 2

What do you most often complain about?

How can you fight a negative attitude with gratitude to God?

LEVEL 3

What might the Israelites have been going through for them to choose to complain? Do you relate?

How does God want you to go through hardship? At what point can your perspective become sinful?



TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISE

READ Numbers 13:25-33; 14:1-11

"But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. 'Let's go at once to take the land,' he said. 'We can certainly conquer it!' But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. 'We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!'"

Numbers 13:30-31





Who wanted to go into the land?

Why did the other men say Israel couldn't enter?

LEVEL 2

Which type of person do you tend to be more like: Joshua and Caleb or the other spies? If so, how and why?

Why were Joshua and Caleb confident?

LEVEL 3

What does healthy confidence look like?

How can you grow in trust in God instead of fear?



CONSEQUENCES OF BAD DECISIONS

READ Numbers 14:20-37

"'Because your men explored the land for forty days, you must wander in the wilderness for forty years—a year for each day, suffering the consequences of your sins. Then you will discover what it is like to have me for an enemy."

Numbers 14:34



LEVEL 1

What did the people have to do in the wilderness?

Why did they have to do it?

LEVEL 2

Do you think the Israelites regretted complaining?

Draw a picture of what you think the wilderness looked like. Then, ask a parent to google the Israeli wilderness. Who was the closest?

LEVEL 3

What did God want from Israel?

What does it mean to be an enemy of God?



THE PURIFIED CAN COME BEFORE GOD

READ Numbers 18:1-14

"But as the Levites go about all their assigned duties at the Tabernacle, they must be careful not to go near any of the sacred objects or the altar. If they do, both you and they will die."

Numbers 18:3



LEVEL 1

What was God warning Moses and the Levites about?

Would you have wanted to be a Levite? Why or why not?

LEVEL 2

How did the Israelites view holy things back then?

The Holy Spirit makes us holy. How can you listen to the Holy Spirit?

LEVEL 3

How do you feel about rules? Why did God give rules like this one?

What is something God is asking you to do? How can you take God seriously today?



GOD'S PROVISION FOR LIFE

READ Numbers 20:2-13; 21:4-9

"So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed!"

Numbers 21:9



LEVEL 1

What sound does a snake make?

How did God save the people from the snakes?

LEVEL 2

Did the Israelites deserve to be saved from the snakes? Explain.

Read John 3:14-16. Why do you think Jesus mentioned this story?

LEVEL 3

Have you ever been in a situation where God gave grace like this to you? How did you respond?

Read John 3:14-16. How does the Old Testament help us better understand the New?



REMEMBER GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM?

READ Numbers 22:1-12

"But God told Balaam, 'Do not go with them. You are not to curse these people, for they have been blessed!"

Numbers 22:12





Who was Balaam?

What was Balaam supposed to do?

LEVEL 2

When were the Israelites blessed by God?

Describe a time when someone asked you to do something that you knew dishonored God.

LEVEL 3

What do you learn about God's character in this story?

How have you seen God as protector in your own life?



A DONKEY SPEAKS... SAY WHAT?

READ Numbers 22:22-38

"'Why did you beat your donkey those three times?' the angel of the Lord demanded. 'Look, I have come to block your way because you are stubbornly resisting me."

Numbers 22:32





What sound does a donkey make? Who can do it the best?

Why was God blocking the road?

LEVEL 2

Who are the main characters in this story? What are their roles?

Do you listen to God? How can you better listen to and obey Him?

LEVEL 3

What does it mean to be stubborn?

How do you respond when God changes your plans?



YOU CAN'T BUY GOD'S FAVOR

READ Numbers 23:1-6, 11-12; 24:1-2, 10-14

"Even if Balak were to give me his palace filled with silver and gold, I would be powerless to do anything against the will of the Lord. I told you that I could say only what the Lord says!"

Numbers 24:13





What was Balak's palace filled with?

Who is the most powerful?

LEVEL 2

Balaam could only do what the Lord said. Play a game of Simon Says as a family.

What earthly things are you tempted to think are powerful?

LEVEL 3

What truth was Balaam clinging to?

Read John 5:19. What similarities or differences do you see between Balaam and Jesus?



JESUS IS THE STAR AND THE SCEPTER

READ Numbers 24:15-25

"I see him, but not here and now. I perceive him, but far in the distant future. A star will rise from Jacob; a scepter will emerge from Israel. It will crush the heads of Moab's people, cracking the skulls of the people of Sheth."

Numbers 24:17



LEVEL 1

Draw a picture based off today's key verse.

Who did Balaam say was coming? (Answer: Jesus!)

LEVEL 2

What is a scepter? If you don't know, ask a parent to help you research.

Can you think of any other Bible stories that reference a star? Who might this star be?

LEVEL 3

How does Numbers show us Jesus has always been God's plan A?

What does this story show us about God's character?



GOD GIVES LEADERSHIP

READ Numbers 27:12-23

"'Give them someone who will guide them wherever they go and will lead them into battle, so the community of the Lord will not be like sheep without a shepherd.' The Lord replied, 'Take Joshua son of Nun, who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him."

Numbers 27:17-18





Joshua was one of the spies who went into the promised land.

Play a game of eye spy as a family.

LEVEL 2

Why do you think God picked Joshua?

Do you want to be a leader? What does a good leader look like?

LEVEL 3

Why did God's people need a leader?

What skills do you need to grow in to be a better servant leader for Christ?



GOD'S BOUNDARIES ARE PERFECT

READ Numbers 33:50-56; 34:1-15

"Give these instructions to the Israelites: When you come into the land of Canaan, which I am giving you as your special possession, these will be the boundaries."

Numbers 34:2



LEVEL 1

What is a boundary? If you don't know, ask a parent.

Ask a parent to show you a map of your neighborhood. Then ask them to show you a map of Israel. Which is bigger?

LEVEL 2

What did God want the people to know?

Do you like boundaries? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Look at a study Bible or atlas. How much land did God give Israel?

Why did God make boundaries for the Israelites? What was His intention for them?



REMEMBER WHEN GOD PROMISED ISRAEL A NEW HOME?

READ Deuteronomy 1:1, 6-25

"Look, I am giving all this land to you! Go in and occupy it, for it is the land the Lord swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to all their descendants."

Deuteronomy 1:8





What do you know about Abraham?

What is a promise?

LEVEL 2

Look back at Genesis 12, 15, and 17. What did God promise Abraham?

What does this passage teach you about God's faithfulness?

LEVEL 3

How were the men mentioned in the story related?

Do you ever struggle to trust God's Word? Explain.





REMEMBER WHEN ISRAEL DIDN'T TRUST GOD?

READ Deuteronomy 1:26-46

"But you rebelled against the command of the Lord your God and refused to go in."

Deuteronomy 1:26



LEVEL 1

What did the people do?

What was the consequence for not obeying?

LEVEL 2

Why do you think God is reminding Israel of their disobedience?

Have consequences for disobedience encouraged you to obey in the future? How?

LEVEL 3

Described a time when you disobeyed, were disciplined, and learned.

What does this passage show you about God's heart for us?



GOD HAD GIVEN ISRAEL MILITARY VICTORIES

READ Deuteronomy 2:1-7, 3:8-11

"When the Lord has given security to the rest of the Israelites, as he has to you, and when they occupy the land the Lord your God is giving them across the Jordan River, then you may all return here to the land I have given you."

Deuteronomy 3:20



LEVEL 1

Who was speaking?

What did he want them to do?

LEVEL 2

Why did God want the other tribes settling down east of the Jordan to help the other tribes?

Do you like helping others out once you have gotten what you wanted? Give an example.

LEVEL 3

What does this story teach you about people?

What does this story teach us about convenience?



THERE'S A REASON BEHIND THE INSTRUCTION GOD HAS GIVEN ISRAEL

READ Deuteronomy 4:1-20

"The Lord your God is a devouring fire; he is a jealous God."

Deuteronomy 4:24





What does God call Himself?

Draw a picture of a fire.

LEVEL 2

What does it mean that God is jealous?

How might God be jealous for you?

LEVEL 3

What does God deserve from us? What does He call us to do?

How does the Holy Spirit help us?



WHY DID GOD CHOOSE ISRAEL?

READ Deuteronomy 7:1-21

"The Lord did not set his heart on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations! Rather, it was simply that the Lord loves you, and he was keeping the oath he had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the Lord rescued you with such a strong hand from your slavery and from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt."

Deuteronomy 7:7-8



LEVEL 1

Was Israel big or small when God chose them?

What's the smallest thing in the room right now?

LEVEL 2

If you had to choose a sports team to support, which one would it be and why?

Have you ever felt like you deserve to be chosen by God? What things do you put your confidence in instead of Christ?

LEVEL 3

Have you ever felt like God shouldn't choose you as His own because of something you've done?

How does this passage give you confidence in God's love and care?



THERE WILL BE A CONSEQUENCE IF ISRAEL DISOBEYS!

READ Deuteronomy 8:1-20

"Just as the Lord has destroyed other nations in your path, you also will be destroyed if you refuse to obey the Lord your God."

Deuteronomy 8:20





What is God warning Israel about? Why?

What does God promise the Israelites if they obey?

LEVEL 2

Did God treat all nations fairly? Explain.

Are you listening to God's warnings?

LEVEL 3

Why did God destroy other nations?

What does this tell you about His character?





ISRAEL HAD A CHOICE!

READ Deuteronomy 11:1-17, 26-28

"Look, today I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse!"

Deuteronomy 11:26



LEVEL 1

What were the two things Israel could choose between?

What are choices you have to make every day?

LEVEL 2

Why might God be constantly reminding Israel of their choice and future consequences?

When was a time someone kept warning you about something? Did you listen? What happened?

LEVEL 3

Summarize today's reading in your own words.

Why do you think blessing comes hand in hand with obedience?



A PROPHET LIKE MOSES WILL COME

READ Deuteronomy 18:1-22

"I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him."

Deuteronomy 18:18



LEVEL 1

Who was God going to raise up?

What are some of the things Jesus said when He was on the earth?

LEVEL 2

Who is speaking in today's text?

Who did God say He was going to send? What does John 1:14 tell you about this person?

LEVEL 3

Read John 1:1-17. Who was the "prophet" like Moses?

How does today's passage show you that the Old and New Testaments are connected?



A CALL TO OBEDIENCE

READ Deuteronomy 26:1-19

"Today the Lord your God has commanded you to obey all these decrees and regulations. So be careful to obey them wholeheartedly."

Deuteronomy 26:16





What did God command?

What are some of the rules in your family? Do you always want to obey?

LEVEL 2

Why do you think God is calling the Israelites to obey wholeheartedly? Why does He care about that?

Do you obey your parents or God wholeheartedly? Why or why not? How can you grow in this area?

LEVEL 3

What does the heart have to do with holiness?

How have you seen the Holy Spirit changing your heart in your life?



BLESSINGS FOR OBEDIENCE AND CURSES FOR DISOBEDIENCE

READ Deuteronomy 28:1-25

"If you listen to these commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today, and if you carefully obey them, the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you will always be on top and never at the bottom."

Deuteronomy 28:13



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What did God want the Israelites to do?

Has He told them something similar to this before?

LEVEL 2

Why do you think God keeps bringing this up?

How often do you obey your parents or teachers the first time? How can you grow in this area?

LEVEL 3

Does obedience to God work the same way today? Why or why not?

How do you think this part of the story was a promise and warning to future Israelites?



ISRAEL WAS GIVEN A CHOICE!

READ Deuteronomy 29:1; 30:1-20

"But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy."

Deuteronomy 30:17-18





What wasn't supposed to turn away?

What did God want the people to do? How can you be a good listener?

LEVEL 2

Describe a time when you tried to talk to someone but they wouldn't listen.

What did God warn the people about?

LEVEL 3

Why does following things other than God bring destruction?

Is there anything you are prizing above God? If so, how can you repent today?



ISRAEL'S DISOBEDIENCE WAS PREDICTED

READ Deuteronomy 31:14-29

"The Lord said to Moses, 'You are about to die and join your ancestors.

After you are gone, these people will begin to worship foreign gods, the gods of the land where they are going.

They will abandon me and break my covenant that I have made with them."

Deuteronomy 31:16





What was about to happen to Moses?

What were the people going to do?

LEVEL 2

When will the Israelites start to worship other gods?

When do you tend to pray or rely on God: in easy times or hard times?

LEVEL 3

What kinds of impacts do leaders have on a group?

How do you grow strong in God to resist the temptation to fall away?



THE KEY TO JOSHUA'S SUCCESS!

READ Joshua 1:5-9; 2:1-11

"Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do."

Joshua 1:8





What's your favorite book?

What do you think the Book of Instruction is?

LEVEL 2

What do studying, meditating, and obeying mean?

Do you meditate on God's word? What does that look like?

LEVEL 3

If you read the Bible, will things always go well for you? Explain.

What do you think prospering looks like in God's eyes?



GOD'S POWER AND PLANS DON'T FAIL

READ Joshua 3:7-17; 5:13-15

"Today you will know that the living God is among you. He will surely drive out the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites ahead of you."

Joshua 3:10



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What happened to the Jordan river? Why?

Who did Joshua meet?

LEVEL 2

What did God promise the Israelites would happen?

Do you think you would have trusted God? In what ways is He asking you to trust Him today?

LEVEL 3

Why is God going to drive out the other nations? Why do they need to leave?

Are there any things that God is trying to drive out of your life? Are you allowing Him?



RAHAB IS IN JESUS'S FAMILY TREE!

READ Joshua 6:1-20

"When the people heard the sound of the rams' horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it."

Joshua 6:20





What is happening in the story?

Act out the story by marching around the dinner table.

LEVEL 2

How did Rahab help the Israelites?

Do you think you would have been patient and trusted in God during this time?

LEVEL 3

Have you ever had to wait for God to deliver on His promise?

Look at Matthew 1. Who do you see in Jesus's family tree?



JOSHUA WAS SUCCESSFUL!

READ Joshua 10: 1-8, 12-14, 42

"Joshua conquered all these kings and their land in a single campaign, for the Lord, the God of Israel, was fighting for his people."

Joshua 10:42





What did Joshua do?

What did God say to Joshua?

LEVEL 2

What happened to the sun? Draw a picture.

Describe a time when you trusted God even though you were afraid.

LEVEL 3

Is trust easy for you? Do you find it easier or harder to trust God or people?

What qualities do you think mark a good leader?





THE ISRAELITES' NEW HOME (WELL, PART OF IT)

READ Joshua 13:1-7; 14:6-15; 17:14-18

"But my brothers who went with me frightened the people from entering the Promised Land. For my part, I wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God."

Joshua 14:8





Who frightened the people?

Is all the Promised Land conquered?

LEVEL 2

What does it mean to take responsibility for something?

What do you tend to focus on when faced with conflict?

LEVEL 3

When you encounter a hard situation, what do you think about first?

What are some situations you are going through right now that you need to trust the Lord in?



GOD'S PROMISES NEVER FAIL!

READ Joshua 18:1-7; 20:1-4; 23:14-16

"Soon I will die, going the way of everything on earth. Deep in your hearts, you know that every promise of the Lord your God has come true. Not a single one has failed!"

Joshua 23:14





Does God keep His promises?

What does Joshua say will happen if the Israelites disobey God?

LEVEL 2

Why is Joshua reminding them of God's promise now?

Describe a time when you needed a lot of reminders.

LEVEL 3

When are you most likely to obey someone?

How can you learn to obey God no matter how you feel?





PARTIAL OBEDIENCE IS STILL DISOBEDIENCE

READ Judges 1:19-25, 28; 2:6-13

"When the Israelites grew stronger, they forced the Canaanites to work as slaves, but they never did drive them completely out of the land."

Judges 1:28



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

The Israelites grew stronger. Who has the biggest muscles in the family? Let's see you flex!

What did the Israelites do?

LEVEL 2

What were the Israelites supposed to do?

Partial obedience is disobedience. Describe a time when you acted like Israel.

LEVEL 3

How can we know that God is good, even though He commanded Israel to drive out the Canaanites?

How does this passage relate to modern-day issues of power dynamics and human rights?



THAT'S IN THE BIBLE?!

READ Judges 3:12-30

"Once again the Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight, and the Lord gave King Eglon of Moab control over Israel because of their evil."

Judges 3:12



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What did the Israelites do?

When Israel disobeyed, who got control?

LEVEL 2

Why did the Lord let King Eglon rule over Israel?

Describe a time when your actions led to consequences.

LEVEL 3

How does this pattern of disobedience and consequences affect Israel's relationship with God throughout the book of Judges?

In what areas do you see the consequences of moral and spiritual compromise in your life?



THE FAITHFULNESS OF A WOMAN

READ Judges 4:1-15

"'Very well,' she replied, 'I will go with you. But you will receive no honor in this venture, for the Lord's victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman.' So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh."

Judges 4:9





Who went with Barak to Kedesh?

Who's victory was it?

LEVEL 2

Who was Deborah?

What did Deborah say about who would get the honor for the victory?

LEVEL 3

What does Deborah's statement about the honor of victory suggest about gender roles in the context of this story?

What characteristics mark Deborah? What characteristics mark you?



GOD BRINGS VICTORY

READ Judges 6:34-40; 7:1-9, 19-22

"Then all three groups blew their horns and broke their jars. They held the blazing torches in their left hands and the horns in their right hands, and they all shouted, 'A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"

Judges 7:20



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What did the people blow when they went to fight?

Act out the story! Is there anything around the house you can use as a horn?

LEVEL 2

Why did the groups blow their horns and break their jars?

How would you feel being part of Gideon's group during this moment?

LEVEL 3

Discuss the symbolic meaning of the battle cry, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon," in the context of Israelite faith and leadership.

How does the unity and faith of Gideon's group inspire us in facing challenges today?



GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS ARE CLEARLY GIVEN

READ Judges 13:2-14; 15:9-16

"You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines."

Judges 13:5





Who has the longest hair in your family?

Was the son in the story supposed to get a hair cut?

LEVEL 2

What was going to happen to the boy?

