

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 1: God

Bible Basis: Genesis 1–2; Luke 3

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

Key Question: Who is God?

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

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

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis verses 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. When Jesus was baptized, God the Father said he was very pleased with his Son. Can you think of a time when your family has been very pleased with you?
2. Why is the Holy Spirit like a blanket? (He comforts people; makes people feel safe, warm, cared for, etc.)
3. What do you think God the Father is like? (He’s like a king, he rules, he’s wise) How is he different from your father or other fathers you know? (Take responses)
4. This story told us that Jesus never sinned. What do you think sin is? (The things we do wrong that hurt God or other people)

Living Faith

Option 1

Choose an aspect of the story of John the Baptist’s life for your child to act out. See if your child can help think of a way to make an “animal skin” garment

for John the Baptist. A rolled-up paper cone can be used to help your child shout loudly like John the Baptist, proclaiming Jesus' coming. If possible, have your child perform this Bible drama for other family members—in person, via Skype, or using a video camera.

Option 2

For a quicker option, read the story of Jesus' baptism aloud to your child. When you're done, show your child pictures from their own baptism or the baptism of a friend or family member.

Extra Mile

- Practice this simple song together or ask your child to perform it for an audience (to the tune of "Frère Jacques").

God the Father, God the Father, *(hold hands in a crown over head)*
God the Son, God the Son, *(make a cross with arms)*
God the Holy Spirit, God the Holy Spirit, *(flutter hands like a dove)*
Three in one, three in one. *(hold up three fingers, then clasp in other hand)*

- Help your child decorate a handmade card to commemorate a baptism. The next time someone in your church family is baptized, have your child deliver the card.
- Try to include the Trinity in your prayer time with your child: God, you are my great loving Father. Thank you, Jesus, for coming to Earth to die for my sins. Holy Spirit, comfort me like a warm blanket when I feel sad or scared.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 2: Personal God

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

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

Key Question: Does God care about me?

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

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

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. How is God like a shepherd?
2. 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?
3. When are some times that you are the most worried? How can God help you not to worry?
4. Why do you think God cares for you so much?

Living Faith

Option 1

A fun activity to help your child remember today’s lesson would be to take turns pretending to be sheep and a shepherd. You can use sheets to make a shepherd’s robe. Let your child act out both parts to help him or her remember the shepherd’s role of caring and the sheep’s role of following.

Option 2

Visit a farm, zoo, or petting zoo, where your child can see real sheep. Talk with your child about what the sheep look like, act like, sound like, and feel like (if the child is able to pet the sheep). Talk with your child about whether they think a shepherd's job would be easy or hard, and why. If you are not able to visit a place with real sheep, find some books at the library or look up some pictures and facts about sheep on the Internet. You and your child can learn about sheep and discuss how people can be like sheep.

Extra Mile

- Take some time to explain to your child about “lost sheep,” or people who are not Christians. Make sure that your child knows that Jesus always takes the time to look for his lost sheep.
- Play hide and seek together, taking turns pretending to be a lost sheep and a shepherd looking for lost sheep.
- Explain the importance of sharing the news of Christ with others. Make a picture with your child and write “Jesus Loves You!” on it. Have your child share it with a friend or family member or even someone they don't know very well, like the cashier at the grocery store or a neighbor down the street.
- As a family, think of a person your child knows who is not a Christian. Pray together for that person and think of ways to encourage them and let them know they are loved.

Family Page | Lesson 3: Salvation

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. How did Jesus die? (On a cross)
2. Why did Jesus die on the cross? (To save us from our sins)
3. God gave us *a wonderful gift*. If you could give any gift to God, what would it be?
4. Can you imagine what your home in heaven will look like? Do you think it will be different from your home here?

Living Faith

Option 1

Help your child act out the story of the Garden of Eden with small props. You’ll need a male figure and a female figure, a rubber or clay serpent, a piece of fruit, and a paper towel tube or rolled-up piece of paper. Gather some houseplants to set the scene for your “garden.” Use the tube (or rolled-up paper) to simulate God’s voice.

Option 2

Have your child draw a picture of what they think the Garden of Eden looked like. Then go outside (weather permitting) and find some leaves, flowers, or branches to glue on the picture. You can even help your child cover Adam and Eve with leaves, as they covered themselves in the garden.

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.
- Practice this simple song together, or ask your child to perform it for an audience. (Sing it to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”)

By grace you have been saved, *(hold open arms toward heaven, then hug self)*

By grace you have been saved, *(hold open arms toward heaven, then hug self)*

It is by grace you have been saved, *(hold open arms toward heaven, then hug self)*

Through faith in Christ. *(hold hands in prayer position)*

- Your child will love helping out with this fun, easy treat that celebrates the empty tomb! Separate a package of refrigerated crescent rolls into triangles. Dip a large marshmallow into melted butter, then roll it in a mixture of cinnamon and sugar. Wrap a marshmallow inside each triangle, sealing the sides all around it. Dip the top of the roll in the remaining butter and cinnamon-sugar mixture. Bake according to package directions. Your finished rolls will be empty inside after the marshmallow melts away!
- Colossians 3:13 says, “Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.” Asking for and granting forgiveness are skills that take practice, especially for young children. As opportunities arise, help your child learn how to give a proper apology for hurting someone and how to grant forgiveness. A simple interaction may sound like this:

“I’m sorry I ate your Pop-Tart. I know it made you mad, and I shouldn’t have done it. Will you forgive me?”

“I forgive you and I still love you.”

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 4: The Bible

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. What has God given us so that we can read and hear his words? (He gave us the Bible)
2. What important rules or instructions did God give to Moses? (The Ten Commandments)
3. Why do we need the Ten Commandments? (To help us know how to treat the people around us)
4. What happens when you don’t follow the rules or instructions at home? (You might get hurt or make someone sad or upset)

Living Faith

Option 1

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

up Mount Sinai. Another parent can pretend to give the Ten Commandments to the child in the form of a large book. Lead your child in reciting the Ten Commandments to you or to other siblings as they stand up on the “mountain.”

Option 2

Hide a Bible somewhere in your home, leaving clues with pictures or words on pieces of paper. Send your child on a treasure hunt to find the Bible. Read each clue to your child as he or she finds it until they find the Bible. Once they find the Bible, sit down and read a Bible story of your child’s choosing.

