

GROWING IN THE GROVE

Follow Me

A 90-Day Journey Through the Life of Jesus



Pleasant Grove Baptist Church · Ronda, North Carolina



Follow Me

A 90-Day Journey Through the Life of Jesus

I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk
in the darkness but will have the light of life.

John 8:12

© 2026 Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 3982 Clingman Rd, Ronda, NC 28670. Written for the kids and families of our church. You may print and photocopy this journal for personal, family, and church use. Please do not sell it. Free copies: pgbcronda.com/resources.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Pictograms from Material Design Icons (Pictogrammers), Apache License 2.0. Typefaces: Fredoka, Nunito, and Patrick Hand, SIL Open Font License. All illustrations drawn for this journal.

Welcome to Follow Me!



When Jesus called His first followers, He said two simple words: “Follow me.” Now that you have trusted Jesus, you are one of His followers too!

How do you get to know Jesus better? You spend time with Him. For the next 90 days you’ll walk through the life of Jesus—from the promises God made long before He was born, to the empty tomb and beyond. Each week is a new stop on the trail. Grab your Bible, and let’s go!

How this journal works



Family Time — Each week starts here. Read it with a grown-up, learn the memory verse, and talk together.



Read — Find the Bible passage in your own Bible and read it first. The key verse in the box comes from that reading. Want more? Try the “Go further” reading.



Think — A short devotion that helps you understand what you read.



Your Turn! — Write, draw, solve, or do something with what you learned.



Remember — One big truth on a sticky note to carry with you all day long.



Pray — Talk to God about it. Use the words on the page or your own.



Family Huddle — When you see this, find a grown-up and talk it over.



Bonus Page — A puzzle, project, or keepsake page at the end of each week.



Tips for the trail

Do one day at a time. Missed a day? No problem—just pick up where you stopped. Keep your Bible, a pencil, and some crayons with your journal, and ask a grown-up whenever you have a question.

For Parents and Grown-Ups



Thank you for walking alongside a young believer! Whether you are a parent, grandparent, or another grown-up who loves this child, your part matters more than any page in this book. Follow Me walks through the life of Jesus in the Gospels, so a child who has just trusted Him can get to know the Savior they are following—who He is, what He did, and what it means to follow Him.

How it works

- Each of the 15 weeks is a stop on a trail through Jesus' life, and each begins with a Family Time page. Read it together (Sunday afternoon or Monday evening works well) and start learning the memory verse.
- Six short daily pages follow, about 10 to 15 minutes each. Let your child do them as independently as they can, with a Bible handy and you close by.
- Watch for Family Huddle questions. They are invitations to talk, so make time when your child brings one to you.
- Each week ends with a bonus page. At the back you'll find memory verse cards, church notes, Bible study pages, and an answer key.

How you can help

- Pray for your child by name—every day if you can.
- Read the week's Bible stories yourself. You'll be ready for questions, and your child will see that you love God's Word too.
- Ask about it at supper or bedtime: What did Jesus do today? What does that show us about Him?
- Don't worry about missed days. Just pick back up where you stopped.
- Celebrate progress, not perfection.
- Bring your questions to church. Pastor James would love to talk with your family about baptism and next steps.

If you are not sure where you stand with Jesus yourself, we would be honored to talk with you too. Call the church at (336) 984-3360 or email pastor@pgbcronda.com. We would love to hear from you.



This Journal Belongs To



My name: _____

My age: _____

I trusted Jesus on: _____

Where I was: _____

People who helped me know Jesus: _____

My church: **Pleasant Grove Baptist Church**

I started this journal on: _____

How I trusted Jesus (in my own words):

Draw a picture of yourself!

Contents

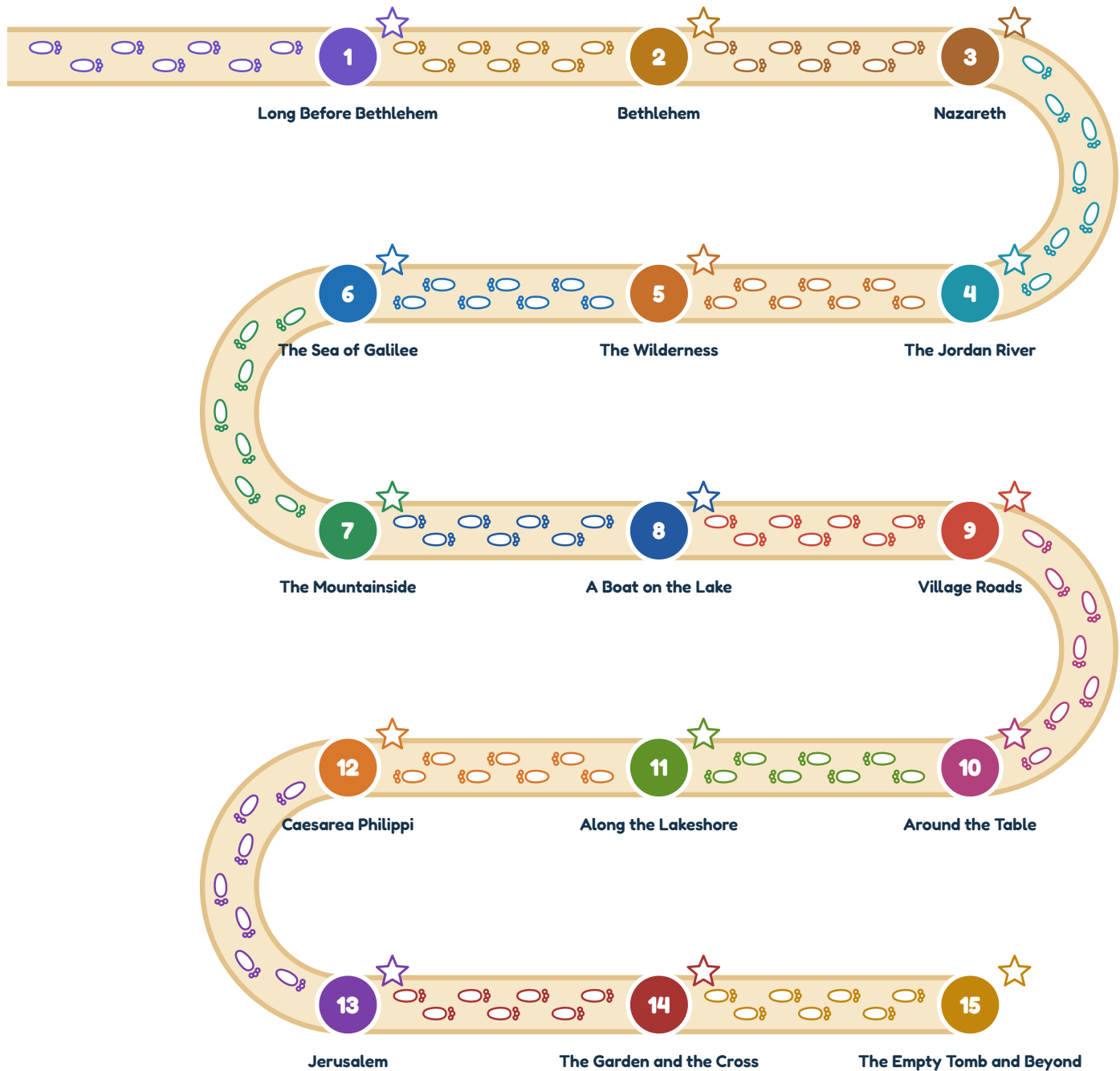
	Week 1	The Promise · Long Before Bethlehem	9
	Week 2	A Savior Is Born · Bethlehem	14
	Week 3	Growing Up · Nazareth	19
	Week 4	The Lamb of God · The Jordan River	24
	Week 5	Tested · The Wilderness	29
	Week 6	Come, Follow Me · The Sea of Galilee	34
	Week 7	Words to Build On · The Mountainside	39
	Week 8	Even the Wind Obeys · A Boat on the Lake	44
	Week 9	Jesus Heals · Village Roads	49
	Week 10	Friend of Sinners · Around the Table	54
	Week 11	Stories Jesus Told · Along the Lakeshore	59
	Week 12	Who Is Jesus? · Caesarea Philippi	64
	Week 13	The King Comes · Jerusalem	69
	Week 14	The Cross · The Garden and the Cross	74
	Week 15	He Is Alive! · The Empty Tomb and Beyond	79

IN THE BACK

	Memory Verse Challenge	84
	Memory Verse Cards	85
	Church Notes	87
	My ROOT Bible Study	91
	The Good News on Your Hand	93
	What's Next?	94
	Answer Key	97

Trail Tracker

Color a set of footprints each time you finish a page. Step by step, you're following Jesus!



Where Jesus Walked

Jesus grew up and served in a small land beside the Mediterranean Sea. The numbered circles show the stops on your trail—each one matches a week in this book. (Stop 1 isn't on any map—Jesus was with the Father before the world began!)



- 1 Long Before Bethlehem**
The Promise
- 2 Bethlehem**
A Savior Is Born
- 3 Nazareth**
Growing Up
- 4 The Jordan River**
The Lamb of God
- 5 The Wilderness**
Tested
- 6 The Sea of Galilee**
Come, Follow Me
- 7 The Mountainside**
Words to Build On
- 8 A Boat on the Lake**
Even the Wind Obeys
- 9 Village Roads**
Jesus Heals
- 10 Around the Table**
Friend of Sinners
- 11 Along the Lakeshore**
Stories Jesus Told
- 12 Caesarea Philippi**
Who Is Jesus?
- 13 Jerusalem**
The King Comes
- 14 The Garden and the Cross**
The Cross
- 15 The Empty Tomb and Beyond**
He Is Alive!



TRAIL STOP 1 • LONG BEFORE BETHLEHEM

The Promise



✦ From the very beginning, God promised to send a Savior—and Jesus is that promise.

FAMILY TIME

A Great Light Is Coming

Read together: **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

Welcome to the trail! For the next 90 days, you'll follow Jesus from place to place—from a manger in Bethlehem all the way to an empty tomb. But our first stop is a surprise. It's long before Bethlehem!

About 700 years before Jesus was born, God gave a message to Isaiah. (Isaiah was a prophet—someone who tells people God's words.) It was a dark time, and many of God's people had turned away from Him. But God said that the people walking in darkness would see a great light! A child would be born with amazing names, like Mighty God and Prince of Peace. He would sit on King David's throne, and His kingdom would never end.

Who was that child? Jesus! He once said, "I am the light of the world." He is the great light Isaiah saw coming. God made many more promises about the Savior: where He would be born, what family He would come from, and what He would do for us. Every one came true in Jesus.

That's what this week's memory verse means: every one of God's promises is "Yes" in Jesus. God never forgets a promise, and He never breaks one. The God who kept His promises about Jesus will keep His promises to you, too.

Do It Together

After dark, turn off every light in one room and sit together for a moment. Then switch on one flashlight. Read Isaiah 9:2 by its light. Talk about how one small light changes a whole room, and how Jesus came as the light for the whole world.

Memory Verse

For every one of God's promises is "Yes" in him.

2 Corinthians 1:20

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

For Grown-Ups

This week your child begins a 90-day walk through the life of Jesus, one stop at a time. Read this page together, and keep a Bible handy for the daily pages. This first stop is a treasure hunt: promises God made long ago that all point to Jesus.

Talk About It

- 1 Isaiah said people walking in darkness would see a great light. How is Jesus like a light in a dark place?
- 2 Isaiah gave the coming child names like Mighty God and Prince of Peace. What do those names tell us about Jesus?
- 3 Grown-ups, tell about someone who kept a promise to you. Why does it matter so much that God always keeps His?

Pray Together

Dear God, thank You for keeping every promise You make. Thank You for sending Jesus, the great light, into our dark world. Help [name] follow Him every step of this trail. In Jesus' name, amen.



Before the World Began



Read: John 8:56-59 **Go further:** John 17:1-5

“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.’” **John 8:58**

Some people once argued with Jesus about Abraham, who lived about 2,000 years earlier. Jesus said Abraham had looked forward to His coming and was glad. The people didn't understand. Jesus wasn't even fifty years old! How could He have seen Abraham? Then Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I am.” I AM is the name God called Himself when He spoke to Moses. The people knew Jesus was saying He is God. And it was true! Jesus didn't begin in Bethlehem. He has always been God, even before the world began.

Your Turn! What is the oldest thing you can think of—an old tree, a mountain, the stars? Write about it. Then remember: Jesus is older than all of it!

★ REMEMBER

Jesus has always been God, even before the world began.



Pray: Jesus, You were there before the mountains, the stars, and everything else. You have always been God. Thank You for coming to be my Savior. Amen.



The First Promise



Read: Genesis 3:8-15 **Go further:** Romans 5:18-19

“I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.” **Genesis 3:15**

In the beginning, God made a perfect world. But Adam and Eve disobeyed Him, and sin broke everything. They hid from God among the trees. But God came looking for them. “Where are you?” He called. Right then, God made a promise. One day a child from Eve's family would strike the head of the serpent, the snake that tricked Eve. That serpent was the devil, and Jesus is the child who would defeat him!

Your Turn! Put these events in order. Write 1 in the box by what happened first, 2 by what happened next, and so on.

☐

God promised to send a Rescuer.

☐

God made a perfect world.

☐

God came looking for them.

☐

Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

☐

Adam and Eve hid from God.

★ REMEMBER

God had a rescue plan all along: Jesus!



Pray: God, thank You for coming to look for Adam and Eve when they hid. Thank You for sending Jesus to find me and rescue me too. Amen.



Family Huddle: Adam and Eve hid after they sinned. Talk with a grown-up: Why do people hide when they do wrong? Why is running to God better?

DAY
3

A Promise to Abraham

Read: Genesis 12:1-3 Go further: Galatians 3:8



“...all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you. **Genesis 12:3**”

Imagine moving away without knowing where you're going! That's what happened to Abraham. (Back then, his name was Abram.) God told him to leave home and go to a land God would show him. Then God made him huge promises. How could one family bless the whole world? Many years later, Jesus was born into Abraham's family. Through Jesus, people from every nation can know God—including you!

Your Turn! Crack the code to find out what God promised Abraham!

A=1	B=2	C=3	D=4	E=5	F=6	G=7	H=8	I=9	J=10	K=11	L=12	M=13
N=14	O=15	P=16	Q=17	R=18	S=19	T=20	U=21	V=22	W=23	X=24	Y=25	Z=26

1 12 12 14 1 20 9 15 14 19

2 12 5 19 19 5 4

★ **REMEMBER**

God blesses people from every nation through Jesus—including me!



Pray: God, thank You for keeping Your promise to Abraham. Thank You that Jesus came for people from every nation—and for me! Amen.

DAY
4

A Forever King

Read: 2 Samuel 7:12-16 Go further: Luke 1:32-33



“Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever. **2 Samuel 7:16**”

King David wanted to build a temple—a beautiful house for God. But God had an even bigger plan! God promised to build David a “house”—not out of stones, but a family of kings. God said one of David's descendants would have a kingdom that lasts forever. (A descendant is a child, grandchild, great-grandchild, and so on.) Kings grow old. Kingdoms crumble. But about a thousand years later, an angel told Mary that her baby would sit on David's throne. His kingdom would have no end. Jesus is that forever King!

Your Turn! Draw a crown for Jesus, the forever King. On your crown, write words that describe Him, like wise, strong, or kind.

draw here

★ **REMEMBER**

Jesus is my King, and His kingdom will never end.



Pray: Jesus, other kings grow old and their kingdoms fall, but You will rule forever. I want You to be my King every day. Amen.

DAY
5

Born in Bethlehem

 **Read:** Micah 5:2  Go further: Isaiah 7:14



“Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; one will come from you to be ruler over Israel for me. His origin is from antiquity, from ancient times.
Micah 5:2

Bethlehem was a small, ordinary town. But it was King David's hometown. About 700 years before Jesus was born, God gave a message to a prophet named Micah. (A prophet speaks God's words to people.) A ruler would come from little Bethlehem! Micah said this ruler's beginning was from long, long ago. That sounds like Jesus, who has always been God! Around the same time, Isaiah said the child would be called Immanuel. God knew every detail ahead of time. His plans are never an accident.

 **Your Turn!** Micah and Isaiah told about the Savior long before He came. Use the word bank to finish each sentence.

Word bank: David Immanuel Bethlehem

1. The Savior would be born in the little town of _____.
2. Bethlehem was the hometown of King _____.
3. Isaiah said the child would be called _____, which means God is with us.

★ **REMEMBER**
God knows the future, and He always keeps His word.

 **Pray:** God, You knew where Jesus would be born hundreds of years before it happened. You know my future too, and I can trust You with it. Amen.

DAY
6

The Servant Who Suffers

 **Read:** Isaiah 53:4-6  Go further: 1 Peter 2:24



“We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished him for the iniquity of us all. **Isaiah 53:6**

Isaiah 53 is one of the most amazing chapters in the Bible. Isaiah wrote about a Servant who would suffer. He would be hurt, not for anything He did wrong, but for the wrong things we have done. Like lost sheep, we all wandered off our own way. About 700 years later, Jesus died on the cross and did exactly that. He took our punishment, so we could be forgiven and have peace with God.

 **Your Turn!** Isaiah wrote these words about 700 years before Jesus was born. How does that help you trust the Bible?

★ **REMEMBER**
Jesus took the punishment I deserved, so I can be forgiven.

 **Pray:** Jesus, I was like a lost sheep, going my own way. Thank You for taking my punishment on the cross and bringing me back to God. Amen.

 **Family Huddle:** Read Isaiah 53:5 with a grown-up. Talk about it: Why would Jesus take a punishment He didn't deserve?



Promises Kept



Long before Jesus was born, God made promises about Him. Here are nine that came true! Match each Old Testament promise with the New Testament verse that shows it coming true. Look up the verses if you need help. Every match is another Yes from God!

Write the letter of the matching answer in the blank.

God promised... (Old Testament)

- _____ 1. Genesis 12:3 — All the peoples on earth would be blessed through Abraham.
- _____ 2. 2 Samuel 7:12-13 — A King from David's family would rule forever.
- _____ 3. Micah 5:2 — A ruler would come from the little town of Bethlehem.
- _____ 4. Isaiah 7:14 — A virgin would give birth to a son named Immanuel.
- _____ 5. Isaiah 40:3 — A voice would call out to get the way ready for the Lord.
- _____ 6. Zechariah 9:9 — The King would come humbly, riding on a donkey.
- _____ 7. Psalm 22:18 — His enemies would divide His clothes and gamble for them.
- _____ 8. Isaiah 53:5 — He would be wounded because of our sins.
- _____ 9. Psalm 16:10 — God would not let His faithful one rot away in the grave.

