

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 1: God

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 1–2; Luke 3

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

**Key Question:** Who is God?

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 1, “God”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

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

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Encourage your child to make a music video of Jesus’ baptism. Your child will need to choose an appropriate song (either with lyrics or instrumental) and

represent the story artistically, without speaking. Recruit siblings to help act out different parts. Tap your child's creativity when it comes to elements like the river or the dove. Record the final performance and share it electronically with friends and family.

### Option 2

Have your child pretend to be a news reporter or journalist and interview family or friends. Have your child ask different people about their baptism (whether they were old enough to remember it, what it means to them, or whether they will get baptized if they haven't been) and then write it into a newspaper article or blog.

### Extra Mile

- Work together to memorize this week's Bible verse. Each day of the week, practice the verse in a different way, such as writing it, typing it, saying it out loud, meditating on it, or learning it in sign language.
- This week your child learned that John the Baptist taught people to live God's way—and that means being kind, generous, and fair. Celebrate these qualities in your family by having your child create a "brag board." Use a sheet/board of poster to create a three-column chart labeled "Kind," "Generous," and "Fair." Encourage your child's creativity in decorating the board using markers, computer printouts, stickers, family photos, etc. Be on the lookout for examples of this godly behavior in your family that you can post on the board together. The only rule? You can't brag about yourself!
- Create a family baptism scrapbook. Gather photos, certificates, church bulletins, and other keepsakes from the special day. Write or print Bible verses to embellish the pages. If your child has not yet been baptized, you may want to label a page for that day to build anticipation.
- As a family, read together Matthew 14, which recounts the death of John the Baptist. What character traits might John have demonstrated before his death? How did Jesus react to John's death? Discuss how Jesus might have felt after hearing about John's death.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 2: Personal God

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

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

**Key Question:** Does God care about me?

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 2, “Personal God”

## *How to Use This Page*

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

## Table Talk

1. David took care of his sheep and God takes care of us. What are some things you take care of? How do you care for those things?
2. When are some times that you are the most worried? How can Psalm 23 help you to not worry?
3. How can you be sure that God knows how to care for you, wants to care for you, and can care for you?
4. Who are some leaders in your life, or people who have authority over you? Why is it important to follow them?

## Living Faith

### *Option 1*

You can help your child better remember this lesson by memorizing Psalm 23 together throughout the week. This is a long passage, but it can easily be

memorized when done as a family. Before dinner each night, have different members of the family quote a different part of the passage.

### *Option 2*

You can help your child make a short video of themselves reading Psalm 23 using a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Then each time your child is on the device throughout the day, encourage him or her to watch the video and try to recite Psalm 23 along with the video.

### **Extra Mile**

- Explain to your child about how some people are “lost sheep.” These are people in need of the gospel, the good news that Jesus died for their sins and that God loves them.
- Talk with your child about the importance of sharing this good news with other people through our words and our actions.
- Read a story about a missionary who shared the gospel in a foreign place where people had never heard of Jesus.
- Find out if your church, or another church in your area, sponsors a missionary in another country. Learn about that missionary and the country where they are ministering. Have your child write a letter to the missionary, thanking him or her for the love they are showing to the “lost sheep.” Ask if your child would like to contribute some of his or her allowance to an offering at church for the missionary. Or your child could send some money with the letter.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 3: Salvation

**Bible Basis:** Matthew 26:1–4; 27:27–66; 28:1–10; Genesis 2–3

**Key Verse:** Ephesians 2:8: “God’s grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn’t come from anything you do. It is God’s gift.”

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 3, “Salvation”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. What kinds of things do you do even though they aren’t enjoyable because you know there will be a greater reward?
2. How would you explain God’s plan for salvation to someone who has never heard it?
3. Why do you think Jesus chose to appear to certain people individually after his resurrection (Mary Magdalene, Peter, James)?
4. How does the story of the cross inspire you to be more Christlike?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Have your child choose to take on the persona of someone who saw Jesus after his resurrection (possibly Peter, Mary Magdalene, or Thomas). Look through the Gospels to help compile information about their encounter. Then have your child act out a “video confessional,” either live or recorded, of their experience.

They should explain who they are, how they know Jesus, what they experienced when he was crucified, what happened when they saw him resurrected, and what they now believe. Bible-era clothing will help make their testimony more engaging. If your child needs more prompting, you or a sibling can take on the role of a reporter on the scene conducting an interview.

### Option 2

The next time you are driving your child to school or another event, ask your child to use that time to practice telling you the story of Jesus' resurrection. For an extra challenge, ask your child if they remember that week's Bible verse. Make it a game: give your child a silly voice or a cartoon character's voice that they need to say the verse in.

### Extra Mile

- No matter what time of year it is, take some time as a family to examine your Easter traditions. How do you typically observe the time from Good Friday through Easter Sunday? Is Jesus the focus of your festivities? Browse the Internet for new ideas on how to keep Christ as the center of this holiday.
- Create a set of Resurrection Eggs. You'll need an empty egg carton, twelve plastic Easter eggs, and the following supplies to put inside them:
  1. Bread or cracker piece—Matthew 26:26
  2. Three coins—Matthew 26:14–15
  3. Purple cloth strip—Mark 15:17
  4. Thorny crown and red strip of fabric—Matthew 27:29
  5. Thick string—Mark 15:15
  6. Cross—John 19:17–18
  7. A nail—John 20:25
  8. A sign saying, “This is the King of the Jews” —Luke 23:38
  9. Sponge—John 19:29
  10. Spear—John 19:34 (Ideas: plastic cherry sword, or make one using brown and gray construction paper, or color one and cut it out)
  11. Rock—Matthew 27:59–60
  12. Empty—Matthew 28:6
- Read *Benjamin's Box: The Story of the Resurrection Eggs* by Melody Carlson. Let your children enjoy opening the eggs along with the story.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 4: The Bible

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

**Key Verse:** 2 Timothy 3:16–17: “God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true.”

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kid’s Edition*, Chapter 4, “The Bible”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. How do you know the Bible is true and powerful?
2. How would you answer someone who says the Bible is just a story book like any other?
3. How can the Bible help you when you are tempted to do something wrong?
4. Which Scriptures have you memorized that can help you when you are tempted to be unkind? Disobey? Put God second?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

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

## Option 2

Help your child draw a comic strip depicting Jesus being tempted. Show how to draw word bubbles and in them have your child write the verses or Bible concepts that Jesus used to make the Devil go away.

## Extra Mile

- Learning the Ten Commandments is an important step to helping your child develop a basis for good decision making. This simple song, sung to the tune of “Jingle Bells,” is a great way to begin memorizing the Ten Commandments.

No other gods, no idols;  
Don't misuse God's name;  
Keep the Sabbath holy;  
That's God's special day. HEY!  
Honor your mom and your dad;  
Don't murder, lust, or steal;  
No false stories, don't envy;  
This is God's great way. HEY!

