



FAMILY WORSHIP GROUPS

8 Week Series Through Mark 1-2



FAMILY WORSHIP GROUPS

The Purpose

- **Discipleship in the Home:** The primary goal is for each family to learn a simple approach to establish rhythms of family worship in the home (Deut. 6:6–7).
- **Connection:** Family Worship Groups offer spaces for parents and children to connect for fellowship (Acts 2:42).

Self-Guided Model

Family Worship Groups are self-guided, with families taking turns facilitating the gathering and providing/coordinating the meal. Together, families share in the joy and responsibility of worshiping as a group.

Groups are structured around *three simple convictions*:

- **A host couple leads:** At least one couple offers to open their home, walk the group through the weekly guide below, and take attendance each meeting so the church can stay connected with the group and provide care as needed.
- **Keep it small:** Groups grow best when they stay intimate enough for every child and parent to participate. Small enough to make space for deeper conversation.
- **Rotate homes:** Hosting responsibility (and the hospitality that comes with it) is shared. Groups are encouraged to rotate which family hosts from week to week, so no single family carries the full weight of the group.

Everything below is designed to make it easy for any host couple to lead a group with confidence, no special training required. It includes weekly content, a sample meeting layout, and resource and worship lists.



The Story Behind Family Worship

Every piece of Doxa content starts from the same place: The Gospel is God's Story.

God · Creation · Man · Fall · Promise · Jesus · Redemption · Church · Consummation

Coaches can use this brief overview before beginning the first lesson to help parents understand how family worship fits into the larger story of redemption.

- **Act 5 — Promise.** Across Genesis 12 through Malachi, God kept promising a Savior who would save a people, but Ephesians 1:4–5 shows that promise was never for a nameless mass of humanity. God chose a specific people “before the foundation of the world.” The promised Savior was always the promise of a saved people, “true Israel.”
- **Act 8 — Church.** That same chosen people is revealed in history as the Church, believers gathered “from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9), devoted to teaching, fellowship, the Lord’s Table, and prayer (Acts 2:42). God’s people are charged with intentionally guiding their children to know, honor, and love God. Doxa, and every new Family Worship Group started today, is a visible expression of that one people and how we are called to live.
- **Act 9 — Consummation.** That same people is the Bride prepared for her Bridegroom (Ephesians 5:25–32; Revelation 19:7–8), who will dwell with God forever (Revelation 21:3–5).

Part of how God's people, across every act of this story, have always lived is by gathering — for meals, for worship, and for fellowship (Acts 2:42). Raising children to know and love this same God has always been core to His people's identity (Deuteronomy 6:6–7). That's what family worship is: parents living out and modeling their own place in God's story for the next generation, at the same table, singing the same songs, worshiping the same God who will one day dwell with His people forever.



Week	Theme	Primary Content The Good News Family Devotional	Optional Parent Preparation Family Worship Bible Guide	Supplemental Content for Younger Kids The Biggest Story Bible Storybook	Something to talk about throughout the week Who is God? 52 Pictures to Share with Your Family
1	<i>The story of Jesus is a story of deliverance: it's a new exodus!</i>	Chapter 1: Mark 1:1-3 pp. 15-18	Mark: Ch. 1 (p. 684, #1) ... Isaiah: Ch. 6, 7, 11 pp. 489-490, 492	Ch. 41: "What Isaiah Saw" (Isaiah 6) pp. 218-221	Ch. 29: "God is Holy" pp. 113-115
2	<i>Jesus obeyed perfectly so we could become children of God.</i>	Chapter 2: Mark 1:4-13 pp. 19-23	Mark: Ch. 1 (p. 684, #2) ... Romans: Ch. 3 (p. 75)	Ch. 14: "Free at Last" (Exodus 4-15) pp. 84-92	Ch. 41: "God Sent His Son" pp. 161-163
3	<i>Jesus is worth leaving everything to follow!</i>	Chapter 3: Mark 1:14-22 pp. 25-29	Mark: Ch. 1 (p. 684, #3) ... 1 Corinthians: Ch. 1 (p. 765)	Ch. 60: "Follow the Leader" (Mark 3) pp. 314-317	Ch. 20: "God Works Through His People" pp. 77-79
4	<i>Jesus is the king of a new kind of kingdom.</i>	Chapter 4: Mark 1:23-45 pp. 31-35	Ephesians: Ch. 6 pp. 790-791, #2	Ch. 58: "Mr. Clean" (Mark 1) pp. 304-307	Ch. 52: "God is King and Builder" pp. 205-207
5	<i>Jesus heals our biggest problem.</i>	Chapter 5: Mark 2:1-12 pp. 37-41	Mark: Chapter 2 pp. 685, #1	Ch. 59: "Get Up!" (Mark 2) pp. 308-313	Ch. 42: "God Alone Forgives Sin" pp. 165-167
6	<i>Jesus is the great physician for all who are sick.</i>	Chapter 6: Mark 2:13-17 pp. 43-47	Mark: Chapter 2 pp. 685, #2	Ch. 73: "Lost and Found" (Luke 15) pp. 374-379	Ch. 44: "God Reverses the Curse" pp. 173-175
7	<i>Jesus's kingdom brings joyful celebration!</i>	Chapter 7: Mark 2:18-22 pp. 49-53	Isaiah: Chapter 61 p. 520 ... Matthew: Chapter 22 p. 679, #1	Ch. 52: "The Great and Awesome Day of the Lord" (Malachi 3-4) pp. 274-279	Ch. 12: "God of Covenant" pp. 45-47
8	<i>Sabbath rest is a blessing!</i>	Chapter 8: Mark 2:23-28 pp. 55-59	Genesis: Chapter 2 (p. 4, #1) ... Matthew: Chapter 23 p. 679	Ch. 1: "And So It Begins" (Genesis 1-2) pp. 16-23	Ch. 1: "God is the Mighty Creator" pp. 1-3