Jesus fulfilled it! (New Testament)

- A. Mark 1:2-4 — John the Baptist got people ready for Jesus.
- B. Luke 1:32-33 — The angel said Jesus would sit on David's throne forever.
- C. Galatians 3:8 — The good news about Jesus is for people of every nation.
- D. 1 Peter 2:24 — Jesus carried our sins in His body on the cross.
- E. John 19:23-24 — Soldiers divided Jesus' clothes and cast lots for them.
- F. Acts 2:31-32 — God raised Jesus from the dead, and His followers saw Him alive!
- G. Matthew 2:1 — Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
- H. Matthew 21:4-5 — Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.
- I. Matthew 1:22-23 — Jesus was born to Mary, a virgin. He is God with us.



A Savior Is Born



✦ God kept His promise: the Savior was born as a baby in Bethlehem.

FAMILY TIME

Good News of Great Joy

Read together: **Luke 2:8-14**

Welcome to Bethlehem! Last week we learned about God's promises. Now our trail arrives at the little town where God kept one of His biggest promises of all.

One night, some shepherds were watching their sheep in the fields near town. Then an angel of the Lord stood in front of them, and God's glory shone all around. The shepherds were terrified! But the angel said, "Don't be afraid." He brought good news of great joy for all people. That very day, in the city of David (that's Bethlehem), a Savior had been born. A Savior is someone who rescues. This Savior was the Messiah, the Chosen King God had promised to send. The shepherds would find Him wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Suddenly a huge crowd of angels appeared, praising God! They gave glory to God in the highest heaven and announced peace on earth. Now notice who heard the news first. Not kings or rich people, but ordinary shepherds working the night shift. God wanted everyone to know that Jesus came for ordinary people like them, and like us.

Look closely at this week's memory verse. The angel said the Savior was born for you. The shepherds heard it that night, but the good news is for you too—right now, wherever you are.

Do It Together

On a clear night, step outside together and look up at the sky. Imagine it suddenly filling with angels! Then sing a Christmas song about the shepherds or angels—no matter what month it is.

Memory Verse

Today in the city of David a Savior
was born for you, who is the
Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:11

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

For Grown-Ups

The Christmas story may be familiar, but try to hear it fresh this week, whatever the season. If you have a nativity set, let your child arrange it while you read. Ask what surprises them most about the way God chose to send His Son into the world.

Talk About It

- 1 Why do you think God sent the angels to shepherds first, instead of to kings or important leaders?
- 2 The angel said, "Don't be afraid." What makes you afraid sometimes? How does knowing Jesus came for you help?
- 3 What makes the birth of Jesus good news of great joy for you?

Pray Together

Dear God, thank You for keeping Your promise and sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help [name] share the good news of great joy with others, just like the shepherds did. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAY
1

Nothing Is Impossible

 **Read:** Luke 1:26-38  **Go further:** Luke 1:46-49

“For nothing will be impossible with God.” **Luke 1:37**



In the little town of Nazareth lived a woman named Mary. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph. One day the angel Gabriel brought her astonishing news. Mary would have a baby boy and name Him Jesus. He would be called the Son of the Most High—God’s own Son—and His kingdom would never end! Mary asked how this could be, since she wasn’t married yet. Gabriel said the Holy Spirit would do it, “for nothing will be impossible with God.” Mary answered, “I am the Lord’s servant.”

 **Your Turn!** Mary said yes to God’s plan, even though she didn’t understand it all. What is something God is asking you to trust Him with? Write about it.

★ REMEMBER

Nothing is impossible for God, so I can trust His plan.



Pray: God, nothing is impossible for You. Like Mary, I want to say yes to Your plans, even when I don’t understand them all. Amen.

DAY
2

God with Us

 **Read:** Matthew 1:18-25  **Go further:** Isaiah 7:14

“See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated “God is with us.” **Matthew 1:23**



Before their wedding, Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby. Joseph didn’t understand, so he decided to quietly call off the wedding. Then an angel spoke to him in a dream. The angel told Joseph not to be afraid to marry Mary, because her baby was from the Holy Spirit. Joseph should name the baby Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins. When Joseph woke up, he obeyed. The name Jesus means the Lord saves. Isaiah said He would be called Immanuel, which means “God is with us.”

 **Your Turn!** Names in the Bible often have meanings. Use the word bank to fill in the blanks.

Word bank: sins God is with us obeyed the Lord saves

1. The name Jesus means _____.
2. The name Immanuel means _____.
3. Jesus came to save His people from their _____.
4. When Joseph woke up, he _____.

★ REMEMBER

Jesus came to save me, and He is God with us.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for coming to save me from my sins. Thank You that You are God with us—and that You are with me today. Amen.

DAY
3

No Room

 **Read:** Luke 2:1-7  Go further: Philippians 2:6-7



“Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. **Luke 2:7**”

Caesar Augustus, the ruler of the Roman Empire, wanted to count everyone. So Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the town of Joseph’s family. While they were there, Jesus was born. There was no guest room for them, so Mary wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a manger. A manger is a box that animals eat from! The King of everything could have been born in a palace. Instead, He came in a humble way. Being humble means not acting more important than others. Jesus did that for us!

 **Your Turn!** Draw baby Jesus in the manger with Mary and Joseph. Then draw yourself there too! Give yourself a speech bubble. What would you say to Him?

draw here

★ REMEMBER

Jesus, the King of everything, came as a tiny baby for me.



Pray: Jesus, You are the King of everything, but You were laid in a manger. Thank You for coming to be with us. Help me be humble like You. Amen.

DAY
4

Too Good to Keep

 **Read:** Luke 2:15-20  Go further: Titus 2:11



“After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **Luke 2:17-18**”

After the angels went back to heaven, the shepherds didn’t wait around. “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem,” they said. They hurried off and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger—just as the angel had said. Then they told everyone! Mary kept thinking about it all in her heart. The shepherds went back to their fields, praising God the whole way. Good news is too good to keep to yourself. You can share what you know about Jesus too!

 **Your Turn!** Write the names of people you could tell about Jesus this week.

Someone in my family: _____

A friend: _____

Someone else: _____

★ REMEMBER

The good news about Jesus is too good to keep to myself!



Pray: God, thank You for the good news about Jesus. Give me courage to tell someone about Him this week, just like the shepherds did. Amen.

 **Family Huddle:** Ask a grown-up: Who was the first person to tell you about Jesus? What do you remember about it?

DAY
5

Worth the Wait

 **Read:** Luke 2:25-38  **Go further:** Galatians 4:4-5



“ Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised. For my eyes have seen your salvation. **Luke 2:29-30**

Waiting is hard! Simeon was waiting for the Messiah, and God's Spirit had promised he would see Him before he died. When Jesus was a few weeks old, Mary and Joseph brought Him to the temple, God's house in Jerusalem. The Spirit led Simeon there at just the right moment! Simeon took baby Jesus in his arms and praised God. Then Anna came up. She was very old and prayed at the temple night and day. She thanked God and told others about Jesus. God's promise came right on time.

 **Your Turn!** What is something that is hard for you to wait for? What do Simeon and Anna teach you about waiting for God?

★ REMEMBER

God is never late. He keeps His promises right on time.



Pray: God, waiting is hard for me sometimes. Help me be patient like Simeon and Anna, and trust that You always keep Your promises. Amen.

DAY
6

Wise Men Worship

 **Read:** Matthew 2:1-12  **Go further:** Psalm 72:10-11



“ ...falling to their knees, they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **Matthew 2:11**

Wise men from the east saw a special star rise. They traveled a long way to find the new king. The star led them to a house in Bethlehem, where they found the child Jesus with Mary. To worship means to honor God with all your heart for how great He is. Frankincense is a sweet incense, and myrrh is a sweet-smelling spice. These were costly gifts! Jesus is worth our very best, too.

 **Your Turn!** Write their gifts on the left and your gifts for Jesus on the right.

The wise men's gift	A gift I can give Jesus

★ REMEMBER

Jesus is worth my very best!



Pray: Jesus, the wise men traveled so far to worship You. I want to worship You too, and give You my very best every day. Amen.



Family Huddle: Talk with a grown-up: What is one gift you could give Jesus together this week, like helping someone or singing to Him?



WEEK 2 · A SAVIOR IS BORN

When Jesus Was Born



Find these words from the story of Jesus' birth. Words run across, down, or on a slant, but never backward. When you find SAVIOR, stop and thank God for sending Jesus to rescue you!

B	A	B	Y	J	W	W	E	S	G	U	R
D	E	D	O	N	Y	F	D	I	B	A	O
S	B	B	Y	R	M	R	R	K	T	W	A
I	A	G	O	E	E	E	W	S	T	L	W
M	G	L	I	H	G	S	A	V	I	O	R
E	G	A	P	N	S	A	N	G	E	L	S
O	O	E	A	U	A	A	O	G	H	S	R
N	H	M	N	D	J	O	S	E	P	H	E
S	L	M	A	R	Y	T	L	G	O	P	P
B	A	W	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M
I	G	I	M	M	A	N	U	E	L	C	E
U	B	F	E	Y	E	G	Y	K	I	N	G

- ☐ ANGELS
- ☐ BABY
- ☐ BETHLEHEM
- ☐ GLORY
- ☐ IMMANUEL
- ☐ JOSEPH
- ☐ KING
- ☐ MANGER
- ☐ MARY
- ☐ SAVIOR
- ☐ SHEPHERDS
- ☐ SIMEON
- ☐ STAR

Pick one of the words and draw what it means to you.



Growing Up



✦ Jesus grew up as a real boy—fully God and fully human, yet He never sinned.

FAMILY TIME

God Came to Live with Us

Read together: **John 1:14-18**

Our trail now heads north to Nazareth, a small village in the hills of Galilee. This is where Jesus grew up. He lived here until He was about thirty years old. To the neighbors, He was just the carpenter, Mary's son.

But John, one of Jesus' closest friends, tells us who Jesus really is. John calls Him "the Word." Our words show others what we are thinking. In the same way, Jesus shows us what God is like, because Jesus is God! Then "the Word became flesh." That means God the Son became a real human being, with a body like ours, and lived among us.

Jesus didn't stop being God when He became a baby. He is fully God and fully human at the same time. That is a wonderful truth, bigger than our minds! As a boy, Jesus really grew and learned. He got tired and hungry. He probably played games and scraped His knees. But He never sinned—not even once.

Why does this matter? Because Jesus knows what it's like to be a kid! And because He lived a perfect life, He could take the punishment for our sins. John says he and the other disciples saw Jesus' glory, full of grace and truth. Grace is God's kindness that we could never earn. This week, let's get to know the boy from Nazareth who is also the Son of God.

Do It Together

Mark each person's height on a strip of paper taped to the wall, and write today's date. Read Luke 2:52 together. Then talk about ways you've seen each other grow this year—not just taller, but kinder, braver, and wiser.

Memory Verse

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

For Grown-Ups

The Bible tells us only a little about Jesus' childhood, so this week labels our best guesses as guesses. Day 1's reading includes King Herod's cruelty to the little boys of Bethlehem. You may want to read that one together and answer questions gently and simply.

Talk About It

- 1 What do you think Jesus was like as a kid? Which of your ideas come from the Bible, and which are guesses?
- 2 Jesus got tired and hungry, just like us. How does it help to know that Jesus understands what your life is like?
- 3 John 1:18 says Jesus shows us what God is like. What have you learned about God by looking at Jesus?

Pray Together

Lord Jesus, thank You for becoming a real person and living among us. Thank You that You understand us. Help [name] grow up to be more like You every day. Amen.



Safe in Egypt

Read: Matthew 2:13-23 **Go further:** Psalm 91:1-2



“ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt. **Matthew 2:14**

After the wise men left, an angel warned Joseph in a dream. Wicked King Herod wanted to harm the child! The angel told Joseph to take Jesus and Mary and escape to Egypt. That very night, Joseph got up and they left. Herod did a terrible, cruel thing in Bethlehem, but Jesus was safe. The family stayed in Egypt until Herod died. Then an angel told Joseph it was safe to go home, and they settled in Nazareth. God was taking care of Jesus the whole time. God is your safe place too.

Your Turn! Number the boxes from 1 to 5 to show how God kept Jesus safe.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ The family moved to Nazareth. | ☐ An angel warned Joseph in a dream. |
| ☐ The family escaped to Egypt at night. | ☐ An angel told Joseph it was safe. |
| ☐ Wicked King Herod died. | |

★ REMEMBER

God is my safe place, wherever I go.



Pray: God, thank You for protecting Jesus and His family. When I feel scared, help me remember that I can always run to You. Amen.



A Real Boy

Read: Luke 2:39-40 **Go further:** Hebrews 2:17-18



“ The boy grew up and became strong, filled with wisdom, and God’s grace was on him. **Luke 2:40**

The Bible tells us only a little about Jesus’ early years. Luke says that “the boy grew up and became strong.” He was filled with wisdom, and God’s grace was on Him. So Jesus really grew! He learned to walk and talk. He got hungry and sleepy. He probably helped with chores. Jesus was fully God and fully human, so He knows what being a kid feels like. But there is one big difference between Jesus and every other kid: He never sinned. Not even once!

Your Turn! Jesus was a real kid! Think about eating, learning, playing, chores, sleeping, and praying. On each row, write something Jesus probably did as a boy, and something like it that you do.

Things Jesus did as a boy (probably!)	Things I do

★ REMEMBER

Jesus was a real kid like me, but He never sinned.



Pray: Jesus, You know what it’s like to be a kid. Thank You for living a perfect life for me. Help me follow You today. Amen.

DAY
3

In My Father's House

 **Read:** Luke 2:41-50  **Go further:** Psalm 84:1-2



“ After three days, they found him in the temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. **Luke 2:46**

Every year, Jesus' family traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. When Jesus was twelve, His parents started home and traveled a whole day before they realized He wasn't with them! They hurried back and finally found Him in the temple. Everyone was amazed at how much He understood. Jesus asked why they had been searching. Didn't they know He had to be in His Father's house? Even at twelve, Jesus knew God was His Father.

 **Your Turn!**

If you could sit with Jesus like the teachers did, what would you ask Him?

★ **REMEMBER**

I am never too young to learn about God.



Pray: Father, thank You that kids can know You and learn about You. Give me a heart that loves to be near You and to learn Your Word. Amen.



Family Huddle: Ask a grown-up: When you were a kid, what questions did you have about God? Do you still wonder about any of them?

DAY
4

Growing in Every Way

 **Read:** Luke 2:51-52  **Go further:** Ephesians 6:1-3



“ And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people. **Luke 2:52**

Back home, the Son of God obeyed Mary and Joseph! Luke says Jesus grew in four ways. He grew in wisdom—His mind. He grew in stature—His body got bigger. He grew in favor with God—He pleased His Father. And He grew in favor with people—others liked and respected Him. God wants you to grow in all four ways too, and one way is by obeying the grown-ups who care for you.

 **Your Turn!**

Jesus grew in four ways. How are you growing in each one? Write one way beside each.

	How I'm growing
In wisdom (my mind)	
In stature (my body)	
With God	
With people	

★ **REMEMBER**

God wants me to grow in every way, just like Jesus did.



Pray: Jesus, You obeyed Your parents even though You are God's Son. Help me obey and honor the grown-ups who care for me, and help me grow. Amen.

DAY
5

The Carpenter

Read: Mark 6:1-3 **Go further:** Ecclesiastes 9:10



“Isn’t this the carpenter, the son of Mary...” **Mark 6:3**

Years later, Jesus came back to Nazareth as a grown-up teacher. His old neighbors were amazed at His wisdom. “Isn’t this the carpenter?” they asked. Before Jesus began preaching, He spent years working with His hands. He probably cut and shaped wood to build things like doors, tables, and tools for farmers. Can you picture Jesus with sawdust on His sleeves? The Son of God did ordinary work, and He did it well. That means your ordinary work matters too. Homework, chores, and practice can honor God when you do your best.

Your Turn! Which jobs will you do really well this week, as a gift to God? Check them. Add one of your own on the blank line!

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Do my homework carefully and neatly | ☐ Make my bed without being asked |
| ☐ Help clean up after a meal | ☐ Practice my sport or instrument with a good attitude |
| ☐ Take good care of a pet or plant | ☐ Finish a chore all the way |
| ☐ _____ | |

★ REMEMBER

Even ordinary work can honor God when I do my best.



Pray: Jesus, You worked hard with Your hands. Help me do my schoolwork and chores with all my strength, as a gift to You. Amen.

DAY
6

Back in Nazareth

Read: Luke 4:16-21 **Go further:** Isaiah 61:1-2



“He began by saying to them, “Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled.”
Luke 4:21

One Sabbath day, Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth, His hometown. (The Sabbath was the weekly day of rest, and a synagogue was a place where Jewish people gathered to hear God’s Word.) Someone handed Him the scroll of Isaiah. Jesus read about the One God would send, who would bring good news to the poor, freedom for prisoners, and sight for the blind. Then Jesus rolled up the scroll and sat down. Everyone stared at Him. Jesus told them that this Scripture had come true that very day. He was the One!

Your Turn! Circle the good news Jesus came to bring. Cross out the things He did not come to do.

Sight for the blind

Make us rich

Make everyone famous

Hope for the poor

Help for the hurting

Freedom for prisoners

Help us show off

★ REMEMBER

Jesus is the One God promised to send.



Pray: Jesus, You are the One God promised. Thank You for bringing good news and freedom. Help me share Your good news with people who are hurting. Amen.



Family Huddle: Talk with a grown-up: Jesus brought good news to people who were poor or hurting. Who near you needs help? How could you help together?



Growing Up in Nazareth

Jesus grew up in Nazareth about 2,000 years ago. The Bible doesn't tell us every detail of His childhood, but we know quite a bit about how families lived in that time and place. Here's a peek at what life was probably like for a boy in Nazareth!

● Home Sweet Home

Nazareth was a small village in the hills of Galilee. Most houses were made of stone and mud brick, with flat roofs. Families climbed up to the roof to work, rest, or even sleep on hot nights. After dark, a little clay lamp burning olive oil gave light. Water was carried home in jars from the village spring. Jesus had younger brothers and sisters, too (Mark 6:3).

