

Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of <u>Matthew 1:18-25</u>; <u>Luke 2:1-20</u>; <u>John 1</u> from the Bible.



A recent trend for expecting parents is to host a gender reveal party. Friends and family gather to watch the parents-to-be cut a cake, pop a balloon, or explode a powder grenade to see what color is inside—pink for a girl or blue for a boy. No matter what the color, everyone celebrates the fact that a cute baby is coming!

When the time had come for God to send His Son into the world, the angel revealed the news to Mary and Joseph that Mary would give birth to a Son, and His name would be Jesus. Greater than any gender reveal, this was news that God's own Son coming as a light into the dark world!

When Jesus was born, God sent a host of angels to announce the birth to shepherds. They were the first to hear the good news that Jesus—the Savior—was born. The shepherds rushed to Bethlehem where they found Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus just as the angels told them. They shared the good news with others, and everyone was amazed! We all love to celebrate the arrival of a cute baby, but this birth was extraordinary. The shepherds celebrated because the Messiah had come!

The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus, the promised Savior, came into the world to show us what God is like and to deliver us from sin and death.

**Pray:** God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, into our world. Help us to never forget how good this news is for us. Give us the courage to share with others that Jesus is the promised Savior who came to save us from sin and death. Amen.





John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:29





Thank God for sending His only Son into the world to save sinners. Praise Him for the fact that this was always His plan. Think about how great God's love must be to send His Son live with us and die for us. How should we respond to this love?

## **Evenings**

Praise God for first sharing the good news of Jesus' birth with shepherds. Shepherds may not have been special in their own culture, but God loved them. How does the announcement to shepherds show us God's love? How can this help us see what God thinks of us?



#### For Fun

Look at baby photos or videos of each family member. Share stories of joy and excitement that came with the birth of each child. Tell each child how much of a blessing they are to your family. Remind kids that Jesus' birth is good news because it blessed all of creation. He is the promised Savior who came to deliver us from sin and death.

#### To Serve

Take the whole family shopping for baby clothing or supplies. Gift the items to an expecting mother in your church or to a local pregnancy center. Spend time praying for the families who will receive the gifts. Remind kids of the joy that came to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds when they heard the good news of Jesus' birth.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 2:1-23; Luke 2:21-52 from the Bible.



Television commercials are always making big promises. A gecko promises that 15 minutes can save you 15 percent on your car insurance, a pink bunny promises that his batteries keep going and going and going, and we've all heard the paper towels that promise to pick up messes quicker. These are great advertisements, but can we really trust what they promise?

When Simeon was an old man, he remembered the promise God had made to him. God had told Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah—the promised Savior. But could he trust this promise?

Simeon saw Jesus being dedicated at the temple and the Spirit told him that this baby is the Messiah. Simeon got to hold Jesus—the promised Savior—in his arms! Simeon rejoiced because God had kept His promise.

The promises we hear on TV or from others are often broken. While we're not that good at keeping promises, we can trust that God is always faithful to do what He says He will do! The promises of God are always perfect and there is no greater proof than the birth of Jesus—the promised One who will save people from sin!

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised the arrival of a King who would redeem people. When Jesus arrived, Simeon and Anna knew He was the promised Messiah, God's own Son. We can trust Jesus for our salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we should share the good news.

**Pray:** God, You are the promise keeper! We can trust in You do what You say because You are faithful and perfect in all Your ways. Our greatest proof of Your faithfulness is that You sent Jesus just as You promised. We want to be like Simeon who looks to Jesus and recognizes Him as the One who will save people from sin! Amen.





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John 1:29





Ask God to remind You of His promises and His ability to always keep His promises. How do the stories of God's faithfulness in the Bible help us to trust Him now?

## **Evenings**

Praise God for the peace, joy, and hope we can have in Him because He is a faithful God. Thank Him for the examples of faithfulness you read in Scripture and see in your own experiences. How does God's faithfulness give us peace and joy right now? How does God's faithfulness give us hope for the future?



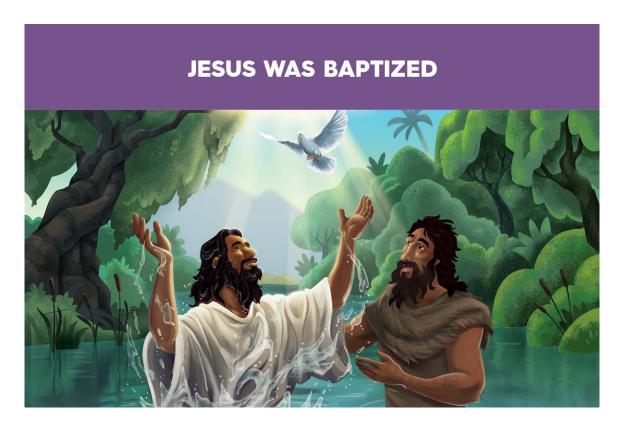
#### For Fun

Make a promise like going out for ice cream or having a family movie night that will be fulfilled later in the week. Throughout the week, talk as a family about what it's like to wait and how waiting might make you forget or doubt the promise. As you get closer to the fulfillment of the promise, talk about the joy and anticipation each person feels. Compare all the feelings of the week to what Simeon might have felt. Remind kids that God can always be trusted to keep His promises.