How would you feel if you knew you had a special job to help your people?

LEVEL 3

How does Samson's dedication from birth influence our understanding of purpose and calling in a spiritual context?

Think about God's clear instructions. How does this affect Samson's identity and role in Israel's history?



EVERYONE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES

READ Judges 16:6-22, 25-30; 21:25

"In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."

Judges 21:25



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What did the people do?

Why is it important to follow rules?

LEVEL 2

What happens when everyone does what they think is right without any rules?

How might having a king change the way people behave?

LEVEL 3

What does this verse suggest about the need for moral and political authority in a community?

How does the concept of "everyone doing what seems right in their own eyes" in ancient Israel resonate with modern challenges related to individualism, personal freedom, and societal norms?

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GOD WAS AT WORK DURING THE TIME OF THE JUDGES!

READ Ruth 1:16-18; 2:2-10; 4:9-22

"Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David."

Ruth 4:22





Who was Obed's son?

Who was Jesse's son?

LEVEL 2

Why is it important that David is mentioned in Obed's family line?

How does knowing about Obed, Jesse, and David help us understand the Bible better?

LEVEL 3

How does this genealogy connect to the broader redemption story of Jesus Christ and God's plan for salvation?

How does the genealogy in Ruth 4:22 highlight the themes of legacy and divine plan in the biblical narrative?



GOD'S MIGHT, NOT MINE

READ 1 Samuel 1:7-18; 2:1-10

"He will protect his faithful ones, but the wicked will disappear in darkness. No one will succeed by strength alone."

1 Samuel 2:9



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What did Hannah really want?

Who will God protect?

LEVEL 2

What did Hannah say about God's character?

Do you often praise God after He gives you want you were wanting?

LEVEL 3

Why won't people succeed by their own strength? Does it ever seem like they do?

Who are the "strong ones" in your life? Are they faithfully following God's commands? What comfort does this passage give you about them?



SAMUEL HEARD GOD'S VOICE!

READ 1 Samuel 3:1-21

"As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him, and everything Samuel said proved to be reliable."

1 Samuel 3:19



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Who spoke to Samuel?

Who was with Samuel? Answer with your best whisper.

LEVEL 2

Have you ever thought someone was talking to you when they actually weren't?

Are you actively listening and waiting for God's voice? What would that look like in your life?

LEVEL 3

How did Eli respond? Would you have done the same?

Who do you know that's really good at listening for God's voice? Explain.



WE NEED GOD TO FIGHT OUR BATTLES

READ 1 Samuel 4:2-11; 5:6-12

"So the Philistines fought desperately, and Israel was defeated again. The slaughter was great; 30,000 Israelite soldiers died that day. The survivors turned and fled to their tents."

1 Samuel 4:10





Why were the Philistines worried?

Who won the fight?

LEVEL 2

Were the elders asking God for victory or trying to problem-solve on their own?

Have you ever tried to fix things without turning to God? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Why was God punishing the Philistines?

How can God still be good when His people die?



TURN YOUR HEART TO THE LORD

READ 1 Samuel 7:1-15

"Then Samuel said to all the people of Israel, 'If you want to return to the Lord with all your hearts, get rid of your foreign gods and your images of Ashtoreth. Turn your hearts to the Lord and obey him alone; then he will rescue you from the Philistines."

1 Samuel 7:3



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Who won the battle?

What were the people supposed to get rid of?

LEVEL 2

Who was speaking to the people? What would you have said if you were him?

Have you ever experienced discipline that changed the choices you made going forward?

LEVEL 3

In context, why do you think the Israelites were worshiping other gods?

What happens when you or others turn to things other than God?



ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING

READ 1 Samuel 8:1-9; 9:11-24

"Saul replied, 'But I'm only from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe in Israel, and my family is the least important of all the families of that tribe! Why are you talking like this to me?"

1 Samuel 9:21





What did God want Samuel to do?

Who was from the tribe of Benjamin?

LEVEL 2

Why did you think the Israelites wanted a king?

Have you ever turned to worldly comfort instead of God? Did it go well?

LEVEL 3

What is society turning to today other than God?

How well do you handle peer pressure? Explain.





KNOWING GOD TRULY CHANGES YOU

READ 1 Samuel 10:1-13; 12:13-25

"But be sure to fear the Lord and faithfully serve him. Think of all the wonderful things he has done for you."

1 Samuel 12:24





Why were the people scared? Have you ever been scared?

What were the people supposed to think about?

LEVEL 2

What did the Israelites say about them wanting a king?

Have you ever asked for something you knew was not good for you?

LEVEL 3

How can we understand God's judgment and love for Israel?

How have you seen God's mercy in your own life?



DISOBEDIENCE IS FOOLISHNESS

READ 1 Samuel 13:5-15

"'How foolish!' Samuel exclaimed.
'You have not kept the command the
Lord your God gave you. Had you kept
it, the Lord would have established
your kingdom over Israel forever.'"

1 Samuel 13:13





What did Saul do?

Why were the Israelites leaving?

LEVEL 2

How did Samuel describe Saul's decision?

Have you ever tried to fix things on your own?

LEVEL 3

How might people today try to do things in the name of God without God's blessing?

What does it mean to "keep God's commands?"



SEE OTHERS AS GOD SEES THEM (DAVID ANOINTED KING)

READ 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:3-11

"But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7





Draw a picture of what you think Goliath looked like.

What did God say about Goliath?

LEVEL 2

How does the Lord see?

What about this story inspires or encourages you?

LEVEL 3

Would you have been scared of Goliath? Why?

What attributes do you focus on in people? How can you have a better perspective?



OUR CONFIDENCE IS IN THE LORD

READ 1 Samuel 17:24-27, 36-50

"And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!"

1 Samuel 17:47





Who is David?

Why was David confident?

LEVEL 2

Why was this battle the Lord's?

How do you know if you are on God's side?

LEVEL 3

What does God like about David? Do you like the same things as He does?

How does society view villains? How does God?



JEALOUS ANGER TURNS US FROM GOD

READ 1 Samuel 18:5-12; 19:8-12

"This made Saul very angry. 'What's this?' he said. 'They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands.

Next they'll be making him their king!'"

1 Samuel 18:8





Why was Saul angry?

What did Saul do? Was that a good choice?

LEVEL 2

How has Saul gone from being the good guy to the bad guy?

Have you ever been disconnected from God? What happened?

LEVEL 3

What might a disconnection from God have to do with God giving Saul over to evil spirits?

Is Saul at fault even though he was being afflicted? Are you still to blame when you sin while suffering?



DAVID SPARES SAUL

READ 1 Samuel 26:1-14, 17-18, 21-22

"'No!' David said. 'Don't kill him. For who can remain innocent after attacking the Lord's anointed one? Surely the Lord will strike Saul down someday, or he will die of old age or in battle."

1 Samuel 26:9-10



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What did Abishai encourage David to do?

What did David do instead?

LEVEL 2

Why did David not want Abishai to kill Saul? What is the importance of being anointed by God?

Have you ever wanted to take revenge for something done to you? Why would that be wrong? Who does vengeance belong to?

LEVEL 3

How do you think David can still have such a high view of Saul? Is it because of Saul himself?

What sets David apart in his relationship to God? Do you view life like God does?



LOVE THOSE WHO HURT YOU

READ 2 Samuel 1:5-12; 2:1, 4-11; 3:1, 17-19

"That was the beginning of a long war between those who were loyal to Saul and those loyal to David. As time passed David became stronger and stronger, while Saul's dynasty became weaker and weaker."

2 Samuel 3:1



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Why were David and his men sad?

Who became king of Israel? Why?

LEVEL 2

How could David be sad about Saul's death after everything he had done to him? Was he right?

How can you have a more God-centered perspective about people you don't like?

LEVEL 3

Did God approve of Saul's son becoming king? What was the result?

What does this passage tell you about God's will? How can you have this perspective with today's leaders?



GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID

READ 2 Samuel 5:1-7; 7:2-17

"For when you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make his kingdom strong."

2 Samuel 7:12





What kind of kingdom would David's offspring have?

Draw a picture of the things God promised David.

LEVEL 2

Who was Nathan? What did he say?

Do you care about God and His name like David does? How can you pray to care about God more?

LEVEL 3

Who is the ruler who will sit on David's throne forever?

Summarize God's promises to David in your own words.



HAVE YOU EVER CONFESSED YOUR SIN?

READ 2 Samuel 12:1-10; 14:1-10

"Why, then, have you despised the word of the Lord and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife."

2 Samuel 12:9





What did David do? Was it a good choice or a bad choice?

What did Nathan ask David?

LEVEL 2

How did the story Nathan told relate to David? Why did he tell a story?

How do you learn from stories?

LEVEL 3

Why do stories matter? How do they affect our hearts?

Are you confessing your sin regularly? Why is this so important?



GOD TAKES CARE OF YOUR FUTURE

READ 2 Samuel 16:11-19; 17:5-18; 18:19-22, 33; 19:14-23

"Then Absalom and all the men of Israel said, 'Hushai's advice is better than Ahithophel's.' For the Lord had determined to defeat the counsel of Ahithophel, which really was the better plan, so that he could bring disaster on Absalom!"

2 Samuel 7:14



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Who had the better plan?

Who in your life gives you good advice?

LEVEL 2

How does David show confidence in God no matter what? What is going on behind the scenes?

How can you have more confidence in God when you don't know what is going on?

LEVEL 3

Why did Absalom like Hushai's advice better than Ahithophel? Did it have anything to do with Hushai?

What does this passage show about God's sovereignty against the strength and wisdom of man?

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PRAISE GOD FOR ALL HE'S DONE

READ 2 Samuel 20:1-2, 16-23; 22:1-4, 17-20, 29-36

"He sang: 'The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. He is my refuge, my savior, the one who saves me from violence."

2 Samuel 22:2-3



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Ask a parent what it means for the Lord to be our rock. Go find one outside.

What are some things David says about God?

LEVEL 2

Who can list out the things David says about God the quickest?

Do you praise God for who He is and what He has done for you? What is one thing that you can praise God for today?

LEVEL 3

How has God been a rock, fortress, and savior in your life?

How can you rely on Him in hard times to come?



OWN YOUR MISTAKES

READ 2 Samuel 23:1-7; 24:9-17

"But after he had taken the census, David's conscience began to bother him. And he said to the Lord, 'I have sinned greatly by taking this census. Please forgive my guilt, Lord, for doing this foolish thing."

2 Samuel 24:10





Ask a parent what a conscience is.

What did David tell God?

LEVEL 2

Why was what David did wrong?

When you face hard times, where do you place your confidence?

LEVEL 3

Where do people in our country place their confidence most commonly? Are you any different? Explain.

Are you aware of your sin? Do you own it and ask God for forgiveness? Describe.



SOLOMON WAS THE WISEST PERSON TO EVER LIVE!

READ 1 Kings 1:29-30; 2:1-12; 3:5-15

"Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"

1 Kings 3:9





Who is Solomon's dad?

What does Solomon ask for?

LEVEL 2

If you could ask God for anything, what would you ask for?

Why did Solomon want an understanding heart?

LEVEL 3

How did God respond to Solomon's request?

What do you prioritize in your life? What does our society value? Will these things last?



THE TABERNACLE WAS GETTING AN UPGRADE!

READ 1 Kings 5:1-12; 6:11-22

"So I am planning to build a Temple to honor the name of the Lord my God, just as he had instructed my father, David. For the Lord told him, 'Your son, whom I will place on your throne, will build the Temple to honor my name."

1 Kings 5:5



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What was Solomon planning to build?

Who did God give the building instructions to?

LEVEL 2

Who's name was the temple going to honor?

How did Solomon's obedience to God end up being beneficial?

LEVEL 3

Who did God want to build the temple? Do you ever want to rush into things when it's not your time? Explain.

What was the temple? Do some research and report your findings.



DOES GOD DELIGHT IN YOUR ACTIONS?

READ 1 Kings 9:1-9; 10:1-10

"Praise the Lord your God, who delights in you and has placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord's eternal love for Israel, He has made you king so you can rule with justice and righteousness."

1 Kings 10:9





Dress up like King Solomon or the Queen of Sheeba. Act out the story!

Why was the Queen impressed with Solomon?

LEVEL 2

What does this passage show us about God's character?

What do you value? Do people see the benefits of it in your life?

LEVEL 3

How much do you value the praise of other people? Explain.

How is God's love for Israel evidenced in this story?



SOLOMON TURNS AWAY FROM GOD

READ 1 Kings 11:1-13; 12:1-20

"In this way, Solomon did what was evil in the Lord's sight; he refused to follow the Lord completely, as his father, David, had done."

1 Kings 11:6





What did Solomon do?

What did God say would happen?

LEVEL 2

What happens in 1 Kings 12:1-20? Does God keep His promise?

When are you most tempted to try to do things your own way instead of God's?

LEVEL 3

How could the wisest person in the world sin like this?

Can wisdom solve our sin problems? Explain.





SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES

READ 1 Kings 12:25-33; 14:1-17

"In addition, the Lord will raise up a king over Israel who will destroy the family of Jeroboam. This will happen today, even now! He will abandon Israel because Jeroboam sinned and made Israel sin along with him."

1 Kings 14:14, 16





Where was Jeroboam's altar located?

Why did he make cow statues?

LEVEL 2

Did Jeroboam get what he wanted? What happened instead?

Have you ever done something wrong out of jealousy? What was the result?

LEVEL 3

Why do you think God let Jeroboam's son die? Does your sin only ever affect you?

How do you see God's sovereignty and reliability in this passage?



ELIJAH DISPLAYS GOD'S POWER

READ 1 Kings 18:19-39

"And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, 'The Lord—he is God! Yes, the Lord is God!'"

1 Kings 18:39





What did Elijah put on the wood?

Who won the contest?

LEVEL 2

What exactly did Elijah challenge Ahab to?

How do you think Elijah could be so confident? Would you have been?

LEVEL 3

How do the people respond?

How can you pray for God to use you to display His power to our present generation?





GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

READ 2 Kings 8:16-27

"But the Lord did not want to destroy Judah, for he had promised his servant David that his descendants would continue to rule, shining like a lamp forever."

2 Kings 8:19



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What did God promise to give to David and his sons?

Did Jehoram do good or evil?

LEVEL 2

How old was Jehoram when he became king?

Why does God choose to preserve them despite their wickedness?

LEVEL 3

Describe a time in your life when the people in charge weren't following the Lord.

How might God have a plan during this seemingly unfair season? What might He be calling you to do?



JEHU LEADS THE PEOPLE INTO SIN

READ 2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:28-32

"But Jehu did not obey the Law of the Lord, the God of Israel, with all his heart.

He refused to turn from the sins that Jeroboam had led Israel to commit."

2 Kings 10:31





Who became the king of Israel?

What animal is mentioned in the story? What sound do they make?

LEVEL 2

Did Jehu obey God? Explain.

Is your life marked by obedience to God? Give an example.

LEVEL 3

Why is the complete eradication of evil important?

How does partial obedience leave room for more disobedience in the future?



ISRAEL IS KICKED OUT OF THEIR HOME

READ 2 Kings 17:6-23

"Again and again the Lord had sent His prophets and seers to warn both Israel and Judah: 'Turn from all your evil ways. Obey my commands and decrees—the entire law that I commanded your ancestors to obey, and that I gave you through my servants the prophets.' But the Israelites would not listen. They were as stubborn as their ancestors who had refused to believe in the Lord their God."

2 Kings 17:13-14





What did God want Israel and Judah to do?

Did they listen?

LEVEL 2

How often does God warn them?

What does this passage show you about disobedience verses obedience?

LEVEL 3

What did God end up doing? Why?

Based off today's passage, what do we learn about God's justice?



RETURNING TO SIN... AGAIN?

READ 2 Kings 18:1-12

"King Manasseh of Judah has done many detestable things. He is even more wicked than the Amorites, who lived in this land before Israel. He has caused the people of Judah to sin with his idols. So this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I will bring such disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that the ears of those who hear about it will tingle with horror."

2 Kings 21:11-12





How old was Hezekiah when he became king?

What did Hezekiah do that was good?

LEVEL 2

How did he strip the nation of pagan things?

How are you confronting sin in your life?

LEVEL 3

Why was Israel handed over to the Assyrians?

How does God use enemies to teach His people? How is He currently sanctifying you? How can you have a better perspective when you are defeated?



GOD KEEPS HIS WORD

READ 2 Kings 23:24-27, 31-32, 36-37

"For the Lord said, 'I will also banish
Judah from my presence just as I have
banished Israel. And I will reject my
chosen city of Jerusalem and the Temple
where my name was to be honored."

2 Kings 23:27





What made King Josiah special?

Did the kings do more evil things or more good things?

LEVEL 2

Did all the kings God put in charge follow God? Give two examples.

How can you recognize and respond rightly to God today?

LEVEL 3

Could King Josiah remove all wickedness in Judah? Why was God still angry?

How does what you do affect your heart? When have you done good things without a soft heart towards God?



JUDAH IS KICKED OUT OF THEIR HOME

READ 2 Kings 24:1-13; 25:1-7, 21-24

"And there at Riblah, in the land of Hamath, the king of Babylon had them all put to death. So the people of Judah were sent into exile from their land."

2 Kings 25:21



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Who was the King of Babylon?

How old was Jehoiachin when he became king?

LEVEL 2

What does this passage say about the kings during this time?

Do you turn to God when things are going poorly for you? Do you recognize when He is trying to correct you?

LEVEL 3

How would you have responded if you lived during that time? How can we still have hope?

How do the ages of the kings affect you? Do you believe God wants to use young people? Explain.



THE ENTIRE OLD TESTAMENT IN NAMES!

READ 1 Chronicles 1:1-4, 17-27; 2:3-8; 3:1-9

"Boaz was the father of Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse."

1 Chronicles 2:12





How many names do you think are mentioned in today's reading?

Do you know how to spell your name? What about any names from the story?

LEVEL 2

How do you feel when you read Bible passages with long lists of names?