● What's for Supper?

- Bread, baked fresh almost every day
- Olives and olive oil
- Figs, grapes, and pomegranates
- Lentils and beans cooked in a pot
- Fish from the Sea of Galilee, often dried or salted
- Milk and cheese from goats

● Learning, Working, and Playing

Children learned God's Word from their families (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Every week, families rested on the Sabbath and went to the synagogue. Jesus could read the scroll of Isaiah (Luke 4:16-17). Boys often learned a trade from their fathers, and Jesus learned to be a carpenter. And there was time for fun! Jesus once described children in the marketplace calling to their friends to join their games (Matthew 11:16-17).

● On the Road

People walked almost everywhere. Every year, Jesus' family went to Jerusalem for Passover, a festival remembering how God rescued His people from Egypt. The trip took several days. Families traveled together in big groups of relatives and friends (Luke 2:41-44).

● Me and Jesus as a Kid

How is your life like Jesus' life as a boy? How is it different? Write about it below. Then, in the box, draw yourself doing something Jesus might have done as a kid!

draw here



The Lamb of God



✦ At the Jordan River, John pointed to Jesus: the Lamb of God who takes away sin.

FAMILY TIME

The Voice by the River

Read together: **John 1:19-28**

Our trail now leads down to the Jordan River. Long ago, crowds of people walked out into the wilderness here to hear a man named John. He wore rough clothes made of camel hair, and he ate locusts (a kind of grasshopper) and wild honey! People called him John the Baptist, because he baptized people in the river, dipping them under the water.

Some leaders from Jerusalem came to ask him, “Who are you?” Was he the Messiah? No. Was he the prophet Elijah? No. John said he was just a voice in the wilderness, telling people to get the road ready for the Lord. Someone much greater was coming. John said he wasn’t even worthy to untie that Person’s sandal strap—a job for a servant!

John could have let people think he was somebody great. Crowds were following him! But John knew his job: to point people to Jesus. The very next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and called out, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

This week we’ll find out why John called Jesus a lamb. We’ll see something amazing happen when Jesus was baptized. And we’ll learn how to do John’s job too: pointing others to Jesus. Get ready—this stop on the trail is full of surprises!

Do It Together

Take a walk outside together and take turns being the guide. The guide points out things for everyone to notice—a bird, a cloud, a bug, a flower. Afterward, talk about how John’s whole job was to point people to Jesus.

Memory Verse

Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 1:29

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

For Grown-Ups

This week your child meets John the Baptist and sees Jesus baptized. Questions about baptism may come up. Baptism doesn’t save us; it pictures the new life Jesus gives to those who trust Him. If your child is curious, Pastor James would love to talk with you both.

Talk About It

- 1 John said he was just a voice pointing to Someone greater. Why didn’t John want people to make a big deal about him?
- 2 Why do you think John called Jesus a lamb? What do you already know about lambs?
- 3 Who helped point you toward Jesus? How can our family point others to Him this week?

Pray Together

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Help [name] and our whole family point others to Him. In Jesus’ name, amen.

DAY
1

Get Ready!

 **Read:** Luke 3:2-6  Go further: Isaiah 40:3-5



“A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight!” **Luke 3:4**

Long ago, when a king planned to visit, people often got the road ready. They filled in holes, flattened bumps, and made crooked paths straight. God sent John the Baptist to get people's hearts ready for Jesus, the King. John's message was: Repent! To repent means to turn away from sin and turn to God. It's like realizing you're walking the wrong way and turning all the way around. When people repented, John baptized them in the Jordan River. Hearts that turn to God are ready for Jesus.

 **Your Turn!** Get these sentences ready! Use the word bank to fill in each blank.

Word bank: to forgives away ready

1. To repent means to turn _____ from sin and turn _____ God.
2. John got people's hearts _____ for Jesus.
3. When we turn to God, He _____ our sins.

★ REMEMBER

To repent means I turn away from sin and turn to God.



Pray: God, I'm sorry for the times I go my own way. Help me turn away from sin and turn to You. Thank You for forgiving me. Amen.

DAY
2

Fruit That Shows

 **Read:** Luke 3:7-14  Go further: Matthew 3:8



“He replied to them, ‘The one who has two shirts must share with someone who has none, and the one who has food must do the same.’” **Luke 3:11**

You can tell an apple tree by its apples and a peach tree by its peaches. John used strong words to warn the crowds. If they had really turned from sin, it would show in their lives, like fruit on a tree. “What should we do?” people asked. John said to share your extra shirt and food with someone who has none. He told tax collectors not to cheat, and soldiers not to bully people and to be content with their pay. Real repenting shows in how we treat others.

 **Your Turn!** Three groups asked John, “What should we do?” Draw a line from each group to John's answer.

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 1. The crowds | ● | ● A. Share your extra shirt and food |
| 2. Tax collectors | ● | ● B. Don't bully or lie. Be content. |
| 3. Soldiers | ● | ● C. Don't take more than you should |

★ REMEMBER

When I turn from sin, it shows in how I treat others.



Pray: God, help my life grow good fruit. Help me share, tell the truth, and be content with what I have. Amen.

DAY
3

Jesus Comes to Be Baptized

 **Read:** Matthew 3:13-15  **Go further:** John 8:29



“ Jesus answered him, “Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John allowed him to be baptized. **Matthew 3:15**

Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John in the Jordan. To baptize means to put someone under the water and bring them back up. But John tried to stop Him! “I need to be baptized by you,” John said. John knew Jesus was far greater than he was. And Jesus had never sinned, so He had nothing to turn away from. But Jesus said this was the right thing to do. Jesus came to obey His Father in everything, big and small. So John baptized Him.

 **Your Turn!** John didn’t think he should baptize Jesus. Why do you think Jesus wanted to be baptized?

★ REMEMBER

Jesus always did what pleased His Father.
I want to do that too!



Pray: Jesus, You obeyed Your Father in everything. Help me obey God in the big things and the small things today. Amen.

DAY
4

Heaven Opens

 **Read:** Matthew 3:16-17  **Go further:** Mark 1:9-11



“ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.” **Matthew 3:17**

As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened. The Spirit of God came down like a dove and rested on Him. And the Father spoke! (Beloved means dearly loved.) Look who was there: Jesus the Son, coming up from the water. The Holy Spirit, coming down like a dove. And God the Father, speaking from heaven. There is only one God, but He is three persons. That is a wonderful truth, bigger than our minds!

 **Your Turn!** All three persons of God were there at the Jordan River! Write what each one did.

	What happened
The Son	
The Spirit	
The Father	

★ REMEMBER

There is one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Pray: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are one amazing God. I don’t understand everything about You, but I love You and trust You. Amen.



Family Huddle: Talk with a grown-up: What questions do you have about God being Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? It’s okay not to understand everything!

DAY
5

Here Is the Lamb

Read: John 1:29-34 Go further: 1 Peter 1:18-19



“ I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God. **John 1:34**

When John saw Jesus walking toward him, he called out, “Look, the Lamb of God!” Why a lamb? For hundreds of years, God’s people had offered lambs as sacrifices. A sacrifice was an offering to God. When people sinned, an animal died in their place. That showed how serious sin is. But an animal could never truly take sin away. It was a picture of Someone to come. Jesus is the perfect Lamb. He never sinned, and He gave His life to take away our sin for good.

Your Turn! Crack the code to find John’s name for Jesus. Then say this week’s memory verse out loud!

A=1	B=2	C=3	D=4	E=5	F=6	G=7	H=8	I=9	J=10	K=11	L=12	M=13
N=14	O=15	P=16	Q=17	R=18	S=19	T=20	U=21	V=22	W=23	X=24	Y=25	Z=26

12 1 13 2 15 6 7 15 4

★ REMEMBER

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away my sin.



Pray: Jesus, You are the Lamb of God. Thank You for giving Your life to take away my sin. I’m so glad You did! Amen.

DAY
6

He Must Increase

Read: John 3:26-30 Go further: Colossians 1:18



“ He must increase, but I must decrease. **John 3:30**

Some of John’s followers were worried. Everyone was going to Jesus now instead of to John! But John wasn’t jealous. He said he was like the best friend of a groom, the man getting married. The groom’s friend isn’t upset when everyone looks at the groom. He’s glad! Then John said, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” That means Jesus should get more and more attention, and John less and less. You can be like John. Instead of showing off, you can point people to Jesus.

Your Turn! John pointed people to Jesus instead of himself. Write one way you can point people to Jesus in each of these places.

At home: _____

With my friends: _____

When I do something well: _____

★ REMEMBER

I want people to see more of Jesus and less of me.



Pray: Jesus, You are the greatest. Help me not to show off, but to point people to You in what I say and do. Amen.

Family Huddle: Talk with a grown-up: When someone says you did a great job, how could you also thank God for helping you?



Why a Lamb?



John called Jesus the Lamb of God. To understand why, let's go way back down the trail—all the way to Egypt! Lambs show up again and again in the Bible, and they help us understand what Jesus came to do.

● The Passover Lamb

God's people were slaves in Egypt. God was about to punish Egypt one last time and set His people free. He told each family to choose a young male lamb or goat with nothing wrong with it. They put some of its blood on the doorframe of their house. God said that when He saw the blood, He would pass over that house (Exodus 12:1-13). The lamb died, and the family was safe.

● Lambs at God's House

Later, God told the priests to offer a lamb on the altar every morning and another every evening (Exodus 29:38-39). People also brought animals as sacrifices for their sins. But the sacrifices had to be made again and again. The Bible says they could never really take away sins (Hebrews 10:11).

● The Perfect Lamb

Jesus is the Lamb all those lambs pointed to. He never sinned, so He was perfect, like a lamb with no spot or flaw (1 Peter 1:18-19). He even died at Passover time, as our Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7). And His sacrifice never has to be repeated. Jesus offered Himself once for all time. Then He sat down at God's right hand, because the work was done (Hebrews 10:10-12).

● What This Means for Me

John said the Lamb takes away the sin of the world. The world means people everywhere—and that includes you! When you trust Jesus, your sin isn't just covered up for a while. It's taken away for good. You don't have to earn it. The Lamb already paid it all. Write a thank-you note to Jesus below.

● Thinking About Being Baptized?

If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, baptism is a next step of obeying Him. Baptism doesn't save you—Jesus does! Going under the water and coming back up is a picture of Jesus' death, burial, and rising again, and of your new life in Him. Talk with a grown-up who cares for you, and with Pastor James. The Deep Roots journal can help you learn more.



Tested



✦ Jesus faced real temptation and won—with God's Word.

FAMILY TIME

More Than Bread

Read together: **Deuteronomy 8:2-3**

Our trail now leads into the wilderness. It's a dry, rocky, empty place, with no stores, no houses, and not much food. Long before Jesus came, God's people Israel spent forty years in a wilderness like this. God had just rescued them from slavery in Egypt, and now He was leading them to a new home.

In Deuteronomy 8, Moses reminds the people what happened out there. God let them get hungry. Then He fed them manna, a food they had never seen before. Every morning it covered the ground like frost! Why did God do it that way? To teach them that people don't live on bread alone. They need every word that comes from God's mouth.

This week, we'll see Jesus in the wilderness too. For forty days He ate nothing, and the devil came to tempt Him. Each time, Jesus answered with words from Scripture—and all three came from the book of Deuteronomy! Where Israel had often grumbled and given in, Jesus trusted His Father and won.

To be tempted means to feel pulled toward doing something wrong. Everyone is tempted, even grown-ups. But you don't have to face it alone. Jesus won, and He will help you. Like Jesus, you can fight back with God's Word.

Do It Together

At a meal this week, before anyone eats, have each person share a favorite Bible verse or promise. (It's fine to look one up together!) Then thank God for food for your bodies and His Word for your hearts.

Memory Verse

It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

For Grown-Ups

This week's stop is the wilderness, where Jesus was tempted. Help your child see that being tempted is not the same as sinning—Jesus was tempted and never sinned. Try learning the memory verse together. God's Word is what Jesus used against temptation, and it works for grown-ups too.

Talk About It

- 1 Israel got hungry in the wilderness, and God fed them manna. What does that show you about God?
- 2 Why do you think our hearts need God's Word even more than our bodies need food?
- 3 What is one Bible verse our family could learn by heart this week to help when we're tempted?

Pray Together

Dear God, thank You for food for our bodies and Your Word for our hearts. When we are tempted, help [name] and all of us remember Your Word and choose what is right, like Jesus did. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAY
1

Led into the Wild

 **Read:** Luke 4:1-2  **Go further:** Mark 1:12-13



“ Then Jesus left the Jordan, full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days to be tempted by the devil. **Luke 4:1-2**

Right after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness. For forty days He ate nothing, and the devil tempted Him there. Being tempted means feeling a pull to do something wrong. Being tempted is not a sin. Jesus was tempted, and He never sinned! Sin happens when we give in and do the wrong thing. Mark says wild animals were there too, and angels came to serve Jesus. Jesus was not alone in the wilderness. And when you are tempted, you are not alone either.

 **Your Turn!** What does it mean to be tempted? When are you most tempted to do something wrong?

★ REMEMBER

Being tempted is not a sin, and Jesus will help me say no.



Pray: Jesus, You know what it's like to be tempted. When I feel pulled toward something wrong, help me remember I'm not alone. Amen.

DAY
2

Bread from Stones?

 **Read:** Matthew 4:1-4  **Go further:** John 4:34



“ It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. **Matthew 4:4**

After forty days with no food, Jesus was very hungry. Then the devil came with a sneaky idea. If Jesus was really the Son of God, He should “tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus could have done it! But the devil wanted Jesus to stop trusting His Father and follow the devil’s plan instead. So Jesus answered with Scripture—this week’s memory verse! God’s Word mattered more to Jesus than His hungry stomach.

 **Your Turn!** Use the word bank to finish the story of Jesus’ first test.

Word bank: bread God’s Word stones forty

1. Jesus had not eaten for _____ days.
2. The devil told Jesus to turn _____ into bread.
3. Jesus answered with _____.
4. People need God’s Word even more than they need _____.

★ REMEMBER

I need God’s Word even more than I need bread.



Pray: God, sometimes I want things right now. Help me trust You and Your Word more than my stomach or my feelings. Amen.

DAY
3

Just Jump?

 **Read:** Matthew 4:5-7  Go further: Psalm 91:11-12



“ Jesus told him, “It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God.” **Matthew 4:7**

Next the devil took Jesus to the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem. He told Jesus to “throw yourself down.” Then the devil quoted Psalm 91, which says God’s angels will catch you so you won’t hurt your foot. The devil was using the Bible, but twisting what it means! God promises to care for His people. He doesn’t promise to rescue us from foolish stunts we do to test Him. Jesus answered with Scripture again: “Do not test the Lord your God.” Jesus trusted His Father. He didn’t need to show off.

 **Your Turn!** Read each sentence. Circle T if it is true or F if it is false.

The devil quoted the Bible, but he twisted what it meant.

☐ T ☐ F

Jesus jumped off the temple to prove He was God’s Son.

☐ T ☐ F

Jesus answered the devil with Scripture again.

☐ T ☐ F

Trusting God means obeying Him, not testing Him.

☐ T ☐ F

The devil always tells the truth.

☐ T ☐ F

★ REMEMBER

I don’t need to test God. I can trust Him!



Pray: Father, I don’t need to test You to know You love me. Help me trust You and use Your Word the right way. Amen.

DAY
4

All the Kingdoms

 **Read:** Matthew 4:8-11  Go further: Deuteronomy 6:13



“ Then Jesus told him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.” **Matthew 4:10**

The devil tried one last time. He took Jesus up a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. He promised to give Jesus all of it, if Jesus would just bow down and worship him. It was a shortcut—a way to be King without going to the cross. But Jesus would never worship anyone but God. So the devil left, and angels came and cared for Jesus.

 **Your Turn!** What shortcut are you sometimes tempted to take, like copying answers or skipping a chore? What would Jesus do instead?

★ REMEMBER

I will worship God alone, even when a shortcut looks easier.



Pray: God, You alone deserve my worship. When I’m tempted to take a shortcut, help me choose Your way, like Jesus did. Amen.



Family Huddle: Ask a grown-up: What shortcuts are grown-ups tempted to take? Why is God’s way better, even when it’s harder?

DAY
5

He Understands

 **Read:** Hebrews 4:14-16  Go further: Hebrews 2:18



“Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need. **Hebrews 4:16**”

When something is hard, it helps to talk with someone who has been there. Hebrews calls Jesus our great high priest. (A high priest went to God for the people.) Jesus understands our weak spots, because He was tempted in every way we are, “yet without sin.” So we can come boldly to God’s throne of grace, without being afraid. There we find mercy and “grace to help us in time of need.” Grace is God’s kindness that we could never earn. Jesus doesn’t just understand you. He helps you!

 **Your Turn!** Crack the code to find a truth to remember the next time you are tempted.

A=1	B=2	C=3	D=4	E=5	F=6	G=7	H=8	I=9	J=10	K=11	L=12	M=13
N=14	O=15	P=16	Q=17	R=18	S=19	T=20	U=21	V=22	W=23	X=24	Y=25	Z=26

10 5 19 21 19 8 5 12 16 19 13 5

★ REMEMBER

Jesus understands me, and He helps me when I’m tempted.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for understanding me. When I’m tempted, I will come to You for help instead of hiding. Amen.

DAY
6

Stand Firm

 **Read:** James 4:7-8  Go further: Ephesians 6:17

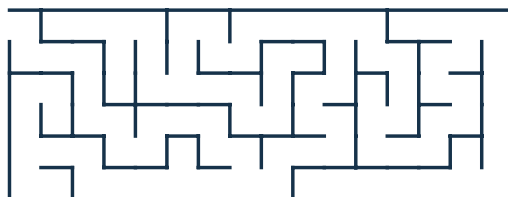


“Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. **James 4:7-8**”

James gives a plan for when temptation comes. First, submit to God. That means letting God be the boss of your life. Next, resist the devil. Say no, just like Jesus did, and “he will flee from you”—he’ll run away! Then draw near to God. Ephesians calls God’s Word the sword of the Spirit. Jesus used that sword three times in the wilderness. The more Bible verses you know by heart, the more ready you’ll be to stand firm.

 **Your Turn!** Find your way through the maze from Temptation to Stand firm. When you reach the end, say this week’s memory verse out loud—it’s your sword!