- Help your child understand the importance of having and obeying rules by making a poster for household rules. Brainstorm with your child to come up with your family's household rules, along with consequences for not following them or rewards for following them. Explain to your child how each of these rules helps everyone stay safe and get along better with other family members. Decorate the poster together and hang it somewhere in your house where everyone will see it.
- The Bible is a collection of different books written at different times for different purposes. Help your child understand the organization and purpose of the individual books by making a poster. Work together to come up with some way to visually organize the books of Law, Poetry, Letters, History, etc. — perhaps all different kinds of fruit growing on one tree. List all 66 books of the Bible on the poster.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 5: Identity in Christ

**Bible Basis:** Luke 19:1–10; Genesis 17:1–7

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

**Key Question:** Who am I?

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 5, “Identity in Christ”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

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

## Living Faith

### Option 1

The story of Zacchaeus is a great Bible story. Your child learned about how Zacchaeus played host to Jesus. Pretend that Jesus is coming to your house. What would you do to get ready? Ask your child to cook a special meal with you. What do you think Jesus’ favorite foods would be? What would he like to

do at your house? Make a list. This is also a great excuse to have your child help you clean the house.

### Option 2

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

### Extra Mile

- Help your child this week to learn the Key Verse by playing Bible Memory Tag. Review your child's Bible verse several times, then play a round of Bible Memory Tag. Begin the game with you, the adult, as "It" trying to find and tag your child. When you tag your child, they must recite the verse correctly. If they can, they will be "It" and get to chase you. When they tag you, you must recite the verse back.
- Help your child to retain the story of Zacchaeus by reading the Bible story together a few times during the week. Have your child draw a picture depicting either Zacchaeus in the tree or Zacchaeus and Jesus eating together.
- Encourage your child to share God-given talents and gifts without embarrassment. If your child has musical talent, encourage him or her to play or sing something for residents at a nursing home. If your child has talent in the kitchen, encourage your child to bake something and take it to a neighbor or volunteer at a soup kitchen. Find a way for your child to gain confidence in his or her God-given abilities, to let them shine instead of feeling embarrassed and hiding them.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 6: Church

**Bible Basis:** Acts 2:1–41; Genesis 15:5–6

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

**Key Question:** How will God accomplish his plan?

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 6, “Church”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. How do you see our church helping to carry out God’s purpose on earth? What role does our family play in that?
2. How do you think the people who had cheered Jesus’ death felt when Peter spoke to them with the power of the Holy Spirit? Have you ever been in a situation like that when you’ve been proven wrong?
3. What do you think would be great about being a missionary to a foreign land? What would be not so great?

## Living Faith

Have your child learn to say a simple phrase like “God loves you” or “Jesus is risen” in a few foreign languages. Use web-based tools (like Google Translate) to read and hear the phrase in different languages. Write them down and practice them together. If you do not have Internet access, check out a language-learning book from the library and study a few simple phrases. You never know when your child will encounter someone native to that language; your child’s

ability to communicate in another language, even a little, could build a bridge between cultures.

### Extra Mile

- Create a “Thank you, Holy Spirit” list to post in your home. Your family members will become more attuned to the Spirit’s gentle nudging leading them in the right direction as they look for circumstances to record and share.
- Support a missionary. Ask your church leaders about the missionaries your church supports. Get to know them, their needs, and the people they serve. As a family, decide how you can best support them, whether through prayer, letter-writing, donating supplies, or raising money.
- Check out a book on the lives of the early church leaders or a book of martyrs. Preview the stories and share ones with your family that you feel will inspire and uplift them. Talk about how difficult it was for them to practice their faith and share it with others. Appreciate that we have only the restraints of our own discomfort to overcome.
- Celebrate the “birth” of the church. Whether or not it is Pentecost time, plan a day this week to share a special dessert. Bake a birthday cake, and let your child help decorate it to wish “Happy Birthday” to the church. Look through the baking aisle at your grocery store together to see how you might use items to show words, flames, a dove, bright colors, or whatever else your child can think of.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 7: Humanity

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

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

**Key Question:** How does God see us?

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 7, “Humanity”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. What do you think caused Cain to give God less than his best? Are there times when you are tempted to give God less than your best?
2. Have you ever felt jealous of your brother/sister/friend? How can you deal with these feelings?
3. Do you think it’s fair that all sin is equal in God’s eyes? Isn’t some sin worse than others? (It may seem so to man, but all sin separates us from God)
4. How can you see others the way God sees them? Even those who don’t know Jesus?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

The story of Cain and Abel is a very important story for siblings to understand. Sibling rivalry is a very real, harmful problem for families. Helping children to recognize these feelings early on is important in order to avoid future problems

and resentment. Using role-playing activities can help children discuss these feelings in a comfortable setting. Have your children act out the parts of Cain and Abel. Have the children use problems that they really have in their own relationships in the role-playing. When children feel they are playing, they are often more comfortable with sharing their feelings. If your child does not have siblings, role-play with your child and discuss a situation that may have come up with a friend at school.

### Option 2

Have your child draw a picture or write a short description with this title: “Advice to Cain.” Instruct your child to share advice with Cain about giving God your best, getting along with others, and controlling jealousy.

### Extra Mile

- Use the story of Cain and Abel to help your child work on relationships with siblings, friends, and other family members. Help your child to list things he or she could work on and things he or she wishes other friends or family members would work on to improve how well they get along.
- The next time your child does something wrong and has a consequence, remind them that, just like God still cared for Cain even after he did a really bad thing, you will always love your child even when he or she does something wrong. Remind your child that we are humans who make mistakes, but God still loves us and forgives us each time.
- This week, keep an eye out for posters or advertisements for missing pets or even missing children. Explain how, just like Jesus was worried about his missing sheep, someone is worried about these missing animals or people. If you see a poster for a missing pet in your neighborhood, take a walk around your block, keeping an eye out for the missing pet. If you find it, you and your child can get a glimpse of what Jesus felt when he found the missing sheep! If you see a poster for a missing person, take a moment with your child to pray for that missing person and their family and friends who are worried about them. Pray for that person’s safety and ask God for a safe return home.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 8: Compassion

**Bible Basis:** Luke 10:25–37; Ruth 2:1–23, 4:1–17

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 8, “Compassion”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you could help, but you didn’t? What makes it hard for you to help others?
2. What are some instances when you can pay more attention to all of your neighbors (classmates, teammates, kids in your youth group or other groups, as well as neighbors who live near you), not just those you like best?
3. Have you ever seen someone at your school being bullied? How could you be a Good Samaritan to that person?
4. Have you ever been bullied? Did anyone stand up for you? How did that make you feel?