How can they encourage you that God has a plan even when we can't see it?

LEVEL 3

Have you ever gone through a hard time, looked back, and then seen God at work?

How are all of these names and stories fitting together? What does this genealogy lead to?



DAVID BECOMES KING!

READ 1 Chronicles 11:1-11

"In the past, even when Saul was king, you were the one who really led the forces of Israel. And the Lord your God told you, 'You will be the shepherd of my people Israel. You will be the leader of my people Israel."

1 Chronicles 11:2





Who became king in this story?

Where did David and all Israel go?

LEVEL 2

Who is introduced in verse 10? Who in the family has the biggest muscles?

Why did David become greater?

LEVEL 3

What made David a better king than Saul?

Is God with you? How? How do you know? Do you see fruit of God in your life?



REMEMBER GOD'S PROMISES TO DAVID?

READ 1 Chronicles 17:1-22

"I will confirm him as king over my house and my kingdom for all time, and his throne will be secure forever."

1 Chronicles 17:14





Who did the Lord send to talk to David?

What was the message God had for David?

LEVEL 2

What is David's view of himself? How does this compare with his view of God?

How do you view yourself? How do you view God?

LEVEL 3

List some of the things God promised David.

How can you pray for God to cultivate a heart of gratitude and humility in you today?



DAVID'S MILITARY VICTORIES

READ 1 Chronicles 18:1-14

"So David reigned over all Israel and did what was just and right for all his people."

1 Chronicles 18:14





What did David do?

Draw a picture of all the gold items mentioned in the passage.

LEVEL 2

Why does David succeed?

How can you have a better perspective about where success comes from?

LEVEL 3

What does David do with his treasures?

How do you view what you have? Are you holding it with open hands toward God?



DAVID PREPARED THE TEMPLE MATERIALS

READ 1 Chronicles 22:1-19

"David said, 'My son Solomon is still young and inexperienced. And since the Temple to be built for the Lord must be a magnificent structure, famous and glorious throughout the world, I will begin making preparations for it now.'

So David collected vast amounts of building materials before his death."

1 Chronicles 22:5





Who is Solomon? What is he called to do?

How does David help Solomon?

LEVEL 2

What did David's actions show about his heart toward God and his son?

How do you see your parents and God providing and preparing you?

LEVEL 3

Look up some images depicting what the temple would've looked like. Is this what you expected?

How did David describe Solomon? How do you think Solomon would have felt?



DAVID IS PRESENTED TO BE LIKE MOSES

READ 1 Chronicles 28:1-21

"Yet the Lord, the God of Israel, has chosen me from among all my father's family to be king over Israel forever. For he has chosen the tribe of Judah to rule, and from among the families of Judah he chose my father's family. And from among my father's sons the Lord was pleased to make me king over all Israel."

1 Chronicles 28:4





Who was David talking to?

How does he help Solomon plan to build the temple?

LEVEL 2

How do you see David's faithfulness to God in this passage?

What does obedience mean to you? Are you faithfully obeying God?

LEVEL 3

How does David encourage Solomon at the end of the passage?

What skills or talents has God given you? Are you using them for His glory?



WISDOM FROM GOD

READ 2 Chronicles 1:1-13

"Give me the wisdom and knowledge to lead them properly, for who could possibly govern this great people of yours?"

2 Chronicles 1:10





What did Solomon ask God for?

Have you ever asked God for wisdom? Do so now.

LEVEL 2

Why did he ask for wisdom?

Would you be scared to rule after someone like David? How did Solomon respond?

LEVEL 3

What is wisdom and why is it valuable? Define it in your own words!

Consult a Bible Atlas and find the locations mentioned on a map. Do some research.
What else happened at these places?



RULERS RECOGNIZE SOLOMON'S WISDOM

READ 2 Chronicles 9:1-12

"Praise the Lord your God, who delights in you and has placed you on the throne as king to rule for him. Because God loves Israel and desires this kingdom to last forever, he has made you king over them so you can rule with justice and righteousness."

2 Chronicles 9:8





Who comes to talk to Solomon? Why?

How does she respond to what she sees?

LEVEL 2

What is the fruit of Solomon's faithfulness to God?

What does the fruit of obedience look like today?

LEVEL 3

What does the Queen of Sheba say about God? How does she recognize His hand?

What are the possible results of being a light that brings glory to God?



REHOBOAM IS HUMBLED

READ 2 Chronicles 9:30-31, 12:1-12

"Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the Lord's anger was turned away, and he did not destroy him completely. There were still some good things in the land of Judah."

2 Chronicles 12:12





What did Rehoboam do in verse 1?

Why does God punish him? How does he respond?

LEVEL 2

When does Rehoboam abandon God?

Are you more likely to follow God when things are going well or poorly? Explain.

LEVEL 3

How do you see God's justice and mercy on display?

What does it mean to humble yourself?



CLEANSING AND REDEDICATION

READ 2 Chronicles 15:1-19

"But whenever they were in trouble and turned to the Lord, the God of Israel, and sought him out, they found him."

2 Chronicles 15:4





What does Azariah say?

How does King Asa respond? Play a game of hide-and-seek as a family.

LEVEL 2

What happens when Israel seeks God?

Do you seek God? When you do, do you find Him?

LEVEL 3

Do the people of Israel fully follow God? Explain.

Are you fully pursing and obeying God in your life? How can you grow in this area?



FAITHFULNESS AND UPRIGHT JUDGES

READ 2 Chronicles 19:4-11

"Fear the Lord and judge with integrity, for the Lord our God does not tolerate perverted justice, partiality, or the taking of bribes."

2 Chronicles 19:7





Where did Jehoshaphat live?

Who did the judges truly work for?

LEVEL 2

What is Jehoshaphat's main concern?

Do you fear God? What does fearing God look like?

LEVEL 3

What does Jehoshaphat say about God?

How does this bring you comfort when faced with today's world?



GOD HONORS FAITHFULNESS AND STEADFASTNESS

READ 2 Chronicles 24:1-22

"Joash did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight throughout the lifetime of Jehoiada the priest."

2 Chronicles 24:2



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

How old was Joash when he became king?

What were the people working on?

LEVEL 2

What happened when the people abandoned the house of the Lord?

What attitude typically marks you when you obey God or your parents? Give an example.

LEVEL 3

What was your reaction when you saw how unsteady Israel's faithfulness is?

Why is faithfulness so important? How is God faithful even when we are not?



GOD USES ARMIES TO CORRECT JUDAH

READ 2 Chronicles 28:1-6

"In a single day Pekah son of Remaliah, Israel's king, killed 120,000 of Judah's troops, all of them experienced warriors, because they had abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors."

2 Chronicles 28:6





What kind of king was Ahaz?

What happened as a result?

LEVEL 2

Why was Israel defeated?

Why does God stress faithfulness so much in Israel's story? What can you learn from their mistakes?

LEVEL 3

Why were the things the nations did called abominations?

Describe what it meant for Judah to "forsake the Lord."



GOD IS ON OUR SIDE

READ 2 Chronicles 32:1-23

"'Be strong and courageous! Don't be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria or his mighty army, for there is a power far greater on our side! He may have a great army, but they are merely men. We have the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles for us!' Hezekiah's words greatly encouraged the people."

2 Chronicles 32:7-8



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What are the Assyrians going to try to do?

What did Hezekiah think?

LEVEL 2

Who were the Assyrians insulting? What did God do?

How do you respond when under stress? Do you place your confidence in God like Hezekiah did?

LEVEL 3

What happened to the Assyrian king?

What does this story teach you about confidence? Why should we place our confidence in God alone?



GOD'S HEART FOR HIS PEOPLE

READ 2 Chronicles 36:11-23

"The Lord, the God of their ancestors, repeatedly sent his prophets to warn them, for he had compassion on his people and his Temple."

2 Chronicles 36:15





Who was Zedekiah? What was he like?

Did God warn Judah? Have you ever been given a warning?

LEVEL 2

What was Judah's attitude toward God?

What is your heart towards God? How are you encouraged by the gift of God's son?

LEVEL 3

What did Jeremiah prophesy? Describe the message in your own words.

What does this passage say about God's anger? How are you encouraged by God's patience?



SAY "YES" TO GOD

READ Ezra 1:1-7; 3:1-13

"Wherever this Jewish remnant is found, let their neighbors contribute toward their expenses by giving them silver and gold, supplies for the journey, and livestock, as well as a voluntary offering for the Temple of God in Jerusalem."

Ezra 1:4





Who is King Cyrus? What does he give God credit for?

What do the Israelites do?

LEVEL 2

Is God completely in control of what kings do?

What does this say about God's sovereignty?

LEVEL 3

Who were the Israelites scared of? What do they do?

How can you obey God even when scared?





GOD HONORING WORK CAN LEAD TO JOY

READ Ezra 6:6-18; 7:6-10, 21-26; 8:21-23

"This was because Ezra had determined to study and obey the Law of the Lord and to teach those decrees and regulations to the people of Israel."

Ezra 7:10





What did Ezra do?

Who did Ezra teach the law of the Lord to?

LEVEL 2

What was decreed by the king?

How does this decree evidence God's love for His people?

LEVEL 3

How does God respond when people turn to Him?

Are you turning toward Him? What is the result?





EVERYONE IS GUILTY OF SIN

READ Ezra 9:10-15; 10:1-2

"O Lord, God of Israel, you are just. We come before you in our guilt as nothing but an escaped remnant, though in such a condition none of us can stand in your presence."

Ezra 9:15





What did God's people do?

Why are God's people being punished?

LEVEL 2

Why did God tell the Israelites to not marry pagans?

Who are you surrounding yourself with? Are your friends honoring God?

LEVEL 3

How should we treat people who don't agree with God's perspective? Can we still be friends with them?

What aspects of God's character do you see on display in this passage?



TALK TO GOD ABOUT EVERYTHING

READ Nehemiah 1:1-7; 2:4-20

"I replied, 'If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."

Nehemiah 2:5





Why was Nehemiah sad?

What does he ask the king for? How does the king respond?

LEVEL 2

How is God faithful in keeping His promises?

Nehemiah was prayerful when he approached the king. Where in your life could you be more prayerful?

LEVEL 3

What does Nehemiah long for? How is this in line with God's desires?

When have you wanted something that God wanted too? How do you know? What was the result?



GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN PEOPLE

READ Nehemiah 4:1-15

"Then I pressed further, 'What you are doing is not right! Should you not walk in the fear of our God in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations?"

Nehemiah 5:9





Why was Sanballat angry?

What did Nehemiah do?

LEVEL 2

How did the leaders respond? How did things improve?

Is there anything in your life that does not please God? How can you form new habits today?

LEVEL 3

Why do the leaders change their ways?

What is currently driving you to do good things? What should drive us to be just and fair?



UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD BRINGS US LIFE

READ Nehemiah 6:1-16; 8:1-12

"They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage."

Nehemiah 8:8





Why do people try to stop the Israelites from rebuilding the wall?

What happens when the Israelite leaders read the Book of the Law?

LEVEL 2

Why do the Israelites succeed in building the wall? What do their enemies recognize about who helped them?

Have you ever done something really hard? Why is it so important to have God's help?

LEVEL 3

Why was reading God's word so important to the Israelites?

How do you view God's word? Does it impact you like it did them?



ONLY GOD CAN CHANGE HEARTS

READ Nehemiah 12:27-30, 40-43; 13:10-22

"I immediately confronted the leaders and demanded, 'Why has the Temple of God been neglected?' Then I called all the Levites back again and restored them to their proper duties."

Nehemiah 13:11





Why were people giving thanks? Who was present?

What had the Levites NOT been given?

LEVEL 2

What does Nehemiah rebuke the men of Judah for?

Why is gratitude so important? Are you constantly thanking God? What is one thing you can thank God for today?

LEVEL 3

How is Nehemiah helping the Israelites? What were their attitudes like?

What does a commitment to faithfulness look like for you?

JOIN THE **JOURNEY JR.**

GOD'S PROVIDENCE PLACES US EXACTLY WHERE WE NEED TO BE

READ Esther 1:17, 3:1-11, 4:8-17

"If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14





Who is Esther?

What is Mordecai encouraging her to do? Why?

LEVEL 2

Why were the Jews at risk of being killed?

What is your attitude when God calls you to do something that's hard? Explain.

LEVEL 3

How does Mordecai encourage and challenge Esther?

What does this passage teach you about God's sovereignty?



GOD USES ESTHER TO PROTECT THE ISRAELITES

READ Esther 5:1-6, 7:3-10

"Queen Esther replied, 'If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request, I ask that my life and the lives of my people will be spared."

Esther 7:3





What does Esther do? If you have girls in the family, have them dress up like a queen!

How does the king respond?

LEVEL 2

How did God use Esther to save the Jews?

What does this story teach us about who God is willing to use for His plans?

LEVEL 3

What was the result of Haman's plan?

What does this say about the end of God's enemies? How does this comfort you?



WE CAN TRUST GOD NO MATTER WHAT COMES!

READ Job 1:1-12

"You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!"

Job 1:10-11





Who is Job? Why does God like him?

What does Satan want? Why?

LEVEL 2

What does Satan think Job will do if God is not always blessing him?

Do you thank God when things go well for you? What about when things are not?

LEVEL 3

What does Satan say about God and Job?

Do you see God as the one giving you good things? Where do blessings come from?



GOD IS STILL GOOD WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN

READ Job 1:13-22; 2:1-10

"Then the Lord asked Satan, 'Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil. And he has maintained his integrity, even though you urged me to harm him without cause."

Job 2:3





How does Job respond to tragedy?

What does God say about Job?

LEVEL 2

How do you think Job can praise God no matter what?

Do you still praise God when bad things happen? How can you be more like Job?

LEVEL 3

What is integrity? Define it in your own words.

Do you walk with integrity when bad things happen?



IT'S OKAY TO BE HONEST WITH GOD

READ Job 2:11-13; 3:1-10, 25-26

"When three of Job's friends heard of the tragedy he had suffered, they got together and traveled from their homes to comfort and console him. Their names were Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite."

Job 2:11





LEVEL 1

Who are Job's friends? What do they do?

What does Job say?

LEVEL 2

Why are Job's friends quiet? How does this honor Job?

What do you do when your friend is really hurt? Are you ever quiet to let them process?

LEVEL 3

Was Job blaming God in his lament?

How should we process our own moments of grief?



ELPHAZ WAS WRONG! BAD THINGS CAN COME WHETHER WE REPENT OR NOT.

READ Job 4:1-6; 5:8-17

"But consider the joy of those corrected by God! Do not despise the discipline of the Almighty when you sin."

Job 5:17



LEVEL 1

What does Elphaz tell Job?

Does he think Job is innocent or guilty?

LEVEL 2

Is everything Elphaz said true? Try to compare what he says with biblical teachings you know.

How can you distinguish between godly and ungodly advice?

LEVEL 3

What does Elphaz say about God that is right? What does he say that is wrong?

How can we trust that God is good even when He allows bad things to happen?



JOB RESPONDS TO HIS FRIENDS WRONGLY ACCUSING HIM

READ Job 6:1, 14-30

"You, too, have given no help. You have seen my calamity, and you are afraid."

Job 6:21



LEVEL 1

What did Job's friends accuse him of?

Does Job think that they are right or wrong?

LEVEL 2

How does Job defend himself? How does he know that he is innocent?

Have you ever suffered while doing nothing wrong? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Why does Job think that his friends are afraid?

How do you respond when God does something that doesn't make sense?



BILDAD WAS WRONG, TOO!

READ Job 7:6-10, 17-21; 8:1-10

"Your children must have sinned against him, so their punishment was well deserved."

Job 8:4



LEVEL 1

What does Job say about God?

What does Bildad think about Job's situation?

LEVEL 2

Does Job think that God watching over mankind is good or bad?

Do you ever think about God watching over you? Does this comfort you or scare you?

LEVEL 3

Why are Job's friends insisting that Job or his family are at fault?

Have you ever suffered for something that you didn't do? Has anyone else? Tell a story.



ZOPHAR WAS WRONG AS WELL. HE THOUGHT JOB WAS BEING PUNISHED FOR SIN!

READ Job 11:1-20

"If only you would prepare your heart and lift up your hands to him in prayer! Get rid of your sins, and leave all iniquity behind you."

Job 11:13-14



LEVEL 1

What does Zophar think? Does he think Job is innocent or guilty?

What does Zophar tell Job to do in verse 13?

LEVEL 2

Does Zophar think that God ever lets the innocent suffer? How do you know?

What do you think?

LEVEL 3

How can Job be certain he's innocent?

How important is your connection with God's word? Why is it important to know what God likes and dislikes?



JOB UNDERSTANDS THAT HIS FRIENDS LACK TRUE UNDERSTANDING

READ Job 12:1-12; 15:1-19

"Yet my friends laugh at me, for I call on God and expect an answer. I am a just and blameless man, yet they laugh at me. People who are at ease mock those in trouble. They give a push to people who are stumbling."

Job 12:4-5



LEVEL 1

How does Job respond to his friends?

Why does Job think they are saying these things?

LEVEL 2

Are you ever guilty of being a "know it all?" Explain.

How does Job explain his innocence?

LEVEL 3

Does Eliphaz think that anyone can be pure? If so, what is God's response?

How does this view portray God as an exacting judge? How does this leave out God's mercy?



JOB EXPLAINS WHY HIS FRIENDS ARE WRONG AND UNHELPFUL

READ Job 18:1-4, 11-21; 21:27-34

"How can your empty cliches comfort me? All your explanations are lies!"

Job 21:34



LEVEL 1

What does Bildad say will happen to the wicked?

Does Job like his friends' answers?

LEVEL 2

What do you think Job needs?

Have you ever tried to comfort a person and it turned out poorly? Do you know why?

LEVEL 3

What are Job's friends prioritizing?

Can we ever know God's plans? How can we face suffering while trusting God?



ANOTHER FRIEND SHOWS UP... HE WAS WRONG TOO!

READ Job 32:1-10; 34:21-37

"Then Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite, of the clan of Ram, became angry. He was angry because Job refused to admit that he had sinned and that God was right in punishing him."