Temptation
→



→ Stand
firm

★ REMEMBER

With God’s help and God’s Word, I can stand firm.



Pray: God, I want to stay close to You. Help me learn Your Word by heart so I can say no to temptation and stand firm. Amen.

 **Family Huddle:** Talk with a grown-up: Which Bible verse could be your sword the next time you’re tempted? Practice saying it together!



WEEK 5 • TESTED

Sword Practice



Jesus fought temptation with God's Word, and you can too! The devil loves to whisper lies. Match each lie with the truth from God's Word that beats it. Then look up the verses and pick one to learn by heart this week.

Write the letter of the matching answer in the blank.

When I hear this lie...

_____ 1. Nobody loves me.

_____ 2. I'm too scared.

_____ 3. God can't forgive what I did.

_____ 4. I can't handle this.

_____ 5. A little lie is no big deal.

_____ 6. I have to get even.

_____ 7. I need to be popular.

...I answer with this truth!

A. God wants me to stop lying and speak the truth.
(Ephesians 4:25)

B. I live to please God, not to win people's approval.
(Galatians 1:10)

C. When I confess my sins, God is faithful to forgive me. (1 John 1:9)

D. I don't pay back wrong for wrong. I can leave it to God. (Romans 12:17-19)

E. Nothing in all creation can separate me from God's love in Jesus. (Romans 8:38-39)

F. Christ gives me strength for whatever comes my way. (Philippians 4:13)

G. God is with me wherever I go, so I can be strong and brave. (Joshua 1:9)



Come, Follow Me



★ Jesus calls ordinary people to leave everything and follow Him.

FAMILY TIME

Out into Deep Water

Read together: **Luke 5:1-11**

Our trail has brought us to the Sea of Galilee. It isn't really a sea. It's a big lake of fresh water with hills all around it. Fishing villages sat along its shore, and fishermen worked out on the water in their boats. Jesus spent a lot of time by this lake, and it's where He called His first followers.

One day a crowd pressed close to hear Jesus teach God's Word. So Jesus stepped into a fishing boat that belonged to a man named Simon, and He taught the people from the boat. When He finished, He told Simon to go out into deep water and let down his nets. Simon was tired. He and his partners had worked hard all night and caught nothing! But he said he would do it, "if you say so."

This time so many fish swam into the nets that the nets began to tear! Simon signaled his partners, James and John, to bring the other boat. Soon both boats were so full of fish that they began to sink. Simon fell at Jesus' knees and said he was a sinful man. But Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid." Then He said, "From now on you will be catching people." They brought the boats to shore, left everything, and followed Jesus.

Simon (also called Peter), James, and John weren't famous or important. They were ordinary fishermen. Jesus still calls ordinary people to follow Him, and that includes kids like you! Following Jesus means trusting Him and doing what He says, even when you're tired or it doesn't make sense yet. And catching people means helping others come to know Jesus too.

Do It Together

Play follow-the-leader around your home or yard. Take turns being the leader, with hops, spins, and silly walks. Then talk about it: What made it easy or hard to follow? Why is Jesus the best Leader of all?

Memory Verse

"Follow me," he told them, "and I will make you fish for people."

Matthew 4:19

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

For Grown-Ups

This week your child meets Jesus' first followers: fishermen, a tax collector, and other ordinary people. Jesus still calls ordinary people, including children. If you follow Jesus, tell your child how that began for you and who helped you. Kids love hearing that story, and it shows them that following Jesus is something real people do.

Talk About It

- 1 Simon had fished all night and caught nothing. Why do you think he still did what Jesus said?
- 2 When is it hard for you to do what Jesus says? What could help?
- 3 Grown-ups, if someone helped you get to know Jesus, tell about them. Kids, who could you help get to know Him?

Pray Together

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling ordinary people to follow You. Help [name] and our whole family trust You and do what You say. Use us to help others know You too. Amen.



Fishing for People



Read: Mark 1:16-20 **Go further:** Matthew 4:18-22

“Follow me,” Jesus told them, “and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. **Mark 1:17-18**

Watch for one important word in today’s reading: immediately, which means right away. Jesus saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, casting a net into the lake. “Follow me,” He told them, “and I will make you fish for people.” That means helping others come to Jesus. Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. Next, Jesus called two more brothers, James and John. They left their father in the boat and followed Jesus too! Nobody asked to wait until tomorrow. When Jesus calls, the best time to follow is right now.

Your Turn! The four fishermen put down their nets to follow Jesus. What is something Jesus might want you to put down so you can follow Him better? (Maybe staying mad at someone, a bad habit, or a fear.)

★ **REMEMBER**
When Jesus calls, I will follow Him right away.

Pray: Jesus, I want to follow You. Help me put down anything that gets in the way, and help me follow You right away. Amen.



Come and See



Read: John 1:43-51 **Go further:** John 1:40-42

“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Nathanael asked him. “Come and see,” Philip answered. **John 1:46**

When you find a creek full of tadpoles, you can’t wait to show a friend! In today’s reading, Jesus found Philip and said, “Follow me.” Then Philip found his friend Nathanael. He told him they had found the One the Bible promised. Nathanael wasn’t so sure. “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” he asked. Philip didn’t argue. He just said, “Come and see.” When Nathanael met Jesus, he believed Jesus is the Son of God! You don’t need all the answers to invite a friend. Just help them come and see.

Your Turn! Philip told his friend, “Come and see.” Write the names of three people you could invite to church or tell about Jesus. Pray for each one by name this week.

1.

2.

3.

★ **REMEMBER**
I can invite my friends to come and see Jesus.

Pray: Jesus, thank You for finding me! Please give me courage to invite my friends to come and see how good You are. Amen.

DAY
3

Even a Tax Collector

 **Read:** Luke 5:27-32  **Go further:** 1 Timothy 1:15



“ I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. **Luke 5:32**

Nobody in town liked Levi, a tax collector. Tax collectors gathered money for the rulers, and many cheated by taking extra. But one day Jesus saw Levi and said, “Follow me.” Levi left everything and followed! Then he threw a big dinner for Jesus and invited lots of tax collectors. Some religious leaders grumbled that Jesus ate with sinners. Jesus answered that doctors are for sick people, not healthy ones. In the same way, He came to call sinners back to God.

 **Your Turn!** Why were people surprised that Jesus chose Levi? What does that tell you about Jesus?

★ REMEMBER

Jesus came to save sinners, and nobody is too far from Him.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for coming to save sinners like me. Help me be kind to people others leave out, because You love them too. Amen.



Family Huddle: Ask a grown-up: Why do you think Jesus ate with people others stayed away from? Who might feel left out around us?

DAY
4

The Twelve

 **Read:** Mark 3:13-19  **Go further:** Luke 6:12-16



“ He appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, to send them out to preach... **Mark 3:14**

Before Jesus chose His closest followers, He spent the whole night praying. When morning came, He called the ones He wanted, and they came to Him. He chose twelve and named them apostles. An apostle is someone who is sent out. Mark tells us why Jesus chose them: to be with Him, and to send them out to preach. Did you notice their very first job? It was simply to be with Jesus! Before they could tell others about Him, they needed to know Him well. The same is true for you.

 **Your Turn!** Unscramble the names of six of Jesus' twelve apostles. Use the hints if you get stuck!

T R E E P _____

Jesus gave Simon this name

E M S A J _____

Fished with his brother John

I I H L P P _____

Told Nathanael, “Come and see”

R E D N A W _____

Brought his brother Simon to Jesus

J N H O _____

A Son of Thunder, like James

A O T M S H _____

His nickname was Twin

★ REMEMBER

Jesus wants me to be with Him every day.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for wanting me close to You. Help me spend time with You every day, and then go tell others about You. Amen.

DAY
5

Friends of Jesus

 **Read:** John 15:12-15  **Go further:** Proverbs 18:24



“No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends. **John 15:13**”

A servant does what he's told, but nobody explains the plans to him. The night before He died, Jesus told His followers they were more than servants. “I have called you friends,” He said. He had shared with them everything He heard from His Father. Jesus also said the greatest love of all is to lay down your life for your friends. The very next day, He did exactly that on the cross! If you have trusted Jesus, you are His friend too. And He is a Friend who sticks closer than a brother.

 **Your Turn!** On the left, write three things that make someone a good friend. On the right, write how Jesus is that kind of Friend to you.

What makes a good friend	How Jesus is my friend

★ REMEMBER

Jesus calls me His friend, and He gave His life for me.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for being my Friend and for giving Your life for me. Help me listen to You and love others the way You love me. Amen.

DAY
6

Nothing Held Back

 **Read:** Mark 10:17-27  **Go further:** Matthew 13:44



“Looking at them, Jesus said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God, because all things are possible with God.” **Mark 10:27**”

A rich man knelt before Jesus and asked how to have eternal life. He said he had kept God's commandments since he was young. Jesus looked at him and loved him. Then Jesus told him to sell what he had, give to the poor, and follow Him. The man went away sad, because his stuff mattered more to him than Jesus. Nobody can earn heaven. Only God can save us! But Jesus wants first place in our hearts.

 **Your Turn!** The rich man could not put his things second. What is hardest for you to put second to Jesus? Write it here, then ask Jesus to help you love Him most.

★ REMEMBER

I want to love Jesus more than anything.



Pray: Jesus, You are worth more than anything I have. Please take first place in my heart, and help me love You most of all. Amen.



Family Huddle: Talk it over with a grown-up: What things can crowd Jesus out of first place? How can we keep Him first as a family?



Meet the Twelve



Jesus chose twelve ordinary men to be His apostles. Some were fishermen, and one was a tax collector. The Bible tells us a lot about some of them and very little about others. Look up the verses on each card. Then circle the apostle you would most like to talk with, and tell a grown-up why!

Peter Mark 3:16; Matthew 14:29

A fisherman named Simon. Jesus gave him a new name, Peter. Once, Peter walked on the water toward Jesus!

Andrew John 1:40-42; John 6:8-9

Peter's brother, and a fisherman too. He brought Simon to meet Jesus. Later, he noticed a boy with five loaves and two fish.

James, Son of Zebedee

Mark 3:17; Matthew 17:1-2

A fisherman. Jesus called him and his brother John "Sons of Thunder." On a mountain, James saw Jesus' face shine like the sun.

John Mark 1:19-20; Acts 4:13

James's brother, and another fisherman. Later, leaders were amazed at how bold John and Peter were. They could tell these ordinary men had been with Jesus!

Philip John 1:43-46

From Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter. Jesus told him, "Follow me." Then Philip told his friend Nathanael, "Come and see."

Bartholomew

Mark 3:18; John 1:45-49

The Bible tells us very little about him, but Jesus chose him! Many Bible teachers think he is Nathanael, the man Jesus saw under the fig tree.

Thomas John 20:24-28

His nickname was Twin. He would not believe Jesus was alive again until he saw Him. Then Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!"

Matthew (Levi)

Matthew 9:9; Luke 5:27-28

A tax collector. When Jesus said, "Follow me," he got up and followed Him. Mark and Luke tell the same story and call him Levi.

James, Son of Alphaeus

Mark 3:18; Acts 1:13-14

We know his father's name, Alphaeus, and not much else. But Jesus chose him! After Jesus went back to heaven, he prayed with the others.

Thaddaeus Luke 6:16; John 14:22

In Luke's list of apostles, he seems to be called Judas son of James. He is not the Judas who betrayed Jesus! He asked Jesus a question the night before Jesus died.

Simon the Zealot

Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13

Jesus chose two men named Simon! One was Peter, and this one was called the Zealot. His name is in every list of the apostles.

Judas Iscariot

John 12:6; Matthew 26:15; Acts 1:26

He kept the group's money bag, but he stole from it. He betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Later, Matthias was chosen to take his place.



Words to Build On



✦ Jesus is the greatest Teacher, and wise people build their lives on His words.

FAMILY TIME

Built on the Rock

Read together: **Matthew 7:24-29**

Our trail climbs a mountainside in Galilee today. When Jesus saw the crowds following Him, He went up on the mountain and sat down to teach. His disciples came close, and the crowds listened too. What He taught that day is called the Sermon on the Mount. You can read all of it in Matthew 5, 6, and 7.

Jesus ended His sermon with a story about two builders. A wise man built his house on rock. Then a big storm came. Rain poured down, floodwater rushed in, and wind beat against the house. But it stood strong, because it was built on the rock. A foolish man built his house on sand. When the same kind of storm hit his house, it fell down with a huge crash!

Jesus explained His story. The wise builder is like a person who hears Jesus' words and does what He says. The foolish builder hears the same words but doesn't do them. Did you notice that both houses got hit by a storm? Hard times come to everyone. But a life built on Jesus and His words will stand firm.

When Jesus finished, the crowds were amazed. He didn't teach like their usual teachers. He taught with authority, because He is God's own Son. This week you will read some of His most important words. As you do, don't just hear them. Ask God to help you do them. That's how you build on the rock!

Do It Together

Build two small towers from blocks, cups, or books—one on a table and one on a soft pillow. Give each one a gentle bump. Which one stands? Talk about how doing what Jesus says keeps our lives steady.

Memory Verse

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Matthew 6:33

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

For Grown-Ups

This week's readings come from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Some of it is hard, like loving enemies and not worrying. Let your child know you are still learning too. Remind them that we don't obey Jesus to earn God's love. We obey because He already loves us, and He helps us.

Talk About It

- 1 Both houses faced a storm. What kinds of hard times can come to kids and families?
- 2 What is the difference between hearing Jesus' words and doing them? Can you think of an example?
- 3 Grown-ups, share one of Jesus' teachings that means a lot to you. Kids, which of His words do you want to build on?

Pray Together

Dear God, thank You for the words of Jesus. Help [name] and our whole family listen to Him and do what He says, so our lives are built on the rock. In Jesus' name, amen.



Blessed!

Read: Matthew 5:1-12 **Go further:** Luke 6:20-23



“Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth. **Matthew 5:5**

Who would be on your list of the happiest people in the world? Maybe people who are rich, famous, or great at sports. Jesus' list was very different! To be blessed means to have God's kindness and joy in your life. Jesus said God blesses the humble and the merciful. He said sad people will be comforted, and the pure in heart will see God. Peacemakers, who help others stop fighting, will be called God's children. You don't need to be rich or popular to be blessed. God blesses humble hearts that need Him.

Your Turn! Circle the kinds of people Jesus called blessed. Four of these are in today's reading, and four are not!

Bossy people

The most popular

Peacemakers

The humble

Show-offs

The merciful

The pure in heart

The richest

★ REMEMBER

Jesus says humble hearts are truly blessed.



Pray: Jesus, please give me a humble heart. Help me show mercy, keep my heart pure, and be a peacemaker at home and at school. Amen.



Salt and Light

Read: Matthew 5:13-16 **Go further:** Ephesians 5:8



“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:16**

Pass the salt, please! Salt makes food taste better. Long ago, before refrigerators, people also used salt to keep meat and fish from spoiling. Jesus told His followers, “You are the salt of the earth.” When we follow Jesus, we help make the world better. Then He said, “You are the light of the world.” Nobody lights a lamp and then hides it under a basket! You shine when you help, share, and tell the truth. And the goal isn't for people to praise you. It's for them to see God and praise Him!

Your Turn! Draw a lamp shining brightly. On the rays of light, write ways you can shine for God this week.

draw here

★ REMEMBER

I will let my light shine so people praise God.



Pray: Jesus, You are the Light of the world. Help me shine for You at home and at school, so people will see You and praise God. Amen.



Love Your Enemies

Read: Matthew 5:43-48 **Go further:** Romans 12:20-21



“ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:44-45** ”

The sun shines on every garden in town, even the grumpiest neighbor's. God sends rain on all of them too. Jesus said God is kind like that, even to people who don't love Him. Loving your enemies means choosing kindness instead of getting even. It doesn't mean letting someone keep hurting you. Always tell a grown-up about that! But God can help you love like He does.

Your Turn! Think of someone who is hard to love. Write their initials. Then write one kind thing you could do for them, and pray for them by name.

★ REMEMBER

With God's help, I can love people who are unkind to me.



Pray: Father, it's hard to love people who are mean to me. Please help me pray for them and be kind, just like You are kind to everyone. Amen.



Family Huddle: Ask a grown-up: When has it been hard for you to love someone? What should I do if someone keeps being mean to me?



Ask, Seek, Knock

Read: Matthew 7:7-12 **Go further:** James 1:17



“ Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. **Matthew 7:7** ”

Imagine asking for a sandwich and getting a rock on your plate! Jesus said no one would give their child a stone instead of bread, or a snake instead of a fish. And if people who sin know how to give good gifts, our Father in heaven gives even better ones! So keep asking, seeking, and knocking. Bring every need to God. Sometimes His answer is different from what we asked, because He knows what is truly good. Then Jesus said to treat others the way you want them to treat you.

Your Turn! Jesus said to treat others the way you want to be treated. Fill in the chart. For example: I would like people to include me, so I will invite someone to play.

I would like people to...	So I will...

★ REMEMBER

I will treat others the way I want to be treated.



Pray: Father, thank You for all Your good gifts. Help me keep bringing my needs to You, and help me treat others the way I want to be treated. Amen.

DAY
5

Don't Worry

 **Read:** Matthew 6:25-34  **Go further:** 1 Peter 5:7



“ Consider the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they? **Matthew 6:26** ”

The next time a robin hops across your yard, watch it closely. It isn't worried! Birds don't plant gardens or fill barns, yet God feeds them. Jesus said you are worth much more than the birds. Look at the wildflowers too. They don't sew clothes, but God dresses them more beautifully than King Solomon's royal robes. Worrying can't add one minute to your life. So Jesus says to seek God's kingdom first. That's our memory verse! Your Father knows what you need, and you can hand Him every worry.

 **Your Turn!** Draw birds flying over a field of wildflowers. In the sky, write a worry you are handing to God. Then thank Him for taking care of you.

draw here

★ REMEMBER

God feeds the birds, and He cares for me even more!



Pray: Father, thank You for feeding the birds and dressing the flowers. I give You my worries right now. Help me trust You and seek You first. Amen.