## Living Faith

Have your child capture the feelings throughout the story of the Good Samaritan by creating a photo story. Look through magazines for pictures of people, or print images found online (do not worry about period clothing, look for

emotions expressed). Display them as a photo essay of the story in book or poster form. For each image, write a brief caption explaining who it represents and what the primary feeling associated with that person would be. For example:

- The religious leader who asked who his neighbor is (skepticism)
- Jesus (patience)
- The robbers (harmful intent)
- The injured man (suffering)
- The priest and the Levite (apathy, pride)
- The Samaritan (compassion)
- The innkeeper (confusion)

### Extra Mile

- Give your child some background on the story of the Good Samaritan. Use a Bible map to locate the cities of Jerusalem and Jericho. Explain that a Levite was a Jewish religious leader and that Samaritans were a group of people openly despised by the Jews. We don't know whether or not the injured man was a Jew, but Jesus was. He told this story, using these examples, to show that the Samaritan was more compassionate than the Levite or the priest.
- Think of an experience you have had volunteering in your community. Talk about what your experience was like and the people you helped. How did it make you feel? Have your child conduct an interview with you as if they are reporting on your volunteer activities for a news broadcast.
- Look for age-appropriate volunteer opportunities for your child based on your child's talents and interests. If you have a budding artist, encourage your child to create several pictures to deliver to a local hospital. A strong reader may be welcomed at a nursing home to read to residents. An active child would be perfect as a dog walker for a local animal shelter. Talk about your child's gifts and how they can be used to bless the community.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 9: Stewardship

**Bible Basis:** Mark 12:38–44; 1 Samuel 1:9–28, 2:18–21

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

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

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

**Resources:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 9, “Stewardship”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. Why is it important to give to God, even though everything already belongs to him? (It pleases God)
2. What ways can you give to your family at home? (Helping with chores, obeying your parents right away, doing things before you’re asked) Choose one extra way to give of your time at home this week, and follow through!
3. Even though we do not give each other money at home, why is it important to give to one another with our time and energy? (It shows we love each other, and God)
4. Why should we be willing to give? (Because everything already belongs to God, and he will make sure we always have what we need)

## Living Faith

### Option 1

This week, your child heard the story of the widow's offering. Have your child pretend to be a news reporter interviewing the widow after she gave her offering. You can participate by playing the role of the widow, or your child can do this with a sibling or other family member. Have the widow and the reporter switch roles. Some good questions to ask the widow: "How did you feel when you gave your only two coins to God?" or "Were you worried that you wouldn't have money for food or clothes?"

### Option 2

Ask your child to help you make up a story about what happened to the widow after she gave the offering. Come up with creative outcomes of how God might have blessed her for her giving. Write it down and create a story book or comic book.

### Extra Mile

- Your child learned a lot about giving this week. Brainstorm, as a family, different giving projects that you could all do together. Start a coin jar and come up with creative ideas to help you raise money for your family giving project, such as can collecting.
- Your child may have made a Cheerful Giving Box this week for their class to collect food for a local food bank. If your child's class is not collecting food, make your own box and collect foods to deliver to the food bank on your own. Challenge your child to purchase food using their own money, not just taking it from the kitchen cupboard.
- If your child receives an allowance, talk about where that allowance goes each week (or month, etc.). If you haven't done so already, talk to your child about setting aside a portion of the allowance to give in the offering at church or to give to a mission or charity project. Have your child create a "budget" for their allowance, allocating the actual amount of money they will set aside for God. Help them stick to it.
- Start explaining the tithing process to your child. Talk about how God asks for a percentage of our money. If you are comfortable with it, tell your child what percentage you give to God or the church, and talk about why you feel glad when you give your hard-earned money to God's work.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 10: Eternity

**Bible Basis:** 2 Kings 2:1–18; Revelation 20:11–22:17, 22:20

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

**Key Question:** What happens next?

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 10, “Eternity”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. Who are some people in your life who are spiritual mentors, like Elijah was for Elisha?
2. When someone dies, what makes it a sad event? What makes it a joyful one?
3. How can you be sure you have an eternal home in heaven? (By believing in Jesus and that his death on the cross paid for all my sins; by receiving the grace that Jesus extends to his followers)
4. What do you think (name of familiar person who is now in heaven) is doing right now?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

The story of Elijah being taken up into heaven is a fun one for your child to act out with small action figures. Use household props to set the scene—a castle or dollhouse to represent the city of Jericho and two shallow containers of water that can be separated to reveal dry land. Your child will need the two

main characters, Elijah and Elisha, as well as several others to represent the fifty prophets. Use doll clothes or a scrap of cloth for Elijah's cloak. The chariot and horses are the fun part. Cut and tape paper to any toy vehicle or even a small box to create a chariot of fire. If you have the ability, record your child's reenactment and share it with others.

### Option 2

As another option, you and your child can build a replica of what your child thinks heaven looks like. Use Legos, Play-Doh, or any other available toy or building set.

### Extra Mile

- As a family, read Bible passages and discuss Elijah's likely experience after being taken up to heaven. Read the story of Jesus' transfiguration in Matthew 17:1 – 13 and John's vision of heaven in Revelation 4:1 – 8; 7:9; 21:11 – 22 to help inform the discussion.
- It is a longstanding tradition of the Jewish faith to invite the prophet Elijah to the Passover Seder. If you have friends who practice this tradition, ask them to tell your family about it. If not, do a little research on your own to learn more. There are many significant elements of the Seder worth learning together.
- For a fun family craft, have everyone create his or her own "One-Way Ticket" to heaven. Use craft paper, glitter, markers, and jewels to make a very special reminder that you each have a final destination just waiting for you. Be sure to include Jesus on your ticket, as he is the one way to heaven!
- Have a family home makeover. Much as you'd do on a spring cleaning day, look for specific areas in your home that have made it less joyful than it could be. Is it the pile of shoes that always clutters the doorway? The paint color in the bathroom everyone hates? The remote control that's always missing? Look at these issues and come up with solutions that will make your earthly home more enjoyable.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 11: Worship

**Bible Basis:** Daniel 6; Acts 16:16–35

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids' Edition*, Chapter 11, “Worship”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

Ask your child, “If you were in charge of leading worship at our church one Sunday, what would you choose to do? What would your worship service be like?”

It can be hard to worship God when things aren’t going your way. How do you get yourself to do things you don’t really feel like doing?

There are still places in the world today where it is illegal to read the Bible and worship God, but people do it anyway. How do you think their time of worship looks different from or the same as our time of worship?

How do you think our family can include more worship time (or improve our worship time) in our week?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Encourage your child to make a video documentary on the subject of worship. They can record bits of music or family prayer time. Include short snippets of interviews with people, perhaps asking, “What is worship?” or “What

is your favorite worship song?” Your child can write out one or two of their Key Verses on an index card and record someone reading them. The video doesn’t have to tell a story in order—think of it as a collage in video form. Simple video editing software, like iMovie, makes it possible for even children to become producers.

### Option 2

Have your child conduct a survey of people’s favorite worship songs. The survey may be left open-ended or have a limited number of options to choose from. Survey as many people as possible. (Sunday at church is a great opportunity.) Once the information is collected, work with your child to think of a fun way to display it, such as with a poster or graph. For the top three favorite worship songs, find videos or recordings of the songs online, listen to them together, and sing along!