Job 32:2



LEVEL 1

Why did Job's three friends stop talking?

Why was Elihu upset at Job's other friends?

LEVEL 2

Why did Elihu feel like he couldn't speak up at first?

Have you ever argued about something while being disrespectful? Did it go well for you?

LEVEL 3

Does Elihu feel like Job is challenging God? What does he think Job should do?

Is Job disrespecting God? Should we blame Him when we suffer?



GOD RESPONDS AND HE HAS SOME QUESTIONS FOR JOB

READ Job 38:1-18; 39:1-12, 26-29

"Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind: 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words?'"

Job 38:1-2





LEVEL 1

Where did God answer Job from? What do you think it looked like?

What are some of the things God did?

LEVEL 2

What does God question Job about?

What does this passage show us about God's character?

LEVEL 3

Can we ever know more about God? Explain.

How can you trust God even when you can't see what He is doing? What lesson do you think Job learned?



IN THE END, GOD RESTORES EVERYTHING

READ Job 40:1-14; 42:1-16

"I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes."

Job 42:2,5



LEVEL 1

What did God ask Job if he wanted to do?

What does God do in the end?

LEVEL 2

Is it wise to always be trying to guess God's purpose while suffering?

How can this story bring you comfort when you suffer?

LEVEL 3

What is the prosperity gospel? What kinds of blessings does God give to people following Him faithfully?

How does God's control over the world influence your motivations?



WHAT ARE YOU DELIGHTING IN?

READ Psalm 1

"But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do."

Psalm 1:2-3



LEVEL 1

Play Simon Says as a family using the "walk, sit, stand" language. Who can last the longest?

What do you like most about God's Word?

LEVEL 2

What do you "delight" in?

How could Mom and Dad help you read the Bible more often?

LEVEL 3

Do you feel like you are prospering? Why or why not?

What keeps you from delighting in God's Word? How can we combat those things together?



GOD'S WORD CAN ALWAYS BE TRUSTED

READ Psalm 12:1-8

"The Lord's promises are pure, like silver refined in a furnace, purified seven times over."

Psalm 12:6





LEVEL 1

What does the psalmist think is happening to the godly?

What does David want God to do?

LEVEL 2

What does David say that shows you he trusts God?

What do you put your confidence in? Why?

LEVEL 3

How can you trust God even when it seems like you are losing the "battle?"

What does this passage teach about God's justice?



THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

READ Psalm 23

"The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need."

Psalm 23:1



LEVEL 1

The Lord is my _____.

What animal do shepherds take care of? What sound do they make?

LEVEL 2

List 3 things the shepherd does.

Do you feel like you have all that you need with God as your shepherd? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Where else in the Bible is the Lord compared to a shepherd?

How would you explain this psalm in your own words?



IS THE LORD YOUR STRENGTH AND YOUR SHIELD?

READ Psalm 28:1-9

"The Lord is my strength and shield.
I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy.
I burst out in songs of thanksgiving."

Psalm 28:7





LEVEL 1

What does David call the Lord? Go find one outside. Describe it.

Why does David praise the Lord?

LEVEL 2

How would you describe David's relationship with God?

How do you respond when God answers your prayers?

LEVEL 3

How would you describe David's confidence in God? Is it well founded?

How confident are you that God will help you? How do you know?



GOD IS IN CONTROL OVER WORLDLY EVENTS.

READ Psalm 33:1-22

"The Lord frustrates the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes."

Psalm 33:10



LEVEL 1

Sing a song of praise together as a family.

When God spoke, what happened?

LEVEL 2

What is the psalmist calling people to do? Why?

Why is gratitude important?

LEVEL 3

What does hope mean to you? What do you put your hope in?

How does God's sovereignty encourage you?



DO YOU TELL OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT GOD?

READ Psalm 40:1-17

"I have told all your people about your justice. I have not been afraid to speak out, as you, O Lord, well know. I have not kept the good news of your justice hidden in my heart; I have talked about your faithfulness and saving power. I have told everyone in the great assembly of your unfailing love and faithfulness."

Psalm 40:9-10





LEVEL 1

How did David wait?

What will make people be amazed?

LEVEL 2

What has God done for David?

Does David ever sin? How is God merciful despite David's sin?

LEVEL 3

What does David tell others about God?

Do you share the gospel with others? Why or why not?



GOD WILL, ONE DAY, BE KNOWN BY ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH!

READ Psalm 46:1-11

"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."

Psalm 46:1





LEVEL 1

What is a refuge? Ask a parent and then draw a picture of one.

Where will God be honored?

LEVEL 2

Why are the psalmists unafraid?

What does it mean for God to be honored throughout the world?

LEVEL 3

What does this psalm show us about God's character?

How can you take steps to make God known among the nations?



THIS IS WHAT REPENTANCE LOOKS LIKE

READ Psalm 51:1-19

"Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin."

Psalm 51:1-2





LEVEL 1

Who has David sinned against?

What does David want?

LEVEL 2

What is the sacrifice that God desires?

What does David say about God's love and mercy? Do you agree?

LEVEL 3

What is the context of this psalm?

What covers all sins? How do we find complete forgiveness?



DO YOU SING GOD'S PRAISES TO EVERYONE?

READ Psalm 57:1-11

"I will thank you, Lord, among all the people. I will sing your praises among the nations."

Psalm 57:9



LEVEL 1

Who does David cry out to?

What animal does David compare his enemies to? Who in the family can do the best roar?

LEVEL 2

What does David do when he's afraid?

Do you talk to God when frightened? What do you talk to Him about? How do you ask Him?

LEVEL 3

What is David's prayer focused on?

What does it mean for God's glory to shine?



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN OVERWHELMED?

READ Psalm 69:1-18

"Save me, O God, for the floodwaters are up to my neck."

Psalm 69:1



LEVEL 1

Draw a picture of the waters David describes.

What does he ask God to do?

LEVEL 2

Who does David turn to when overwhelmed?

Have you ever felt overwhelmed? How did you respond?

LEVEL 3

Does David focus on his situation or God more?

In prayer, do you focus more on God's character or the floodwaters of your life?



THE SINFUL WAYS OF OTHERS CAN SEEM FUN, BUT THEY LEAD TO TROUBLE

READ Psalm 73:1-20

"But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone."

Psalm 73:2



LEVEL 1

Have you ever tripped or slipped? Tell the story!

Who has silly ideas? What's the silliest idea you've ever had?

LEVEL 2

Are you ever tempted to be jealous of what the wicked have?

Do the wicked ever prosper in the end? How does this bring you comfort?

LEVEL 3

When does Asaph's perspective change? How and why?

Why is having an eternal perspective so important? How can you have one?



GOD MADE A SPECIAL PROMISE TO ISRAEL. HAS HE FORGOTTEN IT?

READ Psalm 74:1-11

"Remember that we are the people you chose long ago, the tribe you redeemed as your own special possession! And remember Jerusalem, your home here on earth."

Psalm 74:2





What does Asaph want God to remember?

Who swung axes?

LEVEL 2

What does Asaph ask God to do?

What do you struggle to understand and want to ask God about?

LEVEL 3

Should Christians today ask God to destroy our enemies? Explain.

How does the reality of Christ change our perspective in the face of opposition?



GOD FORGIVES AGAIN AND AGAIN! YOU ARE NEVER TOO FAR GONE!

READ Psalm 85:1-13

"Now restore us again, O God of our salvation. Put aside your anger against us once more."

Psalm 85:4





Who is angry?

Who does God give salvation to?

LEVEL 2

What does the word restore mean? What does it look like for the Israelites?

Describe a time where you wanted to return to "foolish ways."

LEVEL 3

How does God protect his people? Is there any hope of the final defeat of sin?

Spend some time practicing sharing the gospel.



UNDIVIDED HEARTS

READ Psalm 86:1-13

"Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart so that I may honor you."

Psalm 86:11



LEVEL 1

What does David want God to do? List 3 things.

Who does David say is good?

LEVEL 2

In verse 11, what is David prioritizing?

How much do you desire to honor God and learn His ways? Is it important to you?

LEVEL 3

Explain this psalm in your own words.

How do you better understand the truth in this psalm, knowing Christ has already come?



GOD OFFERS US EVERYTHING WE NEED EVERYDAY OF OUR LIVES

READ Psalm 90:1-17

"Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives."

Psalm 90:14





Draw a picture based on this psalm.

What do the psalmists want the Lord to do?

LEVEL 2

What does the "brevity of life" mean? Ask an adult for help.

What does Moses long for?

LEVEL 3

What is contrasted in this psalm?

How do you define success? How do you think the psalmist would?



WE HAVE SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR!

READ Psalm 100:1-5

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name."

Psalm 100:4





Sing your favorite worship song as a family.

Say a prayer of thanksgiving.

LEVEL 2

What can you thank God for today?

What would a heart of gratitude look like in your daily life?

LEVEL 3

Is your life marked by praise? Explain.

How does the magnitude of God's love and faithfulness comfort you?



GOD WISELY CREATED EVERYTHING

READ Psalm 104:19-35

"Let all that I am praise the Lord.
O Lord my God, how great you are!
You are robed with honor and majesty."

Psalm 104:1





What did God create?

Who depends on God?

LEVEL 2

What are the 7 days of creation? Are they all referred to in this psalm?

Which verse stands out to you the most?

LEVEL 3

Why should we praise God?

What will happen to the wicked? How does this bring you comfort?



WHEN BAD NEWS COMES, WE DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID

READ Psalm 112:1-10

"Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed."

Psalm 112:2





What type of person is joyful?

Ask a grown up what it means to be godly.

LEVEL 2

Why don't the godly fear bad news?

Does being blessed mean that we will never suffer?

LEVEL 3

What does generosity look like for God's people?

As God's people, how should we view our possessions?



THE KEY TO STAYING AWAY FROM SIN

READ Psalm 119:1-16

"How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

Psalm 119:9, 11



LEVEL 1

What do joyful people do?

Where does the psalmist hide God's Word?

LEVEL 2

What are people of integrity (those who follow God's laws) like? Why?

Are you like this psalmist? Why or why not?

LEVEL 3

Write out verses 9 and 11 and stick them on your bathroom mirror.

In John 1 we read that Jesus is the Word. How does that deepen your understanding?



WE CAN PRAY AND ASK GOD TO HELP US WANT TO READ OUR BIBLES

READ Psalm 119:17-40

"Help me abandon my shameful ways; for your regulations are good. I long to obey your commandments! Renew my life with your goodness."

Psalm 119:39-40



LEVEL 1

What does the psalmist want?

Do you like rules? Are they good or bad?

LEVEL 2

What did the psalmist choose? Do you make the same choices?

Why is God's word so important? How does it help?

LEVEL 3

Is the psalmist able to obey God's word on his own?

Spend some time praying and asking God to grow your desire for His Word.



THESE ARE PSALMS OF ASCENT

READ Psalm 120-121

"I look up to the mountains does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!"

Psalm 121:1-2



LEVEL 1

Where does the psalmist turn to for help?

Who watches over us?

LEVEL 2

What does the psalmist want rescue from? Is this a concern of yours as well?

How can you take your troubles to God today?

LEVEL 3

Do you like the thought of God watching over you?

When have you recognized God protecting you? Do you recognize it and thank Him?



PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE, BLESS, BLESS, BLESS

READ Psalm 135:1-21

"Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord! Praise him, you who serve the Lord."

Psalm 135:1



LEVEL 1

What does the psalmist want people to do?

What is the most powerful thing you can think of? Is God more powerful?

LEVEL 2

Think back to Exodus. What happened in Egypt? Play charades as a family.

What has God done in the past, that you can personally praise Him for today?

LEVEL 3

Do you praise the Lord regularly? Explain.

What do you say about God when you praise Him?



GOD KNOWS EVERY LITTLE DETAIL ABOUT YOU!

READ Psalm 139:1-12

"O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me."

Psalm 139:1



LEVEL 1

What does God know about David?

Play a game of hide and seek as a family.

LEVEL 2

What do you wish more people knew about you?

Why is it a good thing that God knows every detail about us?

LEVEL 3

Have you ever tried to hide something from God? Explain.

When do you feel the most insecure? How can this psalm provide comfort?



GOD HEALS THE BROKEN HEARTED

READ Psalm 147:1-11

"He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds."

Psalm 147:3





How many stars do you think God counts?

What does God do for the brokenhearted?

LEVEL 2

Who does God support?

Do you delight in God? Do you think God delights in you?

LEVEL 3

How does this picture of God helping the lowly give you comfort? What does humility look like?

What aspects of God's character are on display?



WHY GOOD ADVICE IS WORTH FOLLOWING

READ Proverbs 1:1-19

"Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."

Proverbs 1:7





What is David's son's name?

Who is your favorite teacher?

LEVEL 2

What will these proverbs do?

Can the wise become wiser? Are you growing in wisdom?

LEVEL 3

Do some research. Who do you think wrote the proverbs?

Who is the wisest person you know? What do you respect about them?



ANTS SHOW US THE OPPOSITE OF LAZINESS

READ Proverbs 6:6-23

"Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise!"

Proverbs 6:6



LEVEL 1

What do ants do? Describe them.

What are some of the things God doesn't like?

LEVEL 2

Why does God like hard, motivated workers?

Do you pursue excellence? What does this look like? Does this mean always winning?

LEVEL 3

How has your parent's wisdom protected you?

Do you hate the things God hates? Explain.



SOMETIMES GETTING A CONSEQUENCE IS THE BEST THING FOR US

READ Proverbs 12:1-12

"To learn, you must love discipline; it is stupid to hate correction."

Proverbs 12:1





Do you like discipline?

What is a thief?

LEVEL 2

What does the Lord approve of?

Make a list of the things that are compared in this proverb.

LEVEL 3

Can we ever be perfectly good? Explain.

How does this eternal perspective give you comfort? In what areas of you life do you need to be reminded of this?



CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE PEACEMAKERS NOT PEACE-BREAKERS

READ Proverbs 17:14-24

"Starting a quarrel is like opening a floodgate, so stop before a dispute breaks out."

Proverbs 17:14





Ask a grown up what a quarrel is.

What is good medicine?

LEVEL 2

How would you describe quarrel? Do you view quarrels like God does?

Are you a peacemaker or a peace-breaker?

LEVEL 3

How are the sensible different from the foolish?

What are you focusing on right now?



DO YOU LISTEN TO YOUR PARENTS?

READ Proverbs 23:13-25

"My child, listen and be wise: Keep your heart on the right course."

Proverbs 23:19





What does Solomon say to get?

What does he say about our hearts?

LEVEL 2

Why do you think Solomon values truth and wisdom so much?

What do you value? Is getting wisdom really important to you?

LEVEL 3

How do you view your parents' discipline?

Why do you think Solomon emphasizes the impact and influence of and on parents?



DON'T LET ANGER TAKE THE REINS

READ Proverbs 29:4-11

"Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back."

Proverbs 29:11



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What is a trap? Have you ever set one?

Who gives stability?

LEVEL 2

What do you think wise people look like today? What about the foolish?

Which kind of person are you most like? How can you take steps towards growing in wisdom?

LEVEL 3

What does this passage say about flattering friends?

When do you struggle to be completely honest with your friends?



LOOK OUT FOR THOSE AROUND YOU

READ Proverbs 31:1-9

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed."

Proverbs 31:8



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What is the King's name? Who was his teacher?

What should we do for those who can't defend themselves?

LEVEL 2

Who did King Lemuel's mom want him to speak up for?

Is there anyone in your life you can or should speak up for?

LEVEL 3

What two things was King Lemuel warned about?

Ask your parents how YOU should think about those things.



FAITHFUL WOMEN ARE HARD WORKERS

READ Proverbs 31:10-20

"Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies."

Proverbs 31:10





Draw a picture of or dress up like the Proverbs 31 woman.

What does she do?

LEVEL 2

Who does she care for? Explain.

Summarize this passage in your own words.

LEVEL 3

What traits would YOU look for in a spouse?

What qualities of this kind of person do you think you possess? Which traits do you need to grow in?



GOD HAS SEEN IT ALL!

READ Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

"So I set out to learn everything from wisdom to madness and folly. But I learned firsthand that pursuing all this is like chasing the wind."

Ecclesiastes 1:17





Where was the teacher king?

What did King Solomon observe?

LEVEL 2

What was King Solomon's conclusion?

What does the phrase "there is nothing new under the sun" mean?

LEVEL 3

Why do you think Solomon felt gaining wisdom was meaningless?

Do you think history repeats itself? It so, how? Does that mean that what you do today is worthless?



OUR WORTH IS NOT FOUND IN OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR TROPHIES!

READ Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

"But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere."

Ecclesiastes 2:11



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What are some of your favorite things?

Did Solomon's favorite things make him happy?

LEVEL 2

Is it a good thing to work hard?

Do you work hard?

Why do you think Solomon was unsatisfied in the end?

LEVEL 3

Does this passage encourage or discourage you? Why?

What are you pursuing? Does it have lasting worth?



DON'T BE SURPRISED WHEN LIFE IS UNFAIR

READ Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

"Don't be surprised if you see a poor person being oppressed by the powerful and if justice is being miscarried throughout the land. For every official is under orders from higher up, and matters of justice get lost in red tape and bureaucracy."

Ecclesiastes 5:8





What is a gift from God?

What does Solomon warn us about?

LEVEL 2

What shouldn't be surprising?

Why do you help others? Have you ever helped someone because it would help you?

LEVEL 3

What does Solomon say is good? Why?

Do you enjoy what God has given you or do you long for more? Why?



AT THE END OF THE DAY, TAKE GOD SERIOUSLY

READ Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

"That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad."

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14





Who shouldn't be forgotten?

What will God judge?

LEVEL 2

Summarize Solomon's final point in your own words.

Are you fearing God and obeying Him? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Why should we pursue God starting now and not later in life?

What does it look like for you to leverage your age for God's glory?



THE SINFUL NATION-LOOKING AT JUDAH'S SIN

READ Isaiah 1:1-20

"These are the visions that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. He saw these visions during the years when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah."