DAY
6

Two Roads

 **Read:** Matthew 7:13-14  **Go further:** John 10:9

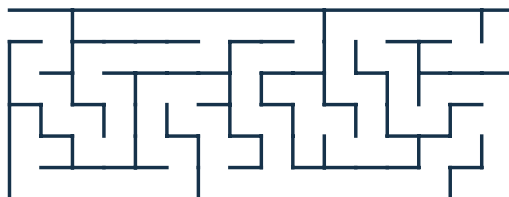


“ How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it. **Matthew 7:14** ”

Hikers in the mountains sometimes come to a fork in the trail. They have to choose which way to go. Jesus talked about two gates and two roads. One gate is wide, and its road is broad. Lots of people take it, but it ends in ruin, far from God. The narrow gate leads to life! Later Jesus said, “I am the gate.” Anyone who comes in through Him will be saved. Following Jesus isn't always the easy way, but it is the best way.

 **Your Turn!** Start at Two roads and find the path to Life with Jesus. As you trace it, remember that Jesus is the gate that leads to life.

Two roads
→



→ Life with
Jesus

★ REMEMBER

Jesus is the gate, and following Him leads to life.



Pray: Jesus, You are the gate that leads to life. Help me follow You, even when it's the harder road and the crowd goes another way. Amen.



Family Huddle: Talk it over with a grown-up: When might following Jesus mean doing something different from the crowd?



Blessed Are...



Jesus began His Sermon on the Mount with sayings called the Beatitudes. Each one starts with the word blessed. Match each group of people Jesus called blessed with the promise He made to them. These are Jesus' words from Matthew 5:3-9. When you finish, read Matthew 5:10-12 to find more!

Write the letter of the matching answer in the blank.

Blessed are...

...for

_____ **1.** the poor in spirit

A. they will be filled.

_____ **2.** those who mourn

B. they will be called sons of God.

_____ **3.** the humble

C. they will be comforted.

_____ **4.** those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

D. the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

_____ **5.** the merciful

E. they will be shown mercy.

_____ **6.** the pure in heart

F. they will see God.

_____ **7.** the peacemakers

G. they will inherit the earth.



Even the Wind Obeys



★ Jesus' miracles show He is God, with power over everything He made.

FAMILY TIME

Asleep in the Storm

Read together: **Mark 4:35-41**

This week our trail stop is a little different. It isn't a town or a hill. It's a fishing boat out on the Sea of Galilee! One day Jesus taught the crowds while sitting in a boat by the shore. That evening, He and His disciples set out in that boat to cross the lake. Other boats went along too.

Suddenly a great windstorm roared across the water. Waves crashed over the sides, and the boat began filling up with water. But where was Jesus? He was sound asleep in the back of the boat, with His head on a cushion! The frightened disciples woke Him and asked, "Don't you care that we're going to die?"

Jesus got up. He spoke sharply to the wind and said to the sea, "Silence! Be still!" At once the wind stopped, and the water became completely calm. Jesus asked His disciples why they were so afraid. Now they were terrified in a whole new way. They asked one another, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

That's a great question! Only God rules the wind and the waves, because He made them. This week you'll see Jesus turn water into wine, feed a huge crowd, and walk on the sea. Every one of these miracles points to the same answer: Jesus is God the Son, and nothing is too hard for Him.

Do It Together

Fill a big bowl or the sink with water. Take turns making big waves with your hands, then stop and watch the water settle. Jesus stopped a whole storm with just His words! Say the memory verse together while the water grows calm.

Memory Verse

And they were terrified and asked one another, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

Mark 4:41

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
☐ I said it without peeking!

For Grown-Ups

Miracle stories can raise big questions, like why God doesn't stop every storm. It's fine to tell your child you don't know every answer. The Gospel writers tell these stories to show us who Jesus is. So keep coming back to the disciples' question this week: Who then is this?

Talk About It

- 1 Why do you think Jesus could sleep in the middle of the storm?
- 2 The disciples wondered who Jesus could be. How would you answer their question?
- 3 What feels like a storm in your life right now? Let's pray about it together.

Pray Together

Lord Jesus, You are stronger than any storm. When [name] feels afraid, help [name] remember that You are near and You are in charge. Thank You for being with our family. Amen.

DAY
1

The First Sign

 **Read:** John 2:1-11  **Go further:** John 2:23



“ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. **John 2:11** ”

Here is some great advice from Jesus' mother: "Do whatever he tells you." She said it at a wedding in Cana. The party had run out of wine, which was embarrassing for the family. Jesus told the servants to fill six huge stone jars with water. Each jar held twenty or thirty gallons! Then He told them to take some to the man in charge of the feast. The water had become wine—the best wine of all! This first sign showed Jesus' glory, how great He really is, and His disciples believed in Him.

 **Your Turn!** Jesus' very first miracle happened at a wedding party. Why do you think He chose to help there? What does it show you about Him?

★ REMEMBER

I will do whatever Jesus tells me.



Pray: Jesus, You turned water into wine and showed Your glory. I believe in You! Help me do whatever You tell me. Amen.

DAY
2

A Boy's Lunch

 **Read:** John 6:1-14  **Go further:** Philippians 4:19



“ Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks he distributed them to those who were seated—so also with the fish, as much as they wanted. **John 6:11** ”

Jesus once gave Philip a surprise test. A huge crowd had followed them, and Jesus asked where they could buy bread for everyone. (Jesus already knew what He would do!) Philip said even lots of money wouldn't buy enough. Then Andrew pointed out a boy with five barley loaves and two fish. "But what are they for so many?" he asked. Jesus had everyone sit on the grass. He gave thanks and handed out the food. Everyone ate all they wanted! One boy's lunch fed thousands. In Jesus' hands, a little becomes a lot.

 **Your Turn!** Use the numbers in the bank to fill in the blanks from today's story.

Word bank: 12 2 5,000 5

1. The boy had _____ barley loaves.
2. He also had _____ fish.
3. About _____ men ate until they were full.
4. The leftovers filled _____ baskets!

★ REMEMBER

In Jesus' hands, a little becomes a lot!



Pray: Jesus, thank You for feeding the hungry crowd. Here is what I have. Please use my small gifts to do big things for You. Amen.



“ Immediately Jesus spoke to them. “Have courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”
Matthew 14:27

The disciples were out on a windy lake. Then they saw Jesus walking toward them on the water! Peter asked Jesus to call him out onto the water. “Come,” said Jesus. And Peter walked on the water! But when he looked at the strong wind, he got scared and began to sink. “Lord, save me!” he cried. Right away, Jesus caught him. When you’re scared, keep your eyes on Jesus. He is strong enough to hold you up.

✎ Your Turn! Draw Peter walking on the water toward Jesus. Across the waves, write: Keep your eyes on Jesus!

draw here

★ REMEMBER

When I'm afraid, I will keep my eyes on Jesus.



Pray: Jesus, when I feel scared, help me keep my eyes on You and not on the waves. Thank You for hearing me when I call to You. Amen.



Family Huddle: Ask a grown-up who follows Jesus: What helps you keep your eyes on Him when life feels scary?



“...go to the sea, cast in a fishhook, and take the first fish that you catch. When you open its mouth you'll find a coin. **Matthew 17:27**

Today's reading tells about the strangest fishing trip ever. Some men had asked Peter if Jesus paid the temple tax, money that helped take care of God's house. Jesus explained that a king's own sons don't pay taxes to their father. Jesus is God's Son, so He didn't really owe it! But He didn't want to upset anyone. So He told Peter to throw in a fishhook. The first fish he caught would have a coin in its mouth, enough for both of them. Jesus knows every fish in the sea!

Your Turn! Use the number code to find out what this fish story shows about Jesus. (A = 1, B = 2, C = 3...)

A=1
N=14

B=2
O=15

C=3
P=16

D=4
Q=17

E=5
R=18

F=6
S=19

$G=7$
 $T=20$

H=8
U=21

$$I=9$$
$$V=22$$

J=10
W=23

$K=11$
 $X=24$

L=12
Y=25

M=13
Z=26

10 5 19 21 19

9 19

12 15 18 4

15 6

1 12 12

★ REMEMBER

Jesus is Lord of all, even the fish in the sea!



Pray: Jesus, You rule over everything, even the fish in the sea. Help me do what is right and be kind, even when I don't have to. Amen.

DAY
5

So You Can Believe

Read: John 20:30-31 **Go further:** John 10:37-38



“ But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. **John 20:31** ”

A trail sign isn't the place you're hiking to. It points the way! John called Jesus' miracles signs, because they point to who Jesus is. Near the end of his book, John explained why he wrote it. Jesus did many other signs that John didn't write down. But John wrote these “so that you may believe” that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Messiah means the King God promised to send. And when you believe in Jesus, you have life in His name—life that lasts forever!

Your Turn! Circle T if the sentence is true. Circle F if it is false.

Jesus did many more miracles than the Bible tells about.

T F

Jesus' miracles were just magic tricks.

T F

Jesus' miracles show that He is God's Son.

T F

You have to see a miracle before you can believe.

T F

Believing in Jesus gives us life in His name.

T F

★ REMEMBER

Jesus is the Son of God, and believing in Him gives me life!



Pray: Jesus, I believe You are the Messiah, the Son of God. Thank You for giving me life in Your name. Help my faith grow stronger every day. Amen.

DAY
6

With You in the Storm

Read: Psalm 107:23-31 **Go further:** Isaiah 43:1-2



“ He stilled the storm to a whisper, and the waves of the sea were hushed. **Psalm 107:29** ”

Long before Jesus was born, a songwriter wrote about sailors in a terrible storm. Waves tossed their ship up to the sky and down again. They lost their courage, and all their skill couldn't help. So they cried out to the Lord, and He made the storm as quiet as a whisper. Jesus did the same thing on the Sea of Galilee! Not every storm in life is made of wind and rain. Some are sad or scary times. Jesus may not stop every storm, but He will always be with you in it.

Your Turn! What feels like a storm in your life? Write it on the left. On the right, write what Jesus can do, like give you courage or be with you.

A storm in my life	What Jesus can do

★ REMEMBER

Jesus is with me in every storm.



Pray: Lord Jesus, You are stronger than any storm. When I feel scared or sad, help me call out to You. Thank You for always being with me. Amen.



Family Huddle: Talk it over with a grown-up: What is a hard time our family has gone through? Where did we see God's help?



Miracle Detective



Good detectives study clues. Jesus' miracles are clues to the biggest question of all: Who is Jesus? Look up each miracle. Write what happened in a few words. Then write what it shows about Jesus. You have already read most of these stories, so you are ready to crack the case!

- Read the verses slowly, like a detective looking for clues.
- Write just a few words in each box.
- Ask: What did Jesus do? Who did He help?
- Then ask: What does this show about who Jesus is?

Look it up	What happened?	What does it show about Jesus?
John 2:1-11		
Mark 4:35-41		
John 6:1-14		
Matthew 14:22-33		
Luke 5:4-7		
Matthew 17:24-27		



Jesus Heals



✦ Jesus has power over sickness, sadness, and even death, and He cares about hurting people.

FAMILY TIME

He Wouldn't Stay Quiet

Read together: **Mark 10:46-52**

Our trail follows the dusty village roads where Jesus walked from town to town. Everywhere He went, sick and hurting people came to Him for help. One day, as Jesus was leaving the city of Jericho, a big crowd was walking along with Him.

A blind man named Bartimaeus was sitting beside the road, begging. When he heard that Jesus was passing by, he started shouting, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many people told him to hush. But he shouted even louder! Son of David was a name for the King God had promised. Bartimaeus believed Jesus was that King.

Jesus stopped. "Call him," He said. So people told Bartimaeus, "Have courage! Get up; he's calling for you." He threw off his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus. Jesus asked what he wanted Him to do. "I want to see," the man said. Jesus told him, "Go, your faith has saved you." Immediately he could see!

What did Bartimaeus do next? He followed Jesus down the road! That's what this week's memory verse says. Jesus healed many people, and He still cares about everyone who hurts. He doesn't always take away every sickness right now. But when we call out to Him, He always hears us. And one day He will make everything new.

Do It Together

Take turns closing your eyes while someone guides you safely across the room using only their voice. Then switch. Talk about it: How did it feel to trust your guide? How did Bartimaeus show that he trusted Jesus?

Memory Verse

Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has saved you." Immediately he could see and began to follow Jesus on the road.

Mark 10:52

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

For Grown-Ups

This week's stories may lead your child to ask why Jesus doesn't heal everyone we pray for. Be honest and gentle. God can heal, and sometimes He does. But not every sickness goes away in this life. Jesus' healings show His power and His kind heart, and they point to the day He will make everything new.

Talk About It

- 1 People told Bartimaeus to be quiet. Why do you think he kept calling out to Jesus?
- 2 If Jesus asked what you wanted Him to do for you, what would you say?
- 3 After he could see, Bartimaeus followed Jesus. How can our family follow Jesus this week?

Pray Together

Lord Jesus, thank You for caring about people who are hurting. When [name] needs help, teach [name] to call out to You. Help us follow You on the road, like Bartimaeus did. Amen.



Through the Roof



Read: Mark 2:1-12 Go further: Psalm 103:2-3

“Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’” **Mark 2:5**

Scrape! Thump! Dirt began falling from the ceiling. The house where Jesus was teaching was packed. So four men carried their friend, who couldn't walk, up onto the flat roof. They dug a hole and lowered him on his mat right down to Jesus! Jesus saw their faith and told the man his sins were forgiven. Some teachers of God's law thought only God can forgive sins. They were right, and Jesus is God! To prove it, Jesus told the man to get up, take his mat, and go home. And he did!

Your Turn! Four friends carried their friend to Jesus. Who can you carry to Jesus by praying for them? Write their names and what they need.

★ REMEMBER

Jesus has power to heal and power to forgive sins.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for forgiving my sins. Today I bring my friends to You in prayer. Please help them and show them how much You love them. Amen.



Just One Touch



Read: Mark 5:25-34 Go further: Psalm 34:18

“‘Daughter,’ he said to her, ‘your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be healed from your affliction.’” **Mark 5:34**

In a big crowd, it's easy to feel invisible. A woman in today's story had been sick for twelve years. She had spent all her money on doctors, but she only got worse. She believed that just touching Jesus' clothes would make her well. So she slipped up behind Him and touched His clothes. Instantly she was healed! Jesus stopped and asked who had touched Him. Trembling, she told Him everything. Jesus called her “Daughter” and told her to go in peace. In that huge crowd, Jesus noticed one hurting woman. He notices you too.

Your Turn! Who might feel invisible at school, at church, or in your neighborhood? Write their initials and one way you can notice them this week.

★ REMEMBER

Jesus notices me, even in a crowd.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for noticing me. Open my eyes to see people who feel left out or invisible, and help me show them Your love. Amen.

DAY
3

Only Believe

 **Read:** Mark 5:35-43  **Go further:** Mark 5:21-24



“When Jesus overheard what was said, he told the synagogue leader, “Don’t be afraid. Only believe.” **Mark 5:36**

Jairus was in a hurry. His twelve-year-old daughter was dying, and he had begged Jesus to come. But before they got there, messengers brought terrible news: she had died. Jesus told Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Only believe.” At the house, people were crying loudly. When Jesus said she was only asleep, they laughed at Him. Jesus went to the girl’s room and took her hand. “Little girl, I say to you, get up,” He said. Right away she got up and walked! To Jesus, even death is like sleep. Death has to obey Him!

 **Your Turn!** Number these parts of the story in the order they happened.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ People laughed at Jesus | ☐ Jairus begged Jesus to come |
| ☐ Messengers said the girl had died | ☐ She got up and walked! |
| ☐ Jesus said, “Don’t be afraid. Only believe.” | ☐ Jesus took the girl by the hand |

★ **REMEMBER**
Even death has to obey Jesus!

 **Pray:** Jesus, You are stronger than anything, even death. When I feel afraid, help me remember to trust You and only believe. Amen.

 **Family Huddle:** Ask a grown-up: Why can people who trust Jesus have hope, even when someone they love dies?

DAY
4

Jesus Cried

 **Read:** John 11:32-37  **Go further:** John 11:1-6



“Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” **John 11:35-36**

It’s okay to cry. Even Jesus did! Jesus loved His friends Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus. When Lazarus got very sick and died, his sisters were heartbroken. Mary fell at Jesus’ feet, crying. She told Him that if He had been there, her brother wouldn’t have died. When Jesus saw everyone crying, He was deeply troubled. Then “Jesus wept.” He knew He was about to do something amazing, but He still cried with His friends. Jesus cares when you are sad. You can always tell Him how you feel.

 **Your Turn!** Write about a time you felt sad, or a sad feeling you have right now. Remember, Jesus understands and cares. You can share this with a grown-up too.

★ **REMEMBER**
Jesus cares when I am sad.

 **Pray:** Jesus, thank You for crying with Your friends. When I am sad, help me remember that You understand and You care about me. Amen.

DAY
5

Lazarus, Come Out!

Read: John 11:38-44 Go further: John 11:25-26



“After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” **John 11:43**

Everyone stared at the big stone. Behind it was a cave where Lazarus had been buried four days earlier. “Remove the stone,” Jesus said. Martha worried, because her brother had been dead so long. But Jesus reminded her that if she believed, she would see God’s glory. So they moved the stone away. Jesus thanked His Father for hearing Him. Then He shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” And Lazarus came out of the tomb, still wrapped in strips of cloth! Jesus is stronger than death. Everyone who trusts Him will live with Him forever.

Your Turn!

Unscramble these words from the story of Lazarus. Use the hints if you need them!

A L U A S R Z

Came out of the tomb

A Y R M

Fell at Jesus’ feet, crying

T E N S O

Jesus said to move it

M A H R A T

Worried about moving the stone

T M O B

A cave where Lazarus was buried

V E I A L

Not dead anymore!

★ REMEMBER

Jesus is stronger than death, and I will live with Him forever.



Pray: Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life.

Thank You that everyone who trusts You will live with You forever. I believe in You! Amen.

DAY
6

One Came Back

Read: Luke 17:11-19 Go further: Psalm 103:1-5



“But one of them, seeing that he was healed, returned and, with a loud voice, gave glory to God. **Luke 17:15**

Ten sick men were healed. How many said thank you? They all had leprosy, a skin disease that made them live apart from everyone else. Jesus told them to go show themselves to the priests, who checked if sick people were well. On the way, all ten were healed! But only one came back, and he fell at Jesus’ feet to thank Him. Jesus asked, “Where are the nine?” Jesus has done so much for you too. Don’t forget to thank Him!

Your Turn!