Extra Mile

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

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

- Help your child to understand the importance of having and obeying rules. Make a poster together for household rules. Explain to your child how each of these rules helps us to stay safe and get along better with our family members. Work with your child to decorate the poster.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 5: Identity in Christ

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

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

Key Question: Who am I?

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

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

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. Why did Jesus want to visit Zacchaeus at his house? (He wanted to spend time with him)
2. If Jesus came to our house, what special things would you want to do with him? What would you say to him?
3. How would you get our home ready for Jesus to visit?

Living Faith

Option 1

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

Option 2

Play a simpler version of 20 Questions with your child. You think of a person or animal, but instead of your child asking questions about the identity of the person or animal, you will give clues and have your child guess after each clue. By giving clues about what makes that person or animal special, you can help your child figure out the identity.

Extra Mile

- Help your child this week to learn the Key Verse by playing Bible Memory Tag. Review your child's Key Verse several times, and then play a round of Bible Memory Tag in which you begin the game with you as "It." When you tag your child, they must recite the verse correctly. If they can, they will be "it" and get to chase you. When they tag you, you must recite the verse.
- 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 you a picture.
- Sing the song "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" together. You can find videos with lyrics for this song on the Internet if you're not familiar with the words or the tune.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 6: Church

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

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

Key Question: How will God accomplish his plan?

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

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

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. God kept his promise to Abraham, even though Abraham had to wait a long time. Are you good at keeping promises? What are some promises you've made?
2. If you could ask God for one thing, what would it be?
3. What is your favorite thing about church?
4. Do you know anyone who needs to know God? What do you think they need to know about God?

Living Faith

Option 1

Help your child act out Acts, chapter 2, by taking on the role of one of the disciples. Have your child dress in biblical-era clothing (a robe or towel works well). If you have pretend food, set out the Feast of Pentecost. Use a hair dryer or small fan to represent the great rush of wind. To make the bright bursts of

color and flames, you'll have to get creative. Try tying multicolored ribbons or streamers to a yardstick or hula hoop that you can wave above your child. A hat or headband can support a homemade "flame"—maybe a puffy sponge or paper cutout. Add to the authenticity by learning a few simple phrases in a foreign language for your child to say.

Option 2

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

Extra Mile

- Does your family know anyone who speaks another language? The disciples were able to communicate the gospel in various languages. You and your child can learn a few words in another language. Use Internet tools or a library book to learn and practice phrases like "Hello" and "God loves you" in another language.
- Serve your family a "tongues of flame" dessert. Your child will enjoy helping you prepare this treat that will remind everyone of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the early church. Slice pound cake and lay a slice flat on each plate. Have your child help spread whipped cream on each slice. Slice strawberries vertically to create flame shapes. Have your child prop a few slices up in the whipped cream, with the narrow end sticking up like a flame.
- There are many people who help in your church so it can carry out God's plans. Work with your child to create a few simple, homemade thank-you notes to some of these people who probably don't hear "Thank you" often enough. Your child can decorate the cards.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 7: Humanity

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

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

Key Question: How does God see us?

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

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

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Table Talk

1. What feeling did Cain have toward his brother? (He was jealous of Abel)
2. Did God forgive Cain for the bad thing he did? (Yes!)
3. Do you think God forgives you when you do things that are wrong? (Yes!)
4. What does God think of us when we do things that are wrong? (He is sad, but he still loves us and wants to help us)

Living Faith

Option 1

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

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

Option 2

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

Extra Mile

- Help your child to memorize the Key Verse by playing “Bible Freeze.” Throughout the day, freeze your child and tell them they must remain frozen until they quote the verse to you. Encourage your child to freeze you during the day as well, and you must quote the verse. In no time, you will both learn the verse!
- Play Hide and Seek with your child. You can take turns hiding and pretending to be the lost sheep, and pretending to be Jesus, searching for his lost sheep. When Jesus finds his lost sheep, make a big deal about it, and celebrate with a cheer and a little dance.
- When your child does something wrong and gets a time-out or other punishment, take a moment to reinforce the concept of forgiveness. Although your child will receive punishment for doing something wrong, you still love them and forgive them, just like Jesus is sad when they do things wrong, but he still loves and forgives them too.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 8: Compassion

Bible Basis: Ruth 1–4; Luke 10:25–37

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. Who does God want us to help? (Our neighbors; everyone around us)
Who can you show kindness to?
2. Tell me about a time when you were kind or helpful to someone. How did it make you feel? How do you think it made the other person feel?
3. Who are some people who help you? Who is kind and loving to you?

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of the Good Samaritan makes for a fun role-play. You may even need to act out the scene twice so your child can play the Good Samaritan and also the injured man. Prepare your child to play the injured man by wearing a bathing suit or similar garment under some loose clothing. Use stuffed animals for robbers so your child can wrestle around with them during the “attack.” The

Good Samaritan will need a container of water, a blanket, a bag of coins, and a donkey (use an ottoman or large pillow for this). You may even enlist siblings to play the parts of the priest and the Levite who walked by without stopping. Talk to your child after the role-play about how important it is to be a good neighbor to the people around us who may be hurting.

Option 2

Have your child act out this scene with dolls or stuffed animals. Provide adhesive or rolls of bandages for your child to help the injured doll or animal.

Extra Mile

- Practice this simple fingerplay based on Luke 10:27

Love	<i>(cross hands over chest)</i>
the Lord your God	<i>(point toward heaven)</i>
with all your heart	<i>(make a heart shape with your two hands)</i>
and with all your soul.	<i>(hold hands in prayer position)</i>
Love him with all your strength	<i>(flex biceps muscles)</i>
and with all your mind.	<i>(point to your temple)</i>
And, Love your neighbor	<i>(point to one another)</i>
as you love yourself.	<i>(point to self)</i>

- Make a “Helping Hands” door hanger to encourage your family to look for opportunities to show love and kindness. Help your child trace and cut out their own handprint on construction paper. Punch a hole in the paper and tie a loop of yarn through it. Write “Luke 10:27 — Love your neighbor as you love yourself” on it. Whenever someone in the family is “caught” living out this commandment, transfer the hanger to their bedroom doorknob to recognize their actions.
- Put your faith into action by helping the needy in your community. Collect items from your pantry to donate to a food bank or schedule a time to help out at a soup kitchen. Your young child can decorate a paper grocery bag to hold items or make art drawings to give out at the soup kitchen.
- This easy snack idea is definitely a conversation starter. Break graham crackers into individual rectangles. Spread a dollop of white icing in the center and press a red jelly bean into the frosting (this should look like a bandage). As you share this treat with friends or neighbors, also share the story of the Good Samaritan and God’s love.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 9: Stewardship

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. Where do you get money from? Do you give any of your money in the offering at church?
2. What ways can you give to your family at home? (Helping with chores, obeying parents right away)
3. Even though we do not give each other money at home, why is it important to give to each other in different ways, like helping with things around the house? (It shows we love each other and God)
4. How does God want us to feel when we give to him? (Happy!)