Isaiah 1:1





Who's visions are these?

What two colors are mentioned? What will God change the color of?

LEVEL 2

What are the people of Judah doing for God? What does He want instead?

What is your attitude toward obedience? Explain.

LEVEL 3

What does God promise to give Israel if they obey? What about if they disobey?

What does this passage show you about God's grace and love?



GOD'S JUDGMENT ON JUDAH IS COMING

READ Isaiah 5:1-7, 13-25

"So my people will go into exile far away because they do not know me. Those who are great and honored will starve, and the common people will die of thirst."

Isaiah 5:13



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Ask a grown up to show you a picture of a vineyard. What did you think it'd look like?

How many people will go into exile?

LEVEL 2

How are the people of Judah acting? Why will they go into exile?

If you could describe most of your actions in one word, what would it be?

Do your actions please God?

LEVEL 3

What does God want His people to do? Why do you think they aren't doing it?

Do you always desire to obey God? What sin keeps you from obeying Him?



GOD'S GRACE FOR ISAIAH

READ Isaiah 6:1-13

"Then I heard the Lord asking, 'Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?' I said, 'Here I am. Send me.'"

Isaiah 6:8





Who does Isaiah see?

What does Isaiah volunteer for?

LEVEL 2

What does God want Isaiah to say? Why might He be telling him to say this?

Have you ever tried to listen but didn't understand? Give an example.

LEVEL 3

How long will Judah rebel? What does God say the result will be?

How have you seen hope when everything felt hopeless?



THE GUILT OF THE PEOPLE WILL, ONE DAY, BE TAKEN AWAY

READ Isaiah 7:1-25

"All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')."

Isaiah 7:14





What did King Ahaz need to stop doing?

What does God say will never happen?

LEVEL 2

Who do you think the child mentioned in the passage is?

What does this say about God's plans?

LEVEL 3

How is God going to punish Judah? Do you still see hope in this discipline?

How does the hope of Christ evidenced in this passage encourage you?



THE JUDGMENT THEY ARE EXPERIENCING IS NOT FOREVER!

READ Isaiah 9:1-7

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6





Will the judgment they are experiencing last forever?

What will be given to them?

LEVEL 2

What will this child be called?

Go back to 2 Samuel 7. What did God say about this ruler?

LEVEL 3

How would you have responded to this promise if you were about to face judgment?

How does Christ being this kind of ruler encourage you?



PEOPLE FROM MANY NATIONS WILL UNITE WITH ISRAEL

READ Isaiah 14:1-13

"How you are fallen from heaven,
O shining star, son of the morning!
You have been thrown down to
the earth, you who destroyed the
nations of the world. For you said
to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven
and set my throne above God's stars.
I will preside on the mountain of
the gods far away in the north."

Isaiah 14:12-13





Who will the Lord have mercy on?

Who will help Israel return?

LEVEL 2

When did God first choose Israel as His special people?

What stands out to you in this passage?

LEVEL 3

What will happen to the wicked in the end? Why?

How does this future hope for Israel put God's mercy on display?



GOD BRINGS JUDGMENT AND SALVATION

READ Isaiah 25:1-12

"Therefore, strong nations will declare your glory; ruthless nations will fear you."

Isaiah 25:3





Who will ruthless nations fear?

What are some of the things God does?

LEVEL 2

Who is God a refuge for?

Is God your refuge? How can you find rest and safety in Him?

LEVEL 3

What does God promise to do in verse 8?

Explain the message of hope described in today's text.



JUDGMENT OR SALVATION?

READ Isaiah 34:1-4, 35:1-10

"Those who have been ransomed by the Lord will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness."

Isaiah 35:10





Draw a picture of this desert transformation.

What should they have said to the fearful?

LEVEL 2

What will happen when God arrives?

How does this passage make you feel? Grateful? Hopeful? Encouraged? Why?

LEVEL 3

Why is Judah going to suffer? Why are they going to be redeemed?

Do they deserve God's forgiveness? How does this encourage you when you are disciplined?





GOD HAS A PLAN!

READ Isaiah 41:1-20

"I am doing this so all who see this miracle will understand what it means—that it is the Lord who has done this, the Holy One of Israel who created it."

Isaiah 41:20





How does God want the people to listen?

What will God do for Jacob?

LEVEL 2

Compare what God will do for Jacob with what He'll do for the other nations?

What about God encourages you in this passage?

LEVEL 3

Explain how you see God's justice on display in this text?

What is your personal response?





THE SUFFERING SERVANT

READ Isaiah 53:1-12

"But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all."

Isaiah 53:5-6





What animal is mentioned? What sound does it make?

What happens to the servant of God?

LEVEL 2

Who do you think this passage is talking about? How do you know?

How have you strayed away? How have you been like the sheep?

LEVEL 3

How do you think God can call this plan good?

Practice sharing the gospel with each other.





GOD HAS BLESSINGS AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS

READ Isaiah 56:1-8

"Don't let foreigners who commit themselves to the Lord say, 'The Lord will never let me be part of his people.' And don't let the eunuchs say, 'I'm a dried-up tree with no children and no future."

Isaiah 56:3





Who can be part of God's people?

What does the Lord want us to do?

LEVEL 2

Did God only want Israel to be part of His family? How do you know?

Who can you share the good news of Jesus with?

LEVEL 3

Does this text challenge any assumptions you'd made about the Old Testament? Explain.

How does this passage remind you of the body of Christ? Who are welcome as His disciples?



GOD'S ARMS ARE OPEN

READ Isaiah 65:1-25

"All day long I opened my arms to a rebellious people. But they follow their own evil paths and their own crooked schemes."

Isaiah 65:2





What did God want the people to do?

What did they do instead?

LEVEL 2

What was the consequence of Israel's rejection of God?

How do you see God's mercy in this passage?

LEVEL 3

Do you think God is fair? Explain.

How does this passage give us hope?





YOUR AGE DOES NOT DISQUALIFY YOU FROM BEING USED BY GOD!

READ Jeremiah 1:1-19

"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."

Jeremiah 1:5





How long has God known Jeremiah?

Why did Jeremiah think he couldn't speak for God?

LEVEL 2

Why does God tell Jeremiah to not fear?

What are you afraid of? Why? Do you entrust God with your fear?

LEVEL 3

Who will fight against Jeremiah? Will they succeed?

When God calls you to do something, do you tend to expect it to be easy or hard? Give an example.



JUDGMENT IS COMING FOR JUDAH

READ Jeremiah 4:3-18

"O people of Judah and Jerusalem, surrender your pride and power. Change your hearts before the Lord, or my anger will burn like an unquenchable fire because of all your sins."

Jeremiah 4:4



LEVEL 1

What does God want the people to surrender?

What animal does God say left its den? Is this good or bad?

LEVEL 2

Why will Judah be punished?

What did Jerusalem need to do to be saved?

LEVEL 3

Give an example of rebellion in your own heart.

How can we be spared from God's punishment for sin?



GOD'S PEOPLE ARE GUILTY! A CONSEQUENCE IS COMING THEIR WAY!

READ Jeremiah 5:1-6; 6:1-9

"'Run up and down every street in Jerusalem,' says the Lord. 'Look high and low; search throughout the city! If you can find even one just and honest person, I will not destroy the city."

Jeremiah 5:1



LEVEL 1

Who can run the fastest? Have a family race!

What type of person was Jeremiah supposed to look for?

LEVEL 2

What were the people like?

How would you describe someone who follows God? What are they like?

LEVEL 3

What was the consequence of their failure to listen to God?

Are you listening to God? What does that look like?



EXILE IS COMING!

READ Jeremiah 10:17-25

"Pack your bags and prepare to leave; the siege is about to begin."

Jeremiah 10:17





What does God tell Judah to do?

How would you feel if you were forced to leave your home?

LEVEL 2

What does Jeremiah say about our lives? Who do they belong to?

Do you think about your life as belonging to God? What does that mean?

LEVEL 3

What will happen to Judah for their disobedience?

In your own life, what have the consequences of sin led to? Give an example.



GOOD FOR NOTHING

READ Jeremiah 13:1-11, 15-17

"So I went to the Euphrates and dug it out of the hole where I had hidden it. But now it was rotting and falling apart. The loincloth was good for nothing."

Jeremiah 13:7





What did God tell Jeremiah to buy?

Have you ever seen or smelled something rotten? What was that like?

LEVEL 2

How was Judah like the loincloth?

What are some rotten things in your life? How do you know what's rotten?

LEVEL 3

How would Jeremiah respond if Israel refused to obey?

What does it mean to cling to God? Who do you know who does this well?



OBEDIENCE ISN'T ALWAYS EASY

READ Jeremiah 17:19-27; 18:18; 20:7-13

"Then the people said, 'Come on, let's plot a way to stop Jeremiah. We have plenty of priests and wise men and prophets. We don't need him to teach the word and give us advice and prophecies. Let's spread rumors about him and ignore what he says."

Jeremiah 18:18



LEVEL 1

On what day were God's people supposed to stop working?

Is obedience easy or hard? Why?

LEVEL 2

How do you think Jeremiah felt when people were spreading rumors about him? Why?

What did he tell the Lord in response?

LEVEL 3

What does God say makes the Sabbath holy? Why does it matter?

Have you ever experienced opposition when you were trying to obey God? Explain.



A FAITHFUL COMING KING AND THE FALSE PROPHETS

READ Jeremiah 23:1-20

"'For the time is coming,' says the Lord, 'when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line.

He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land."

Jeremiah 23:5



LEVEL 1

What animal does God compare Judah to? What do you know about sheep?

Imagine you're a sheep. What kind of a shepherd would you want to take care of you?

LEVEL 2

What kind of a king does God want to rule His people?

How does knowing God's heart for His people help you trust Him?

LEVEL 3

What do you learn about God's character from this passage?

Look back at 2 Samuel 7. What are three things God promised David?



JEREMIAH'S FAITHFULNESS AND HEZEKIAH'S RESPONSE

READ Jeremiah 26:1-19

"Then the officials and the people said to the priests and prophets, 'This man does not deserve the death sentence, for he has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God."

Jeremiah 26:16



LEVEL 1

How do you react when you hear something you don't like?

What does God promise He will do if the people listen to Him?

LEVEL 2

What convinced the people they should turn from their sins?

How quickly do you turn to God? Do you wait until things are really bad?

LEVEL 3

Why was King Hezekiah a good example for the people to remember?

How do you respond to discipline? Are you ever tempted to "shoot the messenger"?



A GLIMMER OF HOPE IN THE MIDST OF DESTRUCTION

READ Jeremiah 29:1-19

"'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11



LEVEL 1

Describe the best day ever. What would you do? Where would you go?

How do you feel knowing that God's plans for you are way better?

LEVEL 2

How do you think the exiles would have felt hearing this letter?

What do you do when life seems hopeless?

LEVEL 3

Jeremiah 29:11 is in the middle of a warning concerning coming destruction. Does this change your understanding of the verse? Explain.

How do you think about your own plans vs. God's plans?



FUTURE RESTORATION WILL COME AFTER JUDGMENT

READ Jeremiah 33:1-18

"In those days and at that time I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line. He will do what is just and right throughout the land."

Jeremiah 33:15



LEVEL 1

What's the silliest laughing noise you can make?

Do you think God likes laughter? How do you know?

LEVEL 2

Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? How did you respond?

What does God's response to Israel and Judah's disobedience teach you about Him?

LEVEL 3

How do you see God's faithfulness to Judah and Israel?

How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?



GOD GAVE HIS PEOPLE LOTS OF CHANCES TO OBEY

READ Jeremiah 34:13-22; 35:12-17

"Time after time I sent you prophets, who told you, 'Turn from your wicked ways, and start doing things right. Stop worshiping other gods so that you might live in peace here in the land I have given to you and your ancestors.' But you would not listen to me or obey me."

Jeremiah 35:15



LEVEL 1

If someone keeps making a mistake, how many chances do you think they should get? Why?

How many chances do you think God gave Judah and Israel? Why do you think that is?

LEVEL 2

What were God's people paying attention to?

Where does most of your attention go? How can you focus on God?

LEVEL 3

What do you think God meant by saying He will set them free to be destroyed?

What do you think true freedom looks like?



THE PEOPLE FAIL TO LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

READ Jeremiah 36:1-23

"Perhaps the people of Judah will repent when they hear again all the terrible things I have planned for them. Then I will be able to forgive their sins and wrongdoings."

Jeremiah 36:3





What was the name of the messenger Jeremiah sent to read the scroll?

What did the king do with the scroll?

LEVEL 2

How did God want the people to respond to the message?

Talk about a time you asked for forgiveness.

LEVEL 3

Is there anyone in your life you want to turn from their sin?

How does repentance and restoration point to the greater truth of the gospel?



DESPITE THE FALL OF THE CITY, GOD PROVIDES FOR JEREMIAH!

READ Jeremiah 39:1-4; 40:1-6

"Now, behold, I release you today from the chains on your hands. If it seems good to you to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will look after you well, but if it seems wrong to you to come with me to Babylon, do not come. See, the whole land is before you; go wherever you think it good and right to go."

Jeremiah 40:4





How do you think God's people felt when He told them this? (40:4)

Put on some music and do your happiest dance!

LEVEL 2

What did the people do when the Babylonians came? Act it out.

What does it mean to be set free?

LEVEL 3

Summarize these passages in your own words.

Talk about a time when you felt set free from a difficult situation.





THE PEOPLE PERSIST IN THEIR WICKEDNESS

READ Jeremiah 44:1-18, 23

"Yet I persistently sent to you all my servants the prophets, saying, 'Oh, do not do this abomination that I hate!' But they did not listen or incline their ear, to turn from their evil and make no offerings to other gods."

Jeremiah 44:4-5



LEVEL 1

Why is it important to listen when someone warns us about danger?

Did God's people listen?

LEVEL 2

Draw a picture of someone warning others about something dangerous.

What was the consequence of Judah's failure to listen?

LEVEL 3

Describe a time in your life when someone warned you about something but you didn't listen.

How would you explain this text to someone who thinks the God of the Old Testament is vengeful?



GOD'S JUDGMENT FALLS ON PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS

READ Jeremiah 50:1-20

"My people have been lost sheep.
Their shepherds have led them astray, turning them away on the mountains.
From mountain to hill they have gone.
They have forgotten their fold."

Jeremiah 50:6





Can you pretend to be a shepherd looking for lost sheep?

Describe a time when you were lost. Or imagine what it'd be like if you were?

LEVEL 2

Why is it important to have a leader who guides us in the right direction?

What did God's people do wrong?

LEVEL 3

Why is Jesus the good shepherd?

Reflect on a time when you felt lost and how you found guidance to get back on track.



THE WORD OF THE LORD THAT JEREMIAH SPOKE PROVED TO BE TRUE.

READ Jeremiah 52:1-3, 12-19, 31-34

"In the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, who served the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem.

And he burned the house of the Lord, and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down."

Jeremiah 52:12-13





How do you think God felt when His house got burned?

How would you feel if your house got burned? What about your church?

LEVEL 2

Who did Nebuzaradan leave behind?

Who was kind to Jehoiachin? Why might this be significant?

LEVEL 3

Recall God's promises to David in 2 Samuel 7. Why is the end of this story important?

What is true about the Lord's sovereignty even in times of chaos?



THE LORD IS DISCIPLINING ISRAEL AS HE SAID HE WOULD

READ Lamentations 1:1-10; 2:1-8, 17

"The Lord has done what he purposed; he has carried out his word, which he commanded long ago; he has thrown down without pity; he has made the enemy rejoice over you and exalted the might of your foes."

Lamentations 2:17





What do you do when you're sad?

Why was Jerusalem sad?

LEVEL 2

What led to this moment of destruction for Jerusalem?

What does this passage show you about the nature of people?

LEVEL 3

How do you feel about the Lord being described as "without pity"? What does this mean in context?

Is this what you think of when you remember God keeps His promises? Explain.



DESPITE ALL THE DESTRUCTION, GOD'S CHARACTER IS STILL GOOD.

READ Lamentations 3:13-27; 5:1, 19-22

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23





Does God's love ever end?

Do you know the song "Great is Thy Faithfulness"? Sing it together.

LEVEL 2

What does it mean that God's love and mercy are new every morning?

Write a thank-you note to God for His never-ending love and kindness.

LEVEL 3

How does the perspective shift in this text?

Have you ever experienced a time when you dreaded waking up in the morning? Does this text provide encouragement?



EZEKIEL IS CALLED TO SHARE A MESSAGE WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

READ Ezekiel 2:1-10

"The Spirit came into me as he spoke, and he set me on my feet. I listened carefully to his words. 'Son of man,' he said, 'I am sending you to the nation of Israel, a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me. They and their ancestors have been rebelling against me to this very day."

Ezekiel 2:2-3





Who is speaking to Ezekiel?

How did Ezekiel listen?

LEVEL 2

Where did God want Ezekiel to go?

Imagine you just opened the scroll. What would be your reaction?

LEVEL 3

How might this text reshape our understanding of success or faithfulness?

Why did the people need to know God sent a prophet? What did this show?



THE SCROLL

READ Ezekiel 3:1-15

"Then he told me, 'Son of man, I will make food very scarce in Jerusalem. It will be weighed out with great care and eaten fearfully. The water will be rationed out drop by drop, and the people will drink it with dismay. Lacking food and water, people will look at one another in terror, and they will waste away under their punishment."

Ezekiel 4:16-17



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Describe a time when you were SUPER hungry.

Are we supposed to eat paper?

LEVEL 2

Explain what happened in your own words.

Jesus said people may reject us. How did God encourage Ezekiel in light of coming rejection?

LEVEL 3

What reality does the scarcity of food show people?

Consult a study Bible or commentary.
Why might God have had Ezekiel eat the scroll?





GOD'S PEOPLE DEFILED THE TEMPLE

READ Ezekiel 8:1-18

"Therefore, I will respond in fury. I will neither pity nor spare them. And though they cry for mercy, I will not listen."