#### **To Serve**

Take a flower arrangement to a senior adult Bible study group. Write the words of 2 Corinthians 1:20 on a tag and attach it to the bouquet. If possible, ask members of the group to share how they have seen God's faithfulness in their life. Remind kids that God always keeps His promises.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11 from the Bible.



Our big picture question asks, What did Jesus do to save us? The answer to this question is, Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. The Bible tells us that anyone who believes these truths about Jesus and confesses that He is Lord will be saved. Many of those who believe will demonstrate their faith in Jesus by being baptized.

Baptism is a beautiful illustration of the three truths that we find in the answer to our big picture question. Baptism symbolizes a person's faith in Jesus as the perfect sacrifice for their sin and how His death was the punishment that should've been our own. As the person stands is immersed in the water, they are showing that Jesus' death was a substitute for their own.

As the person is raised up out of the water, it symbolizes that Jesus' resurrection has guaranteed eternal life for all who believe. Just as their sinful life is buried with Christ, the person raising from the water is showing that Jesus has given them new life! Baptism is an outward expression of how the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus brings new life to all who believe in Him!

Jesus never sinned, but He obeyed God and was baptized like sinners are baptized. Baptism reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. It reminds us that when we trust in Jesus, we turn from sin and start a new life—a life lived for Jesus.

**Pray:** Jesus, You are the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Through Your baptism, You showed us everything you would do to save us. Help us to understand that faith in Your life, death, and resurrection is the way to have eternal life. Amen.





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Take time to think about the symbolism of baptism and the story it tells about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Thank Jesus for living a perfect life to be our righteousness. Thank Him for dying on the cross the be our substitute. Thank Him for rising again to show us that we too can have eternal life in Him.

# **Evenings**

Ask God to show you ways you can publicly share your faith with others. Like baptism is a public way of identifying with Christ, think about how your words and actions can point others to Jesus. How is baptism a way of publicly declaring our faith in Jesus? How can our words and actions declare our faith and point others to Jesus?



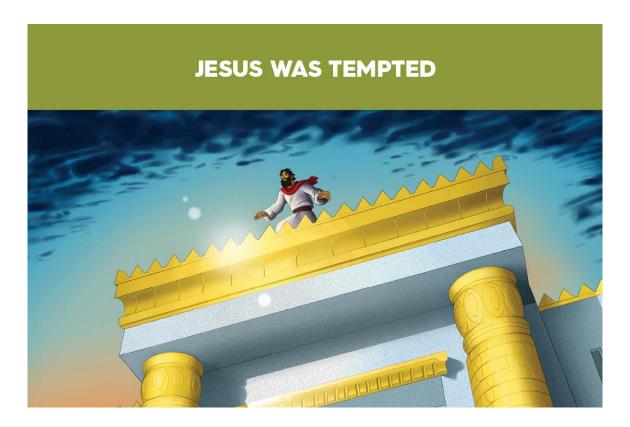
#### For Fun

Host a party or dinner for those who have been recently baptized in your church. Make time for the individuals to share their testimonies. Invite kids or adults who are wanting to be baptized to also attend. Take time to talk with them about what is means to believe in Jesus, the symbolism of baptism, and answer questions about how they can be baptized at your church.

#### To Serve

If your church has a regular baptism service, volunteer as a family to help with the service. Take pictures, provide towels, or pray with those being baptized before the service. Remind kids of the symbolism in baptism that reminds us of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of <a href="Matthew 4:1-11">Matthew 4:1-11</a>; <a href="Luke 4:1-13">Luke 4:1-13</a> from the Bible.



Have you ever been tempted by the smell of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies? In 2003, the Immaculate Baking Company of North Carolina created a giant outdoor oven and baked the world's biggest cookie. The chocolate-chip monstrosity stretched 102 feet wide and weighed over 40,000 pounds! Can you imagine how big that temptation must have been?

We all understand temptation, and we have all given into temptation that causes us to sin. It might be the temptation to eat a cookie when Mom said to wait, or it could be the temptation to play a few more minutes of video games when we are supposed to turn it off. As hard as we might try, we all fall into the temptation to sin. That's why we need Jesus!

When He was tempted by Satan, Jesus used the Word of God to do battle with the enemy. Jesus did not give in, and He remained perfect and righteous. The Word of God—the Bible—can help us to avoid sin and flee from temptation, but we have an even great defense. The Gospel of John says that Jesus is the Word made flesh. All who believe in Jesus have been set free from the power of sin and given the power to say no to temptation. He is the perfect, righteous Savior who came to battle sin and defeat it for good!