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of the poor widow is a great story to reenact to help children learn the importance of giving everything we have. Have your child pretend to be

the poor widow, and act out her offering. Give your child two coins to place in an offering plate or box. Remember to tell your child that even though two coins might not seem like a lot of money, it was all the widow had, and she gave it all to God cheerfully.

Option 2

With your child, draw a picture that will remind your child that God loves a cheerful giver. Together, draw a picture of a face. Your child can add ears, a nose, silly hair—whatever they choose, as long as the face has a cheerful smile. Talk with your child about how Hannah was happy to give her baby to God, and the widow was happy to give all her money to God. Tape your picture near your child's piggy bank or another prominent place to remind your child to give cheerfully to God.

Extra Mile

- **Bible Memory Hopscotch:** You can help your child memorize the Key Verse for this week by playing this variation of hopscotch. Mark out hopscotch squares and then write one phrase from the verse in the square. As they land on each square, they must say that part of the verse. Play several rounds until your child can say some of the verse from memory.
- Your child learned a lot about giving this week. As a family, brainstorm different giving projects that you could all do together. Start a coin jar or use the Cheerful Giving Can your child made in class. Come up with creative ideas that could help you raise money for your family giving project, such as collecting cans.
- 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.
- If your child doesn't yet receive an allowance, talk about how your child can give back to God in other ways. Participate in a service event as a family. Many churches and communities offer short-term family mission trips or other family-oriented service events. Even the youngest preschooler will enjoy shopping for food for the local food shelf or helping to pack shoe boxes of small gifts for Operation Christmas Child.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 10: Eternity

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

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

Key Question: What happens next?

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

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

How to Use This Page

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Table Talk

1. What do you think happens after people grow very old and die?
2. What do you think heaven is like? What does it look like? What do people do all day?
3. What’s something you want to say to God or do together when you see him face-to-face in heaven?

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of Elijah and Elisha is a fun one to act out if your child has a younger sibling or friend who loves to follow his or her every move! Dress your actors in Bible-era clothing, being sure to give Elijah a cloak. Set up three areas to represent Bethel, Jericho, and the Jordan River. If weather permits, use as much space as you can outdoors and incorporate water for the Jordan River. Reenact the three times that God commanded Elijah to go somewhere, Elijah

told Elisha to stay behind, and Elisha followed anyway. There will be another “copycat” moment when Elijah and then Elisha strike the water with their cloak. Have Elijah make his final getaway on a bike (to represent the chariot).

Option 2

Use the Internet to look up images and information about chariots, as your child probably doesn’t know much, if anything, about them. Draw a picture with your child of a chariot and decorate it together.

Extra Mile

- Practice these simple hand motions with your child. Sing along to the song “Awesome God.”

Our God is an awesome God.	<i>(point up, thumbs-up, point up)</i>
He reigns from heaven above	<i>(raise hands to heaven, look up)</i>
With wisdom, power, and love.	<i>(point to temples, flex biceps, cross arms over chest)</i>
Our God is an awesome God.	<i>(point up, thumbs-up, point up)</i>

- Does your child know your address and phone number? This is an important safety skill. As you practice reciting your earthly address together, also practice reciting your heavenly address. Have your child tell you how to get to heaven and describe what it looks like.
- When someone you know dies, help your child to remember the wonderful home in heaven that God has for that person. Create a sympathy card to give to the family, allowing your child to decorate it with bright colors, gold foil, glitter, and stick-on jewels. You may even want to spend a “craft day” preparing several cards to keep on hand.
- Your child will love helping with this heavenly snack idea. Cut celery into small sections and spread with peanut butter or cream cheese. Use the peanut butter or cream cheese to attach two pretzel “wings” to the sides and a yellow Froot Loops “halo” to the top.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 11: Worship

Bible Basis: Daniel 6; Acts 16:16–35

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. What are some of your favorite songs of worship to God? How does it make you feel to sing to God?
2. One way we can worship God is by giving thanks. What are some things you are thankful for?
3. We can also worship God by praying. What are some things you say to God when you pray? (Tell your child some of the things you pray for your family or for others)
4. How do you think God wants us to worship him? (With our whole heart)

Living Faith

Option 1

Get ready to shake things up today! To act out the story of Paul and Silas, you'll need a flat surface that can take a little shaking, like a card table or a large empty box. Have your child use building blocks to create a prison. Put

Paul, Silas, and the jailer inside (use action figures, dolls, or paper cutouts). Be sure to “chain” up Paul and Silas with some costume jewelry or a paper-clip chain. Sing a favorite worship song with your child, just as Paul and Silas did. During the song, without warning, one of you can give the table a shake. The blocks should tumble down, freeing Paul and Silas. Remember, they don’t run away, but they help the jailer and his family turn to Jesus. Your child will probably want to rebuild the jail and act out the earthquake scene again and again.

Option 2

As another option, play the “earthquake” game. Similar to “Ring Around the Rosie,” clasp hands and move in a circle as you sing or play a worship song. When the person chosen to be the leader falls down at one point during the song, everyone else should fall down too.