### Extra Mile

- Work together to memorize this week’s Key Verse. Each day of the week, practice the verses in a different way, such as writing them, typing them, saying them out loud, meditating on them, or learning them in sign language.
- Is your family suffering from worldliness that creeps in through your television or radio? Shake things up with some great worship music. If you like to leave the television on for “background noise,” try setting it to a music channel that plays worship music. If your car is the place where talk shows give you a feeling of sadness, freshen up the playlist with some new worship CDs or a praise station. Or try turning off the radio for a few minutes, increasing the amount of time gradually, in order to meditate on God’s Word in silence.
- Put your child in charge of running a family worship time. It can be very short, but it’s sure to be enjoyed by the whole family. Here is a suggestion for how your child can format the time, but feel free to get creative and change things as desired:
  - Sing a worship song (a cappella, along with a recording, or with instruments).
  - Read a favorite psalm.
  - Tell a favorite Bible story (read Scripture, read a storybook, watch a short video, or act it out with figures).
  - Respond to the story (draw a picture, share a thought, ask a question).
  - Close in prayer.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 12: Prayer

**Bible Basis:** Judges 6–7; Luke 11:1–13

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids' Edition*, Chapter 12, “Prayer”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. Gideon understood the importance of prayer. Why do you think prayer is important?
2. Sometimes it's hard to know when God is talking to us. How do you listen for God's voice?
3. The disciples were curious about prayer because of watching Jesus pray. What did Jesus teach them that helps you know how to pray?
4. Do you think our family prayer time is too little, too much, or just right? What can we do as a family to strengthen this habit?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Go on a “Prayer Quest” as a family. People often make a prayer “request” when they ask for something for themselves. However, a “Prayer Quest” is when you actively seek to find out what someone else needs or is praying about and you take part in answering that request. Encourage your child to

pay attention at church when others make prayer requests. Then discuss as a family how you could participate in helping someone with a specific request.

### Option 2

Have your child make a personal prayer video. Have your child write their own personal psalm or prayer of praise. Then use video-creating software, such as iMovie, to combine your child's text with instrumental background music or your child's favorite praise and worship song. Save the video file on your computer and send it to friends and family. Also use it for your child to watch during personal devotional time.

### Extra Mile

- To help make the power of prayer more real to your child, create a family prayer list. To increase visibility and interest, have your child help decorate a large poster board featuring the list. Let each member of the family add something to the list that is really important to them. Post the list where everyone can see it and be reminded to pray for these things each day. When an item on the prayer list is answered, have a simple celebration to emphasize to your child the fact that God really does hear and answer our prayers.
- Try to include praise and thankfulness in each family prayer time to help your child understand that praying is not just about asking for things, but it is also a time to worship God. Try structuring your prayer time in the Praise-Thank-Ask way to help your child remember the different ways to pray to God:
  - **Praise:** "Dear God, you are so awesome!"
  - **Thank:** "Thank you for giving us good weather for my baseball game."
  - **Ask:** "Please help me to be more like you and show kindness to everyone. Please help me to sleep well so I can do well on my science test tomorrow too. Amen."

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 13: Bible Study

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

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 13, “Bible Study”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

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

## Living Faith

### Option 1

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

keep track of the progress of your plants. Discuss with your child how plants thrive in good soil and with the proper nutrients, just like the Bible gives us the spiritual nutrients we need to grow in our faith in God.

### Option 2

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

### Extra Mile

- Help your child practice their memory verse by playing “Bible Memory Freeze.” After reviewing the memory verse with your child several times, throughout the day tap your child on the shoulder and say, “Freeze.” Your child stays frozen until they recite the verse. Allow your child to freeze you throughout the day and require you to recite the verse. This will help your child understand that memorizing the Word of God is important to you as well.
- Explain to your child that sowing seeds of the gospel—the good news about Jesus—means sharing with others what we have learned when we study the Bible. Encourage your child to tell others this week what he or she has learned from the Word of God.
- During family prayer time, tell your child how important it is to spread the good news of the gospel to others, just like the sower planted his seeds. Talk about the people or places where you and your child could spread the gospel.
- This is a great week to focus on your family Bible study time. Use a children's Bible or *Believe Kids' Edition* to discover some of the many great Bible stories. Find an adult study Bible with cross-references or use a concordance to show your child the many ways to dig even deeper into the meaning of Scripture.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 14: Single-Mindedness

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

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 14, “Single-Mindedness”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. Tell me about a time when you were very single-minded in your pursuit of a goal.
2. What are some distractions that keep you from focusing on God?
3. Peter’s faith was tested when he was distracted from Jesus by the wind. Have you ever experienced a severe “storm” that made you question your faith in God? How do you think focusing on Jesus helps you during such a time?
4. Do you feel like your schedule is a good reflection of your priorities? Is there anything you would like to change?

## Living Faith

Throughout this week, have your child, the “budding director,” create a video blog (vlog) showing how your family puts God first. Record snippets of regular scheduled activities, such as walking into church on Sunday, taking part in a youth group activity, praying before a meal, or reading the Bible before

bed. Stay alert to capture any spontaneous events that show God as a priority in your family. Have your child record brief commentary between each video clip, describing the event and what it means. You can also use a simple movie-editing resource (such as iMovie) to do some post-production editing. You can share the vlog with friends and family electronically or just keep it for your own enjoyment.

### Extra Mile

- Challenge your child’s creativity in writing a worship song. Reread the story of King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah, imagining the words they would use to praise God in times of trouble. Have your child write a simple song or poem that would fit that scenario. They can compose an original tune, borrow one from a familiar song, or write lyrics without a melody.
- Sit down with the family calendar and decide together whether your use of time shows that you are putting God first. Is your child too tired from gymnastics to attend youth group? Is your morning routine too hectic to read a Bible passage together? Think about how you can schedule your week or month so that your stated priorities really look like everyday priorities. Then pray together for God to lead you as you make adjustments.
- Jesus frequently escaped the distractions of life to be alone with his Father. How do your family members find quiet time, free from distractions? Is there a certain place in your home that can be designated for quiet time? Or a time of day when distractions are at a minimum? Have your child decorate a simple sign or doorknob hanger that says “Prayer in Progress” to indicate quiet time. Family members can use it like a “Do Not Disturb” sign in a hotel to indicate that they need time alone (or together) with God.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 15: Total Surrender

**Bible Basis:** Daniel 3; Acts 6:8–7:60

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 15, “Total Surrender”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

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

## Living Faith

### Option 1

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

### Option 2

You and your child can sit down and write out different ways to approach peer pressure and bullying. Help your child develop some general guidelines that could be applied to many instances of peer pressure or bullying. For instance, “Say no and walk away” or “Find an adult and ask for help.” Helping your child understand that he or she has a voice and choices in these situations can increase your child’s confidence.