We encourage every group to begin with a meal together each week — sharing a table is part of the discipleship.



Sample Meeting Layout

Meal <i>35 min</i>	Worship <i>10 min</i>	Prayer <i>5 min</i>	Reading <i>5–15 min</i>	Reflection <i>5 min</i>	Review <i>ongoing</i>
Host family provides or coordinates a simple shared meal.	Sing 1–2 songs from the <u>Worship List</u> .	Host couple invites 1–2 parents to open in prayer (focused on that week's theme).	Read the <i>Introduction</i> , then the assigned passage aloud (see <u>Weekly Schedule</u>).	Ask 1–2 of the week's discussion questions. Close in prayer.	Re-read the passage as a family. Ask the <i>Family Application Question</i> . Pray for family or a pastor/elder.

Resource List

Doxa provides host couples with necessary resources, but all parents are encouraged to purchase their own to build family worship rhythms at home.

Family Worship Bible Guide — Reformation Heritage Books

Links to purchase: [Amazon](#), [Reformation Heritage Books](#), [Christianbook](#)

The Good News Family Devotional — Michael J. Kruger and Melissa B. Kruger

Links to purchase: [Amazon](#), [Westminster Bookstore](#), [Christianbook](#)

The Biggest Story Bible Storybook — Kevin DeYoung

Links to purchase: [Amazon](#), [The Biggest Story](#), [Westminster Bookstore](#), [Christianbook](#)

Who is God? 52 Pictures to Share with Your Family — Kate Hox

Links to purchase: [Amazon](#), [New Growth Press](#), [Westminster Bookstore](#), [Christianbook](#)

Feel free to visit the [Doxa Kids resources](#) page for Sunday content.



Sharing a Meal

Every Family Worship Group meeting includes a shared meal. Keeping it simple and sharing the responsibility allows everyone to enjoy the time together so no one family carries the burden and the focus remains on worshiping together rather than logistics.

The “Why”

Sharing a meal together isn’t just something we do before the “real” meeting. It is part of discipleship. The early church devoted itself to “the breaking of bread” alongside the apostles’ teaching and prayer (Acts 2:42). Jesus was also recognized by his disciples “in the breaking of the bread” (Luke 24:30-35). When we slow down, share a meal, and give attention to God’s goodness, the meal itself becomes an act of worship.

How It Works

- **Rotate the host:** The host opens their home and takes attendance. Hosting can rotate, or one family can host each time if preferred.
- **Divide by course:** Assign simple categories: main, side/salad, drinks, and dessert.
- **Send a reminder:** A few days before, the host confirms who is bringing what.
- **Know the table:** Keep track of any allergies or dietary restrictions.

Keep It Simple

Host	Everyone Else
● Provide the space and confirm the headcount. ● Keep the meal simple and family-style. ● Have paper products available for easy cleanup. ● Aim for 30–35 minutes for the meal.	● Respond to the sign-up promptly. ● Bring your assigned item ready to serve. ● Help with cleanup. ● Take a turn hosting when able.



Meal Sign-Up

Date	Host Home	Main Dish	Side / Salad + Drinks	Dessert

Fill in each row as families volunteer. Keep this sheet with the group's host couple or share it digitally so it stays current.