Extra Mile

- Create a simple worship band. Gather up some empty containers (oatmeal canister, tissue box, paper plates) and pull out your craft supplies. Your child can help make several different instruments to use in worshipping God through song! Try a tissue-box guitar or harp with a few rubber bands, an oatmeal canister drum, or a paper-plate tambourine. There are lots of suggestions available online, or use your imagination and create a new type of instrument. Then use the new instruments to play along with worship songs or hymns.
- Have a family worship time. In addition to worshipping at church and praying before meals or at bedtime, set aside a special time to have a family worship session. Choose an engaging Bible passage to read aloud. Have your child recite memory verses or tell a Bible story. Sing a few favorite songs, perhaps incorporating some play instruments. Close in prayer, with each person praising God, giving thanks, or asking for a blessing.
- Praise can be one of the toughest aspects of prayer for young children to understand. Practice together by adding a “God, you are _____” statement to daily prayers. See how many ideas you and your child can come up with to praise God for who he is!

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 12: Prayer

Bible Basis: Judges 6–7; Luke 11:1–13

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. Gideon understood the importance of prayer. Do you remember what prayer means? (Listening and talking to God)
2. Do you take time at home to pray and listen to God?
3. What kinds of prayers do you say at bedtime? At mealtimes?
4. Do you think it's important to pray with your family? Why?

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of Gideon is a fun one for your child to act out. Your child can dress in biblical-style clothing and pretend to be Gideon. Help your child practice playing the role of Gideon—praying to God. You can play the part of the angel telling Gideon that he would become a great warrior. You can use props such as a piece of fabric or fleece as the wool. If your child made the paper bag torch craft, this makes an excellent addition to their pretend play.

Option 2

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

Extra Mile

- To help make the power of prayer more real to your child, create a family prayer list. To increase visibility and interest, have your child help decorate a large sheet of poster board featuring the list. Let each member of the family add something to the list that is really important to him or her. Post the list where everyone can see it and be reminded to pray for these things each day. When an item on the prayer list is answered, have a simple celebration to drive home to your child the fact that God really does hear and answer our prayers.
- Try to emphasize praise and thankfulness in each family prayer time to help your child understand that praying is not just about asking for things but also about worshiping God. Try structuring your prayer time in the Praise-Thank-Ask way to help your child start to learn the different ways to pray to God:
 - Praise: "Dear God, you are so good to me!"
 - Thank: "Thank you for the sunshine today. I liked playing outside!"
 - Ask: "Please help me not to be afraid of monsters under my bed, and please protect me while I sleep tonight. Amen."
- Work on memorizing the Lord's Prayer with your child; repeat the prayer together in small phrases until your child is able to recite the entire prayer alone.

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

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 13: Bible Study

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. When Joshua was leading the Israelites, what did he use for directions? (He listened to God’s words)
2. If your family has a Bible study or devotion time, ask your child, What do you like about our family Bible study? Our family devotion time?
3. If not, how do you think studying God’s Word together would help your family grow closer together and closer to God?

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of the sower and the seeds is a great story to act out at home. To act out this parable, review the story of the sower and the seeds, and then provide your child with a few seeds to plant outside in a garden or inside in a pot. Go on a nature walk, if weather permits, to discover the different types of soil described in the parable.

Option 2

As another option, read the story of the sower and the seeds to your child, and 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 by learning God's Word and bringing glory to God.

Extra Mile

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

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

- Explain to your child that sowing seeds for God means sharing with others what we have learned when we study the Bible. Encourage your child to share things he or she has learned from the Word of God with someone this week.
- During family prayer time, make sure to mention the importance of sharing the good news about Jesus with others, just like the sower planted his seeds.
- This would be a great week to really focus on your family Bible study time. Use the *Believe Storybook Bible* or another children's Bible to discover some of the many great Bible stories. Help your child become excited about exploring Scripture by making it a special one-on-one reading time during the day, after a meal, or before bedtime.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 14: Single-Mindedness

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. Sometimes our schedule gets very busy, and it becomes hard to keep our focus on God. If you could take one thing out of our family schedule, what would it be?
2. What do you think would be a fun way for our family to show we are putting God first in our lives?
3. Ask your child, How do you feel when you are trying to get someone’s attention and they do not focus on you, like when Mommy’s on the phone?
4. Ask, What do you do when you are trying to do something that takes concentration and you lose your focus or become distracted?

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of Jesus walking on water is a fun one for your child to reenact at bath time or in a pool. You'll need figures to represent Jesus, Peter, and possibly the other disciples, as well as a boat (a bath toy or empty plastic container). Begin with Jesus off in the hills, praying, as the disciples set off in the boat. Dim the lights to represent the dark night as your child begins to make waves. Your child will have fun making Jesus walk on the water and then Peter walk on the water (and sink) before they climb into the boat together!

Option 2

As another option, practice getting away from distractions to pray, just like Jesus did. The next time you are outdoors, find a quiet place away from any distractions. Take a moment to point out to your child that this quiet and peaceful space is what it might have been like for Jesus in the hills when he wanted to focus on his Father, God. Say a short prayer together, telling God that he is the most important thing in your lives.

Extra Mile

- The story of King Jehoshaphat is filled with singing, marching, praising God, and playing instruments. This can be a fun, active way for your child to practice putting God first. Have a family praise party with music, singing, marching, and instruments. In order to settle things down after the excitement, end with a quiet prayer, asking God to help you stay focused on him.
- Is your Sunday routine full of distractions that pull your focus away from God? Spend extra time with your child on Saturday, preparing to limit Sunday-morning distractions. Pick out clothing, gather books or other materials, choose a favorite praise CD to play in the car. There's no guaranteeing you won't have any last-minute issues arise, but planning ahead can help keep your focus on enjoying a peaceful Sunday morning in God's presence.
- This fun outdoor game will remind children to keep their eyes on the target! Draw a simple bull's-eye on a large piece of cardboard, and hang it on a fence or wall. Give your child a wet sponge to throw at the target (a round sponge works best). First, have your child focus on a spot quite far from the target and throw. Then have your child focus on a spot a little closer to the bull's-eye and throw again. Finally, have your child look right at the target and throw. The wet marks on the cardboard will show how close your child's throw was each time.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 15: Total Surrender

Bible Basis: Daniel 3; Acts 6:8–7:60

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were told to worship a false God, did they obey? (No) When the angry people wanted Stephen to stop preaching, did he obey them? (No)
2. What does *sacrifice* mean? (It means to do something even when you don’t want to; it’s when you decide to do something that will be hard on you)
3. What are some things at home that you need to do but sometimes don’t want to do? (Answers will vary)
4. Why is it important to sacrifice at home? (It’s important to practice sacrifice and service with the people closest to us; it’s a way to love our family well and model Christ for one another; it’s good to help one another in daily activities, even when we don’t feel like cleaning or doing our chores)

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of the fiery furnace is a fun one for children to act out. Use ripped up red, orange, and yellow tissue or construction paper to make a “furnace,” and use dolls or toy figurines to represent Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Help your child pray for their safety, and then show how God protected them when they were in the “furnace.” They walked out unharmed, and the king praised God.