### Extra Mile

- Acquainting your child with sacrificial giving at an early age is an important way to teach them humility and generosity. Donating food to a food bank, clothes to a shelter, or toys for toy drives will give your child hands-on experience in giving. When children give away personal belongings, it helps them to understand the concept of sacrifice and the satisfaction of giving to others.
- Sacrifice does not just apply to things. Often, sacrificing at home involves sacrificing our wants, our time, and ourselves. Take time to point out to your child certain things that seem hard for him or her to do for others, such as sharing, participating in chores, or obeying quickly. Explain how sacrificing what they want in order to serve others can be pleasing to God.
- During family prayer time, mention the importance of sacrificing our things and our time to help other people.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 16: Biblical Community

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

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 16, “Biblical Community”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. Mention a recent church, school, or community project. How did people work together to accomplish this project? What were some of the different roles?
2. Why do you think it’s important for Christians to be friends with other believers? Why is it important to be friends with nonbelievers?
3. What makes it hardest for you to get along with someone? What can you do to make it easier?
4. When have you observed someone sharing generously with others?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Encourage your child to create a photo collage to illustrate Acts 2:44–47, the complete key verse text from which this week’s memory verse is taken. There

are ten sentences in this passage that describe the early church. Challenge your child to find an image to represent each sentence (it could be a family photo or an image either cut from a magazine or printed from an online source). Images can be literal representations, such as worshipers sitting in church to represent “Every day they met together in the temple courtyard,” or symbolic, such as a first-aid kit to represent “Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.” Have your child arrange the images on poster paper and write out the sentences associated with them. Hang it in your home as a reminder of biblical community.

### Option 2

Have your child plan an event with some friends. Perhaps there is a family from church with whom you are close. Invite them to your home or plan to meet somewhere, at a park or restaurant. Have your child plan what you will eat and do. There are many ways to keep the event Christ-centered, such as choosing a worship CD for the car ride, praying together, discussing a recent sermon, or playing a Bible game together. Enjoy the fun time of fellowship with other Christians.

### Extra Mile

- Play “secret servant” with your family this week. Write down the names of the members in your household. Have each person draw a name and keep it a secret. During the week, each person’s goal is to be a “secret servant” to the person they picked by finding ways to serve that family member. It may be by slipping a special treat into their lunch, making their bed, or spending time playing a game together. At the end of the week, reveal the ways you were blessed by one another and see if each person can guess who their “secret servant” was.
- Does your church support any overseas missionaries? Take some time as a family to learn about the culture and community where they serve. Find out what they are doing to bring the good news of Jesus to people in that community and to serve their needs. Write a letter of encouragement to the missionaries; if possible, send a care package with some needed items.
- How can you help your child keep God at the center of friendships? Before your child hangs out with a friend, talk about one simple way to incorporate your child’s faith. It may be watching a Bible cartoon or making a snack that has a fun Bible story tie-in. (There are lots of great ideas online.) It can be as simple as telling the friend, “Our family prayed for your (event or situation) this week” or talking with your child about modeling Christ by being kind and loving as they play.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 17: Spiritual Gifts

**Bible Basis:** Daniel 2:1–47; Romans 12:6–8

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 17, “Spiritual Gifts”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. What is a spiritual gift? (Spiritual gifts are things God’s Spirit gives us the power to do; things we wouldn’t be able to do without God’s help; God gives us spiritual gifts so we can serve other people and show God’s love to the world)
2. Do you have a spiritual gift that can be a blessing at home? (Mercy, encouragement, serving, etc.) What do you think some of your spiritual gifts are?
3. How can we practice serving one another at home using our gifts?
4. What are some spiritual gifts you’ve seen in other members of our family? Are they similar to yours or different? How do you think having similar or different spiritual gifts impacts our family?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Help your child make a spiritual gifts poster to hang in your home. Brainstorm with your child about their spiritual gifts and write down some of them. Next, add actions your child can take to use those spiritual gifts. For example, if one of your child's spiritual gifts is patience, your child could take some special time with a younger sibling, being patient while that younger sibling learns how to do something, like put together a puzzle. Make it a goal to help your child perform all the actions on the poster over the next week. Make this project an extra challenge by adding actions for each member of the family and their specific spiritual gifts.

### Option 2

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

### Extra Mile

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

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 18: Offering My Time

**Bible Basis:** Haggai 1:1–14; Luke 2:41–49

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 18, “Offering My Time”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

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

## Living Faith

### Option 1

To help your child better offer his or her time to God, it is important to teach time-management skills. Establishing a schedule your child can be responsible for is a good step toward prioritizing chores and schoolwork. In this way, your child can learn how to schedule time to offer to God. You can help your child do this by creating a schedule together and placing it somewhere highly visible so it can be reviewed daily.

### Option 2

You and your child could have Bible time together. Jesus spent time in the temple to learn more about God. Your child can learn more about God on a daily basis by having regular Bible time. Explain to your child that Bible time could include reading the Bible (or having it read to them), prayer time, and listening to praise and worship music.

### Extra Mile

- Learning to offer our time to God can begin with volunteer work. There are many local opportunities that provide ways for children to use their time to serve God and others. Make an effort once every month, or every few months, to participate in volunteer work as a family.
- Your child is now old enough to have a pretty full schedule—with school, homework, hanging out with friends, playing sports, and doing other extracurricular activities. Sit down together as a family and discuss how you will make time for God. This includes going to church, reading your Bible, having family devotion time, and serving others in Jesus' name. It's great to have many activities you enjoy, but be sure your child knows your main priorities.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of offering our time to God and to others. Make a special effort to show your child that you take time out of your busy day to read your Bible and have devotions. The best way to teach your child how to offer time to God is to lead by example.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 19: Giving My Resources

**Bible Basis:** Exodus 35:4–29; 36:1–6; Matthew 2:1–12

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 19, “Giving My Resources”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. What is a resource? (Anything we have or own, anything that is within our care; resources can include things such as our money, time, skills, talents, and more)
2. Do you ever find it hard to give your resources? How do you give your resources at home?
3. Is helping at home the only way to use our resources? (No; we can be a blessing to others every day—at home, at school, at church, on the playground, etc.)
4. A good attitude is a resource. When is it hardest for you to have a good attitude? What other resources do you have to offer others?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Using the Internet or your local newspaper, help your child search actively for ways to get involved and give their resources. Look for places and people to serve, either with donations of money or things, with volunteer hours, etc. There are many ways to give of your blessings.