Jesus has done so much for you! List five things you want to thank Him for. Then thank Him out loud for each one.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | |

★ REMEMBER

I will remember to thank Jesus for all He has done.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for all You have done for me,

especially for saving me. Help me never forget to say thank You. Amen.



Family Huddle: Talk it over with a grown-up: What are some ways our family can say thank you to God this week?



WEEK 9 • JESUS HEALS

Healing Stories



Find these words from this week's healing stories. They go across, down, and on a slant. As you find each one, remember what Jesus did. (Hint: Bethany was the village where Lazarus lived with his sisters.)

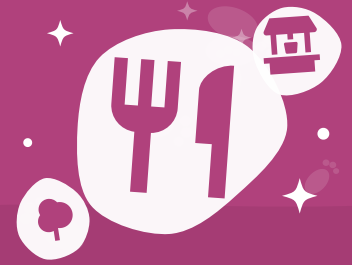
L E P R O S Y S W R R G
G I S E T C U U S Y I T
D I L E T O H L I A N S
E A O K E N U R O M B D
R F A I T H B C O G L S
B F R I E N D S H O O T
E J A I R U S W T V F A
T L A B L I N D E O O R
H E I D U E J I N J H P
A N L A Z A R U S D T F
N T H A N K S H E A L L
Y P E F O L L O W M E E

- ☐ BETHANY
- ☐ BLIND
- ☐ FAITH
- ☐ FOLLOW
- ☐ FRIENDS
- ☐ HEAL
- ☐ JAIRUS
- ☐ LAZARUS
- ☐ LEPROSY
- ☐ ROOF
- ☐ THANKS
- ☐ TOUCH

Pick one of the words and draw what it means to you.



Friend of Sinners



✦ Jesus welcomed people others avoided, because He came to rescue the lost.

FAMILY TIME

Up a Sycamore Tree

Read together: **Luke 19:1-10**

Pull up a chair! This week our trail stops at a table. Some of the most important moments in Jesus' life happened while He was sharing a meal. He ate with religious leaders, with His friends, and with people nobody else wanted to be around. Our first story takes place in the city of Jericho.

A man named Zacchaeus lived there. He was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. Many tax collectors cheated people, so almost nobody liked him. When Jesus came to town, Zacchaeus wanted to see Him. But the crowd was big, and Zacchaeus was short! So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree.

When Jesus reached that spot, He looked up and called Zacchaeus by name. He told him to hurry down, because He needed to stay at his house that day! Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Jesus with joy. But the people grumbled that Jesus was going to stay with a sinner.

Meeting Jesus changed Zacchaeus. He promised to give half of what he owned to the poor. He promised to pay back four times as much to anyone he had cheated. Jesus said that salvation had come to his house that day. Then Jesus explained why He came: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost." That's our memory verse! Jesus goes looking for lost people, and He welcomes them home.

🏠 Do It Together

Plan a welcome together. Choose someone who might feel left out, like a neighbor, a new family at church, or a kid at school. Make a card, share a treat, or invite them to sit with you. Then pray for them by name.

📖 Memory Verse

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.

Luke 19:10

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

🍷 For Grown-Ups

This week shows Jesus welcoming people others avoided. Kids notice who sits alone and who gets left out. Talk together about how your family can make room for others, like sitting with a new kid at school or welcoming a new family at church. Jesus' welcome is meant to be shared.

🗨️ Talk About It

- 1 Why do you think Jesus chose to visit Zacchaeus, when everyone else stayed away from him?
- 2 How did Zacchaeus change after meeting Jesus? What does that show about Jesus' love?
- 3 Who is someone people tend to leave out? How could our family welcome them?

🙏 Pray Together

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to seek and save the lost, including us. Give [name] and our whole family hearts that welcome the people others leave out. Amen.



A Visitor at Night



Read: John 3:9-17 **Go further:** Numbers 21:8-9

“For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:16**”

Some of the most famous words in the Bible were first spoken to one man at night. Nicodemus was an important teacher. Jesus reminded him of an old story. When snakes bit God’s people in the wilderness, Moses put a bronze snake on a pole. Anyone who looked at it lived! Jesus said He would be lifted up like that snake. He meant the cross. Then He said God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son. Everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life!

Your Turn! John 3:16 is one of the best-known verses in the Bible. Use the word bank to finish these sentences about it.

Word bank: believes eternal life loved gave

1. God _____ the whole world.
2. He _____ His one and only Son, Jesus.
3. Everyone who _____ in Jesus will not be lost.
4. They will have _____, which means life with God forever!

★ REMEMBER

God loves me so much that He gave His Son for me.



Pray: God, thank You for loving the whole world, and me too! Thank You for giving Your one and only Son. I believe in Him. Amen.



Living Water



Read: John 4:5-15 **Go further:** Isaiah 55:1

“But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. **John 4:14**”

After a hot summer ballgame, nothing tastes better than a big drink of cold water. But a few hours later, you’re thirsty again! One day at noon, Jesus sat down by a well, tired from walking. A Samaritan woman came to get water, and Jesus asked her for a drink. She was surprised, because Jews and Samaritans didn’t get along. Jesus told her that anyone who drinks well water gets thirsty again. But He offers living water. It fills the thirsty places in our hearts, and it lasts forever!

Your Turn! Some things make us happy for a little while, like a snack or a new toy. Fill in the chart. On the right, write what Jesus gives that lasts forever.

Things that satisfy for a little while	What Jesus gives forever

★ REMEMBER

Only Jesus can fill my heart forever.



Pray: Jesus, You give living water. When I want other things to make me happy, help me remember that only You can fill my heart. Amen.

DAY
3

She Told Her Town

 **Read:** John 4:27-30, 39-42  **Go further:** John 4:34-35



“Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of what the woman said when she testified, ‘He told me everything I ever did.’” **John 4:39**

The woman at the well left her water jar behind! She hurried back to town. She told the people about a man who knew everything she had ever done. “Could this be the Messiah?” she asked. People came out to meet Jesus. He stayed two days, and many more believed. They said Jesus really is the Savior of the world! This woman didn’t know everything about Jesus yet. She just told people what she knew.

 **Your Turn!** If you could tell your whole town about Jesus, what would you say? Write a few sentences about who He is and what He has done for you.

★ **REMEMBER**
I can tell others what I know about Jesus.

 **Pray:** Jesus, You are the Savior of the world. Give me courage to tell people what You have done for me, just like the woman at the well. Amen.

 **Family Huddle:** Talk it over with a grown-up: What is one true thing about Jesus you could tell a friend this week? Practice saying it together!

DAY
4

Let the Children Come

 **Read:** Mark 10:13-16  **Go further:** Matthew 18:1-4



“Let the little children come to me. Don’t stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” **Mark 10:14**

Sometimes kids get told they’re too little to help or too young to understand. When people brought little children to Jesus, the disciples scolded them. Maybe they thought Jesus was too busy for kids. But Jesus was upset with His disciples! “Let the little children come to me,” He said. Then He took the children in His arms and blessed them. Jesus said God’s kingdom belongs to people who trust Him like little children. Jesus is never too busy for you. He wants you close!

 **Your Turn!** Draw Jesus welcoming children with open arms. Put yourself in the picture, right up close to Him!

draw here

★ **REMEMBER**
Jesus is never too busy for me. He wants me close!

 **Pray:** Jesus, thank You for welcoming children. Thank You that You are never too busy for me. Help me trust You like a little child. Amen.

DAY
5

Forgiven Much

 **Read:** Luke 7:36-50  **Go further:** Psalm 32:1-2



“ Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that’s why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little. **Luke 7:47** ”

During dinner at a religious leader’s house, a woman known as a sinner came in. Crying, she washed Jesus’ feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, and poured perfume on them. The host thought Jesus shouldn’t let a sinner touch Him. So Jesus told a story. Two people owed money, one a lot and one a little. The lender forgave them both. Which one would love him more? The one forgiven more! Jesus said the woman loved Him so much because her many sins were forgiven.

 **Your Turn!** Jesus has forgiven you too, every single sin! How does knowing that make you feel about Him? Write your answer, then tell Him.

★ REMEMBER

I’ve been forgiven much, so I will love Jesus much!



Pray: Jesus, thank You for forgiving all my sins. I love You! Help me show my love for You in everything I do today. Amen.

DAY
6

Come to Me

 **Read:** Matthew 11:28-30  **Go further:** Isaiah 40:29-31



“ Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **Matthew 11:28** ”

A backpack stuffed with books gets heavier with every step. Jesus invites the weary and burdened to come to Him. Weary means very tired. Burdened means carrying something heavy. Some heavy things don’t go in a backpack. They’re worries, sad feelings, or guilt. He also mentioned a yoke, a wooden bar that lets two oxen share a load. Jesus doesn’t make you pull alone. He is gentle, and He helps carry the load.

 **Your Turn!** What heavy things are you carrying? List three below. Then pray and hand each one to Jesus. He is strong enough to carry them all.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

★ REMEMBER

When I’m tired or worried, I can come to Jesus for rest.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for inviting me to come to You. I give You the heavy things I’m carrying. Please give my heart rest. Amen.



Family Huddle: Ask a grown-up: What do you do when you feel worn out or worried? How can Jesus help us rest?



Room at the Table

Jesus ate with all kinds of people, even people everyone else avoided. Some religious leaders grumbled that He welcomed sinners and ate with them (Luke 15:1-2). Others called Him “a friend of tax collectors and sinners” (Matthew 11:19). They meant it as an insult. But for us, it’s wonderful news!

Who Jesus Welcomed

- Levi the tax collector and his friends, at a big dinner (Luke 5:29-32)
- Zacchaeus, the tax collector everyone grumbled about (Luke 19:5-7)
- A Samaritan woman at a well, though Jews and Samaritans didn’t get along (John 4:7-9)
- A woman known as a sinner, at a dinner party (Luke 7:36-50)
- Little children the disciples tried to send away (Mark 10:13-16)

Who Needs a Friend?

Look around at school, at church, at practice, or in your neighborhood. Who might need a friend? Maybe a new kid, someone who sits alone, or someone who seems different from you. Write their names or initials below.

Save a Seat

Draw a table with a seat saved for someone who needs a friend. Draw yourself at the table too!

draw here

Pray for Them

Pray for each person you wrote down. Ask Jesus to show them His love, and ask Him to show you how to be their friend.



Stories Jesus Told



✦ Jesus told stories called parables to show what God and His kingdom are like.

FAMILY TIME

The Father Who Ran

Read together: **Luke 15:11-24**

Our next stop is along the lakeshore, beside the Sea of Galilee. One day such a big crowd came to hear Jesus there that He climbed into a boat and sat down to teach, while everyone stood listening on the shore. And Jesus told them stories! His stories are called parables. A parable is a story about everyday things, like seeds, sheep, and families, that teaches a big truth about God.

One of Jesus' best-loved stories is about a father and two sons. The younger son asked his father for his share of the family money right away. He left home for a faraway country and wasted every bit of it on foolish living. Then a famine came, and he had nothing. He took a job feeding pigs, and he got so hungry he wished he could eat their food! At last he came to his senses. He decided to go home, tell his father he had sinned, and ask to work as a hired hand.

But while the son was still far down the road, his father saw him. The father's heart was full of love. He ran to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him! He called for the best robe, a ring, and sandals, and he threw a big party. His son had been lost, and now he was found.

Jesus told this story so we would know what God is like. He is the Father who runs to welcome us home. No matter how far someone has wandered, God is ready to forgive anyone who turns back to Him. This week's memory verse says God blesses people who hear His Word and keep it, which means doing what it says. So listen closely to Jesus' stories this week!

Do It Together

Act out the story together! Choose a father, a younger son, and a servant who brings the robe, ring, and sandals (a towel, a hair tie, and some flip-flops will do). Switch parts and play it again. End with a happy welcome-home cheer!

Memory Verse

...blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

Luke 11:28

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

For Grown-Ups

Jesus' stories are simple enough for a child to remember and deep enough to think about for a lifetime. After each day's reading, ask your child what they think the story teaches before you share your own ideas. You may be surprised by what they notice.

Talk About It

- 1 How do you think the son felt walking home? How do you think the father felt when he saw him?
- 2 The father ran to his son. What does that show you about how God feels when someone turns back to Him?
- 3 Grown-ups, share a time someone forgave you or welcomed you back. Kids, what is your favorite part of this story?

Pray Together

Father God, thank You for running to welcome us when we turn back to You. Help [name] and our whole family hear Your Word and keep it. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAY
1

Four Kinds of Soil

 **Read:** Matthew 13:3-9  Go further: Matthew 13:18-23



“ Still other seed fell on good ground and produced fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times what was sown. **Matthew 13:8**

Farmers in Jesus' day planted by tossing handfuls of seed as they walked. Jesus told about a farmer whose seed landed in four places. Some fell on a hard path, and birds gobbled it up. Some fell on rocky ground and sprang up fast, but it had no roots, so the hot sun dried it out. Some fell among thorns and got choked. But some landed in good soil and grew a big crop! Jesus explained that the seed is God's Word, and the soil is a person's heart.

 **Your Turn!** Jesus explained His own story! Draw a line from each kind of ground to what it shows about a person's heart.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 1. The hard path | ● | ● A. Worries crowd out God's Word |
| 2. The rocky ground | ● | ● B. Hears, understands, and grows fruit |
| 3. The thorny ground | ● | ● C. Quits when life gets hard |
| 4. The good soil | ● | ● D. God's Word gets snatched away |

★ REMEMBER

I want my heart to be good soil for God's Word.



Pray: Lord, make my heart like good soil. Help me listen to Your Word, understand it, and hold on to it, so my life grows good fruit. Amen.

DAY
2

Tiny Seed, Big Tree

 **Read:** Matthew 13:31-33  Go further: Mark 4:26-29



“ It's the smallest of all the seeds, but when grown, it's taller than the garden plants and becomes a tree... **Matthew 13:32**

A mustard seed is about the size of a pinhead. But Jesus said that when it's planted, it grows taller than the other garden plants and becomes a tree where birds build nests. God's kingdom is like that. God's kingdom means God ruling as King in the hearts of His people. It started with Jesus and a small group of followers. Now people all over the world follow Him! Jesus also said the kingdom is like a little yeast that spreads through a huge batch of dough. God can grow big things from small beginnings.

 **Your Turn!** Draw a tiny mustard seed in one corner. Then draw the giant plant it grows into, with birds resting in its branches.

draw here

★ REMEMBER

God's kingdom starts small, but God makes it grow big!



Pray: King Jesus, thank You that Your kingdom keeps growing all over the world. Use even my small words and kind acts to help it grow. Amen.

DAY
3

Hidden Treasure

 **Read:** Matthew 13:44-46  **Go further:** Philippians 3:7-8



“ The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.
Matthew 13:44

Imagine digging in a field when your shovel clanks against a buried chest of treasure! Jesus told about a man who found treasure like that, and a merchant who found one priceless pearl. Both sold everything to get it. Of course, nobody can buy their way into God's kingdom. It's a free gift. But these stories show that knowing Jesus is worth more than anything else.

 **Your Turn!** Write three of your treasures. At the end of each line, write: Jesus is worth more!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

★ REMEMBER

Knowing Jesus is worth more than anything I own.



Pray: Jesus, You are my greatest treasure. When I start loving things more than You, turn my heart back to You. Amen.



Family Huddle: Ask a grown-up who follows Jesus: What is something you gave up or put second to follow Him? Was it worth it?

DAY
4

One Lost Sheep

 **Read:** Luke 15:3-7  **Go further:** Ezekiel 34:11-12

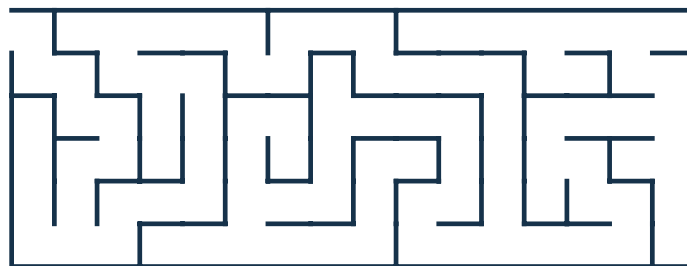


“ When he has found it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders... **Luke 15:5**

Ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine... uh-oh! Jesus told about a shepherd who had a hundred sheep, and one went missing. Did he shrug and say ninety-nine was good enough? No! He left the others in the field and searched until he found the lost one. He lifted it onto his shoulders and carried it home, full of joy. Then he called his neighbors to celebrate! Jesus said heaven is full of joy like that whenever one sinner repents, or turns from sin back to God. Jesus is that Shepherd. He came looking for you!

 **Your Turn!** Help the shepherd find his lost sheep! As you trace the path, remember that Jesus came looking for people who are lost.

The
Shepherd →



→ Lost
sheep

★ REMEMBER

Jesus is my Shepherd, and He came looking for me.



Pray: Good Shepherd, thank You for coming to find me. Please find my friends who are lost too, and bring them home to You. Amen.

DAY
5

The Grumpy Brother

 **Read:** Luke 15:25-32  **Go further:** Luke 15:1-2



“But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” **Luke 15:32**

Remember the son who came home? His older brother came in from the field and heard music and dancing. It was a party for his little brother! He got so angry he wouldn't go inside. He had obeyed for years and never gotten a party. His father came out and begged him to join in. Jesus told this story because some leaders grumbled that He welcomed sinners. They were acting like the grumpy brother! But none of us deserves God's kindness. That's what grace means. So let's be glad whenever anyone comes home to God!

 **Your Turn!** Why was the older brother upset? How do you think God wants us to feel when someone new trusts Jesus?

★ REMEMBER

When someone comes home to God, I will celebrate too!



Pray: Father, thank You for welcoming me even though I didn't deserve it. Help me be glad, not grumpy, when others come to You. Amen.

DAY
6

Who Is My Neighbor?

 **Read:** Luke 10:25-37  **Go further:** Micah 6:8



“The one who showed mercy to him,” he said. Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.” **Luke 10:37**

An expert in God's law asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus answered with a story. Robbers attacked a man on the road to Jericho and left him badly hurt. A priest saw him but passed by on the other side. So did a Levite, a temple helper. Then along came a Samaritan. Jews and Samaritans usually didn't get along. But he stopped, bandaged the man's wounds, took him to an inn, and paid for his care. That's mercy: kindness to someone in need. Jesus said, “Go and do the same.”