Option 2

As another option, you and your child can play the “Secret Servant” game at home this week. See if you and your child can perform sacrificial services, such as making the other person’s bed or performing someone else’s chore, without the other person finding out. If your child has a hard time coming up with sacrificial service ideas, you can brainstorm together and form a tag team to help out another member of your family instead.

Extra Mile

- Acquainting your child at an early age with sacrificial giving is an important way to teach them humility and generosity. Donating food to a food bank, clothes to a shelter, or toys for toy drives will give your child a hands-on experience in giving. When children give away personal belongings, it helps them to understand the concept of sacrifice and the satisfaction of giving to others.
- Sacrifice does not just apply to things. Often, sacrificing at home involves sacrificing our wants, our time, and ourselves. Take time to point out to your child certain things that seem hard for him or her to do for others, such as sharing, participating in chores, or obeying quickly. Explain how sacrificing what they want in order to serve others can be pleasing to God. Make this more concrete by explaining some of the sacrifices you make for your child, such as, “I sacrifice sleeping in late on Saturday mornings because it makes you so happy when I wake up early and make you pancakes!”
- During family prayer time, make sure to mention the importance of sacrificing our things and our time on behalf of 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 Storybook Bible*, Chapter 16, “Biblical Community”

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. Tell me about a time you had trouble getting along with someone. How did you treat them?
2. What did you do to become friends again?
3. Who are a few of your favorite people at church? What’s so special about them?
4. What can you do when you’re having trouble getting along with someone?

Living Faith

Option 1

Have your child practice building the wall of Jerusalem, with and without help. Gather up all the building blocks you can find. Use a dollhouse, a castle, or just a tissue box to represent the city. Ask your child to use all the blocks to

build a wall around the city. Feel free to include gates or openings if desired. Time your child to see how long it takes to build the wall. Then “destroy” the wall and rebuild it with the help of others. Time your child once again — this time as he or she works with you, friends, or siblings — to see how much more quickly the work goes when we all work together.

Option 2

As another option, work together to make a list of several ways your child can show care toward family, church, and community members. Ideas include coloring a picture, giving a compliment, sharing a memory verse, etc. Write the ideas on a piece of construction paper to hang in a visible place. Aim to apply one idea each day.

Extra Mile

- Practice this simple song together or ask your child to perform it for an audience (to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”).

If you’re caring and you know it, clap your hands! (Clap, clap)

If you’re caring and you know it, clap your hands! (Clap, clap)

If you’re caring and you know it, and our God wants you to show it,

If you’re caring and you know it, clap your hands! (Clap, clap)

Include the words and motions for the following: stomp your feet, shake a hand, spin around.

- Sort through a closet, toy box, or pantry to find items that you can share with others by donating them. Working with your child, fill a bag with items and explain that some people might need the things that you don’t need or don’t use. Tell your child that God wants us to show Christian care by sharing with others. Take your bag of items to donate to a food pantry, shelter, or thrift store.
- Recruit family and friends to work together to tackle a big job. It might be raking leaves for an elderly neighbor or sorting the contents of the craft closet at church. Choose an activity that can involve your child, and explain how this is similar to the Israelites working together to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. You’ll be teaching your child about caring for others and teamwork.
- Youth sports can be a testing ground for caring behavior, teamwork, and community building. If your child participates in any team activities, lay out a few “ground rules” to make sure they are practicing Christlike kindness and teamwork. Ideas include cheering others on, sharing the ball with others, winning or losing with a good attitude, etc. It’s never too early to start practicing good sportsmanship.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 17: Spiritual Gifts

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. What is a spiritual gift? (Spiritual gifts are things God’s Spirit gives us the power to do; things we wouldn’t be able to do without God’s help; spiritual gifts are used by God to serve people and to show his love to the world)
2. How is a spiritual gift different from the type of gift you get for your birthday or Christmas?
3. Do you have a spiritual gift that can be a blessing at home? (Serving, giving, encouragement, etc.)
4. How can we practice serving one another at home using our spiritual gifts?

Living Faith

Option 1

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

Option 2

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

Extra Mile

- Some children, especially young ones, 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 12:4–12 for more on spiritual gifts.
- Make an effort as a family to choose a volunteer project in which your child can use some of his or her 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, make sure to mention the importance of using our spiritual gifts to help others and to please God.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 18:

Offering My Time

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. Why didn’t the people continue to build the city once they had started? (They got tired)
2. What do you like to spend your time doing? Do you think this makes God happy?
3. What changes can you make so that you use your time wisely 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, etc.)

Living Faith

Option 1

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

Option 2

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

Extra Mile

- To help your child better offer his or her time to God, it is important to teach time-management skills, even at an early age. Establishing a schedule your child can be responsible for is a good step toward prioritizing daily activities. In this way, your child can learn how to schedule some time to offer to God. You can help your child do this by creating a schedule together and placing it somewhere highly visible so it can be reviewed daily. Use pictures (or draw your own) of things like getting dressed, eating breakfast, brushing teeth, going to bed, etc., and make sure to add a spot for Bible story time with a family member and saying prayers at bedtime and mealtimes.
- 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. This can be as simple as taking your child to a “clean-up” day at your church or taking your child to a family service event such as helping out at a local food bank or packing boxes for an organization such as Operation Christmas Child.
- During family prayer time this week, stress the importance of offering our time to God and to others. Make a special effort to show your child that you take time out of your busy day to read your Bible and have devotions. The best way to teach your child how to offer their time to God is to lead by example.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 19: Giving My Resources

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. What is a resource? (It is like a treasure; it’s something we own or have; it’s anything we can use to carry out God’s plans and to bless others)
2. What kinds of resources can you use to be a blessing to your family? (I can use my energy to help around the house; I can encourage my parents and my siblings; I can clean up after myself)
3. Is helping at home the only way to use our resources? (No, we can be a blessing to others every day—at home, at school, at church, on the playground, etc.)
4. What other resources do you have to offer others?