Jesus was tempted, but He trusted God and never sinned. Jesus is perfect and righteous. A perfect sacrifice was required to take away sin. Jesus was that perfect sacrifice. He died on the cross to free us from sin and to give us the power to say no to temptation.

**Pray:** Jesus, You are the Word who came to live with people. You used the Word to overcome Satan's temptations, and now we see that You are the Word whose sacrifice has forever defeated sin. When we face temptation, help us look to You as our rescue from sin and our source of power to say no to sin. Amen.





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Ask Jesus to be the Word who guards you against temptation today. Ask for His power to stand against sin and for His forgiveness when you stumble. How does the presence of the Holy Spirit help believers battle temptation?

## **Evenings**

Thank God for His Word—the Bible—which teaches us how much He loves us and wants us to obey Him. Thank Him for the wisdom the Bible gives to help us battle against sin. Most of all, thank Him for Jesus—the hero of the Bible—who offers forgiveness of sin to all who believe in Him



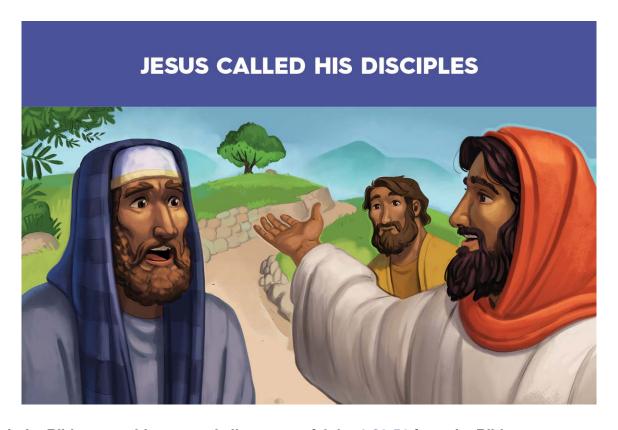
#### For Fun

Bake cookies for the family. Allow each family member to eat one cookie but set aside the rest of the batch to eat later in the week. During the week of waiting, acknowledge the temptation to eat the cookie. Talk with kids about how sin looks and feels enticing to us, but it always leads to consequences. Remind kids that Jesus has defeated sin and given all who believe in Him the power to say no to sin.

#### To Serve

Memorize John 1:1-5 this week. Starting with the first verse, work as a family to add a verse each day until everyone memorizes the entire passage. Talk with kids about how Jesus used the Word to battle Satan's temptation and how He is the Word who conquered sin for us.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of <u>John 1:29-51</u> from the Bible.



Have you ever played follow-the-leader? In the game, one person is the leader and the rest of the group must imitate whatever actions he does first. If the leader jumps up and down, then the group must jump up and down. If the leader clucks like a chicken, the everyone else must also cluck like a chicken. The point of the game is to pay special attention to the leader and mimic what he does.

Thinking about the rules of this game helps us understand what Jesus meant when He said to the disciples, "Follow Me." Jesus invited them to walk with Him and watch Him teach people about the kingdom of God. Along the way, Jesus also taught them and showed them how He is the Son of God. Then, Jesus gave them power and the task to share in the work of telling others about the kingdom of God.

Later on, these followers of Jesus had the opportunity to tell the world the good news about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The small group of disciples led to hundreds of followers; and after Jesus' resurrection, the numbers grew into the thousands! Today, millions and even billions of people have received the invitation to trust in Jesus and follow Him.

Jesus, the Son of God and true King of Israel, came to earth to show what God is like and to save people from their sins. He called disciples to follow Him. We are Jesus' disciples when we trust in Him. We can invite everyone to come and see the good news about Jesus.

**Pray:** Jesus, You are the Son of God. You are the King who lived a perfect life, died as a sacrifice for sin, and rose again as the King above all kings. You have people to trust in You and become Your disciple. Help us to believe in that good news and to share it with the world who needs to hear it. Amen.





John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

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Think about the invitation Jesus gave when He said, "Follow Me." Ask Him to give you courage to accept the invitation and strength to continue following Him even when it's difficult. What does it mean to follow Jesus? How does accepting His invitation change our priorities?

## **Evenings**

Praise God for the promise that when we share the gospel and teach others from His Word, it always fulfills His purposes. The Bible is powerful, and the truth of Jesus can change lives. Pray for those who have never heard and for those who have never believed to be changed for the good news about Jesus.



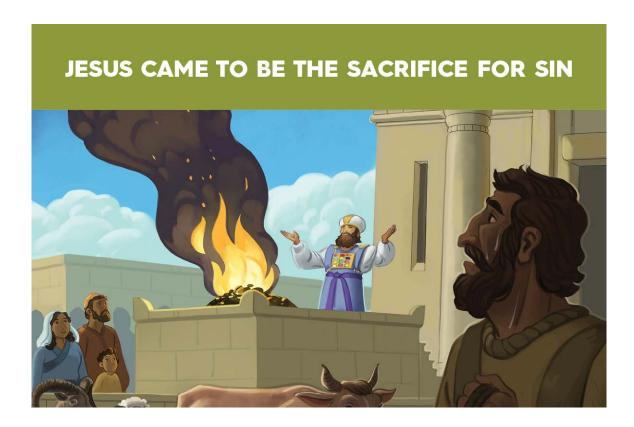
#### For Fun

Host a family dance party. Call out the name of a family member to show off their unique dance moves and have the rest of the family imitate those moves. Allow each family member to lead the dance party at least once. Talk with kids about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Remind them that it begins with faith in Him and leads us to a mission of telling others about Him.