Ezekiel 8:18



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Draw a picture of the figure who appeared to Ezekiel.

What is the nickname God calls Ezekiel?

LEVEL 2

Imagine you went through the hole in the wall. How would you feel when you saw the sins of the people?

Why is God's response an act of justice? Did the people deserve it?

LEVEL 3

How can we reconcile that God is a God of mercy with what He says here?

How does the good news of Christ strengthen our understanding of this story?



GOD'S PEOPLE NEED NEW HEARTS!

READ Ezekiel 11:14-25

"And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart, so they will obey my decrees and regulations. Then they will truly be my people, and I will be their God."

Ezekiel 11:19-20



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Ask a grown up what it means to be stubborn.

Draw a picture of the two types of hearts God talks about!

LEVEL 2

Describe what God says He will do in your own words.

Look at Acts 2. Now that God's Spirit has come, how is this story encouraging?

LEVEL 3

Consult Romans 6-8. What is the significance of the new heart?

Has the Lord given you a new heart? Explain.



GOD DOES NOT DELIGHT IN THE DEATH OF THE WICKED

READ Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32

"'Do you think that I like to see wicked people die?' says the Sovereign Lord. 'Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live.'"

Ezekiel 18:23





Who does God judge?

Is God fair?

LEVEL 2

How does God treat righteous people?

How does God treat wicked people?

LEVEL 3

Does God show partiality? Explain.

What stands out to you the most?





GOD'S PEOPLE REPEATEDLY DISOBEYED

READ Ezekiel 20:1-26

"But again I held back in order to protect the honor of my name before the nations who had seen my power in bringing Israel out of Egypt."

Ezekiel 20:14





How powerful is the Lord?

What happened in Egypt?

LEVEL 2

What happened in the wilderness?

Describe a time when you repeatedly disobeyed.

LEVEL 3

How is power shown in holding back or restraining oneself?

How does God holding back protect His honor? (verse 14)





GOD COULD NOT FIND ANY LEADERS WHO WERE MARKED BY RIGHTEOUSNESS

READ Ezekiel 22:23-31

"I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one."

Ezekiel 22:30





What animals are the leaders like? What sounds do they make?

What kind of person was the Lord looking for?

LEVEL 2

What does righteousness mean? Ask a grown up for help.

What were the leaders doing? Make a list.

LEVEL 3

How were the leaders supposed to behave?

How is Christ the ultimate picture of a righteous leader?





GOD'S JUDGMENT IS COMING FOR TYRE

READ Ezekiel 28:1-19

"I ordained and anointed you as the mighty angelic guardian. You had access to the holy mountain of God and walked among the stones of fire."

Ezekiel 28:14





What is the most beautiful thing you can think of?

How would people react if it was destroyed?

LEVEL 2

How did the king of Tyre think of himself?

Explain why this was right or wrong.

LEVEL 3

Why is this message a funeral song?

How can we be confident in how God made us yet also humble?



GOD DOES NOT DELIGHT IN THE DEATH OF THE WICKED

READ Ezekiel 33:1-20

"'As surely as I live,' says the Sovereign Lord, 'I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?'"

Ezekiel 33:11





What was the watchman's job?

Act it out. Pretend you are a watchman and the enemy is coming!

LEVEL 2

What was Ezekiel's job? Why was this a great responsibility?

What does God want wicked people to do?

LEVEL 3

Describe why God IS doing what's right?

Do you ever rely on your past works of righteousness? Explain.





THE GOOD SHEPHERD

READ Ezekiel 34:11-31

"I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day."

Ezekiel 34:12



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Who is the Lord like? What is He looking for?

How will He care for the sheep?

LEVEL 2

What are the differences between the two types of sheep?

How will the people know that the Lord is their God?

LEVEL 3

How does this message compare to the past messages Ezekiel has shared?

What other passages expound on the shepherd analogy?



THE LORD'S GLORY RETURNS

READ Ezekiel 43:1-12

"And this is the basic law of the Temple: absolute holiness! The entire top of the mountain where the Temple is built is holy. Yes, this is the basic law of the Temple."

Ezekiel 43:12





What sounds did Ezekiel hear?

What place did the Lord show Ezekiel?

LEVEL 2

What is the basic law of the temple?

What does it mean to be holy?

LEVEL 3

Based on this text, what does God value?

Explain today's text in light of the whole of Scripture.





THE RESTORED CITY

READ Ezekiel 47:1-12; 48:35

"The distance around the entire city will be 6 miles. And from that day the name of the city will be The Lord Is There."

Ezekiel 48:35



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Do you know how to swim? How do you feel about deep water?

Look up the Dead Sea with a grown up. What is it like?

LEVEL 2

What is going to happen to the Dead Sea?

What does it mean for something to be restored?

LEVEL 3

What does this passage show us about God's plan?

Think back to the garden of Eden. Why is the city's name significant?





GOD GIVES DANIEL THE WISDOM HE NEEDS

READ Daniel 2:1-3, 10-19, 24-28

"But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed."

Daniel 2:28





Have you ever had a bad dream? If so, what did you do?

What did the king do when he had one?

LEVEL 2

Look back at chapter 1. Why was Daniel equipped to help with the dream?

Who was ultimately able to reveal the meaning of the dream?

LEVEL 3

Explain what's happening in your own words.

Talk about a time when God gave you wisdom for a situation.



DANIEL TELLS THE KING HIS DREAM

READ Daniel 2:29-45, 47-49

"The king said to Daniel, 'Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret."

Daniel 2:47





What did God want the king to understand?

What was the king's dream about?

LEVEL 2

What had God given the king?

What was the meaning of the dream?

LEVEL 3

Consult a study Bible or commentary. What kingdoms was Daniel referring to?

When have you been tempted to take credit instead of giving it to God?





GOD PROTECTS DANIEL

READ Daniel 6:2-23

"My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."

Daniel 6:22





Act out this story as a family.

How did God save Daniel?

LEVEL 2

Why did Daniel stand out as a worker?

How does this story of Daniel in the lion's den encourage you?

LEVEL 3

When have you been persecuted for your faith? If you haven't, why do you think that is?

In what situations do you find it hardest to trust God?



THE LORD IS FORGIVING DESPITE OUR UNFAITHFULNESS

READ Hosea 1:10-11, 6:1-3

"Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces; now he will heal us. He has injured us; now he will bandage our wounds."

Hosea 6:1





Talk about a time you got hurt and needed a band-aid.

What made you feel better?

LEVEL 2

What has God done and what will He do to Israel?

How is Jesus presented as healer in the New Testament?

LEVEL 3

Do you find it hard to embrace God's forgiveness? Why or why not?

What does this text reveal to you about God's nature and standards?



GOD IS STILL FAITHFUL EVEN WHEN WE ARE NOT

READ Hosea 14:1-9

"The Lord says, 'Then I will heal you of your faithlessness; my love will know no bounds, for my anger will be gone forever."

Hosea 14:4





Where does Hosea want Israel to return to?

What will God do when they return?

LEVEL 2

How was Israel unfaithful to God?

How have you been unfaithful to God?

LEVEL 3

In what ways do we put our trust in earthly powers instead of God?

Ask your parents to share a story about a time when they needed to return to God.





GOD IS OUR REFUGE

READ Joel 3:16-21

"The Lord's voice will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth will shake. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a strong fortress for the people of Israel."

Joel 3:16





Build a fort with the help of an adult. What do you think the fort can protect you from?

How does God protect His people?

LEVEL 2

Where do you tend to go for help? Do you ever ask for help?

In what ways is God our refuge or help?

LEVEL 3

How would you explain God being a refuge to an unbelieving friend?

Why is this prophetic message encouraging?



GOD WARNS THE WICKED

READ Amos 5:1-15

"Hate evil and love what is good; turn your courts into true halls of justice. Perhaps even yet the Lord God of Heaven's Armies will have mercy on the remnant of his people."

Amos 5:15





Name 3 things you love, and 1 you don't like.

What does God tell us to love and not love?

LEVEL 2

What kinds of things were the people of Israel doing?

What is love?

LEVEL 3

Take an inventory of all the things you give your time to.

What does this reveal about what you truly love?





GOD DISCIPLINES, NOT DESTROYS, HIS PEOPLE

READ Amos 9:8-15

"In that day I will restore the fallen house of David. I will repair its damaged walls. From the ruins I will rebuild it and restore its former glory."

Amos 9:11



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

With help from an adult, shake some flour into a wide bowl through a sieve.

What do you notice happen? Did you lose any flour by shaking it?

LEVEL 2

What does God say he will do to the house of David?

What does this show you about God's character?

LEVEL 3

Describe a time when you felt invincible. What happened?

Describe a time when you were humbled.
What did you learn?



GOD FORGIVES THE REPENTANT

READ Jonah 1:1-17, 2:1-3, 6-7, 10, 3:3-5, 10

"When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened."

Jonah 3:10



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What was Jonah doing when the storm hit?

What happened to Jonah after he was thrown overboard?

LEVEL 2

What did Jonah do once he was inside the fish?

When you experience the consequences of your sin, what do you typically do?

LEVEL 3

Have you ever run from the Lord like Jonah? Explain.

How does the story of Jonah show God's love for the nations?



GOD IS A GOD OF UNFAILING LOVE

READ Micah 2:12-13, 4:1-13, 7:15-20

"Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people? You will not stay angry with your people forever, because you delight in showing unfailing love. Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean! You will show us your faithfulness and unfailing love as you promised to our ancestors Abraham and Jacob long ago."

Micah 7:18-20



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What's one thing you like about yourself?

What's something God likes to show His people?

LEVEL 2

What does the Lord delight in?

What has been God's plan all along?

LEVEL 3

Recall God's promises to Abraham.

What is the significance of the reference to those promises?





GOD IS A GOD OF JUSTICE

READ Nahum 1:1-15

"The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust in him."

Nahum 1:7





When do you get angry or upset?

What makes God angry?

LEVEL 2

Who was Nahum speaking to? Was his audience the people of God?

List 3 things we learn about God from this text.

LEVEL 3

How does your anger compare to the anger of the Lord?

What does godly justice look like?





GOD IS FAITHFUL IN HIS DISCIPLINE

READ Habakkuk 1:1-8, 12-17; 2:4; 3:16-19

"Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!"

Habakkuk 3:17-18





Draw a picture of the trees and crops Habakkuk describes.

What are 3 things you can thank God for?

LEVEL 2

What do you know about deer? Do some research.

How does God give you strength in hard times?

LEVEL 3

Describe how Habakkuk was feeling.

How do you rejoice when it seems like God isn't answering?





GOD WILL RESTORE

READ Zephaniah 3:1-20

"For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."

Zephaniah 3:17



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Sing a few lines of your favorite worship song.

What do you think God would sing about you?

LEVEL 2

How will God restore Israel?

What is one new thing you learned about God through this passage?

LEVEL 3

Explain the progression of this text in your own words.

How is Jesus a picture of restoration?





GOD IS THE LORD OF HOSTS

READ Haggai 1:1-15

"Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of God's people began to obey the message from the Lord their God. When they heard the words of the prophet Haggai, whom the Lord their God had sent, the people feared the Lord."

Haggai 1:12



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Build a house with popsicle sticks and decorate it. (Or use whatever you have around the house)

What would you use if you wanted to build God a house?

LEVEL 2

What were the people doing?

Why was it wrong?

LEVEL 3

What do you keep putting off that God wants you to do today?

Set a time to pray daily for 1 week asking God to grant you enthusiasm to do it.



GOD IS JUST YET MERCIFUL

READ Zechariah 1:1-17

"Therefore, this is what the Lord says:
'I have returned to show mercy to
Jerusalem. My Temple will be rebuilt,'
says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, 'and
measurements will be taken for the
reconstruction of Jerusalem.' Say this
also: 'This is what the Lord of Heaven's
Armies says: The towns of Israel will
again overflow with prosperity, and
the Lord will again comfort Zion and
choose Jerusalem as his own."

Zechariah 1:16-17





What were Zechariah's ancestors like? What did they do?

How did God feel about the other nations?

LEVEL 2

Why do you think God reminds Israel of their ancestors?

What does this teach you about God?

LEVEL 3

What is the significance of God's Temple?

Explain how this text is a message of hope.



GOD WANTS OUR HEARTS

READ Zechariah 7:1-14

"This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: 'Judge fairly, and show mercy and kindness to one another. Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. And do not scheme against each other.'"

Zechariah 7:9-10





What question were they supposed to ask the prophets and priests?

Did God answer the question?

LEVEL 2

Why do you read the Bible and pray?

How can you know when you're doing something for God or yourself?

LEVEL 3

Would you consider yourself to be merciful to others? Why or why not?

How did the ancestors treat God? Did this affect how they treated others?



THE LORD WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE

READ Zechariah 9:9-17, 10:6-12

"Foreigners will occupy the city of Ashdod. I will destroy the pride of the Philistines."

Zechariah 9:6





What animal was the king going to be riding on?

Draw a picture of some of the images in the story.

LEVEL 2

What other Bible stories talk about someone riding on a donkey?

Go hide in the house. When mom or dad whistles, come running and see who can get there the fastest.

LEVEL 3

How does this text show us that the Bible is a bunch of smaller stories that make up one big true story?

What does this passage show us about God's character?





HONORING GOD BRINGS BLESSING

READ Malachi 3:6-18; 4:1-6

"His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse."

Malachi 4:6





Does God ever change?

Did God's people typically obey God or disobey God?

LEVEL 2

Did God's people treat God rightly?

When you think about people who honor God, who do you think of?

LEVEL 3

Read Malachi 2:7-8. How did the spiritual leaders of the people act?

After all this time, wouldn't you expect God's people to obey? Why do you think they keep making the same mistakes?



GOD WITH US

READ Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-15

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us."

Matthew 1:23





Who appeared to Joseph in a dream?

What did the angel tell Joseph?

LEVEL 2

How would you feel if you were Joseph?

What does the name of the child mean? How is this encouraging?

LEVEL 3

What is the reference of the prophecy being fulfilled here?

Where in the Bible did we first learn that a victorious child would come?



GOD CALLS US TO HOLINESS, WHICH IS ONLY POSSIBLE IN HIM

READ Matthew 5:1-16, 43-48; 6:9-13, 19-21

"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike."

Matthew 5:43-45



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

As you read the story, count how many different types of people God blesses.

How does Jesus tell us to treat our enemies?

LEVEL 2

How does Jesus teach His disciples to pray? Summarize it in your own words.

What earthly possessions are you tempted to treasure?

LEVEL 3

Who are some people who are hard for you to love?

Spend some time praying as a family, asking God to help you move toward them in love.



JESUS HAS COME TO SAVE ALL SINNERS

READ Matthew 8:1-17; 9:9-13

"Then he added, 'Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.'

For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

Matthew 9:13



LEVEL 1

Who did Jesus heal?

What type of person needs a doctor?

LEVEL 2

What made the faith of the officer special?

Act out one of the stories in today's text.

LEVEL 3

What types of people did Jesus hang out with?

How can you balance the tension between spending time with lost people but not getting swept away by their ways?



JESUS WELCOMES US IN

READ Matthew 11:1-30

"Then Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28



LEVEL 1

Where was John the Baptist?

What did Jesus tell His disciples to tell John?

LEVEL 2

Who did Jesus say John the Baptist was?

What is Jesus like?

LEVEL 3

Think back to Genesis. What was the significance of Sodom?

Who does Jesus call to come to Him? What does he offer? Have you experienced this?



JESUS HAS COMPLETE CONTROL OVER ALL

READ Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; 14:13-33

"Then the disciples worshiped him. 'You really are the Son of God!' they exclaimed."

Matthew 14:33





LEVEL 1

Draw a picture of the different seeds scattered. What happens to them?

What happened to the seeds that fell on good soil?

LEVEL 2

Explain the meaning behind each seed.

How did Jesus respond to the crowds?

LEVEL 3

What did Jesus do after feeding the 5,000?

Is your life marked by a pattern of meeting with the Lord alone? Explain.



FOLLOWING JESUS REQUIRES SUFFERING

READ Matthew 16:13-28

"Then Jesus said to his disciples,
'If any of you wants to be my follower,
you must give up your own way,
take up your cross, and follow me.
If you try to hang on to your life, you
will lose it. But if you give up your
life for my sake, you will save it."

Matthew 16:24-25





LEVEL 1

Who did Simon Peter say that Jesus was?

Why did Jesus say He was blessed?

LEVEL 2

What did Jesus start to tell His disciples?

How was Peter seeing things? How do you see things?

LEVEL 3

Describe the end of Matthew 16. What was Jesus saying?

What worldly things are you tempted to inappropriately prioritize?



GOD CALLS US TO FORGIVE BECAUSE HE IS THE JUDGE, NOT US

READ Matthew 18:7-35

"That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

Matthew 18:35



LEVEL 1

Ask a grown up what the word inevitable means?

What does Jesus say is inevitable? Look at verse 7.

LEVEL 2

What does Jesus say we should do if something causes us to sin?

What do you think you should do if something is causing you to sin?

LEVEL 3

What does verse 14 teach us?

How does Jesus teach us we should deal with conflict? Is there anyone you need to have a conversation with?



JESUS CALLS US TO HUMILITY

READ Matthew 20:1-19; 21:12-22

"So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last."

Matthew 20:16



LEVEL 1

How long did God design marriages to last?

Ask your parents to tell you about their wedding day and the commitment they made.

LEVEL 2

How did the disciples react to the parents and their kids? What about Jesus?

How did Jesus react to the people in the temple?

LEVEL 3

Retell one of these stories in your own words.

What do you think about the faith Jesus describes in chapter 21? What is faith?



LIVING FOR GOD WITH AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

READ Matthew 22:1-22, 34-40

"Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."

Matthew 22:37



LEVEL 1

Act out the story of the King and the wedding feast.

How many does Jesus say are called? How many are chosen?

LEVEL 2

What did the Pharisees want to do to Jesus?

How did Jesus respond? How would you have responded?

LEVEL 3

Explain how Jesus was using the Old Testament to identify Himself.