Living Faith

Option 1

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

Option 2

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

Extra Mile

- Children love to learn about different ways to give to the church or to other organizations that help people. When children receive a small allowance, you can teach them how to set aside a portion of their money. Ask your child if there is a specific ministry, missionary, or nonprofit he or she might want to support financially. Encourage your child to give a portion of their money each month.
- If your child does not yet receive an allowance, 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. Your child can be in charge of counting the money at the end of the month.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of giving our resources to God. Discuss as a family ways that you can give together.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 20: Sharing My Faith

Bible Basis: Jonah 1–4; Acts 8:26–40

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. When is it hard for you to share with others? What kinds of things are hard for you to share?
2. Tell me about a time when someone shared with you. How did you feel?
3. Why does God want us to share the story of Jesus with others?
(Because it’s good news; because God loves people who don’t yet know or love him)
4. How can you share God’s love with others? How can you tell them about Jesus? (Through words and actions)

Living Faith

Option 1

Have your child act out the story of Jonah. This story has a great “lead” role for your child to take on! Have your child dress the part by using a robe or an old towel with a hole cut in the middle to fit over your child’s head. Use a rag or paper cutout for a beard. Your sofa can become a boat. Place cushions or pillows on the floor to serve as the water. Jonah will love being tossed in! To create a large fish, form an enclosure by draping a table with blankets or put two laundry baskets together.

When it comes time for “Jonah” to share his faith with the sailors and with the people of Nineveh, help your child come up with words to say.

Option 2

Choose one of your child’s favorite picture books to read. Sit down with your child and look through the book, pretending not to understand, like the Ethiopian in the story. Let your child explain the story to you by “reading” from the pictures.

Extra Mile

- Play “Belly of the Fish” to challenge your child’s memory. Use two paper plates to make a simple fish with a big mouth. Color the top plate and add eyes. Place three or four different small objects inside the fish, and let your child look at them for several seconds. Then close the fish’s mouth and ask your child to name the objects that are inside. Repeat with different objects, adjusting the number of objects so it is a fun challenge.
- Sometimes sharing our faith results in someone coming to faith in Jesus! Tell your child the story of someone who shared their faith with you and how you came to believe in Jesus.
- The next time you are heading out with your child to a store, restaurant, or friend’s house, talk about how you might share your faith. It might be something outright, like mentioning a recent blessing and giving God credit, or it might be in the way you live your life, like praying before a meal, saying you’re sorry when you hurt someone, or being helpful and kind.
- 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.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 21: Love

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. What is sacrificial love? (It means loving others more than you love yourself and being willing to give up things for them)
2. How can you show sacrificial love at home, at school, and at church?
3. What are some things that your family does for you that show sacrificial love? How do they make you feel?

Living Faith

Option 1

Reenact the story of David and Jonathan to help your child understand sacrificial love. The story of David and Jonathan is an exciting story to act out outside. You and your child can take turns being David, Jonathan, or Saul. To add to the excitement, let your child use a toy sword or a foam pool noodle to represent Saul’s spear.

Option 2

Spend some time making valentines with your child, no matter what time of the year it is. Make and decorate some heart-shaped cards, and write this week's Key Verse inside each card. Deliver the valentines with your child to a nursing home, a hospital, or to friends or neighbors. Spend some time showing the love of Christ to those around you.

Extra Mile

- Spend time as a family discussing a specific person who could use a little extra love. Come up with ideas for ways your family can show love to this person.
- Talk about the word *sacrifice*. Come up with specific, tangible things that your child and/or family can sacrifice to show love to another person or to God. For example, your child might set aside some of his or her weekly allowance to give to a charity. Or your family might decide to give up some of your “fun” time on the weekend to join in a service project or visit people in a nursing home who may need some cheering up. Let your child suggest ideas for sacrifice that he or she would enjoy doing, either alone or as a family.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of showing our love to others even if it requires sacrifice. Discuss ways outside of your normal everyday routine to live sacrificially as a family and how you might adjust to accommodate those ideas.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 22: Joy

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. Tell me about a time when someone you know seemed really happy. How could you tell they were happy?
2. What is something that makes you sad? What do you look like when you are sad?
3. What has God done for you that gives you joy?
4. How can you show your joy and spread it to other people?

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of Jesus’ birth is a fun one to act out through role-play. Begin by creating three different settings: the stable (a couch fort with a baby cradle works well for this cozy setting), the hillside (try a pile of blankets with a few stuffed animals for sheep), and the city of Jerusalem (maybe a table and chairs). Then enlist a few actors to join you and your child. For the stable scene, you’ll

need Joseph, Mary, and a baby doll. The hillside scene will require angels and shepherds. Finally, the scene in Jerusalem will require Simeon and Anna. (Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus make an appearance in the hillside and Jerusalem scenes as well.) Use bathrobes and costume pieces to dress the actors. Read aloud from Luke, chapter 2, as the children participate in acting out the joyful birth of Jesus!

Option 2

Use dolls or action figures to act out the scene as you read Luke, chapter 2. If you have a child-friendly nativity set, pull that out and let your child use the figures.

Extra Mile

- Practice this fun version of “If You’re Happy and You Know It” together, or ask your child to perform it for an audience.

If you’re joyful and you know it, clap your hands! (*clap, clap*)
If you’re joyful and you know it, clap your hands! (*clap, clap*)
God has saved us from our sin,
So don’t keep your joy locked in,
If you’re joyful and you know it, clap your hands! (*clap, clap*)

- Continue with the words and motions for *stomp your feet*, *shake a hand*, and *say, “amen.”*
- Celebrate the joy of Jesus’ birth all year round! If you have a child-friendly nativity set, don’t pack it away with the Christmas decorations. Let it become part of your child’s regular playthings. An ornament with the word *Joy* can be a reminder for the whole family when it hangs from a cabinet knob or in a window. An angel proclaiming “The Savior Is Born” can be part of your regular decor.
- 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.
- Help your child to make a picture collage to illustrate the things that bring them happiness and joy. Look through magazines or family photos for things that make your child happy (a favorite snack, a fun place, a game or activity). Glue these images to a large piece of paper cut into the shape of a cross. No matter how many pictures there are or what they show, the cross reminds us that our greatest source of joy is Jesus.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 23: Peace

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. What is peace? (Peace is offered by Jesus to those who believe in him; it helps us be calm and trust in him despite what we 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? (Pray)
3. When do you have the most peace?
4. Do you think you can tell your friends and others in our family that Jesus is the Prince of Peace?