Allergies:



Expectations

DO

- **Honor the host:** Be mindful of the host family's home and follow any house guidelines they share.
- **Keep an eye on your kids:** Parents are responsible for their children and should help them participate and respect the space.
- **Help with cleanup:** Clean up after yourself and your family, and help leave the home as you found it.
- **Come prepared:** Bring your assigned food ready to serve. If it's your week to facilitate, look over the curriculum beforehand.
- **Respect the time:** Arrive on time and plan to wrap up on time so families can get back to their evening routines.
- **Give each other grace:** Every family and home is different. Be patient, flexible, and gracious with one another.
- **Stay committed:** Gathering together is an important part of growing in our faith and encouraging one another (Hebrews 10:25). If you can't make it, let your group know as soon as you can.
- **Use the provided curriculum:** No one needs to teach or prepare a lesson. Use the curriculum to guide your time together and build a consistent rhythm of family worship.

DON'T

- **Expect perfection:** Some nights you may only get through part of the lesson, and that's okay! The goal is faithfulness, not finishing every piece of content.
- **Leave the responsibility to the host:** Share the responsibility for meals, facilitation, cleanup, and creating a welcoming environment.
- **Treat this like a traditional Small Group:** The goal is to worship and grow together as families, not have an adult-focused Bible study while the kids are on the sidelines.
- **Make the group more than it is:** The objectives right now are learning how to incorporate family worship into your family rhythms and building connections with other families at Doxa.
- **Be alone with someone else's kids:** Parents should remain responsible for their own children throughout the group time.
- **Be a slave to the schedule:** If your group needs more than four months to complete the material, that's totally fine! The goal is to build a sustainable rhythm, not rush through the curriculum.



WEEK 1: Lesson Plan

Parent Preparation (before meeting)

Read: The **Parent Reading** section for Week 1 in *The Good News Family Devotional* book (pp. 15-16). Take some time to look over the Big Idea for the week and the Questions for Younger/Older Children (p. 17). Choose 1-2 questions to ask the kids when you meet.



Optional reading: Read from the *Family Worship Bible Guide*. “Mark: Chapter 1” (p. 684, #1) and/or “Isaiah: Chapters 6, 7, 11” (pp. 489-490, 492)

Meeting Night

Worship (10 min)

Start the night with a few worship songs. You can use the **Worship List** for lyric videos of songs we sing in Doxa Kids.



“Holy, Holy, Holy” Lyric Video

“Promises/This Is Our King” Lyric Video



Prayer (5 min)

Have 1-2 parent(s) pray to open up your time together - focusing on the theme of *deliverance*.

Example prayer: “*Lord, you are a God who is faithful to your promise to deliver us. Thank you for sending your Son to live among us and save us from our sin...*”

Reading (5-15 min)

Begin: Read the **Introduction** in Week 1 of *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 17).

“We are excited that we are going to start reading the Gospel of Mark together! The passage we are reading today tells us one of the ways God prepared Israel for the coming of Jesus. It’s just a few verses, so listen carefully, and then I’ll

ask some questions. Let's learn the big idea for the week, and then we'll read together."

Big Idea: Ask if any of the children would like to volunteer to read the **Big Idea** (if applicable).

"The story of Jesus is a story of deliverance: It's a new exodus!"

deliverance: being rescued or set free from something scary, harmful, or difficult

exodus: a whole lot of people leaving a place all at the same time

Read: Have a parent read *Mark 1:1-3* aloud to the group. Read from a physical Bible if you can!

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..."



Optional reading: Read aloud from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook*, "What Isaiah Saw" (pp. 218-221). Share that Isaiah wrote these things many years before Jesus was born!

*Recommended if you plan to ask question #2 from Questions for Younger Children

Reflection (5 min)

Ask: Choose 1-2 of the **Questions for Younger/Older Children** (pp. 17-18) to ask the group.

Pray: Invite a child or parent to pray the **Family Prayer** out loud (p. 18)

Review (throughout the week)

Read: Re-read *Mark 1:1-3* as a family throughout the week.

Ask: Family Application Question in *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 18)

Pray: Take time to identify a family member and pastor/elder to pray for this week.



Optional reading: Read *Who is God* book, "God is Holy" (pp. 113-115) together with your family. Reflect on God's holiness and Isaiah's prophesy of Jesus's coming.



WEEK 2: Lesson Plan

Parent Preparation (before meeting)

Read: The **Parent Reading** section for Week 2 in *The Good News Family Devotional* book (pp. 19-21). Take some time to look over the Big Idea for the week and the Questions for Younger/Older Children (pp. 21-22). Choose 1-2 questions to ask the kids when you meet.