What does it practically look like for you to love your neighbor as yourself?



JESUS CALLS US TO LIVE FOR HIM

READ Matthew 25:14-46

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home."

Matthew 25:35



LEVEL 1

What is the longest trip you have ever been on?

When the master returned from his trip, what did he celebrate?

LEVEL 2

What type of person do those in God's family help?

How can we be certain if we will have eternal life?

LEVEL 3

What stands out to you from today's reading?

What does this passage teach about Jesus's character?



EVEN JESUS'S DEATH IS PART OF GOD'S PLAN

READ Matthew 26:17-35, 47-56, 69-75

"But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures.' At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled."

Matthew 26:56



LEVEL 1

What meal were Jesus and the disciples going to eat?

Who had to die?

LEVEL 2

What did the bread and wine represent?

What did Peter insist? Have you ever insisted on something and then been wrong?

LEVEL 3

What was the festival of Unleavened Bread?

Give 3 examples showing how the Old Testament scriptures point to Jesus.



NO MATTER WHAT WE FACE, CHRIST OVERCOMES

READ Matthew 27:32-55; 28:1-10, 16-20

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20



LEVEL 1

What happened to Jesus?

What did Jesus tell His followers to do in today's key verse?

LEVEL 2

Describe what happened to Jesus.

Explain why the resurrection is good news.

LEVEL 3

Practice sharing the gospel with each other.

Is there anyone in your life you can share the gospel with this week?



JESUS IS THE TRUE SON OF GOD

READ Mark 1:1-28

"Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. 'The time promised by God has come at last!' he announced. 'The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

Mark 1:14-15





LEVEL 1

What were John the Baptist's clothes like?

What about his food? Would you eat that?

LEVEL 2

Who did John say was coming?

What did Jesus say when He went to Galilee to preach the good news?

LEVEL 3

Retell one of the stories about Jesus in your own words.

What stands out to you from today's reading?



WE ARE CALLED TO STEWARD WHAT GOD GIVES US AND TRUST HIM WITH THE REST

READ Mark 4:21-32; 5:21-43

"To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them."

Mark 4:25



LEVEL 1

Grab a flashlight. What happens when you put a towel or blanket over it?

What does Jesus say will happen when we listen closely?

LEVEL 2

Ask a grown up to look up a picture of a mustard seed for you. What did you think it'd look like?

Describe the faith of the woman who touched Jesus's robe. What is faith?

LEVEL 3

List 5 things you noticed in today's story.

How does the character of Jesus on display in this text encourage you?



GOD CARES ABOUT OUR HEARTS

READ Mark 6:1-6; 7:5-23

"It's not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart."

Mark 7:15



LEVEL 1

What is your hometown?

Where was Jesus from?

LEVEL 2

Why was Jesus frustrated with the Pharisees?

Describe a time when you were guilty of honoring God with your words but not your actions or heart.

LEVEL 3

Explain what it meant for the Pharisees to hold to their own tradition.

How have you seen sin in your own heart? Why is the gospel the only remedy?



WHO ARE WE LIVING FOR?

READ Mark 8:22-38; 9:42-50

"Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other."

Mark 9:50



LEVEL 1

Draw a picture of what the blind man saw at first.

How did Jesus help people?

LEVEL 2

How does Jesus say we should deal with sin?

Is there any sin in your own life that needs to be dealt with? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Look at the key verse. What does it mean to be salt and light?

What stood out to you from today's reading?



WE ARE CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT

READ Mark 11:1-25

"But Jesus reprimanded him. 'Be quiet! Come out of the man,' he ordered."

Mark 1:25





LEVEL 1

What animal did Jesus send the disciples to get? What sound does it make?

Act out the triumphal entry.

LEVEL 2

What was the temple supposed to be?

What was Jesus's response?

LEVEL 3

Describe the faith Jesus encouraged His disciples to have?

Will God always give us what we want? Explain.



CHRIST OVERCOMES

READ Mark 15:6-15, 21-32; 16:1-8

"But the angel said, 'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body."

Mark 16:6



LEVEL 1

How many prisoners got released each year?

Who do you think they should have released?

LEVEL 2

How would you have felt if all those people were torturing and making fun of you?

How is Jesus's response encouraging?

LEVEL 3

Why is it significant that women were the first to encounter the empty tomb?

What's one truth from today's text you needed to be reminded of?



NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR GOD

READ Luke 1:5-38

"'How kind the Lord is!' she exclaimed. 'He has taken away my disgrace of having no children."

Luke 1:25



LEVEL 1

Who was serving in the temple?

Did he believe the angel?

LEVEL 2

Describe the differences between Zechariah and Mary's responses to the angel.

How do you tend to respond when you are afraid?

LEVEL 3

What does it mean to be the Lord's servant?

Does the Word of God ever fail? Explain.



BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES AND REMAIN STEADFAST

READ Luke 1:39-45; 2:25-35; 4:1-13

"You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

Luke 1:45





LEVEL 1

What did Elizabeth's child do?

Who in the family can leap the highest? Have a contest!

LEVEL 2

What was Jesus destined to do?

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they heard this?

LEVEL 3

Consult Romans 4. Why wasn't relation to Abraham a good answer?

How do you know if you are secure in Christ?



JESUS CHANGES LIVES

READ Luke 5:1-26

"And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God."

Luke 5:25



LEVEL 1

How many empty boats did Jesus notice?

How many fish did they catch? How would you feel if you caught that many with Jesus's help?

LEVEL 2

What was Jesus willing to do?

Is there anyone you know who needs healing? Spend time praying for them.

LEVEL 3

List 5 observations from today's text.

Describe a time when you praised God and told others about what He'd done in your life.



JESUS RESTORES

READ Luke 7:26-50; 8:26-49

"And Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Luke 7:50





Who's way is always right?

Read Luke 7:32 again and play a game of freeze dance.

LEVEL 2

What did the woman do to Jesus's feet?

How did Jesus react to the woman?

LEVEL 3

Retell one of the stories about Jesus in your own words.

Spend some time sitting in silence before the Lord. How might He have you respond to this passage?



JESUS OFTEN HAS DIFFERENT PRIORITIES THAN WE DO

READ Luke 10:25-42

"There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:42



LEVEL 1

What is an expert?

What did the expert ask Jesus?

LEVEL 2

How did Jesus answer the expert's question?

Are we ever able to perfectly obey God's law? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Who is your neighbor?

Are you more like Mary or Martha? Explain.



WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITIES?

READ Luke 11:33-36; 12:13-40, 47-48

"Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."

Luke 12:34



LEVEL 1

What does Jesus say your eye is like? Play head, shoulders, knees, and toes. Who can do it the fastest?

Do you ever have trouble sharing? Tell a story.

LEVEL 2

What does it mean to be greedy?

When is it most difficult for you to share?

LEVEL 3

What does it mean to be filled with light?

How have you experienced anxiety? What does Jesus teach about it?



LIVING FOR OURSELVES VS. LIVING FOR GOD

READ Luke 14:7-35

"For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Luke 14:11





Where was everyone trying to sit? Play a game of musical chairs.

What does Jesus say we have to give up to become His disciple?

LEVEL 2

What is humility?

Who does Jesus say should be invited to the banquet?

LEVEL 3

What is the point of Jesus's story about the feast?

Do you feel convicted by anything in today's reading? Explain.

JOIN THE JOURNEY JR.

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

READ Luke 15:11-31; 16:19-31

"But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead."

Luke 16:31





How many sons did the man have?

What did the younger son do?

LEVEL 2

How did the older son react when the younger son returned?

Have you ever wanted the attention someone else was getting? Explain.

LEVEL 3

What does the father show us about God's heart for the lost?

Of the two brothers, which do you most identify with? Why?



GOD CALLS US TO FAITH, NOT PERFECTION BASES ON OUR OWN MERIT

READ Luke 17:11-37

"And Jesus said to the man, 'Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you."

Luke 17:19



LEVEL 1

How many men cried out to Jesus?

How many thanked Him? What can you thank Jesus for today?

LEVEL 2

Will people know when Jesus is coming back? Explain.

What do you remember about the story of Noah? What about Lot?

LEVEL 3

Why can we look forward to the day Jesus returns?

How do you respond when you hear people predict or tell stories about when He will return?



JESUS COMES TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST

READ Luke 17:1-27

"And does the master thank the servant for doing what he was told to do? Of course not. In the same way, when you obey me you should say, 'We are unworthy servants who have simply done our duty."

Luke 17:9-10



LEVEL 1

What did Jesus say there will always be?

How did Jesus say we should respond when someone wrongs us?

LEVEL 2

What does Jesus say should be our attitude when we obey Him?

Why are we unworthy to be Jesus's servants?

LEVEL 3

Retell yesterday's story of the 10 lepers in your own words.

How might the Lord be leading you to respond after spending two days in this story?



GOD'S WILL, NOT OURS

READ Luke 22:39-62

"Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Luke 22:42



LEVEL 1

Where did Jesus go to pray?

What did the disciples do while Jesus was praying?

LEVEL 2

Who betrayed Jesus? What did he do?

Do you remember what Peter had promised Jesus? What was he doing now?

LEVEL 3

How do Peter's actions further evidence our need for Jesus?

How do you think you would've felt if you were Peter? How does your own sin make you feel?



GOD'S PLAN IS ALWAYS FULFILLED

READ Luke 24:13-49

"And he said, 'Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' You are witnesses of all these things."

Luke 24:46-48



LEVEL 1

What were the two people talking about?

What did Jesus explain to them?

LEVEL 2

Give three examples of how the Old Testament points to Jesus.

How would you have felt if you were in the room when Jesus appeared to the disciples?

LEVEL 3

Retell today's reading in your own words.

Who was Jesus going to send and why was this going to be a significant moment?



REBIRTH IS ONLY Possible in Christ

READ John 3:1-21, 31-36

"And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment."

John 3:36



LEVEL 1

Ask your parents to tell you about the day you were born.

What kind of life does Jesus say the Holy Spirit gives birth to?

LEVEL 2

What does Jesus use the wind to illustrate?

Read John 3:16 out loud together. Who can do it in the best accent?

LEVEL 3

What is the significance of Jesus's reference to Moses?

Have you received eternal life? If so, tell the story of when you first put your faith in Him.



JESUS IS THE MESSIAH!

READ John 4:1-30

"Then Jesus told her, 'I am the Messiah!"

John 4:26





What did the woman ask Jesus for?
Act out the story.

How did Jesus treat the woman?

LEVEL 2

Why was the woman surprised?

What does Jesus say will happen if she drinks the water He gives?

LEVEL 3

Explain why Jesus's interaction with the woman was counter-cultural.

What does it look like for you to lovingly share truth with those who are unlike you?



ONLY GOD COULD DO WHAT JESUS DID

READ John 9:1-16, 24-34

"If this man were not from God, he couldn't have done it."

John 9:33





What did Jesus see when he was walking?

How did Jesus help the man?

LEVEL 2

What did the Rabbi want to know?

How did Jesus answer?

LEVEL 3

How did the Jewish leaders respond to this incident?

What were the leaders insinuating when they said God should get the glory?



JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

READ John 11:1-3, 11-15, 17-27, 34-44

"Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying."

John 11:25





Who was dead?

What did Jesus do?

LEVEL 2

What did Jesus say will happen to those who believe in Him?

How did Jesus react to Lazarus's death? How does this show us that Jesus is like us?

LEVEL 3

List 5 observations from today's reading.

What does this text show us about God's heart for people?



WE CAN ONLY GROW IN JESUS

READ John 15:1-17

"When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."

John 15:8





What does Jesus say His Father is?

What do gardeners do?

LEVEL 2

Who does Jesus say He is? Who are we?

What happens when you try to do something apart from God?

LEVEL 3

What does the word abide mean?

What does Jesus say about His disciples? How is this encouraging?



JESUS BRINGS LIFE CHANGE

READ John 21:1-25

"Jesus also did many other things.

If they were all written down, I suppose
the whole world could not contain
the books that would be written."

John 21:25





How did the disciples know Jesus was the one on the shore?

What meal did Jesus eat with them?

LEVEL 2

Who did Peter ask Jesus about?

Describe a time when you were tempted to compare yourself to someone else.

LEVEL 3

Where else in the New Testament is a charcoal fire mentioned? Why is this significant?

How do we know that this account is accurate?



GOD SENDS DOWN THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ Acts 2:1-13, 22-24, 32-33, 37-41

"Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today."

Acts 2:33



LEVEL 1

What did the people hear?

What filled the people?

LEVEL 2

What happened when the Holy Spirit came?

How does this passage show us God has good plans?

LEVEL 3

How did Peter explain the way people receive the Holy Spirit?

Have you ever heard Christians disagree about the Holy Spirit? What are some things that cause confusion?



GOD USES PHYSICAL HEALING TO BRING SPIRITUAL HEALING

READ Acts 3:1-26

"But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that he must suffer these things. Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away."

Acts 3:18-19





What did the man ask Peter and John for?

What did Peter and John do for the man?

LEVEL 2

How did people respond when they saw the beggar walking?

Have you told others about what God has done in your life? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Why do you think Peter saw this instance as an opportunity?

Why do you think he pointed back to the Old Testament?



THE PLANS OF THE LORD ARE UNSTOPPABLE

READ Acts 5:17-42

"So my advice is, leave these men alone.

Let them go. If they are planning and
doing these things merely on their
own, it will soon be overthrown. But
if it is from God, you will not be able
to overthrow them. You may even find
yourselves fighting against God!"

Acts 5:38-39





Who was put in jail?

Who opened the gates at the jail?

LEVEL 2

Who did Peter say he needed to obey?

Who are you tempted to obey other than God?

LEVEL 3

What role did Gamaliel play?

What unique gifts or experiences has God given you that you can use for His glory?



AS BELIEVERS, WE WILL FACE PERSECUTION

READ Acts 6:8-12, 7:51-60, 8:1

"Name one prophet your ancestors didn't persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One—the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. You deliberately disobeyed God's law, even though you received it from the hands of angels."

Acts 7:52-53





Who did the Greek-speaking believers complain about?

What do you do when something feels unfair?

LEVEL 2

How did the apostles solve the problem about the widows?

Why were people upset with Stephen? Has anyone ever been upset with you because you're a Christian?

LFVFL 3

What happened to Stephen?

What does persecution look like for you today? How do you think you'd respond if you were in Stephen's shoes?



ARE WE FIGHTING AGAINST GOD AND WHAT HE WANTS FOR US?

READ Acts 9:1-27, 31

"He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?' 'Who are you, lord?' Saul asked. And the voice replied, 'I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!'"

Acts 9:4-5





Before meeting Jesus, what did Saul do?

What happened to Saul on the road?

LEVEL 2

How did the Lord provide for Saul?

Do you think Ananias's response was reasonable? Would you have been afraid of Saul too?

LEVEL 3

Describe Saul's conversion story.

How can this story be a source of encouragement today?



GOD IS IN CONTROL OF EVERY SITUATION

READ Acts 12:1-24

"Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, 'Quick! Get up!' And the chains fell off his wrists."

Acts 12:7





Was King Herod Agrippa a good king or a bad king?

How did Peter escape prison?

LEVEL 2

Who did Peter encounter at the door? How was her response a demonstration of faith?

Do you ever struggle to believe God can do the impossible? Explain.

LEVEL 3

What type of worship did Herod accept? What happened?

Do you ever appreciate the praise of man more than you should? Explain.



GOD REDEEMS ALL SITUATIONS

READ Acts 16:16-40

"They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household."

Acts 16:31





Why was the slave girl able to predict the future?

Were Paul and Silas rewarded for doing the right thing? Why do you think they did it?

LEVEL 2

Do you expect blessing to always follow obedience? Why or why not?

How did Paul and Silas respond when put in prison? Do you praise God when you don't like your circumstances? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Retell this story in your own words.

What does Paul and Silas's return to Lydia's home teach us about the importance of encouragement?



THE GOSPEL TEARS DOWN FALSE GODS

READ Acts 19:23-41

"But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren't really gods at all. And he's done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! Of course, I'm not just talking about the loss of public respect for our business. I'm also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and that Artemis—this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world—will be robbed of her great prestige!"

Acts 19:26-27





Where was trouble happening?

Why didn't Paul's friends want him to go in to the temple?

LEVEL 2

What was frustrating the business men in Ephesus?

How did the mayor help the Christians?

LEVEL 3

How do you see God's provision on display in this story?

What, if anything, stands out to you?



PAUL RECOUNTS HIS TESTIMONY AND SHOWS THEM GOD'S MERCY

READ Acts 21:40; 22:3-30

"For you are to be his witness, telling everyone what you have seen and heard. What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord."

Acts 22:15-16



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What language did Paul speak in?

How did Paul learn the truth about Jesus?

LEVEL 2

How did the crowd respond to Paul?

Have you ever experienced a bad response when you tried to tell someone about Jesus? Explain.

LEVEL 3

How was Paul able to share his story in their language?

Why was Paul's standing as a Roman citizen important?



EVEN WHEN WE ARE PERSECUTED, GOD'S WORD STILL APPLIES

READ Acts 23:1-22

"'I'm sorry, brothers. I didn't realize he was the high priest,' Paul replied, 'for the Scriptures say, 'You must not speak evil of any of your rulers.'"

Acts 23:5





Why was Paul on trial?

Who rose from the dead?

LEVEL 2

Why was there a great uproar?

How did the Lord encourage Paul? Has God ever encouraged you? Describe.

LEVEL 3

What does it mean to have a clear conscience?

Is your conscience clear? Is there anything you need to confess?



GOD HAS A PURPOSE IN EVERYTHING

READ Acts 26:4-32

"But God has protected me right up to this present time so I can testify to everyone, from the least to the greatest. I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen—that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce God's light to Jews and Gentiles alike."

Acts 26:22-23



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Why was Paul on trial?

What was Paul doing before he believed in Jesus?

LEVEL 2

What did Jesus tell Paul He was going to do on the Road to Damascus?

How did Festus view Paul's obedience to God?

LEVEL 3

Describe how Paul continued to share truth even though he was being mocked.