#### To Serve

Pray for unreached people groups around the world. Visit JoshuaProject.net to learn about people groups who have limited or no access to the good news about Jesus. Pray for the people, for missionaries who are attempting to reach those people and for the people to understand and believe the good news of Jesus.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of <u>Hebrews 10</u> from the Bible.



What are some ways you help out around the house? How often do you clean your room? What if, instead of cleaning the room as you should, you just shove the toys, dirty clothes, and everything else under the bed? Then, you put a large blanket over the bed to cover the mess that is hiding underneath. While the room looks clean, the mess is still there!

The sacrifices of the Old Testament were necessary but incomplete. The New Testament says that it is impossible for the blood of the animals to take away sin. (Heb. 10:4) Like the messy room that looked clean but would still need to be cleaned again, these sacrifices had to be made over and over again. They pointed forward to a greater sacrifice that was coming. (Heb. 10:1)

Jesus' sacrifice was different. Jesus was the perfect Lamb of God whose death canceled the debt of sin once and for all. The Bible says that the sins of those who believe in Jesus will never be remembered again. Their sin has been forgiven, taken away, and erased forever! Everyone who trusts in Jesus receives pure hearts to live with God and for God.

Jesus came to be the sacrifice for sin. He lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. In Him, we have complete forgiveness once and for all.

**Pray:** Jesus, Your sacrifice is the once-and-for-all payment for our sin. You died on the cross the take the punishment we deserved, and You were raised from the grave to defeat sin and death forevermore. Thank You for giving Your life to save us from sin and for creating a pure heart in everyone who believes in You. Amen.





John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

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Praise God that the sacrifice of Jesus was enough to remove all sin from those who believe in Him. How was Jesus' sacrifice different from the Old Testament sacrifices?

## **Evenings**

Ask God for His help in living with a pure heart that loves Him and honors Him. Ask the Spirit to remind you of all the things Jesus said and did for you so that your affection for Him will increase. How does knowing we are loved by Jesus help us to love Him? How does loving Jesus lead us to obedience?



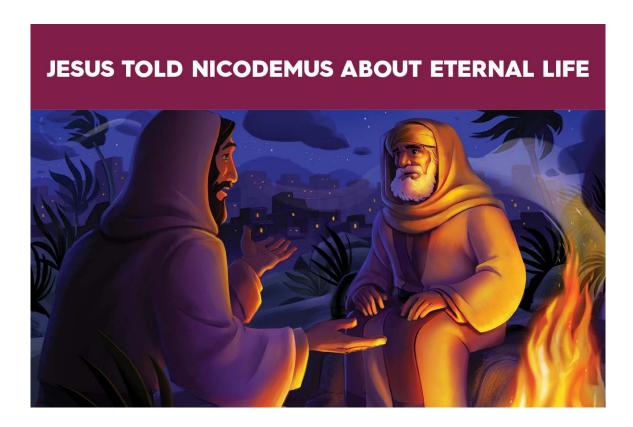
#### For Fun

Give kids supplies to wash the family car or your home's windows. Encourage them to have fun while they work together to clean. After the cleaning is finished, read 1 John 1:9 for kids. Discuss how the sacrifice of Jesus perfectly and fully washes away sin.

#### To Serve

Wear gloves and pick up trash or debris from alongside a road or park trail. As you remove the trash, reminds kids of how the sacrifice of Jesus is a once-for-all payment for sin. His sacrifice did not just cover sin, but it has fully removed the sin of those who trust in Him and given them a new life to live with God and for God.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of <u>John 3:1-21</u> from the Bible.



If you're needing a new toothbrush, you might want to check out the Reinast Titanium Luxury Toothbrush. This ordinary-looking toothbrush has a whopping price of \$4,200, and it's not even electric! While we all need a toothbrush, none of us would be able to afford such a great cost. We'll just stick with our free toothbrush that comes with each dentist visit!

When Nicodemus came to talk with Jesus, he wanted to know how a person could receive new life. He studied the Law and tried his hardest to obey, and he hoped this would be enough to afford eternal life. Jesus' response showed Nicodemus that no one could earn eternal life on their own because it came at a cost too great to afford.

This might sound like bad news, but Jesus gave us good news in the familiar words of John 3:16. He said, "For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

God paid the highest price by sending His own Son. When we could never earn eternal life, God has graciously given it as a free gift to all who believe in Jesus!