Optional reading: Read from the *Family Worship Bible Guide*. “Mark: Chapter 1” (p. 684, #2) and/or “Romans: Chapter 3” (p. 754)

Meeting Night

Worship (10 min)

Start the night with a few worship songs. You can use the **Worship List** for lyric videos of songs we sing in Doxa Kids.



“Who You Say I Am” Lyric Video

“Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me” Lyric Video



Prayer (5 min)

Have 1-2 parent(s) pray to open up your time together - focusing on the theme of *Christ's obedience*.

Example prayer: *"Thank You, Jesus, for your perfect life and obedience. Because of it, we can be called children of God. Please help us to walk in obedience, honoring you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Give us hearts that desire to follow you faithfully each day..."*

Reading (5-15 min)

Begin: Read the **Introduction** in Week 2 of *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 21).

"Last week we talked about God's messenger who would come to prepare the way for Jesus. This week, as we study Mark, we'll learn who that person was and how he prepared the way for Jesus. Let's learn the big idea for the week, and then we'll read together."

Big Idea: Ask if any of the children would like to volunteer to read the **Big Idea** (if applicable).

“Jesus obeyed perfectly so we could become children of God.”

Read: Have a parent read *Mark 1:4-13* aloud to the group. Read from a physical Bible if you can!

“John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, ‘After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.”



Optional reading: Read aloud from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook*, “The Pointer and the Point” (pp. 292-295). Discuss how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and pointed people to Him. Talk about how Jesus is the promised Savior that John the Baptist announced was coming.

Reflection (5 min)

Ask: Choose 1-2 of the **Questions for Younger/Older Children** (pp. 21-22) to ask the group.

Read: Read the **Conclusion** (p. 22) aloud OR conclude the lesson in your own words.

“Romans 3:23 teaches us, ‘All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.’ Every person (even parents!) struggles with sin and needs forgiveness. However, the good news that we see in Jesus’s baptism and temptation is that Jesus has overcome sin. He withstood temptation and walked in perfect obedience to God. His blood paid our debt and cleanses us, just as water makes us clean. At Jesus’s baptism, God said, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased’ (Mark 1:11). When we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus, we become beloved children of God, with whom he is well pleased.”

sin: choosing to think, say or do things that go against God's commands

confess: to tell God about our sin and ask Him for forgiveness

repentance: turning away from your sin and turning to God

temptation: a desire to sin and disobey God

Pray: Invite a child or parent to pray the **Family Prayer** out loud (p. 23)

Review (throughout the week)

Read: Re-read *Mark 1:4-13* as a family throughout the week.

Ask: Family Application Question in *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 22)

Pray: Take time to identify a family member and pastor/elder to pray for this week.



Optional reading: Read *Who is God* book, "God Sent His Son" (pp. 161-163) together with your family. Discuss how Jesus perfectly fulfills Isaiah's prophecy as the righteous Son of God who came to redeem His people and establish His kingdom on earth. We'll revisit this theme in Week 4 as we learn how Jesus came to bring a new kind of kingdom, so keep an eye out for it!



WEEK 3: Lesson Plan

Parent Preparation (before meeting)

Read: The **Parent Reading** section for Week 3 in *The Good News Family Devotional* book (pp. 25-27). Take some time to look over the Big Idea for the week and the Questions for Younger/Older Children (pp. 27-28). Choose 1-2 questions to ask the kids when you meet.



Optional reading: Read from the *Family Worship Bible Guide*. “Mark: Chapter 1” (p. 684, #3) and/or “1 Corinthians: Chapter 1” (p. 765)

Meeting Night

Worship (10 min)

Start the night with a few worship songs. You can use the [Worship List](#) for lyric videos of songs we sing in Doxa Kids.



“I See The Lord” Lyric Video

“Cornerstone” Lyric Video



Prayer (5 min)

Have 1-2 parent(s) pray to open up your time together - focusing on the theme of *Jesus is worthy*.

Example prayer: “Lord, you are holy and wonderful, and you are worthy of all our praise. Thank you for loving us and inviting us to follow you. Help us to follow you with all of our hearts...”

Reading (5-15 min)

Begin: Read the **Introduction** in Week 3 of *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 27).

“Do you remember a time where you really wanted to be chosen for something? Maybe a sports team or a class play? Or maybe to lead the recess line at school? In this week’s passage from Mark, we’re going to read a story about the very first disciples and how they responded when Jesus called them to follow him. Let’s learn the big idea for the week, and then we’ll read it together.”

Big Idea: Ask if any of the children would like to volunteer to read the **Big Idea** (if applicable).

“Jesus is worth leaving everything to follow!”

Read: Have a parent read *Mark 1:14-22* aloud to the group.