 **Your Turn!** Number these parts of Jesus' story in the order they happened.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ A priest passed by on the other side | ☐ A Samaritan stopped and bandaged his wounds |
| ☐ A Levite passed by too | ☐ He took the man to an inn |
| ☐ He paid the innkeeper to care for him | ☐ Robbers hurt a man on the road |

★ REMEMBER

My neighbor is anyone who needs my help.



Pray: Lord, open my eyes to people who need help. Give me a kind heart like the Samaritan's, so I stop instead of walking by. Amen.

 **Family Huddle:** Talk it over with a grown-up: Who near us needs some kindness right now? What could we do for them together this week?



Draw a Parable



Pick one of Jesus' stories from this week: the four soils, the mustard seed, the hidden treasure, the lost sheep, the lost son, or the good Samaritan. Draw it as a comic strip, one scene in each box, and write a caption under each picture. In the last box, show what the story teaches about God.

1

2

3

4

5

6



Who Is Jesus?



✦ Jesus told us exactly who He is: the great I AM.

FAMILY TIME

The Most Important Question

Read together: **Matthew 16:13-17**

Our trail takes us far north today, to a town called Caesarea Philippi (sez-uh-REE-uh fih-LIP-eye), near the foot of a tall mountain. The town was named after Caesar, the Roman emperor, and many people there worshiped false gods. In that place, Jesus asked His disciples what people were saying about Him. Who did the crowds think He was?

The disciples told Him what they had heard. Some people said He was John the Baptist. Others said He was Elijah, or Jeremiah, or another prophet. Then Jesus asked them the most important question anyone will ever answer: “Who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Messiah means the Chosen King that God had promised to send to save His people. The false gods people worshiped in that town could not see, hear, or help anyone. But Jesus is the Son of the living God! Jesus told Peter he was blessed, because God the Father had shown him this truth.

This week, you'll hear Jesus tell us Himself who He is. In the book of John, He uses the words “I am” to describe Himself with seven word pictures, like bread, light, a shepherd, and a vine. Everyone has to answer Jesus' question someday. How will you answer?

Do It Together

Tape a big sheet of paper to a wall or the fridge, and write WHO IS JESUS? across the top. Each day this week, add the new “I am” name you learn, with a small picture beside it.

Memory Verse

I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except
through me.

John 14:6

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

For Grown-Ups

This week's readings come from the “I am” sayings in John's Gospel. Each one shows a different side of who Jesus is. If you follow Jesus, share your own answer to His question with your child, and tell them why you trust Him. Your story will mean more to them than you might think.

Talk About It

- 1 Why do you think people had so many different ideas about who Jesus was?
- 2 Peter called Jesus the Messiah, the Son of the living God. What do those names tell us about Him?
- 3 Grown-ups, how would you answer Jesus' question? Kids, how would you answer it in your own words?

Pray Together

Lord Jesus, You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Help [name] and our whole family know You, love You, and tell others who You really are. Amen.



The Bread of Life



Read: John 6:32-35 **Go further:** John 6:47-51

“I am the bread of life,” Jesus told them. “No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again.” **John 6:35**

Grrrowl! That’s the sound of a hungry stomach. The day after Jesus fed thousands of people with a boy’s lunch, the crowd came looking for Him again. They wanted more bread! Jesus told them about the true bread from heaven. They said, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Then Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.” A sandwich fills you up for a few hours. But everyone has a deeper hunger, a need to know God. Only Jesus can fill it. Whoever comes to Him and believes in Him is satisfied forever.

Your Turn! Bread keeps your body alive. What does Jesus give you that bread never could?

★ REMEMBER

Only Jesus can fill my heart’s deepest hunger.



Pray: Jesus, You are the Bread of Life. When I feel empty inside, help me come to You first, because You are what I need most. Amen.



The Light of the World



Read: John 8:12 **Go further:** John 9:1-7

“I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.” **John 8:12**

Picture a country road on a night with no moon. You can’t see the ditch or the bend in the road. Then someone clicks on a flashlight, and the path appears! Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” That’s the theme verse for our whole trail! Sin makes our world dark. It keeps people from seeing the way to God. But Jesus shines God’s truth and love into the darkness. Jesus promised that if you follow Him, you will never have to walk in darkness. You’ll have His light to live by!

Your Turn! Think of times and places you need light, like a dark hallway at night. Then write how Jesus is like that light.

Places light helps me see	How Jesus is like light

★ REMEMBER

Jesus is my light, so I don’t have to walk in darkness.



Pray: Jesus, Light of the World, shine in my heart. When things seem dark or scary, help me follow You and trust You. Amen.

DAY
3

The Good Shepherd

 **Read:** John 10:11-15  **Go further:** John 10:7-9



“ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
John 10:11

A shepherd's job was hard and sometimes dangerous. He guarded his sheep from wolves. A hired hand, someone paid to watch the sheep, might run away when a wolf showed up. But a good shepherd would risk his life for his flock. Jesus knows His sheep, and they know Him. And Jesus did more than risk His life. He laid it down on the cross to save us.

 **Your Turn!** Use the word bank to finish each sentence about Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Word bank: knows laid down shepherd runs

1. Jesus said, "I am the good _____."
2. A hired hand _____ away when he sees a wolf.
3. Jesus _____ His own sheep, and they know Him.
4. Jesus _____ His life for His sheep.

★ **REMEMBER**
Jesus, my Good Shepherd, knows me and gave His life for me.

 **Pray:** Good Shepherd, thank You for knowing me and laying down Your life for me. Help me listen for Your voice and follow You. Amen.

 **Family Huddle:** Ask a grown-up who follows Jesus: When has He cared for you like a good shepherd?

DAY
4

The Resurrection and the Life

 **Read:** John 11:23-27  **Go further:** 1 Corinthians 15:20-22



“ I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. John 11:25

Remember our stop on the village roads, when Jesus raised Lazarus? Before that miracle, Jesus talked with Lazarus's sister Martha. Her brother had died, and she was heartbroken. Jesus told her that her brother would rise again. Martha thought He meant someday, at the end of time. Then Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." Resurrection means rising from the dead. Jesus has power over death itself! Everyone who believes in Him will live forever with Him. Jesus asked Martha, "Do you believe this?" She said yes. What about you?

 **Your Turn!** Martha told Jesus what she believed about Him. What do you believe about Jesus? Write it in your own words.

★ **REMEMBER**
Because Jesus lives, I will live forever with Him.

 **Pray:** Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life. I believe You are the Son of God. Thank You that I will live forever with You. Amen.

DAY
5

The Way Home

 **Read:** John 14:1-6  Go further: Acts 4:12

A

“ In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? **John 14:2**

It was the night before Jesus died, and His friends were worried. Jesus told them not to let their hearts be troubled. He was going to His Father’s house to get a place ready for them, and He would come back for them. Thomas was puzzled. He said they didn’t even know where Jesus was going, so how could they know the way? Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Jesus isn’t just a guide who points the way to God. He is the only way!

 **Your Turn!** Use the number code to find the good news. (A = 1, B = 2, C = 3...)

A=1	B=2	C=3	D=4	E=5	F=6	G=7	H=8	I=9	J=10	K=11	L=12	M=13
N=14	O=15	P=16	Q=17	R=18	S=19	T=20	U=21	V=22	W=23	X=24	Y=25	Z=26

10 5 19 21 19

9 19

20 8 5

23 1 25

★ REMEMBER

I come to God the Father only through Jesus.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for making a way for me to come to God. Help my friends and family find the way to You too. Amen.

DAY
6

The True Vine

 **Read:** John 15:1-8  Go further: John 15:9-11



“ I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. **John 15:5**

Grapevine branches don’t grunt or try hard to make grapes. They just stay on the vine, and the vine gives them everything they need. If you belong to Jesus, you are His branch. As you stay close to Him by praying, reading His Word, and obeying, He grows good fruit in you, like love, joy, and kindness.

 **Your Turn!** Draw a grapevine. Label the vine “Jesus” and a branch with your name. Add fruit, and label it with good things Jesus grows in you.

draw here

★ REMEMBER

When I stay close to Jesus, He grows good fruit in me.



Pray: Jesus, You are the vine and I am a branch. Help me stay close to You every day, so my life grows good fruit. Amen.

 **Family Huddle:** Ask a grown-up who follows Jesus: What helps you stay close to Him? What could we do together this week to stay close to Him?



Jesus Said, “I Am...”



When God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, He told Moses His name: “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14). God has always been, and He always will be. In the book of John, Jesus used the words “I am” to show us who He is. Read each card, then draw a picture for it.

The Bread of Life John 6:35

Just as bread keeps my body alive, Jesus gives my soul real life that satisfies forever.



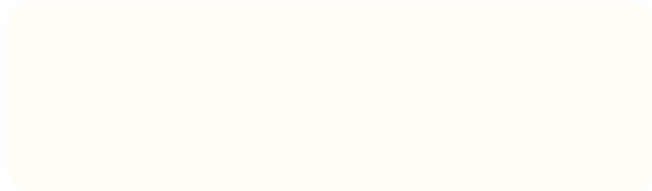
The Light of the World John 8:12

Jesus shines God’s truth and love into a dark world, so when I follow Him, I never have to walk in darkness.



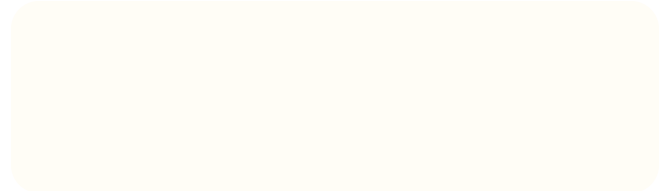
The Gate for the Sheep John 10:7-9

Like a gate into a safe sheep pen, Jesus is the way into God’s family, where His sheep are saved and cared for.



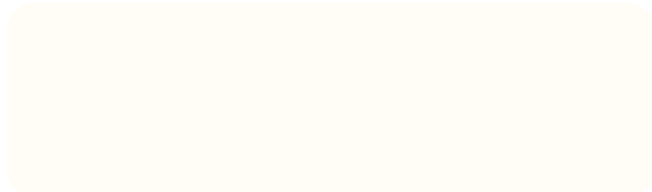
The Good Shepherd John 10:11

Jesus knows me, leads me, and loved me so much that He laid down His life for me.



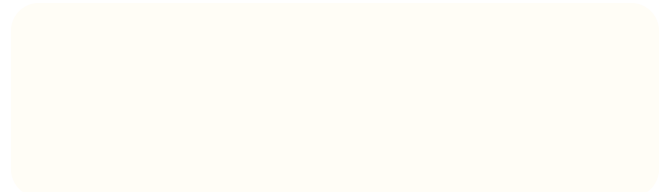
The Resurrection and the Life John 11:25

Jesus has power over death, and everyone who believes in Him will live forever with Him.



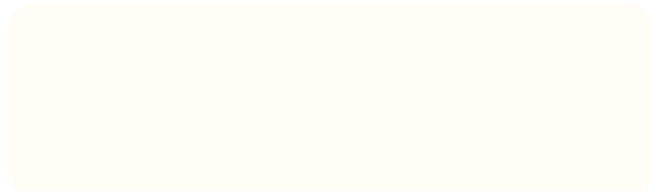
The Way, Truth, and Life John 14:6

Jesus is the only way to God the Father, everything He says is true, and He gives life that lasts forever.



The True Vine John 15:1-5

When I stay connected to Jesus, like a branch on a vine, He grows good fruit in my life.





The King Comes



✦ Jesus rode into Jerusalem as a humble King who came to serve and to save.

FAMILY TIME

Here Comes the King!

Read together: **Luke 19:28-40**

Our trail climbs uphill now, toward the city of Jerusalem. It's almost time for the Passover feast, and the roads are crowded with families coming to worship at the temple. Jesus and His disciples are on the road too. From the Mount of Olives, a hill just outside the city, you can see all of Jerusalem below.

Jesus sent two disciples into a village to bring Him a young donkey that no one had ever ridden. They threw their coats on its back and helped Jesus climb on. As He rode along, people spread their coats on the road in front of Him, like a carpet for a king. A whole crowd of His followers praised God at the top of their lungs for all the miracles they had seen. They called Jesus the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

Some Pharisees, religious leaders who were very strict about rules, told Jesus to make His followers be quiet. Jesus said that if they kept silent, even the stones would cry out! Jesus really is the King. But He didn't come riding a war horse at the head of an army. He came gently, on a young donkey, as a humble King. He came to serve people and to save them. In just a few days, He would give His life to do it.

This week, walk with Jesus through His last days before the cross. Watch Him wash His friends' feet and share a special supper with them. He loved them all the way to the end. That's what this week's memory verse is about: Jesus told us to love one another, just as He has loved us.

🏠 Do It Together

Have a family praise parade! Take turns naming something Jesus has done that makes you want to praise Him. Then march around the house or yard singing a favorite praise song. Loud voices are welcome!

📖 Memory Verse

I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.

John 13:34

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

🍷 For Grown-Ups

This week and next walk through the last days of Jesus' life. Your child may ask why people turned against Him. Answer simply and honestly, and keep pointing to His love. If your church will share the Lord's Supper soon, Day 6 is a good time to talk about it.

🗨️ Talk About It

- 1 If you had been in the crowd that day, what would you have shouted to Jesus?
- 2 Why do you think Jesus rode a young donkey instead of a big war horse?
- 3 Jesus said even the stones would cry out. What are some reasons our family can praise Him today?

🙏 Pray Together

King Jesus, we praise You! Thank You for coming as a humble King to serve us and save us. Help [name] and our whole family love one another the way You love us. Amen.

DAY
1

The King on a Donkey

 **Read:** Zechariah 9:9  Go further: Matthew 21:4-5



“ Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem! Look, your King is coming to you; he is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey... **Zechariah 9:9**

About five hundred years before Jesus was born, God gave a message to a prophet named Zechariah. It told Jerusalem to shout for joy, because their King was coming! This King would do what is right and win the victory. But He would come in a surprising way: humble, riding on a donkey. Kings going to war rode big, strong horses. A donkey was an everyday work animal. On the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey, God's promise came true. Jesus is the mighty King, but He came gently, to bring peace.

 **Your Turn!** Kings like to travel in style! In the first column, write or draw what a powerful king might ride. In the second, write what Jesus rode and why.

What most kings ride	What Jesus rode – and why

★ REMEMBER

God keeps His promises. Jesus is the humble King He promised.



Pray: King Jesus, You are mighty, but You came gently and humbly. Thank You that God keeps every promise. Please be the King of my life. Amen.

DAY
2

A House of Prayer

 **Read:** Mark 11:15-18  Go further: Psalm 27:4



“ He was teaching them: “Is it not written, My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of thieves!” **Mark 11:17**

Imagine walking into church and finding people selling doves, tables piled with coins, and shoppers shouting prices! That's what Jesus found at the temple. Its outer courtyard was meant to be a place where people from every nation could pray. Instead, it was a noisy market. Jesus turned over the money tables and drove out the buyers and sellers. He said God's house should be a house of prayer, but they had made it a den of thieves, a hideout for robbers! Jesus cares about true worship that comes from the heart.

 **Your Turn!** How can you get your heart ready to worship God on Sunday? Think about Saturday night, Sunday morning, and the trip to church.

★ REMEMBER

I will worship God with my whole heart.



Pray: Lord, get my heart ready to worship You. Clear out anything that crowds You out, and help me really mean it when I pray and sing. Amen.



Her Very Best



Read: Mark 14:3-9 **Go further:** Romans 12:1

“Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a noble thing for me.” **Mark 14:6**

Jesus was eating dinner in the town of Bethany when a woman came in carrying a jar of very expensive perfume. John's Gospel tells us her name was Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus' head. It was worth about a year's pay! Some people scolded her for wasting it. But Jesus defended her. Noble means good and beautiful. Anything we give Jesus out of love is never wasted.

Your Turn! What precious thing could you give Jesus this week, like your time or your love?

★ REMEMBER

Anything I give Jesus out of love is never wasted.



Pray: Jesus, You are worth my very best. Show me what I can give You this week, and help me give it gladly, with love. Amen.

Family Huddle: Ask a grown-up: What is one way our family could give Jesus our very best this week?



Whose Picture?



Read: Mark 12:13-17 **Go further:** Genesis 1:27

“Jesus told them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” And they were utterly amazed at him. **Mark 12:17**

Look at almost any coin, and you'll see a face on it. Some leaders tried to trap Jesus with a tricky question: Should God's people pay taxes to Caesar, the Roman emperor? Jesus asked for a coin and asked whose picture was on it. “Caesar's,” they said. So Jesus told them to give Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give God what belongs to God. Here's the amazing part: God made you in His image, to show what He is like. The coin carried Caesar's picture, but you carry God's image. You belong to Him!

Your Turn! Draw a coin with your own face in the middle. Around the edge, write: I belong to God.

draw here

★ REMEMBER

God made me in His image, so I belong to Him.



Pray: God, thank You for making me in Your image. I belong to You. Help me give You my whole self: heart, mind, and body. Amen.

DAY
5

The Towel and the Basin

 **Read:** John 13:1-15  Go further: Mark 10:45



“ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you. **John 13:15**

People in Jesus' day wore sandals on dusty roads. By suppertime, their feet were filthy! Washing guests' feet was usually a servant's job. On the night before He died, Jesus got up from supper and tied a towel around His waist. He poured water into a basin, a big bowl, and began to wash His disciples' feet. Peter was shocked! His Lord and Teacher was doing a servant's work. Jesus said He was giving them an example. If the King of everything served His friends like that, we can serve others too!

 **Your Turn!** Jesus did a job most people didn't want. Check the humble jobs you will do for your family this week, and add one of your own!

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Take out the trash without being asked | ☐ Clear the table after a meal |
| ☐ Fold laundry or match socks | ☐ Pick up a mess that isn't mine |
| ☐ Let someone else go first | ☐ Help clean the bathroom sink |
| ☐ _____ | |

★ REMEMBER

Jesus served others, so I will serve others too.



Pray: Jesus, You are the King, yet You washed Your friends' feet. Give me a humble heart that is glad to serve others, even in small ways. Amen.

DAY
6

The Last Supper

 **Read:** Luke 22:14-20  Go further: 1 Corinthians 11:26



“ And he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **Luke 22:19**

Every year, God's people ate the Passover meal to remember how God rescued them from slavery in Egypt. The night before He died, Jesus ate this meal with His disciples. He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it. He said it was His body, given for them. After supper He took the cup and said it was the new covenant in His blood. A covenant is a serious promise from God. Jesus' death would make a new way for us to be forgiven. When our church shares the Lord's Supper, we remember what He did.