Nicodemus needed new life—eternal life—but he could not do anything to earn it. Eternal life is a gift that comes only from God. God showed His love in this way: He sent His one and only Son to save the world. Everyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life.

**Pray:** God, Your love is bigger than we can even imagine. You loved the world enough to send Your own Son to save the world and to give eternal life to all who trust in Him. Thank You that even though we have nothing to offer for such a gift, You have made it available to anyone who believes in the name of Jesus.





# But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8





Thank God for allowing us to ask questions about faith and for giving us parents and leaders to answer those questions. Like Nicodemus, we can think salvation comes through earning or doing, but God's Word helps us see that it is only available through Jesus. Thank God for that gift!

# **Evenings**

Pray for people whose doubts or questions about faith are keeping them from believing in Jesus. Ask God to use the Bible and the people around them to answer those questions and help them know the truth about Jesus. How can we help those who doubt or don't believe the good news about Jesus?



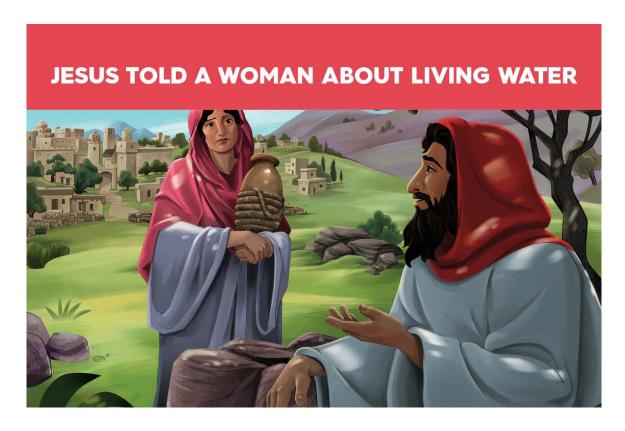
#### For Fun

Host a family gift exchange. Draw names and shop for gifts or find items to regift items you already own. Try to make the gifts personal for the receiver. After the exchange, talk with kids about how God has made eternal life a gift to all who believe in Jesus. It cannot be earned but is freely given when we trust in His name.

#### To Serve

Download a copy of The Gospel: God's Plan for Us from GospelProject.com and review the plan with kids. Practice sharing the gospel with one another using this evangelism tool. Pray for opportunities for your family to share the gospel with a neighbor, a family member, or someone else in the coming days.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of <u>John 4:1-42</u> from the Bible.



Millions of people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water. This lack of clean water causes economic problems, education issues, and health concerns for far too many. Christian aid groups are working hard to dig wells and provide clean water for those who need it, and they are doing it all in the name of Jesus because they know that He is everyone's greatest need.

When Jesus met the woman at the well, He told her that whoever drinks from the water He offers will never thirst again. It might sound confusing, but Jesus was pointing to the gift of eternal life that comes through faith in Him. While we all need water to survive day by day, we need Jesus even more so that we can live eternally with Him.

When we trust in Jesus, we receive His Spirit, who is God living with us and in us. This means we can worship Him whenever and wherever, and it also means that we can have courage to tell others about Him wherever we go. Like those working to bring water to those in need, we can share the hope we have in Jesus with the world.

Jesus offers something better than physical water; He gives us Himself. Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who comes to Him by faith. We can worship Him as Lord and Savior wherever we are.

**Pray:** Jesus, You are the Living Water who gives eternal life to all who believe in You. Just like our bodies need water to live, we need You to live eternally. Help us to trust in You as to One who gives life and worship You wherever we go. Amen.





# But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8





Thank God for the opportunity to worship Him anytime and anywhere. Those who believe in Jesus have received the Holy Spirit who is God living with us and in us. If He is always with us, then we can always worship Him.

## **Evenings**

Pray for people who do not have the resources to meet their basic needs—food, water, shelter. Ask God to provide for those needs and for the greatest need—to know and believe in Jesus. How might a lack of water, food, or shelter get in the way of someone hearing the truth about Jesus? How can we help meet the basic needs of others?



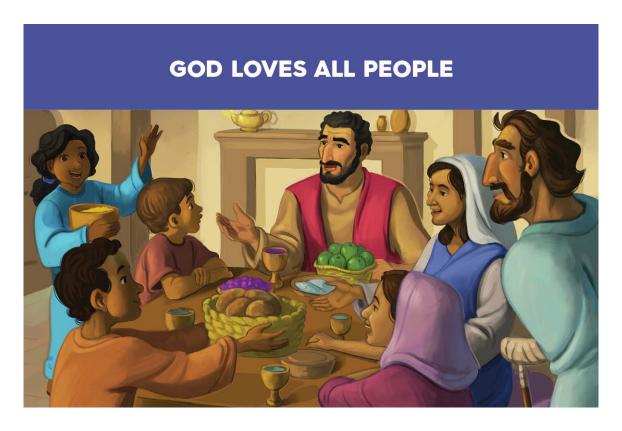
#### For Fun

Challenge the family to drink only water with their meals for one week. Label water bottles with the words from John 4:13-14. Take time throughout the week to worship Jesus for being the source of eternal life for all who believe in Him.