“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.”

fulfilled: when God keeps His promises and does exactly what He said He would do

repent: to turn away from sin and turn to God, trusting and obeying Him

gospel: The good news that Jesus died for our sins and rose again so that all who believe in Him can be saved from the punishment of sin and have eternal life



Optional reading: Read aloud from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook*, “Follow the Leader” (pp. 314-317). Discuss how Jesus chose ordinary men, like fisherman, to be his followers or disciples.

Ask: What is a disciple? What does Jesus call the disciples to do?

Reflection (5 min)

Ask: Choose 1-2 of the **Questions for Younger/Older Children** (pp. 27-28) to ask the group.

Read: Read the **Conclusion** (p. 28) aloud.

In your own words, explain how the call to follow Jesus is available to anyone. Read Mark 1:15 together: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Optional: Memorize Mark 1:15 with your family this week.

Pray: Invite a child or parent to pray the **Family Prayer** out loud (p. 29)

Review (throughout the week)

Read: Re-read *Mark 1:14-22* as a family throughout the week.

Share: [Parents] share with your family how you started following Jesus and explain the difference it has made in your life.

Ask: Family Application Question in *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 28)

Pray: Take time to identify a family member and pastor/elder to pray for this week.



Optional reading: Read *Who is God* book, “God Works Through His People” (pp. 77-79) together with your family. Connect Gideon’s story to this week’s lesson: God uses the weak to do His work and display His strength. Just as God chose Gideon, Jesus chose ordinary people to be His disciples. In the coming lessons, we’ll see the extraordinary things God does through the disciples as they follow Him!



WEEK 4: Lesson Plan

Parent Preparation (before meeting)

Read: The **Parent Reading** section for Week 4 in *The Good News Family Devotional* book (pp. 31-33). Take some time to look over the Big Idea for the week and the Questions for Younger/Older Children (p. 34). Choose 1-2 questions to ask the kids when you meet.



Optional reading: Read from the *Family Worship Bible Guide*. “Ephesians: Chapter 6” (pp. 790-791, #2)

Meeting Night

Worship (10 min)

Start the night with a few worship songs. You can use the [Worship List](#) for lyric videos of songs we sing in Doxa Kids.



“House of The Lord” Lyric Video

“Great Are You Lord” Lyric Video



Prayer (5 min)

Have 1-2 parent(s) pray to open up your time together - focusing on the theme of *Jesus as king of a new kingdom*.

Example prayer: “God, you are king over all the earth. Over what we can see and what we cannot see. Only by your power can healing happen and hearts be made new. Thank You that Jesus came to bring us freedom from sin and to invite us into a new kind of Kingdom...”

Reading (5-15 min)

Begin: Read the **Introduction** in Week 4 of *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 33).

“As we’ve been reading in Mark, Jesus has proclaimed, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’ This week as we read these verses, we’ll see three ways the kingdom is coming: Jesus teaches with authority, he casts out demons, and he heals people who are sick.

Let's learn the big idea for the week, and then we'll read together."

Big Idea: Ask if any of the children would like to volunteer to read the **Big Idea** (if applicable).

"Jesus is the king of a new kind of kingdom."

Read: Have a parent read Mark 1:23-45 aloud to the group. Read from a physical Bible if you can!

"And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, 'What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, 'Everyone is looking for you.' And he said to them, 'Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.' And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, 'If you will, you can make me clean.' Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, 'I will; be clean.' And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, and said to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.' But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter."

repent: to turn away from sin and turn to God, trusting and obeying Him

leper: a person with a serious skin disease who, in Bible times, had to live away from

people because they were considered unclean

unclean spirit: an evil spirit that is against God

synagogue: where the Jews gathered to worship God and learn His Word



Optional reading: Read aloud from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook*, “Mr. Clean” (pp. 304–307). Talk about how Jesus had compassion on the leper and how He has the power and authority to perform miracles.

*If you have younger children, this is a great shortened version of the passage to use.

Reflection (5 min)

Ask: Choose 1-2 of the **Questions for Younger/Older Children** (p. 34) to ask the group.

Read: Read the **Conclusion** (p. 35) aloud.

In your own words, remind the group of Jesus’s deep compassion for the sick and suffering. Explain how Jesus’s ability to cast out demons and heal people demonstrated his authority and power.

“Jesus was showing through both his words and actions that he is the king of a new kingdom! One day, when his kingdom comes in complete fullness, there will be no more sickness or pain, tears or trials. Mark is giving us a foretaste of Jesus’s heavenly kingdom.”