Have you ever been made fun of for your faith? Give an example.





THINGS HAPPEN EXACTLY AS GOD SAYS

READ Acts 27:10-12, 18-26, 39-44; 28:1-10

"So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said."

Acts 27:25







What did Paul think was going to happen?

Did the officer listen to Paul? What happened?

LEVEL 2

Draw a picture of the shipwreck. Who can make the best illustration?

What does it mean to be courageous? When do you need to have courage?

LEVEL 3

Look up Malta on a map.

How does this story evidence Paul's faith and God's provision?



SALVATION IS AVAILABLE TO ANYONE NO MATTER WHAT

READ Romans 1:18-20; 3:9-31

"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are."

Romans 3:21-22



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What are some things in nature that God made?

Is anyone righteous?

LEVEL 2

What does righteousness mean?

How are people made right with God?

LEVEL 3

Do righteous works save us? Can we earn salvation? Explain.

Practice sharing the gospel with one another.





WE CAN HAVE HOPE IN REDEMPTION AND GROWTH THROUGH CHRIST

READ Romans 5:1-11; 6:1-18, 22-23

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love."

Romans 5:3-5





What does the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with?

What can we do in suffering?

LEVEL 2

How might Paul's words inform our perspective in suffering?

How did God show His love for us?

LEVEL 3

Explain why relationship with God is a cause for rejoicing.

Does salvation by faith give us a free pass to keep sinning?





THROUGH CHRIST, WE ARE FREED FROM SIN AND LED BY THE SPIRIT

READ Romans 7:4-7, 13-25; 8:1-14

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."

Romans 8:14





Who have Christians died with?

What leads to death?

LEVEL 2

Do Christians today need to follow the Old Testament law? Why or why not?

Did Paul struggle with sin? How is that an encouragement to you?

LEVEL 3

Are Christians expected to be perfect? Why or why not?

What is condemnation? Why are the truths of Romans 8 so important?



GOD INVITES AND WELCOMES ALL

READ Romans 8:31-39; 10:9-21

"And later Isaiah spoke boldly for God, saying, 'I was found by people who were not looking for me. I showed myself to those who were not asking for me."

Romans 10:20





Can anyone ever separate us from God?

How does someone become a Christian?

LEVEL 2

Write out Romans 10:9-10 and tape it to your bathroom mirror.

How do people hear about Jesus? Do you need to share the gospel with anyone?

LEVEL 3

List 3 things you notice about today's reading.

As you read, how did you sense the Spirit prompting you to respond?



WE NEED TO LIVE FOR GOD

READ Romans 12:1-21

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Romans 12:1-2



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Who are we supposed to give our bodies to?

Who can transform us into a new person?

LEVEL 2

Why might our thinking need to be changed?

What special gifts or talents has God given you?

LEVEL 3

Are you regularly serving in the local church? What's your next best step of obedience?

What does it look like to pretend to love someone vs. really loving them?



GOD CALLS US TO TRULY LOVE HIM AND OTHERS

READ Romans 13:1-14

"Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law."

Romans 13:10



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Who are we supposed to obey? Play a game of Simon Says.

Is God in control of the government?

LEVEL 2

How are Christians supposed to treat authority?

What does Paul say is urgent? Why?

LEVEL 3

What have you heard people say about the government—online or in school? How should Christians be responding?

Give an example of someone who honors authority.



GOD IS FAITHFUL EVEN WHEN WE ARE DIVIDED

READ 1 Corinthians 1:4-31

"He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:8-9



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

Was the Corinthian church divided or unified?

Were they supposed to be divided?

LEVEL 2

How has God made the wisdom of the world look?

What is the wisdom of the world and what is the wisdom of God?

LEVEL 3

Describe what it means to boast in the Lord.

Do you see any divisions that are marking your church? Are you contributing to the problem? Explain.



GOD CALLS US TO LOVE

READ 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

"Three things will last forever faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LEVEL 1

What does Paul say love is like?

Using your best baby voice, recite verse 11. Then recite verses 12-13 in your best grown up voice.

LEVEL 2

What three things does Paul say will last forever?

When does love rejoice? When do you rejoice?

LEVEL 3

Summarize chapter 13 in your own words.

What stands out the most in this chapter? Is anything especially convicting?



WE FOLLOW CHRIST IN HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION

READ 1 Corinthians 15:1-9, 12-23

"But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back."

1 Corinthians 15:23



LEVEL 1

What does Paul remind the Corinthians of?

What is the good news?

LEVEL 2

Does the story about Jesus that Paul tells align with the scriptures? How do you know?

Do you believe this story to be true? Explain.

LEVEL 3

What point is Paul making about resurrection?

Can you explain these concepts in your own words? If not, what questions do you have?



WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

READ 2 Corinthians 2:14-17; 4:1-18

"But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing. To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this?"

2 Corinthians 2:14-16



LEVEL 1

Who does Paul thank?

What are 3 things you can thank God for today?

LEVEL 2

Why does Paul thank God?

What kind of fragrance is your life? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Explain 2 Corinthians 4:1-18 in your own words.

As you read, how did you sense the Spirit prompting you to respond?



GIVE AS CHRIST GAVE

READ 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

"You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich."

2 Corinthians 8:9



LEVEL 1

Ask a grown up what it means to excel.

What did Paul want the Corinthians to excel in?

LEVEL 2

How was Jesus generous?

In what ways might the Lord be leading YOU to be generous?

LEVEL 3

What advice does Paul offer to the Corinthians?

Is there anything you've started but still need to finish? Explain.



OUR STRENGTH IS IN CHRIST

READ 2 Corinthians 11:1-15; 12:1-10

"Each time he said, 'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

2 Corinthians 12:9-10





LEVEL 1

Who was deceived by the snake in the garden?

Does Paul boast or brag?

LEVEL 2

What did God tell Paul when he begged for relief?

How can you boast in your own weaknesses so that Christ is glorified?

LEVEL 3

Consult a commentary.
What might Paul's thorn have been?

Explain why Paul is strong when he is weak.





ARE YOU MY FATHER?

READ Galatians 3:1-14, 23-29

"In the same way, 'Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.' The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God."

Galatians 3:6-7



LEVEL 1

Draw a picture of Jesus's death on the cross.

Why did the Galatians receive the Holy Spirit?

LEVEL 2

What are some of the questions Paul asks the Galatians?

How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

LEVEL 3

What is the way of faith?

Explain how the blessings God promised through Abraham are accessible through Christ.



STAY FREE IN CHRIST

READ Galatians 5:1-26

"So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law."

Galatians 5:1





LEVEL 1

Who sets us free?

How were the Galatians running? Go on a run as a family!

LEVEL 2

Can we ever earn right standing with God? Why not?

What holds you back from following God?

LEVEL 3

What did the Galatians use their freedom for?

What does it mean to let the Holy Spirit guide your life? Who do you know who does this well?



SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

READ Ephesians 1:3-14; 2:1-10

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ."

Ephesians 1:3



LEVEL 1

Who has blessed us?

Why should we praise God?

LEVEL 2

Before you were a Christian, what were you like?

Practice sharing the gospel with one another.

LEVEL 3

Why can't we take credit for our own salvation?

What runs through your mind when you read that you're Christ's masterpiece?



ATTENTION, SOLDIERS FOR CHRIST!

READ Ephesians 5:15-20; 6:1-4, 10-20

"Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil."

Ephesians 6:11





LEVEL 1

Sing your favorite worship song together as a family.

What are 2 things you can thank God for?

LEVEL 2

What does Paul say about how to live?

Are you careful or careless?

LEVEL 3

What does it look like to honor your parents as you get older?

Practically speaking, what does it look like to put on the whole armor of God?



WHAT ARE YOU FOCUSING ON?

READ Philippians 1:20-30; 2:1-11; 4:4-8

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."

Philippians 4:8





LEVEL 1

How does Paul want the Philippians to treat each other?

How did Jesus die?

LEVEL 2

Does Paul want to live or die? Explain.

What worries can you bring before God and pray about right now?

LEVEL 3

Define peace.

Describe a time when you experienced God's peace.



LIVING FOR CHRIST!

READ Colossians 1:15-23; 3:1-17

"Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives.

Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father."

Colossians 3:16-17



LEVEL 1

What does it mean for something to be invisible?

What did Jesus do?

LEVEL 2

According to Colossians 1, what do we learn about Jesus?

What should Christians think about? What do you think about a lot?

LEVEL 3

What does it mean to put to death sin?

What in today's reading challenges you the most?



WHO ARE YOU LIVING FOR?

READ 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

"Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more."

1 Thessalonians 4:1



LEVEL 1

What kind of lives has God called us to live?

Give an example of what it looks like to love someone.

LEVEL 2

What does Paul tell the Thessalonians should be their goal in life? Why?

Why does the resurrection give us hope when we face death?

LEVEL 3

Summarize Paul's message in your own words.

Have you experienced grief in your own life? How have you coped? What does Paul suggest we should do?



GOD HELPS US TO LIVE A LIFE OF HOLINESS

READ 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12; 2:13-17

"So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do."

2 Thessalonians 1:11





LEVEL 1

Who does Paul thank God for?

Pray and ask God to help you live a life that honors Him.

LEVEL 2

What does it mean to honor someone? To honor God?

Why are Christians capable of making choices that honor God?

LEVEL 3

What does it mean to stand firm on the teaching of the gospel?

In what circumstances or around which people do you struggle to stand firm?



HOW ARE YOU LIVING?

READ 1 Timothy 1:12-19, 4:6-16

"Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you."

1 Timothy 4:16



LEVEL 1

Who gave Paul strength to work? Who in the family has the biggest muscles?

Who did Jesus come to save? Are you a sinner?

LEVEL 2

What does it mean for something to be eternal?

What was Paul giving Timothy? Do you ever have trouble following instructions?

LEVEL 3

What kinds of "godless ideas" have you seen people arguing over?

What truths does Paul encourage Timothy to insist people learn? Have you learned them?



GOD'S WORD HELPS US TO LIVE FOR HIM

READ 2 Timothy 2:3-16, 22-26; 3:10-17

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17



LEVEL 1

Play dress up and pretend to be a soldier or a farmer. What does Paul say the soldier and farmer are like?

What kind of talk should we avoid?

LEVEL 2

What does Paul say we should run from?

Is there anything you need to be running from? Explain.

LEVEL 3

What is a servant of the Lord supposed to be like?

Describe a time when you could have gotten into an argument but made a good choice.



HIS GRACE ALLOWS US TO DO WHAT IS GOOD

READ Titus 2:1-15; 3:1-11

"But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life."

Titus 3:4-7



LEVEL 1

What are the older women supposed to do?

What are the young men supposed to do?

LEVEL 2

What is integrity?

Is salvation available to all people? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Are you devoted to doing good? Why or why not?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in our obedience?



HOW SHOULD WE RESOLVE CONFLICT?

READ Philemon 1:1-25

"But because of our love, I prefer simply to ask you. Consider this as a request from me—Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus."

Philemon 1:9



LEVEL 1

Who wrote this letter? Write a letter or draw a picture for one of your friends.

Why does he thank God for Philemon?

LEVEL 2

What does Paul ask Philemon to do? Why?

Is there anyone in your life you need to show more kindness to? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Do some research. How did people view slaves during this time?

What does it look like to forgive others relentlessly?



JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST!

READ Hebrews 4:12-16; 6:13-20

"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

Hebrews 4:16





LEVEL 1

What is alive?

What is powerful? What's your favorite Bible verse?

LEVEL 2

What did God promise to Abraham?

List 3 things we learn about God in today's reading?

LEVEL 3

What are some differences between Jesus and the priests in the Old Testament?

How is Jesus ultimately BETTER than everything else?



LET US ENTER BOLDLY INTO THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD

READ Hebrews 8:1-13; 9:24-28; 10:19-25

"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

Hebrews 10:19-22





LEVEL 1

What is the main point?

Did God make a new covenant?

LEVEL 2

Look up what atonement means.

What did Jesus do?

LEVEL 3

How does our access to God today differ from those who lived under the Old Covenant?

Who is someone you can encourage this week?



RUN, RUN, RUN!

READ Hebrews 12:1-17

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."

Hebrews 12:1



LEVEL 1

What are we supposed to run?

Who does the Lord discipline?

LEVEL 2

What is the difference between earthly discipline and God's discipline?

Describe a time when you didn't like being disciplined, but it ended up being good for you.

LEVEL 3

Recall the story of Esau. What do you remember?

Are there any practical steps you need to take to "work at living in peace with everyone?"



OUR WORDS MATTER!

READ James 3:1-12

"Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way."

James 3:2



LEVEL 1

What's the silliest face you can make with your tongue?

Has anyone ever said anything mean to you? How did that make you feel?

LEVEL 2

Describe a time when someone's words hurt you.

Describe a time when you used your words for good.

LEVEL 3

Think about the forest fire. How can words have an exponential impact?

Have you said anything that you need to ask forgiveness for? If so, take that step of obedience.



CAN WE SUFFER FOR DOING GOOD?

READ 1 Peter 1:13-25; 2:1-3, 13-17; 3:13-18

"Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!"

1 Peter 3:15-17





What is self control?

What does it mean to be an obedient child?

LEVEL 2

What does it mean to be holy?

How can Christians be set apart?

LEVEL 3

What does 1 Peter teach us about how Christians should live?

How is Christ's suffering an encouragement for us?





GROWING IN OUR FAITH

READ 2 Peter 1:3-21

"In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone."

2 Peter 1:5-7





What has God given us?

What is a promise?

LEVEL 2

What does Simon Peter say we should supplement our faith with?

What is a supplement?

LEVEL 3

How does this passage challenge you?

How do we know we can trust Simon Peter's message?



WHAT IS REAL?

READ 1 John 4:1-21

"And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us."

1 John 3:23-24





Should we believe everyone?

How should we treat each other?

LEVEL 2

What is the truth about Jesus?

Is our love going to always or ever be perfect? Explain.

LEVEL 3

Explain why love expels fear.

Do you ever find that there is hatred in your heart? How do you reconcile this with 1 John 4?





GOD PROTECTS US FROM THE GRIP OF SIN

READ Jude 1:17-25

"Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault."

Jude 1:24



LEVEL 1

Who wrote this letter? Who was his brother?

Write a letter or draw a picture for a friend encouraging them to defend their faith.

LEVEL 2

What were the ungodly churches saying? Why is this wrong? (See Romans 7)

What are 3 things Jude reminded the people of?

LEVEL 3

What did Jude want his friends to remember? Do you need to remember this?

How can you build up other believers who you spend time with?



GOD IS ALMIGHTY

READ Revelation 1:4-20; 2:1-7

"I am the Alpha and the Omega the beginning and the end,' says the Lord God. I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One."

Revelation 1:8



LEVEL 1

Who wrote this letter?

Who is the ruler of all the kings of the world?

LEVEL 2

How is Jesus described in these passages?

What did the loud voice tell John to do? What does that tell us about the book of Revelation?

LEVEL 3

What was going wrong in the church of Ephesus? Have you ever experienced that reality?

Read ahead through 3:13. What was happening in some of the other churches?



SO MANY PEOPLE!

READ Revelation 3:14-22; 7:9-17

"After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands."

Revelation 7:9





Was the church in Laodicea hot or cold?

Where were the people in the crowd from?

LEVEL 2

Describe the problem going on in the Laodicean church.

Describe the scene in chapter 7. How is it a picture of restoration?

LEVEL 3

Have you or your parents ever experienced a lukewarm season of faith? Are you in one now? Explain.

How does Revelation 7 display God's heart for the nations?



HOPE IN THE RESURRECTION

READ Revelation 11:1-19

"But after three and a half days, God breathed life into them, and they stood up! Terror struck all who were staring at them. Then a loud voice from heaven called to the two prophets, 'Come up here!' And they rose to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched."

Revelation 11:11-12





Parents, if this passage doesn't feel age appropriate, review chapter 2.

Find a ruler or tape measure. How tall are you?

LEVEL 2

Read verse 18. Who is God going to judge?

What does verse 11 show you about God?

LEVEL 3

How might something like an earthquake cause people to glorify God?

Look at verse 16. What causers the elders to worship God? What moves you to worship?



THE SONG OF MOSES

READ Revelation 15:1-4

"And they were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb: Great and marvelous are your works, O Lord God, the Almighty. Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations."

Revelation 15:3



LEVEL 1

What is a harp? Ask a grown up to show you a picture or video.

What were the people singing?

LEVEL 2

What does the song say is true about God?

Spend some time praising God for who He is and what He's done.

LEVEL 3

What is the significance of the nations coming to worship God?

Spend some time praying that the gospel will go to nations where the people don't have access to truth.



KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

READ Revelation 19:1, 3-16

"After this, I heard what sounded like a vast crowd in heaven shouting, 'Praise the Lord! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God."

Revelation 19:1



LEVEL 1

Have you ever heard a large crowd praise God? What did it sound like?

What type of feast is going to take place?

LEVEL 2

Who did John try to worship? What did it say?

Who does John 1 tell us is the Word of God?

LEVEL 3

List all of the references to Jesus in this passage.

Explain why the wedding feast of the lamb is a time of rejoicing.



IN THE END, GOD WINS!

READ Revelation 20:1-15

"Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

Revelation 20:10





Parents, if this passage doesn't feel age appropriate, review chapter 3.

Who was the dragon?

LEVEL 2

What happened to Satan?

What do we learn about people who had been killed because they followed Jesus?

LEVEL 3

What happens at the great white throne? (Remember, we aren't saved by works)

How can we be certain if we are saved? (Hint: John 5:11-13)



COME LORD JESUS!

READ Revelation 21:1-7, 22-27; 22:3-20

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

Revelation 21:4





What kind of city did John see?

What did the One sitting on the throne say?

LEVEL 2

Why didn't the city need a sun or a moon?

How does Revelation 21:4 give us hope?

LEVEL 3

Think about the garden, the tabernacle, Jesus, and this passage. What do they all have in common?

What do we have to look forward to? Does this affect your daily life? Should it?