Living Faith

Option 1

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

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

Option 2

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

Extra Mile

- Some children have specific issues that bring them a lot of fear or anxiety, such as being afraid of the dark or dogs or making new friends. Pinpointing these issues and helping your child address them is important for their spiritual growth. With your child, come up with specific ways your child can look for God's peace when afraid. Some ideas include praying to God (listening to and talking to God), reading a favorite verse or story in the Bible, drawing a picture or doing some other art, going outside into nature, etc.
- Many families experience certain times of the week that are less peaceful at home, such as mornings when everyone is rushing about before school or work. Have a family meeting to discuss these chaotic times and to create a "family peacefulness plan," which can help everyone remain peaceful during 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 all fears and worries to Jesus. Spend time with your child picturing Jesus taking away those scary things and bringing peace in their place.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 24: Self-Control

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. When was the last time you showed good self-control?
2. Have you ever had trouble practicing self-control? Maybe by doing something Mom or Dad told you over and over again not to do?
3. Why can't we just do whatever we feel like doing? (Sometimes what we do hurts people and God)
4. Can we ask God to forgive us when we don't show self-control? (Yes, we can always ask God to forgive us; we can also ask him for the power to practice self-control to keep us from doing something that is mean or selfish)

Living Faith

Option 1

If weather permits, take your child outside to reenact the story of the lost son using a little water and mud! Collect some plastic farm toys (especially pigs!)

and figurines. You'll need a father and two sons. Create a pigpen out of a shallow container, like a pie pan, by mixing dirt with a little water. When you get to that part of the story, let your child get the lost son dirty. When he returns to the father, use a hose or watering can to wash away the mud. After you finish acting out the story together, talk with your child about how when God forgives us, he washes us clean.

Option 2

Act out the story of Samson. Use dolls. To fake a "haircut" (and avoid using scissors), wrap a nylon stocking (knee-high) over the doll's hair. When it's time for Samson's hair to grow back, remove the stocking and restore his strength!

Extra Mile

- Practice this simple song together:
- (Sung to the tune of "Do You Know the Muffin Man?")

Do you have the power of God?
The power of God? The power of God?
Do you have the power of God?
He gives us self-control.

- Help your child develop their self-control through everyday experiences. For example, on your next trip to the grocery store, say, "We're going to practice self-control today. The game is to get through the whole store without asking for anything. When we get to the checkout, if you've used self-control, we can talk about one thing you'd like to have." Use this tactic whenever you foresee a situation that will test your child's self-control. You can practice along with your child by telling your child all the things you'd like to buy, then at the end picking one thing to buy together.
- Play "Simon Says" or "Follow the Leader" with your child. These games reinforce the self-control necessary to obey commands or follow an example.
- Praise your child for using self-control whenever you observe it happening. Point out the difference between what your child probably wanted to do and how they chose to use self-control. If your child is struggling to use self-control in daily situations, come up with a signal, such as a fist bump, that will alert your child when he or she is acting impulsively.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 25: Hope

Bible Basis: Isaiah 40; Luke 2:22–35

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. What is hope? (Hope is wishing for something good to come true)
2. What is the greatest promise God made and kept? (He promised that he would send a Savior; he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin)
3. Can you think of a promise that someone made to you? Did they keep their promise?
4. Have you ever felt disappointed that what you hoped for did not happen in the way you wanted?
5. Why should you trust God? (Because he always keeps his promises)

Living Faith

Option 1

To reinforce this week’s lesson, try acting out the story of Simeon by allowing your child to use a doll or stuffed animal as baby Jesus. You and your child can take turns being Mary, Joseph, and Simeon. Wrap the baby up carefully

in a blanket and then ceremoniously present the baby to whoever is playing Simeon. Be sure to stress how Simeon thanked God for allowing him to see the Savior that he had hoped to see.

Option 2

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

Extra Mile

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

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 26: Patience

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

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

Key Question: How does God help me wait?

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

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

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from the *Believe Storybook Bible* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember 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 does it mean to be patient? (Waiting for something you want)
2. When is it hard for you to be patient?
3. How do you feel when someone skips your turn?
4. How can you keep from getting angry when you have to be patient?
5. Who is someone you know who is patient? How can you tell?

Living Faith

Option 1

Join your child in acting out the story of David and Saul in the cave. Have fun using couch cushions to build a large, dark cave. As you take on the role of Saul, don an old shirt with a scrap cut almost completely off the back. Have David (your child) hide in the cave as you go looking for him. When you enter the cave to rest, have your child tear the remaining bit of fabric to take a scrap from your shirt. Leave the cave and have David announce what he has done.

Option 2

Use your child's next bath time to reenact the story of the man at the Pool of Bethesda. Your bath mat can serve as a mat to sit on, and "stirring the water" can be a great way to get a reluctant bather into the water. Be sure to remind your child that it was actually Jesus himself who healed the man and not the healing waters.

Extra Mile

- Practice this simple poem together or ask your child to perform it for an audience.

In His Time (by Roy Lessin)

I wait on God to bring
all that he has promised me.

(point to wrist as if wearing a watch)
(spread arms open in front with palms up)

And as I wait, I believe in faith
in what I cannot see.

(hold hands in prayer position)
(hold hands in front of eyes, covering slightly)

- Encourage your child to recite this poem in their head or out loud whenever it is hard to be patient.
- For a fun way to practice patience, buy your child a small plastic toy. Without telling your child about it, put it in a paper cup of water and freeze it. (You may have to freeze half a cup of water first and then add the toy and more water so it freezes near the middle.) On a sunny day, peel off the paper and send your child outside with the frozen surprise. Your child will have to be patient as the ice melts to reveal what's inside!
- Does your child have a particular struggle with patience? Perhaps it's complaining at the grocery store or not sitting quietly in church. Make a game of increasing your child's patience by setting a timer. At first they may only go eight minutes without complaining at the grocery store, but on the next trip they'll have a mark to beat! Challenge them to go ten minutes.
- Any game that requires taking turns is great for teaching patience. In addition to traditional board games, try playing "I Spy" or "Twenty Questions" as a family. Praise your child for being able to wait their turn.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 27:

Kindness/Goodness

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

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

Living Faith

Option 1

The story of David and Mephibosheth is a fun one to act out. Since it will include more dialogue than action, you may want to take on the role of David first and have your child act as the servant and as Mephibosheth. After getting a feel for the story, trade roles. Dress up in biblical-era clothing and use a crown for King

David. You'll want some play money or change to give to Mephibosheth. Have your child wear a pair of too-big adult shoes to hinder walking.