### Option 2

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

### Extra Mile

- Children love to learn about different ways to give to the church or to organizations that help people. When children receive a small allowance, you can teach them how to set aside a portion of their money. Ask if there is a specific ministry, missionary, or nonprofit organization that your child might want to support financially by giving a portion of their money each month.
- Encourage your child to begin a change jar for a worthy giving goal. Instruct your child to encourage all family members to give to the cause throughout the month. If your child has begun to earn extra money by babysitting, mowing lawns, or doing any other sort of job, this is a great time to suggest that they give of their own money, above and beyond their allowance.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of giving our resources to God. Discuss as a family the ways that you give together and individually. Make any adjustments you can to be able to give more.
- Help your child set up a “budget” for their resources. This includes time, money, talents, and any other resources they can think of. Use pictures or a graph to show just how much your child has to give and how they can bless others.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 20: Sharing My Faith

**Bible Basis:** Jonah 3:3–10; John 4:4–42; Acts 8:26–40

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 20, “Sharing My Faith”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. How can you tell when it is a good time to share your faith with someone? When might it not be an appropriate time or situation to share your faith?
2. What are some things that hold you back from sharing your faith?
3. What are some ways you can share your faith with others just by the way you live your life?
4. Are there specific people in your life who need to hear the good news of Jesus? How will you find opportunities to share your faith with them?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Have your child create a fictional “documentary” of interviews with people who came to faith during biblical times. Help your child use a video

recording device and recruit some actors to play the parts of the king of Nineveh and the Ethiopian man who met Philip. Have your child interview that person, asking about what they experienced and how it affected their beliefs. Your young director can take over the costume design, scripting, and scenery as desired.

### Option 2

Ask your child to interview two or three close friends or family members to learn how they came to faith in Jesus. Did someone share with them? Did they believe right away? How has it changed their life?

### Extra Mile

- Pray together, asking God to go before you and your child as you share your faith with others. Understand that God has called us to share the good news of Jesus, but whether people believe is between them and God. Praying for opportunities to share our faith, and praying for people, makes it easier for us to share with confidence.
- Sharing your faith means knowing what you believe in! Do a quick recap with your family of the lessons from the past nineteen weeks. Read through the Key Idea from each lesson as a reminder of these cornerstones of faith. Discuss ways your family has been putting each idea into action.
- Work with your child to come up with a list of reasons that might prevent him or her from sharing with others (feeling uncomfortable, not knowing what to say, etc.). Pray over these issues regularly, reminding your child that God does not command us to lead others to salvation, but simply to share our faith. It is up to him to open doors, soften hearts, and give us the right words.
- As you help your child memorize Ephesians 6:19–20, talk about what the “right words” might be. How can you share your faith during everyday conversations and interactions? What is the good news?

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 21: Love

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

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 21, “Love”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. What is sacrificial love? (It means loving others more than you love yourself and being willing to give up things for them)
2. How can you show sacrificial love at school and at church?
3. How do you practice loving others?
4. Is it always easy to love your friends and family? What about those you don’t know very well, or people you don’t get along with? How can you show sacrificial love even to those people?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Allow your child to use a smartphone, tablet, or video camera to interview friends, family, neighbors, or others. Have your child ask each person to define *love* or *sacrificial love* and describe ways to show that love. It will be interesting to see the different definitions people come up with, and it may give your child a wider understanding of Christlike love.

## Option 2

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

## Extra Mile

- Help your child identify areas of life in which you and your child could improve how you show sacrificial love to each other and to others. Help your child set realistic goals for how to improve in these areas at home.
- Your child and his or her peers are entering an age when romantic love is emphasized or desired. Take time to discuss with your child the differences between romantic human love and sacrificial Christlike love. You can even make a chart listing the different and similar characteristics of each type of love.
- Spend time as a family discussing a specific person who could use a little extra love. Come up with ideas for ways you as a family can show love to this person.
- Talk about the word *sacrifice*. Come up with specific, tangible things that your child and/or family can sacrifice in order to show love to another person or to God. For example, your child might set aside some of his or her weekly allowance to give to a charity. Or your family might decide to give up some of your “fun” time on the weekend to join a service project or visit people in a nursing home who may need some cheering up. Let your child come up with some ideas that he or she would like to do to sacrifice, either alone or as a family.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of showing our love to others even when it requires sacrifice. Discuss ways outside of your normal everyday routine to live sacrificially as a family and how you might adjust to accommodate those ideas.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 22: Joy

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

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 22, “Joy”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. When was a time you felt joy even though you weren’t exactly happy?
2. Do you think Christians are “faking it” if we act joyful in unpleasant circumstances? What’s the difference?
3. What types of worship bring you the most joy? What areas of your faith feel more like a chore?
4. What are some ways you can share your joy with others?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Have your child choose a favorite “joyful” song and choreograph simple movements to accompany it. Some good options are “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,” “Joy to the World,” “There Is a Kingdom,” and “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy.” Encourage your child to express their joy through

movement. Your child can perform the choreography along with the music and teach it to others.

### Option 2

Give your child some old magazines or newspapers to cut out any pictures that make them think of joy. Make a collage of any pictures (or words) that describe joy to your child. Write this week's Key Verse on the collage and hang it up in a place where your child will see it every day.

### Extra Mile

- During prayer, remind your child that although we sometimes feel sadness and pain, the joy that God gives us lasts forever. Read some of the Bible's descriptions of heaven with your children. See Revelation 21:1–5 and Isaiah 65:17–25.
- The Bible mentions *happiness* about thirty times, but mentions *joy* about three hundred times! Use a concordance to look up some of these verses as a “Bible treasure hunt.” Share and discuss the verses with your child.
- Your family will experience more joy when you focus on blessings rather than challenges. When tough times occur or complaints arise, acknowledge the difficulties and the feelings associated with them without minimizing the hurt, and remember to look for the “silver lining” in the situation. Even when it's tough to find the positive, we can always rely on the truth that God is in control, he loves us, and he has promised he has a plan for our lives.
- Create a family “joy jar,” with an empty glass jar and some small slips of paper. Encourage all family members to jot down little “joy notes” throughout the week when they are feeling particularly blessed. The “joy notes” are simply things to praise God for, things that give you a reason to say, “The joy of the Lord is my strength.” At the end of the week, read through the slips over dinner and share the joy as a family.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 23: Peace

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

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 23, “Peace”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

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

## Living Faith

### Option 1

In the story of Jesus calming the storm, he said, “Peace, be still!” Set aside a time where you and your child can “be still” together for ten or fifteen minutes. Play some calm worship or instrumental music and get rid of

distractions such as electronics, other people, and daily activities. You may choose to begin your “peace time” with a quiet prayer, then sit together and pray silently or simply meditate on the peace of Jesus. After your chosen length of time, end with another quiet prayer together and discuss whether you feel more peaceful. You may choose to make this “peace time” a part of your daily schedule this week.

### Option 2

Help your child develop a sense of peace by creating a list of things the two of you can do together when your child is worried or afraid. Your list can include things such as praying together, reading from the book of Psalms, giving a hug, going for a walk, singing praise songs, etc. Post this list where your child has easy access to it. A good place to post this list would be by your child’s bed so it is the first thing your child sees in the morning and the last thing he or she sees at night.