#### To Serve

Visit the website for Living Water International to learn more about the efforts to provide clean water for those in need. Pray for the well-digging projects and for the missionaries who will share the gospel with people. Consider making a donation to Living Water International or organizing a trip with your church to support one of their projects.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of <u>1 Corinthians 13</u> from the Bible.



The word *love* can have many different meanings. Although we use the same word, we know that it means something different when we say we love cookies versus when we say we love our parents. Only one of those are made with chocolate chips!

When the Bible speaks about love, there are actually four different words. There is *eros* which means a romantic love like that between a husband and wife, *storge* which means a family love like what you have for your parents, *philia* which means a friendship love, and then there is Agape. Agape is different from all the other types of love because it describes the love God has for people. This highest form of love is sacrificial, unconditional, and perfect.

Agape is the love that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13. He uses this word because He is teaching us that the highest form of love is found only in God and the perfect love He has shown through Jesus. Jesus told His disciples, "just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another." (John 13:34) For those who believe in Jesus, we receive the power to love Him and love others with this same type of love.

God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. God is love, and God loves all people. He calls everyone who trusts in Jesus to love Him and love others.

**Pray:** God, thank You for the perfect love You have shown through Jesus. Your love is patient and kind, and it will never ever fail. Help us to love You and others the way You have loved us. Amen.





# But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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Thank God for His perfect, unconditional, and sacrificial love toward us. Even when we did not deserve it, God poured out His love through Jesus. How is God's love higher than any other love we can imagine? How does it feel to know that the God who created the universe knows you and loves you?

# **Evenings**

Ask Jesus for help to love others the way He first loved us. Because He has loved us perfectly and given His life to show us that love, we can also love others and make sacrifices for them. Think of someone who you can show that kind of love to this week. Ask for the help to love them the way Jesus loves them!



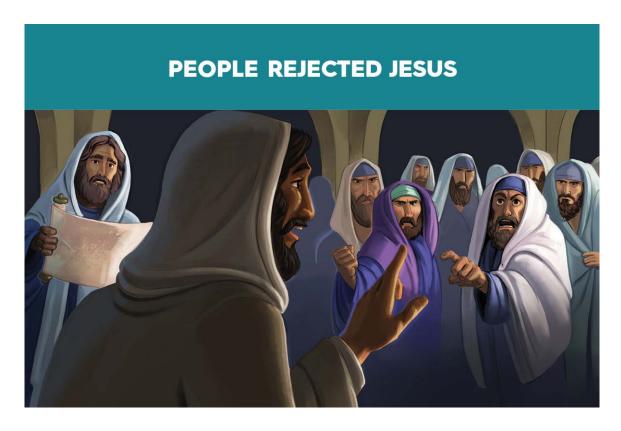
#### For Fun

Use heart stickers or index cards that say "LOVE" to reward family members for showing love this week. Focus specifically on the description of love found in 1 Corinthians 13 to be basis for the rewards. Make sure that each family member receives at least one sticker. End the week by celebrating God's love for us and how it leads us to love one another.

#### To Serve

Write cards to fellow church members to let them know how loved they are by God and by your family. Use a concordance to find Bible verses that mention the love God has for His children and the love we have for one another. Write the verses on the cards or use the phrases in your writing. Deliver the cards at the end of the week or when you see the individuals at church.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of <u>Luke 4:16-30</u> from the Bible.



The small town of Tupelo, Mississippi, is famously known as the birthplace of Elvis Presley. Once Elvis became famous, the town pull out all the stops to celebrate their connection to the king of rock 'n' roll. The city has created a museum, signs marking special locations, and even offer tours of Elvis' childhood home.

Cities all over the United States try to highlight and celebrate their famous current or former residents. Isn't it surprising that the Bible tells us Jesus was rejected in His hometown? He taught with authority and performed miracles to heal the sick, yet the people did not believe in Him.

Even when Jesus read the words the prophet Isaiah had written about Him and the freedom found in Him through faith, the people were angry and forced Jesus to leave. Jesus was not the Messiah the people expected, so many of them rejected Him. It might seem harsh, but this was all part of God's plan to save people from their sin. Jesus continued to show people that He is God's Son and invited them to trust in Him. Many did believe and found new life by trusting in Jesus!

Jesus read Isaiah's words and announced that He is the promised Messiah. The people of Nazareth rejected Jesus because of their unbelief. God invites us to trust in His Son, Jesus. Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners.

**Pray:** Jesus, we want to believe the words of Isaiah that say You came as good news to the poor, freedom for the captives, and sight for the blind. You are the Son of God who came to rescue sinners. Help us to believe and accept the invitation to trust in You. Amen.





Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6





The Bible tells us about a man who said to Jesus, "I believe, help my unbelief." Ask Jesus to help you with your unbelief. Ask Him to give you faith in the areas where you might be doubting His love or His power. He is faithful to grow our faith and help us in our unbelief.

### **Evenings**

Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with classmates, neighbors, family, and friends. Think about the relationships you have with those who haven't trusted in Jesus. How can you take the next step in sharing Jesus with that person? How can you be more intentional about sharing the good news of the gospel in your conversations?



#### For Fun

Make a plaque or sign for your home to show the "famous" kids who live in the house. The sign could be made from wood or painted on a rock and placed among the landscaping of your home. Talk about how your home is a special place where kids can feel safe and loved. When we trust in Jesus, He invites us to find love and peace in a relationship with Him.

#### To Serve

Partner with another family to host a neighborhood cookout. Provide sidewalk chalk, yard games, food, and drinks for the neighbors on your street. Use the time to meet people and help them feel welcomed and loved in your community. As a family, pray for relationships that lead to opportunities to share the gospel.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of <u>Luke 4:31-44</u> from the Bible.



To board an airplane in the United States, an adult is required to show a photo ID and a boarding pass. The identification card helps security know that people are who they say they are, and the boarding pass shows that they have a reason for moving about the airport and boarding the plane.

Jesus performed many miracles in His ministry on earth. On one occasion, Jesus commanded an unclean spirit to leave a man, and immediately the man was healed. The people were amazed at His power. On another occasion, Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law who was very sick. When the people heard the news, they came to Jesus to be healed of their sickness. Again and again, Jesus performed miracles that amazed the people and led many to believe in Him.

All the miracles of Jesus are proof that He is who He says and came to do everything God sent Him to do. Jesus cast out demons, healed the sick, and even raised the dead! Each of His miracles was a sign that He is the Son of God who has come to deliver people from sin. When we read about His miracles, it helps us to believe in Him and all that He promises.

Jesus' miracles proved that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. His miracles strengthened people's faith and met their needs. Through Jesus, God did what is impossible for us to do on our own. He provided forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life.

**Pray:** Jesus, thank You for the miracles and signs that show us who You are and what You can do. Because of Your power, everything is possible. When we remember everything You have done, it helps us to trust in all You have promised to do. Amen.





Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6





Think about the many miracles of Jesus and how they display His power. Thank Jesus for showing us His power and glory to help us believe in Him. How do miracles show us Jesus' power over sin? How do these signs help us to trust Him more?

### **Evenings**

Make a list of friends and family who are battling illness or injuries. Ask God to bring healing to their bodies and make them well. Most of all, ask Him to be their peace and comfort during this time.



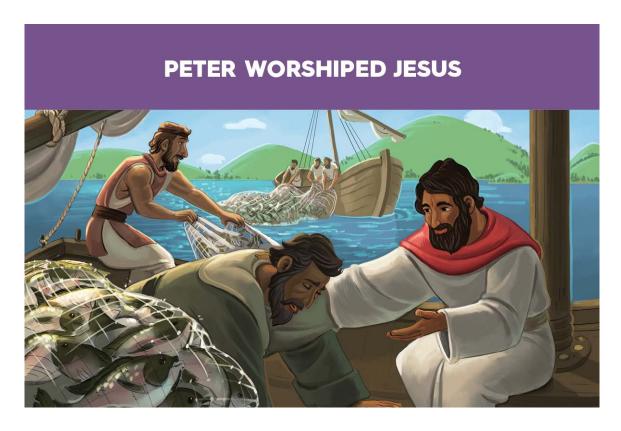
#### For Fun

Make photo IDs for your family members. Include a picture, hair and eye color, age, and a favorite Scripture verse. Use silly photos of each family member to make the IDs fun and lighthearted. Talk with kids about the various uses for a photo ID. Remind kids that the miracles Jesus' performed help us to believe He is who He says and can do all He promises.

#### To Serve

Make a meal for someone who is sick or homebound. Make sure the person does not have any allergies or food aversions. Work together to prepare the meal and deliver it to the person one evening this week. Pray with the person and ask God to give them healing and/or peace for what they are going through.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of <u>Luke 5:1-11</u> from the Bible.



In 1961, Lynn Joyner took his rod and reel to fish off the dock at Fernandina Beach in Florida. The 130-poud man caught way more than he was expecting when he hooked a goliath grouper that weighed 680 pounds! After a 75-minute battle to reel in the fish, Joyner and friends hoisted the giant fish out of the water and posed for a picture he could show to all his friends!

Peter, James, and John were fishermen in Galilee. After a long day of unsuccessful fishing, Jesus asked them to go into deeper water and throw out the nets. The men didn't expect to catch any fish, but they did as Jesus asked. Much to their surprise, the nets were so full of fish that the boats almost sank from the weight!

The nets full of fish was nothing compared to what the disciples saw in Jesus. They saw His power and glory, and they knew that Jesus is the Son of God. Then, Jesus said, "Follow Me" and invited the men to be His friends! They would walk with Jesus and see Him do many miracles. They would hear His teaching and learn about His kingdom. After His resurrection, these men would tell the good news about Jesus to the world. That's better than any fishing story!