Pray: Invite a child or parent to pray the **Family Prayer** out loud (p. 35)

Review (throughout the week)

Read: Re-read *Mark 1:23–45* as a family throughout the week.

Ask: **Family Application Question** in *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 34)

Pray: Take time to identify a family member and pastor/elder to pray for this week.



Optional reading: Read *Who Is God?* together as a family, “God Is King and Builder” (pp. 205–207). Talk about how Jesus came to bring a new kingdom—a heavenly kingdom. While it looked different from what many people expected, it is far more wonderful than anything they could have imagined!



WEEK 5: Lesson Plan

Parent Preparation (before meeting)

Read: The **Parent Reading** section for Week 5 in *The Good News Family Devotional* book (pp. 37-39). Take some time to look over the Big Idea for the week and the Questions for Younger/Older Children (pp. 39-40). Choose 1-2 questions to ask the kids when you meet.



Optional reading: Read from the *Family Worship Bible Guide*. “Mark: Chapter 2” (pp. 685, #1)

Meeting Night

Worship (10 min)

Start the night with a few worship songs. You can use the **Worship List** for lyric videos of songs we sing in Doxa Kids.



“God Is For Us” Lyric Video

“Alive” Lyric Video



Prayer (5 min)

Have 1-2 parent(s) pray to open up your time together - focusing on the theme of *Jesus as healer*.

Example prayer: *“Thank you, God, for healing our hearts. Thank you for sending Jesus to die and rise again so that our sins can be forgiven. Please help us to bring our needs to you...”*

Reading (5-15 min)

Begin: Read the **Introduction** in Week 5 of *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 39).

“This week we’re going to be reading the story of an amazing healing that happened in Capernaum. I hope you’ll see that what happens spiritually (heart) is even more amazing than what happens physically (body). Let’s learn the big idea for the week, and then we’ll read together.”

Big Idea: Ask if any of the children would like to volunteer to read the **Big Idea** (if applicable).

“Jesus heals our biggest problem.”

Read: Have a parent read *Mark 2:1-12* aloud to the group.

“And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ‘Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, ‘Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he said to the paralytic—‘I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.’ And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We never saw anything like this!’”

paralytic: a person who could not move or walk

scribes: men who carefully copied God's Word and taught the Israelites about God's Law

forgiveness: when God takes away our sins because of Jesus and no longer holds them against us



Optional reading: Read aloud from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook*, “Get Up!” (pp. 308-313). Discuss how Jesus not only healed the man physically by making his legs strong again, but also healed him spiritually by forgiving his sins. Jesus saw the man's faith and showed His authority and power by forgiving sins—something only God can do.

Reflection (5 min)

Ask: Choose 1-2 of the **Questions for Younger/Older Children** (pp. 39-40) to ask the group.

Read: Read the **Conclusion** (p. 40) aloud.

Remind the group that Jesus cares for all of their needs but hat thankfully, he has already taken care of our biggest problem!

“Because of Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection, he has paid the debt of our sin. 1 John 1:9 promises, ‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’ We all have a big problem: sin. Thankfully, we have a powerful solution: Jesus.”

Pray: Invite a child or parent to pray the **Family Prayer** out loud (p. 40)

Review (throughout the week)

Read: Re-read *Mark 2:1-12* as a family throughout the week.

Ask: **Family Application Question** in *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 40)

Share: [Parents] Talk with your family about some of the problems in life that you are facing today and ask them to share what’s difficult in their lives. (It could be anything from a broken-down car to a homework assignment they don’t want to do). Remind the group that Jesus cares for all of their needs but that, thankfully, he has already taken care of our biggest problem!

Pray: Take time to identify a family member and pastor/elder to pray for this week.



Optional reading: Read *Who is God* book, “God Alone Forgives Sin” (pp. 165-167) together with your family. Focus on how Jesus has the power to both heal and forgive sins, with His ultimate goal being to heal our hearts and forgive our sins.



WEEK 6: Lesson Plan

Parent Preparation (before meeting)

Read: The **Parent Reading** section for Week 6 in *The Good News Family Devotional* book (pp. 43-45). Take some time to look over the Big Idea for the week and the Questions for Younger/Older Children (pp. 45-46). Choose 1-2 questions to ask the kids when you meet.



Optional reading: Read from the *Family Worship Bible Guide*. “Mark: Chapter 2” (pp. 685, #2)

Meeting Night

Worship (10 min)

Start the night with a few worship songs. You can use the [Worship List](#) for lyric videos of songs we sing in Doxa Kids.



“It Really Is Amazing Grace” Lyric Video

“Lord I Need You” Lyric Video



Prayer (5 min)

Have 1-2 parent(s) pray to open up your time together - focusing on the theme of *Jesus as the great physician*.