Option 2

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

Extra Mile

- Practice this simple song together, or ask your child to perform it for an audience (to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat").

God says to be good, *(count off 1 on index finger)*
God says to be kind. *(count off 2)*
Jesus said to love the Lord *(count off 3)*
With heart and soul and mind. *(hand flat against chest, hands in prayer position, point to temple)*

- When your child is struggling with obedience, sing this song together as you help your child with behavior. If you are not familiar with the tune of the "O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E" song, you should be able to find it online by searching for "The Obedience Song":

Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe.
Doing exactly what the Lord commands, doing it joyfully.
Action is the key, do it immediately, joy you will receive.
Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe.
O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E
Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe.

- Play the obedience game with your child throughout the day to build the habit of goodness. Without warning or explanation, give your child a fun directive, such as "Go switch the pillows on the couch" or "Ring the front doorbell two times." The goal of the game is for your child to obey immediately and without complaining. As they become better at the game, challenge them with directives when they are occupied with another task.
- Show kindness to someone who needs a little boost! As a family, come up with a service activity that you can perform together, such as delivering a meal, or an act of kindness, such as sending a card. Explain to your child that we show kindness to share God's love, not because someone deserves it or because we expect something in return.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 28:

Faithfulness

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. What does it mean to be faithful? (Our friends can depend on us to do what we say we will do 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)
3. In what ways can we be faithful or dependable at home? (Obeying right away; helping without complaining; doing what we say we are going to do; keeping our promises)
4. How did Joseph act when his brothers did mean things to him? (He remained faithful to God and acted kindly to his brothers; he forgave his brothers) How did God bless Joseph for his faithfulness? (He made him a ruler in Egypt)

Living Faith

Option 1

Try reenacting the story of Joseph at different points in his life to help your child retain this week's lesson. The story of Joseph being sold into slavery is an interesting Bible story that you and your child can learn from together. Allow your child to tie up a stuffed animal and lead it away like Joseph was led away into Egypt. You can also reenact the story of Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dream. Your child would enjoy watching you pretend to be the great Egyptian king.

Option 2

Visual aids often help children to track their behavior patterns and can be powerful tools to help change unwanted behaviors. Creating a simple chart to help your child improve in an area in which they need to show greater faithfulness can help your child apply the Bible lessons and replace unwanted behaviors with positive behaviors, such as doing chores, taking care of a pet, getting to bed on time. Help your child pinpoint areas that need improvement, and then use a simple chart with stickers to track this behavior daily. Take time to review the chart with your child so he or she 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 remaining faithful to a healthy lifestyle. Choose a healthy family activity that will get your family outdoors and moving around. Make a commitment as a family to be faithful to this activity once a week or so. This will not only improve the health of your family but will also help your child understand the importance of faithfulness in all aspects of our lives.
- Make a special promise to your child this week. Be sure to keep that promise, then use this teaching opportunity to talk about faithfulness—how God always keeps his promises to us and how he loves it when we keep our promises to one another.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of faithfulness to God and others. Talk about ways that you have seen your child model faithful behavior in relationships within and outside the home.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 29: Gentleness

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 25; John 21

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

Key Question: How do I show thoughtfulness and consideration?

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

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

Living Faith

Option 1

You and your child can reenact the story of David and Abigail to reinforce what your child learned this week. Allow your child to collect food items and

jugs of water in order to pretend to be either Abigail presenting food to David or David receiving food from Abigail. Remind your child to be gentle in their interaction.

Option 2

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

Extra Mile

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

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 30: Humility

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

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

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

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

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

How to Use This Page

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

Table Talk

1. What did Jesus do to remind us that we should be servants? (He washed his followers’ feet)
2. What does it mean to be humble? (To put God and others first; to not think of yourself as being better than others)
3. Jesus washed his disciples’ feet. What are some ways you can serve others?
4. When is it hard to put others before yourself?

Living Faith

Option 1

Let your child serve you (or another caregiver) with a modern foot washing! Set up a foot bath by helping your child fill a tub with soapy water. Provide foot scrub, simple pedicure tools (nothing sharp), and lotion. Help your child tie a towel or apron around their waist and then talk them through the steps and thoughts of service related to washing another person’s feet.

Option 2

Let your child reenact Jesus washing the disciples' feet using plastic dolls or figures. At bath time, set up several dolls. If you like, get their feet wet and sprinkle them with a little cocoa powder to get them "dirty." Allow your child to serve each one by washing their feet in the tub. Make sure to have Peter put up a fuss!

Extra Mile

- Practice this simple song together, or ask your child to perform it for an audience (to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell").

The first will be the last *(hop to face the right)*

And the last will be the first! *(hop to face the left)*

The first will be the last *(crouch down with hands held low)*

And the last will be the first! *(hop up with hands in the air)*

- Jesus tied a towel around his waist to show that he was ready to serve. Make or buy a child-sized apron for your child and encourage him or her to serve others! You might be amazed how this simple change in uniform gives them the mind-set of a servant. You can even set a time and say, "For ten minutes, wear the apron and see how much you can serve others."
- King Nebuchadnezzar isn't the only one who learned a lesson in humility. Read classic fables with your child, such as "The Tortoise and the Hare" or "The Fox and the Raven." Discuss which character was proud and which was humble. Discuss the behavior that the proud character could have shown in the story if that character was acting like a humble servant of God.
- Give your child the opportunity to serve others. The next time someone in your family has a special day, help your child prepare a simple "breakfast in bed" for them. Your child will enjoy working with you to pour cereal, wash fruit, and carry a tray into the room. While the person eats, have your child sing them a few songs or read a favorite book to them.