Peter understood that he was a sinner and recognized that Jesus is God. He responded to Jesus' grace and kindness by following Him. When we understand that Jesus is God and that we are sinners, we can turn to Him for forgiveness and follow Him by faith.

**Pray:** Jesus, we see Your power and glory in everything You have done. We are not worthy of Your greatness, but You invite us to believe in You and follow You with our lives. You give forgiveness to all who believe in You and invite them to join in Your mission of making disciples across the world. Amen.





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Praise Jesus for being fully God and fully man. Thank Him for coming to live among us without giving up any of His divine power. How did Jesus show the disciples His divine power? How does seeing His power compel us to follow Him?

### **Evenings**

Thank God for the many miracles we see in Scripture. Thank Him for how these miracles show us His power. Even greater, praise Him for how these miracles show us His compassion and love for people!



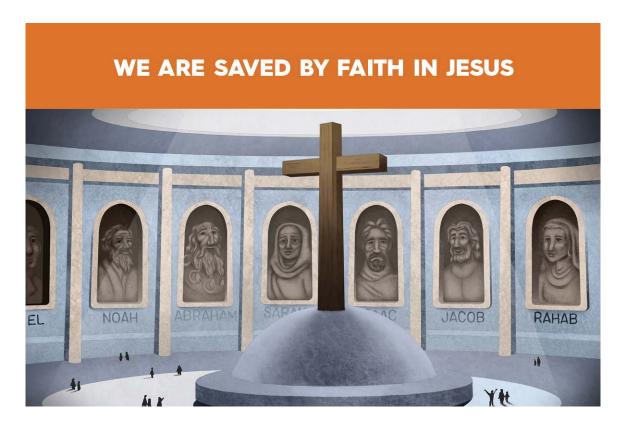
#### For Fun

Take a fishing trip with the family. Make sure kids have fun learning to cast and reel. If a family member catches a fish, take a photo to share with others. During the trip, talk about how Peter, James, and John were fishermen until Jesus invited them to follow Him. Because He is the Son of God, the men left their boats and followed Jesus. Remind kids that Jesus invites everyone to follow Him and He is worth following!

#### To Serve

Make a flipbook of some of the miracles Jesus performed during His ministry. Write the Scripture references. Then write the details of the story or draw pictures to highlight the story. Add as many pages as needed to record the miracles. Keep the flipbook on the dining table or share it with a friend to celebrate the power and glory of Jesus.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of <u>Hebrews 11</u> from the Bible.



The National Baseball Hall of Fame has plaques for 340 players, coaches, and others who made a special impact on the game of baseball. The museum in Cooperstown, New York, has pictures, artifacts, and exhibits to tell the stories of each Hall of Fame member. These men and women will be remembered and celebrated by baseball fans forever.

When you come to chapter 11 of the Book of Hebrews, it feels like walking through the Hall of Fame of Bible people. We are reminded of the faith shown by people like Noah, Abraham, Sarah, and King David. These individuals should be remembered and celebrated because they all had faith in God's plan even before they saw Jesus.

While these men and women are heroes, the true hero of the Bible is Jesus! While chapter 11 of Hebrews highlights the faith of many individuals, the theme of the entire book is that Jesus is greater! He is greater than Noah, Abraham, Sarah, and David! Jesus trusted in God—even when it meant He would die on the cross. Jesus trusted the Father and loved Him by obeying His plan perfectly. While there are many people who do great things for God, the writer of Hebrews wants us to remember that Jesus is greater because He is God!

The Bible gives examples of people who had faith, but the true hero of the Bible is Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. We are saved from our sins by faith in Jesus.

**Pray:** Jesus, You are the greatest! Every page of the Bible points to You as the hero of the story. You perfectly obeying God's plan by dying on the cross. On the third day, You rose from the grave and You are now seated on the throne of heaven to rule over everything. You are the true hero—the One who saves people from their sin! Amen.





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Hebrews 11:6





Thank God for the people in your life and in your church whose example of faith has strengthened your faith. How can seeing the trust others have in God increase our faith?

### **Evenings**

Thank God for the heroes of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11. Praise Him for the examples of Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and David. Most of all, thank God for the true hero of the Bible—Jesus! Ask for more faith to trust and follow Him as a family.



#### For Fun

Play a game of faith charades. Write the names mentioned in Hebrews 11 on cards. Briefly review their stories together. Then put the cards in a bag. Encourage one person to draw a card act out the person or events from the story while other family members try to guess the name.

#### To Serve

Take time to identify "heroes of faith" in your family or church. Talk about the ways they displayed faith in God's plan and trusted Jesus through different circumstances. If possible, celebrate these heroes by hosting a dinner, writing a card, or calling them on the phone. Thank them for the ways their faith has strengthened your faith in Jesus.