Example prayer: “Lord, thank you that you love us enough to come and live among us, even while we were still sinners. Thank you that, because of Jesus, we can be forgiven of our sin, made right with you, and called your children...”

Reading (5-15 min)

Begin: Read the **Introduction** in Week 6 of *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 45).

“Sometimes in movies or in books, it’s easy to spot the bad guy. Perhaps they wear a scary mask or are unkind in their words and actions. In the time when Jesus lived, everyone knew who the bad guys were: tax collectors and sinners. This week, as we study the passage, we’ll see how Jesus interacted with them and think about what that means for us. Let’s read together.”

Big Idea: Ask if any of the children would like to volunteer to read the **Big Idea** (if applicable).

“Jesus is the great physician for all who are sick.”

Read: Have a parent read *Mark 2:13-17* aloud to the group.

“He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he rose and followed him.

And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, ‘Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.’”

physician: a doctor who helps heal sick or injured people



Optional reading: Read aloud from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook*, “Lost and Found” (pp. 374-379). In the story, Jesus tells of a shepherd searching for a lost sheep and a woman carefully looking for a lost coin. These parables show that Jesus came to seek those who are lost because of their sin. Just as a doctor cares for those who are sick, Jesus came to forgive our sins and restore us to God!

Reflection (5 min)

Ask: Choose 1-2 of the **Questions for Younger/Older Children** (p. 46) to ask the group.

Read: Read the **Conclusion** (p. 46) aloud.

In your own words, remind the group that we all need Jesus.

“We don’t have to get ourselves cleaned up and perfected to come to Jesus. We come to him broken by our sin, and he heals us and washes us clean.”

Explain how our need for forgiveness continues all through our lives (even as parents!), which is why Jesus taught us to pray, “Forgive us our sins” (Luke 11:4).

Pray: Invite a child or parent to pray the **Family Prayer** out loud (p. 47)

Review (throughout the week)

Read: Re-read *Mark 2:13-17* as a family throughout the week.

Ask: Family Application Question in *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 46)

Pray: Take time to identify a family member and pastor/elder to pray for this week.



Optional reading: Read *Who is God* book, “God Reverses the Curse” (pp. 165-167) together with your family. Focus on how Jesus has the power to both heal and forgive sins, with His ultimate goal being to heal our hearts and forgive our sins.



WEEK 7: Lesson Plan

Parent Preparation (before meeting)

Read: The **Parent Reading** section for Week 7 in *The Good News Family Devotional* book (pp. 49-51). Take some time to look over the Big Idea for the week and the Questions for Younger/Older Children (pp. 51-52). Choose 1-2 questions to ask the kids when you meet.



Optional reading: Read from the *Family Worship Bible Guide*. “Isaiah: Chapter 61” (p. 520) and/or “Matthew: Chapter 22” (p. 679, #1)

Meeting Night

Worship (10 min)

Start the night with a few worship songs. You can use the **Worship List** for lyric videos of songs we sing in Doxa Kids.



“House of the Lord” Lyric Video

“Glorious Day” Lyric Video



Prayer (5 min)

Have 1-2 parent(s) pray to open up your time together - focusing on the theme of joy in Christ.

Example prayer: *“Father, we rejoice that you have made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and made right with You. Thank You that we can enter Your presence, where there is fullness of joy! Help us to have joy in you, even in the hard parts of life...”*

Reading (5-15 min)

Begin: Read the **Introduction** in Week 7 of *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 51).

“Sometimes, people think that the more religious someone is, the less fun they have. In this week’s story, we’ll see that Jesus’s disciples act differently than John’s disciples or the disciples of the Pharisees. Let’s learn the big idea for the week, and then we’ll read together.”

Big Idea: Ask if any of the children would like to volunteer to read the **Big Idea** (if applicable).

“Jesus’s kingdom brings joyful celebration!”

Read: Have a parent read **Mark 2:18-22** aloud to the group.

“Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, ‘Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.’”

disciples: people who follow Jesus, learn from Him, and seek to live like Him

Pharisees: religious leaders who knew God’s Law but often cared more about looking good and following rules than loving God

fasting: choosing not to eat for a time so you can pray and seek God

mourning: feeling really sad because someone/something has been lost or hurt

joy: a deep happiness that comes from knowing and trusting God



Optional reading: Read aloud from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook*, “The Great and Awesome Day of the Lord” (pp. 274-279) **or** “All Things New” (pp. 522-529). Discuss how Jesus is the perfect fulfillment of God’s promise to send the Messiah. Talk about why this brought great joy to those who recognized Him, and what it means for us today that God always keeps His promises.