### Extra Mile

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

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 24: Self-Control

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

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 24, “Self-Control”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. Why should you choose self-control over selfish impulses?
2. Do you think it’s fair for God to forgive everyone of sin? Is it right?  
(Grace is not fair, but it’s beautiful and free; all have sinned and fallen short, so we all need his forgiveness and grace)
3. What are some situations in which we can pray for better self-control?
4. How can you practice better self-control at home? At school?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Encourage your child to make a music video of the parable of the lost son. They will need to choose an appropriate song (either with lyrics or an instrumental) and represent the story artistically, without speaking. Recruit siblings to help act out different parts. Tap your child’s creativity when it comes to elements like the pigpen and the feast. Feel free to give the story a modern

twist. Record the final performance and share it with friends and family electronically.

### *Option 2*

Have your child create a Samson storybook for a younger sibling or friend. Have them write the story in simple language and illustrate the important events. Include the moral of the story, explaining what we can learn from the life of Samson.

### **Extra Mile**

- Work together to memorize this week's Key Verse. Each day of the week, practice the verse in a different way, such as writing it, typing it, saying it out loud, meditating on it, or learning the words in sign language.
- Check your child's report card for any mention of self-control. Discuss with your child what self-control looks like at school, what areas pose a challenge, and how to improve.
- We all lose control sometimes, but we can all be forgiven, just like the son in the parable of the lost son. Whenever applicable, include in your child's prayer time a simple request, such as, "Dear God, please forgive me for acting without thinking when \_\_\_\_\_. Please help me to use self-control in the future."

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 25: Hope

**Bible Basis:** Isaiah 40; Luke 2:22–35

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 25, “Hope”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. What is hope? (Hope is wishing for something good to come true)
2. What is the greatest promise God made and kept? (He promised that he would send a Savior; he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin and death)
3. Why should our hope be in God? (Because he always keeps his promises)
4. Have you ever felt disappointed that what you hoped for did not happen in the way you wanted? How can you remember to continue to hope in the Lord when that happens?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Your child learned this week about putting hope in God. Have your child use a video camera or smartphone (or simply use a pen and paper) to interview

other family members or friends. Have your child ask them to define *hope* and tell your child what they hope for. Your child can make a list of all of these hopes and discuss the results with your family.

### Option 2

Help your child create a “Prayer Hope List.” Creating and sustaining a spirit of hope in your child is important for spiritual growth and emotional well-being. Our prayer requests are often things we are hoping for. During family prayer time, review the list. Mark off prayers as they are answered to emphasize to your child that our hope is in God and that he really does always keep his promises. Be sure to discuss that God is not a “wish granter,” checking off items on our wish lists. God answers our hopes and prayers in many ways: yes, no, or wait. As a family, discuss the highs and lows of all of God’s answers, including the “no” and “wait” answers to our prayers. Discuss how your child can remain patient, like Simeon.

### Extra Mile

- Our own hope can be greatly encouraged when we help others make their hopes come true. God often uses others to answer prayers. Ask your child if they know something that a family member (a parent, grandparent, sibling, etc.) has been hoping for. Brainstorm ways your child could make this hope come true for the family member.
- As parents, it is important to help children learn how to balance hope and disappointment. Discuss with your child the reality of not always getting everything we hope for. Explain that God has a reason for sometimes not giving us something we may be hoping for. Discuss specific times your child did not get what he or she had hoped for, and then ask your child to think of reasons why God might not have chosen to fulfill that hope. Emphasize to your child that even when we do not understand, God is still in control and he will always keep the promises in His Word.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of hoping in God because he always keeps his promises.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 26: Patience

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

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

**Key Question:** How does God help me wait?

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 26, “Patience”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

- What does it mean to be patient? (Waiting for something you want)
- How have others been patient with you? How has God been patient with you?
- When do you find it most difficult to be patient? How can we help you improve in being patient?
- How does God teach us patience? Why?
- Have you had to deal with others who are being impatient? What did you do?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Capture the essence of patience by creating a time-lapse video. This project will take patience and commitment, but it will produce a beautiful result. Choose a subject that changes over the course of an hour or so, such as clouds moving, getting a haircut, cooking a recipe, or making a craft. Take

photos or short videos every few minutes. Use a slide-show program or movie-making technology to turn the photos into a time-lapse video. Look online for lots of inspiration in making a time-lapse video.

### Option 2

Have your child create a game that teaches patience to younger children. They say that teaching something is the best way to learn it, and working with young children definitely requires patience. The game can be a board game that requires taking turns or a more active game that involves some aspect of patience.

### Extra Mile

- Help your child plan for a long-term goal, such as saving money for a large purchase or practicing an instrument for a certain number of hours. Plan out the steps to reach the goal and create a timeline. Pray about this goal, remaining open to the possibility that God may have a different timeline or even a different outcome in mind. Use any lessons along the way as teachable moments in building patience.
- Many of David's psalms illustrate the stress he felt when being pursued by Saul. Read through some of the psalms together with your child, discussing what might have been happening in David's life at that time. When your child faces a stressful situation that tests their patience, encourage your child to write a poem as an acceptable expression of those feelings.
- One way to counter impatience is with thankfulness. When your child is facing stressful times or feeling angry, do a thankfulness inventory. List the things, both immediate and eternal, that your child has to be thankful for. A thankful heart puts things in perspective and helps develop patience.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 27: Kindness/Goodness

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

**Key Verse:** 1 Thessalonians 5:15: “Always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.”

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids' Edition*, Chapter 27, “Kindness/Goodness”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. One way that Jesus showed kindness was by healing sick people. Can you think of some other ways? (He fed people, he taught people God's Word, he died for people, etc.)
2. Who did Jesus obey and listen to always? (God the Father) Who are some people you struggle to obey or listen to?
3. Who is a good example of kindness in your life? Why would you like to imitate that person?
4. How do you know when something is good to say or do?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Read “Will Philemon be Kind?” (Philemon 1, 8–21) in *Believe Kids Edition*, then encourage your child to reenact Onesimus's story through drama. Think of what it would be like to escape slavery, meet the apostle Paul,

become a believer, and then realize you should return to your former master. Have your child prepare a monologue, in the role of Onesimus, to deliver to Philemon along with the letter from Paul. Include an apology and a statement of faith. Record your child's performance of the monologue.

### Option 2

Have your child take on the role of Mephibosheth and write a thank-you letter to King David. Showing thankfulness is one way to be good and kind, and Mephibosheth had plenty to be thankful for. Before King David's kindness, Mephibosheth had it pretty tough—his feet were hurt so that he couldn't walk, and he had lost his father and grandfather in battle. How would he express his feelings to David? What would he say to thank him?

### Extra Mile

- As a family, make or print some “random acts of kindness” cards. Examples are available online (search for “random acts of kindness ideas”). The basic idea is to let someone know that they've been the recipient of a random act of kindness. You can add your own messages or Scripture verses to them. Then the fun starts! Work as a family to give away the cards as you do random acts of kindness for others. If you donate a bag of groceries to a food pantry, stick a card in the bag. If you rake leaves for a neighbor, leave a card on their doorknob.
- When it comes to obedience, it's easy to focus on the negative (disobedience). Help flip your focus by creating an obedience jar. Use a glass jar and keep lots of change handy. Whenever you notice your child obeying (immediately, joyfully), drop a coin in the jar. Your child will become familiar with the little *plink* and know that they have done a good job showing obedience. When the jar is full, have fun thinking of a good way to use the money—perhaps donate it or buy a gift for someone.
- If your child has younger siblings, challenge your child to create a game that teaches those younger kids kindness. It can be a simple board game that encourages taking turns or an active game, like Simon Says, to reinforce listening. The best way to master a skill is by teaching it, so everyone will benefit from this interaction.
- You are your child's best example of kindness and goodness in action. Make a point of “thinking out loud” when someone has been kind to you or when you are struggling to be kind to others. For example, when you are cut off in traffic, say, “Boy, that makes me feel angry, but I'm going to try to let it go so I don't act out in anger with my words and actions.” Or, when you are at a restaurant, say, “It was so kind of our server to bring us an extra cup of milk when Abby spilled hers. We'll be sure to smile and thank her again when we leave.”

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 28: Faithfulness

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

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids' Edition*, Chapter 28, “Faithfulness”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. What does it mean to be faithful? (Our friends and family can depend on us to do what we say we will do and to do what is right)
2. How is God faithful to us? (He loves us; he provides for us through family, friends, food, etc.; he sent his Son, Jesus, to be our Savior; etc.)
3. In what ways can we be faithful or dependable at home? (Doing our chores on time; helping without complaining; doing what we say we are going to do; keeping our promises)
4. Can you think of a time when you have been faithful?
5. How about a time when you haven't been faithful? How did you make amends?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Spend some quality time with your family viewing the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, which tells the story of faithful Joseph with some great music. Sing along with your child if you already know the songs. Afterward, discuss how Joseph was faithful to God even in the worst of times, and how God gave him many blessings.

### Option 2

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

### Extra Mile

- When children see faithfulness being practiced by their parents, it helps them to understand the importance of faithfulness in their own lives. Ask your children if there is an area in which you need to improve your faithfulness, such as making promises that don't get fulfilled, showing up late for important things, etc. Making yourself accountable to your children will have a huge impact on their personal accountability.
- Many people struggle with staying faithful to a healthy lifestyle. Choose a healthy family activity that will get your family outdoors and moving around. Make a commitment as a family to be faithful to this activity once a week or so. This will not only improve the health of your family but will also help your child understand the importance of faithfulness in all aspects of your lives.
- This week, have your child make a list of things they promise to do during the week. This could be anything from "walk the dog" to "be a better big brother/sister." Post the list in a place where your child will see it daily. Remind your child throughout the week to be faithful to their promises, and encourage them to see those things through. Celebrate their pattern of good choices and faithfulness.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of faithfulness to God and others. Talk about ways that you have seen your child model faithful behavior in relationships in your home and outside.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 29: Gentleness

**Bible Basis:** 1 Samuel 25; John 21

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

**Key Question:** How do I show thoughtfulness and consideration?

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids' Edition*, Chapter 29, "Gentleness"

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. What is gentleness? (Gentleness is being thoughtful and careful with other people's feelings)
2. How can you show gentleness with your family? (You can think about your words before you say them to make sure they will not hurt someone)
3. How can you show gentleness with other people? (You think about your words before you say them to make sure they will not hurt their feelings)
4. What happens when we do not use gentleness? (We hurt the feelings of other people; we push the people we love away; we don't care about them)
5. When can you show more gentleness? What is your plan to make this happen?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

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

### Option 2

Try playing a game together, or your child can have some friends over to compete in the Gentleness Olympics. Games, such as the egg toss or water balloon toss, can help teach your child the physical act of gentleness. You can easily relate physical gentleness to emotional or spiritual gentleness. Playing games like this can provide opportunities for a family discussion of gentleness and how to better practice gentleness in our lives.

### Extra Mile

- Many families face challenges with speaking gently to one another. To help your family become more aware of how you speak to one another, you can call for a “Whisper Day.” Instruct your family to go an entire day speaking to one another only in whispers. Being aware of how we speak to one another is a great step toward treating each other more gently in general.
- Many times, we use the word *gentle* to talk about how to act around a newborn baby. As your child gets older, younger children or siblings will begin to look up to your child. Discuss with your child ways to be gentle with a younger sibling or younger children in your community. How can being gentle with young children show the gentleness of Christ?
- Coming up with more gentle words to replace the harsh words your family members normally use when feeling frustrated can help create a spirit of gentleness in your home. Create a list of harsh words that usually are used in your home and brainstorm as a family more gentle words to be used in place of these. For instance, “Shut up!” could be replaced with “Shh” or “Be quiet, please.”
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of showing gentleness toward others. As a family, discuss times when others have been thoughtful or sensitive to your feelings. Pray that God will teach your family to be sensitive to others and sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 30: Humility

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

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

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

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

**Resource:** *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 30, “Humility”

## How to Use This Page

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

## Table Talk

1. What are some of your strengths? How can you enjoy them while still being humble?
2. Why do you think pride is such a dangerous sin? Have you heard the saying, “Pride goes before a fall”? What do you think that means?
3. How can you respond to compliments and victories in a humble way?
4. Who is someone you know who is a good example of humility? Why?
5. Jesus washed his disciples’ feet. What are some ways you can serve others?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Jesus washing his disciples’ feet was an important event shared by just a few people in a small room. What if the event had been breaking news instead? Have your child imagine being a news reporter on the scene in Jerusalem. How would they report this event? Whom would they interview? What

questions would they ask? Encourage your child to “hire” a camera person and recruit a few actors. Have your child put on a camera-ready blazer and an earpiece (ear bud headphones work fine). Your child will love planning and performing this news report.

### Option 2

Have your child write a letter to King Nebuchadnezzar. His words in the book of Daniel were written to all the people of the world. Have your child review this story and then write a letter in response. What have we learned from the king’s experience? How do we still struggle with humility?

### Extra Mile

- Work together to memorize this week’s Key Verse. Each day of the week, practice the verse in a different way, such as writing the words, typing them, saying them out loud, meditating on them, or learning them in sign language.
- There’s a lot of focus in our society on self-esteem, especially as it pertains to children. Discuss with your child the concept of self-esteem—consider the world’s view versus God’s view. From where does your child’s esteem come? How do they show esteem for others and for God? Whom do they credit for their successes? Once you’ve talked through some ideas, encourage your child to create something to share (a poster, a song, a poem, or another artistic project) as a response to your discussion.
- One of the best ways to be humble is by serving others. Work with your child to think of ways to use your child’s strengths to serve others. For example, a good reader can spend time entertaining younger children, a good singer can delight the residents at a nursing home, etc. Encourage your child to use their gifts to glorify God.