Reflection (5 min)

Ask: Choose 1-2 of the **Questions for Younger/Older Children** (pp. 51-52) to ask the group.

Read: Read the **Conclusion** (p. 52) aloud.

In your own words, explain how Christianity is not a set of rules to follow but a person (Jesus) to know and follow.

“Jesus’s kingdom is like a wedding feast—full of joy and celebration.”

Pray: Invite a child or parent to pray the **Family Prayer** out loud (p. 53)

Review (throughout the week)

Read: Re-read *Mark 2:18-22* as a family throughout the week.

Ask: Family Application Question in *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 52)

Share: [Parents] share some ways that knowing Jesus has brought joy into your life. Invite your children to share if they'd like!

Pray: Take time to identify a family member and pastor/elder to pray for this week.



Optional reading: Read *Who is God* book, “God of Covenant” (pp. 45-47) together with your family. Discuss how God's covenants were often celebrated with a meal. Jesus gave us the Lord's Supper as the meal of the new covenant, reminding us of His faithfulness and giving us joyful hope as we look forward to celebrating with Him forever.



WEEK 8: Lesson Plan

Parent Preparation (before meeting)

Read: The **Parent Reading** section for Week 8 in *The Good News Family Devotional* book (pp. 55-57). Take some time to look over the Big Idea for the week and the Questions for Younger/Older Children (pp. 57-58). Choose 1-2 questions to ask the kids when you meet.



Optional reading: Read from the *Family Worship Bible Guide*. “Genesis: Chapter 2” (p. 4, #1) and/or “Matthew: Chapter 23” (p. 679)

Meeting Night

Worship (10 min)

Start the night with a few worship songs. You can use the [Worship List](#) for lyric videos of songs we sing in Doxa Kids.



“Nothing But The Blood” Lyric Video

“Jesus Paid It All” Lyric Video



Prayer (5 min)

Have 1-2 parent(s) pray to open up your time together - focusing on the theme of *rest*.

Example prayer: “*Thank you God for the gift of rest. Help us to remember our need for you and to rest in the truth that you hold all things in Your hands...*”

Reading (5-15 min)

Begin: Read the **Introduction** in Week 8 of *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 57).

“In the book of Genesis (the very first book of the Bible!), we’re told that God made the earth in six days and then rested on the seventh day. Did God rest because he was worn out and tired from all his work? No, God never gets tired or weary! (see Isaiah 40:28). God rested as an example for his people. God called the seventh day of the week the Sabbath and made it a special day so that his people could rest from their usual labors and spend a whole day worshipping him. This week in Mark, we’ll see what happens when men add

rules to God's law and make something intended to be a blessing into a burden. Let's learn the big idea for the week, and then we'll read together."

Big Idea: Ask if any of the children would like to volunteer to read the **Big Idea** (if applicable).

"Sabbath rest is a blessing!"

Read: Have a parent read *Mark 2:23-28* aloud to the group.

"One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. And the Pharisees were saying to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?' And he said to them, 'Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?' And he said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.'"

sabbath: a day set apart to rest from regular work and worship God

Pharisees: religious leaders who knew God's Law but often cared more about looking good and following rules than loving God

lawful: something that is allowed or follows God's law

burden: something that is difficult or heavy to carry, physically or emotionally

blessing: a good gift from God or something God does to help and care for us



Optional reading: Read aloud from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook*, "And So It Begins" (pp. 16-23). As you read, notice how God, though all-powerful, rested after creating the world. He modeled rest for us and designed us to need it (reminding us that we were created to depend on Him).

Reflection (5 min)

Ask: Choose 1-2 of the **Questions for Younger/Older Children** (pp. 57-58) to ask the group.

Read: Read the **Conclusion** (p. 58) aloud.

In your own words, explain that God's commandments are not meant to be burdens but blessings—they show us the way we were created to live.

"While God may never need to rest, his people do need to rest. The Sabbath is meant to be a day when we get to rest and enjoy God."

Pray: Invite a child or parent to pray the **Family Prayer** out loud (p. 58)

Review (throughout the week)

Read: Re-read *Mark 2:23-28* as a family throughout the week.

Ask: Family Application Question in *The Good News Family Devotional* (p. 58)

Share: Discuss as a family why we all need rest and the importance of spending time worshipping God together.

Pray: Take time to identify a family member and pastor/elder to pray for this week.



Optional reading: Read *Who is God* book, “God is the Mighty Creator” (pp. 1-3) together with your family. God designed all of creation, and He designed us! Part of His design was a day of rest to remind us that He is our Creator, and we can trust Him to care for us as we rest in Him.