 **Your Turn!** Draw a line from each part of the Last Supper to what it means.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. The bread | ● | ● A. The new covenant in His blood |
| 2. The cup | ● | ● B. God rescued Israel from Egypt |
| 3. “Do this in remembrance of me” | ● | ● C. Jesus' body, given for us |
| 4. The Passover meal | ● | ● D. Remember what Jesus did |

★ REMEMBER

The bread and cup remind me that Jesus gave Himself for me.



Pray: Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Your body and Your blood for me. Help me never forget what You did on the cross. Amen.



Family Huddle: Ask a grown-up: What do you think about when our church shares the Lord's Supper? Then ask any questions you have, like when you can take part.



WEEK 13 · THE KING COMES

Holy Week



Here is Jesus' last week, day by day. The Gospels don't always say which day things happened, but many Bible teachers think these events fell on these days. Look up each reference and read what happened. Which day would you most like to have seen?

**Palm
Sunday**

Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a young donkey, and crowds praise Him as King.
[Luke 19:28-40](#)

Monday

Jesus drives the buyers and sellers out of the temple. God's house should be a house of prayer!
[Mark 11:15-18](#)

Tuesday

Jesus teaches in the temple and answers tricky questions from leaders trying to trap Him.
[Mark 12:13-17](#)

Wednesday

Judas goes to the chief priests and agrees to betray Jesus. They promise to pay him.
[Mark 14:10-11](#)

Thursday

Jesus shares the Last Supper with His disciples. Then He prays on the Mount of Olives.
[Luke 22:14-20, 39-46](#)

Friday

Jesus dies on the cross to pay for our sins. Even there, He prays for the people hurting Him.
[Luke 23:33-46](#)

Saturday

Jesus' body lies in a tomb cut into rock. His followers rest on the Sabbath day.
[Luke 23:50-56](#)

**Easter
Sunday**

The stone is rolled away, and the tomb is empty. Jesus is alive!
[Luke 24:1-7](#)



The Cross



✦ Jesus chose to die on the cross to pay for our sins.

FAMILY TIME

While We Were Still Sinners

Read together: **Romans 5:6-11**

This stop on our trail is the hardest one. First we come to a garden called Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed on the night He was arrested. Then we follow Him to a place just outside Jerusalem called The Skull, where He died on a cross. It's okay if this week feels sad. Jesus' friends were sad too. But keep walking, because Sunday is coming!

Our family reading tells us why Jesus died. Paul wrote that it's rare for anyone to die even for a good person. But Christ died for us while we were still sinners! We didn't clean ourselves up first or earn His love. He loved us while we were still going our own way.

Why did Jesus have to die? Sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God. Sin separates people from God, and the Bible says the payment for sin is death. We could never pay that ourselves. But Jesus never sinned, not even once, so He could take our place. On the cross, He took the punishment we deserved. Now we can be forgiven and become God's friends instead of His enemies.

Nobody forced Jesus to go to the cross. He chose it, because He loves you. That's how big God's love is! And the cross is not the end of the story. Just wait until the next stop on our trail!

🏠 Do It Together

Write a family thank-you note to Jesus. Let each person add a sentence about why they are thankful He went to the cross. Read it aloud together, then tuck it inside your Bible as a reminder of His love.

📖 Memory Verse

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

Romans 5:8

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

☕ For Grown-Ups

This week covers Jesus' arrest, His trials, and His death. Read ahead so you are ready for questions. Keep the focus where the Bible puts it: Jesus' great love and His choice to die for us. Let sad feelings be okay, and remind your child often that Sunday is coming!

🗨️ Talk About It

- 1 Romans 5:8 says Christ died for us while we were still sinners. What does that show you about God's love?
- 2 Why couldn't we pay for our own sins? Why could Jesus pay for them?
- 3 Grown-ups, share what the cross means to you. Kids, what questions do you have about why Jesus died?

🙏 Pray Together

Lord Jesus, thank You for loving us while we were still sinners. Thank You for choosing the cross to pay for our sins. Help [name] never forget how much You love us. Amen.

DAY
1

Not My Will

 **Read:** Matthew 26:36-46  **Go further:** Hebrews 5:7-8



“Going a little farther, he fell facedown and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” **Matthew 26:39**

After supper, Jesus took His disciples to a garden called Gethsemane. He brought Peter, James, and John a little farther with Him. Jesus was deeply sad and troubled, because He knew the cross was coming. He fell facedown and prayed. He asked His Father if there was any other way. But then He prayed, “Your will be done.” Three times He prayed, while His friends kept falling asleep. Jesus chose to obey His Father, even though it meant suffering. He did it because He loved His Father, and He loved you.

 **Your Turn!** When Jesus was deeply sad and troubled, He prayed. What can you do when you feel troubled? Who can you talk to?

★ REMEMBER

When I'm troubled, I can pray and trust God's plan, like Jesus did.



Pray: Father, thank You that Jesus obeyed You even when it was hard. When I'm sad or troubled, help me pray and trust You. Amen.

DAY
2

Arrested in the Garden

 **Read:** John 18:1-11  **Go further:** John 10:17-18



“At that, Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword away! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?” **John 18:11**

Late that night, torches and lanterns flickered between the trees. Judas was leading soldiers and guards into the garden to arrest Jesus. Jesus didn't hide or run. He stepped forward and asked who they were looking for. “Jesus of Nazareth,” they answered. When He said, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground! Peter grabbed a sword and cut off a servant's ear. But Jesus told Peter to put his sword away. Jesus could have escaped, but He didn't. No one took His life from Him. He gave it on purpose.

 **Your Turn!** Read each sentence. Circle T if it is true or F if it is false.

Jesus ran and hid from the soldiers.

T F

Peter used a sword.

T F

Jesus told Peter to keep fighting.

T F

Jesus could have escaped if He had wanted to.

T F

Jesus chose to go to the cross for us.

T F

★ REMEMBER

No one forced Jesus. He chose to give His life for me.



Pray: Jesus, You could have walked away, but You chose the cross for me. Thank You for loving me that much. Amen.

DAY
3

Peter's Worst Night

 **Read:** Luke 22:54-62  **Go further:** Luke 22:31-32



“Then the Lord turned and looked at Peter. ... And he went outside and wept bitterly.”
Luke 22:61-62

Just hours earlier, Peter had promised he was ready to go to prison or even die with Jesus. Now Jesus was arrested, and Peter followed at a distance. As he sat by a fire, a servant girl said he had been with Jesus. Peter said he didn't know Him. Two more people said the same thing, and two more times Peter denied it. Then a rooster crowed. But Jesus had already prayed for Peter. His love did not quit.

 **Your Turn!** Think of a time you let someone down. Jesus still loved Peter, and He still loves you. What does that mean to you?

★ REMEMBER

Even when I fail, Jesus' love for me doesn't quit.



Pray: Jesus, sometimes I let You down, like Peter did. Thank You that Your love never quits. Help me turn back to You quickly. Amen.



Family Huddle: Ask a grown-up to tell about a time they let someone down and were forgiven. How did being forgiven feel?

DAY
4

The King on Trial

 **Read:** John 18:33-38  **Go further:** John 19:1-11



“My kingdom is not of this world,” said Jesus. John 18:36

Pilate was the Roman governor, the most powerful man in Jerusalem. He asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said His kingdom is not of this world. He came to tell the truth. Pilate asked, “What is truth?” The Truth was standing right in front of him! Pilate knew Jesus had done nothing wrong. Still, he had soldiers whip Jesus, and they mocked Him with a crown of thorns. Then, to please the shouting crowd, Pilate handed Jesus over to die on a cross. The true King let it happen, for us.

 **Your Turn!** Use the word bank to fill in the blanks from Jesus' trial.

Word bank: truth king world

1. Pilate asked, “Are you the _____ of the Jews?”
2. Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this _____.”
3. Pilate asked, “What is _____?”

★ REMEMBER

Jesus is my King, and His kingdom is not of this world.



Pray: King Jesus, You are the truth. Even when people turned against You, You kept loving them. Help me follow You and tell the truth. Amen.

DAY
5

Remember Me

Read: Luke 23:32-43 Go further: Isaiah 53:12



“ Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” **Luke 23:42-43**

Jesus wasn't alone on a cross that day. Soldiers nailed Him to a cross between two criminals. Even there, Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive them.” One criminal yelled insults at Jesus. But the other said that they deserved their punishment, and Jesus had done nothing wrong. Then he asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His kingdom. Jesus promised, “Today you will be with me in paradise.” Paradise means heaven. That man had no time to be baptized or do good deeds. He simply trusted Jesus, and Jesus saved him.

Your Turn! The man on the cross next to Jesus could not earn his way to heaven. What does his story teach you about how a person is saved?

★ REMEMBER

I am saved by trusting Jesus, not by being good enough.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for saving people who trust You, even at the very end. I trust You too. Thank You that I will be with You forever. Amen.

DAY
6

It Is Finished

Read: John 19:28-30 Go further: Mark 15:37-39



“ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit. **John 19:30**

Three small words changed everything. On the cross, Jesus said, “It is finished.” Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. He died. Those words didn't mean Jesus was defeated. They meant His work was complete! He had paid for sin, all of it. At that moment, the temple curtain that kept people out of the Most Holy Place tore in two, from top to bottom. The way to God was open! A Roman officer watching said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” And Sunday was coming!

Your Turn! Crack the code to find three words Jesus said on the cross. (A = 1, B = 2, C = 3...)

A=1	B=2	C=3	D=4	E=5	F=6	G=7	H=8	I=9	J=10	K=11	L=12	M=13
N=14	O=15	P=16	Q=17	R=18	S=19	T=20	U=21	V=22	W=23	X=24	Y=25	Z=26

9 20 9 19 6 9 14 9 19 8 5 4

★ REMEMBER

Jesus paid for my sin completely. The way to God is open!



Pray: Jesus, thank You for finishing the work of paying for my sin. Thank You that I can come close to God because of You. Amen.

Family Huddle: Ask a grown-up: What does it mean to you that Jesus paid for sin completely? Why is that such good news?



Why Did Jesus Die? Three Big Ideas



The day Jesus died looked like the saddest day in history. But God was doing the most wonderful thing ever! Why would God's own Son die? The Bible gives many answers. Here are three big ones. Read them slowly, and look up the verses in your Bible.

● In My Place

Sin is serious. It separates people from God, and the Bible says the payment for sin is death (Romans 6:23). But 1 Peter 3:18 says Jesus suffered for sins once and for all, "the righteous for the unrighteous," to bring us to God. That means the One who always did right died for people who do wrong. He took the punishment we deserved, so we could be forgiven. He died in my place, and in yours.

● Paid in Full

Imagine owing a bill so big you could never pay it, not even if you saved every penny your whole life. That's what our sin is like. But Colossians 2:13-14 says God erased our whole debt and nailed it to the cross! When Jesus said, "It is finished," nothing was left to pay. You can't add to what Jesus did. You can only receive it as a gift and thank Him.

● The Door Is Open

In the temple, a curtain hung in front of the Most Holy Place, the room that stood for God's presence. Only the high priest could go in, just once a year (Hebrews 9:7). But when Jesus died, the curtain tore from top to bottom, as if God Himself had flung the door open. Hebrews 10:19-22 says that because of Jesus, we can "draw near" to God with confidence. The way is open for anyone who trusts Him!

● For Me

Draw a cross in the box. Across it, write "for me." Then write your name underneath.

draw here

● The Story Isn't Over

It's okay to feel sad when you think about the cross. Jesus really suffered, and His friends cried. But they didn't know yet what you know: three days later, the tomb was empty! If you have questions about the cross, or if you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior, talk with a grown-up who loves Jesus or with Pastor James.



He Is Alive!



✦ Jesus rose from the dead, sends us to tell the world, and is coming back.

FAMILY TIME

The Best Morning Ever

Read together: **Luke 24:1-12**

We've reached the last stop on our trail, and it's the best one! Picture a very early Sunday morning. A group of women walked to the tomb where Jesus was buried, carrying spices they had prepared for His body. Their hearts were heavy. On Friday, they had watched Jesus die.

But when they got there, the huge stone had been rolled away. They went inside, and Jesus' body was gone! Suddenly two angels in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The angels asked why they were looking for someone alive in a graveyard. Then they said, "He is not here, but he has risen!" Jesus had told His friends this would happen, and it did!

The women hurried back to tell the apostles. At first, the apostles thought the news sounded like nonsense. But Peter ran to the tomb, looked in, and saw only the linen cloths. He went away amazed. Soon Jesus Himself would appear to His followers again and again. Death could not hold Him!

Because Jesus is alive, everyone who trusts Him will live forever too. That's the promise in this week's memory verse. And here's more good news: the trail doesn't end here. Jesus is still leading the way. He invites you to keep following Him every day and to bring others along. Let's celebrate!

Do It Together

Throw a He-Is-Alive party! Make a banner that says JESUS IS ALIVE, sing a favorite praise song, and share a favorite snack. Then flip back through this journal together and talk about the places you visited on the trail.

Memory Verse

I am the resurrection and the life.
The one who believes in me, even if
he dies, will live.

John 11:25

- ☐ I said it to a grown-up
- ☐ I said it without peeking!

For Grown-Ups

You made it to the last stop! Celebrate your child's faithfulness this week. Talk together about how following Jesus doesn't end when this journal does. Help your child choose a next step, such as reading the Gospel of John or starting the Deep Roots journal, and keep asking what they're learning.

Talk About It

- 1 How do you think the women felt when they found the tomb empty? How would you have felt?
- 2 Why is it such good news that Jesus is alive today, not just long ago?
- 3 Grown-ups, share what the empty tomb means to you. Kids, what was your favorite stop on our trail?

Pray Together

Risen Jesus, we praise You! You beat death, and You are alive forever. Thank You for walking with [name] on this trail. Help us keep following You every day until You come back. Amen.

DAY
1

He Has Risen!

 **Read:** Matthew 28:1-10  **Go further:** 1 Corinthians 15:3-6



“He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. **Matthew 28:6**

The sun was just coming up on Sunday when two women named Mary went to see Jesus' tomb. Suddenly the ground shook! An angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. The guards trembled with fear. But the angel told the women not to be afraid. Jesus was not there, for “he has risen, just as he said.” The women ran off, afraid but full of joy, to tell the disciples. On the way, Jesus Himself met them! Jesus always keeps His word.

 **Your Turn!** Fill in the blanks with words from the word bank.

Word bank: tell 500 third stone

1. Jesus rose from the dead on the _____ day.
2. The angel rolled back the _____ and sat on it.
3. The women ran to _____ the disciples the news.
4. Over _____ people saw Jesus alive at one time.

★ REMEMBER

Jesus rose, just as He said. I can trust Him!



Pray: Jesus, You are alive! Thank You for keeping Your word. Because You rose from the dead, I know I can trust everything You say. Amen.

DAY
2

The Road to Emmaus

 **Read:** Luke 24:13-32  **Go further:** Luke 24:44-45



“Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures. **Luke 24:27**

Seven miles is a long walk, especially when you're sad. That same Sunday, two of Jesus' followers were walking to a village called Emmaus. A stranger joined them and asked what they were talking about. It was Jesus, but they didn't recognize Him! As they walked, Jesus explained how the whole Old Testament, from Moses through the prophets, pointed to Him. That evening, when He broke the bread at supper, they suddenly knew Him, and He disappeared. They said their hearts had been burning inside them as He explained the Scriptures!

 **Your Turn!** Their hearts were burning with excitement when Jesus explained the Bible. When have you felt excited or amazed by something in God's Word? What was it?

★ REMEMBER

The whole Bible points me to Jesus!



Pray: Jesus, thank You that the whole Bible points to You. Open my eyes and warm my heart every time I read it. Amen.

DAY
3

Thomas Believes

 **Read:** John 20:24-29  **Go further:** 1 Peter 1:8-9



“ Jesus said, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” **John 20:29**

Thomas wasn't there when Jesus first appeared to the other disciples. When they told him, “We've seen the Lord!” Thomas said he would never believe unless he saw and touched the nail marks himself. A week later, Jesus came again. He invited Thomas to look at His hands and believe. Thomas answered, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said those who believe without seeing are blessed—that means you!

 **Your Turn!** Thomas brought his doubts to Jesus. What question or doubt can you bring to Him? Write it as a prayer.

★ REMEMBER

I can't see Jesus yet, but I believe in Him!



Pray: Lord Jesus, I haven't seen You with my eyes, but I believe You are alive. When I have questions, help me bring them to You. Amen.



Family Huddle: Ask a grown-up who follows Jesus: Did you ever have questions or doubts about God? What helped you keep trusting Him?

DAY
4

Breakfast on the Beach

 **Read:** John 21:15-19  **Go further:** John 21:1-14



“ He said, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” “Feed my sheep,” Jesus said. **John 21:17**

Peter and some friends fished all night and caught nothing. At sunrise, a man on the shore told them to try the right side of the boat. Their net filled with fish. It was Jesus, alive! Peter jumped in and hurried to shore, where breakfast was cooking over a fire. Peter had denied Jesus three times beside a fire. Now, beside another fire, Jesus asked him three times, “Do you love me?” Each time, Peter said yes. Jesus gave him a fresh start and a job to do. Then He said, “Follow me.”

 **Your Turn!** Jesus gave Peter a fresh start. Write a thank-you note to Jesus for forgiving you and giving you fresh starts too.

★ REMEMBER

When I mess up, Jesus forgives me and gives me a fresh start.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for forgiving Peter and for forgiving me. When I fail, help me run back to You. I love You, and I will follow You. Amen.

DAY
5

Go and Tell

 **Read:** Matthew 28:16-20  **Go further:** Acts 1:8



“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations... And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. **Matthew 28:19-20**

Jesus' disciples met Him on a mountain in Galilee, just as He had told them. He said He is in charge of everything in heaven and on earth. Then He gave them a big job: Go and make disciples of all nations, people everywhere. A disciple is someone who follows Jesus and learns to live His way. They were to baptize new believers and teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded. That job belongs to us now too! And Jesus made a promise: “I am with you always.” You never go anywhere alone.

 **Your Turn!** Where do you go each week where people need to hear about Jesus? Write three places. Beside each one, write the initials of someone there you can pray for.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

★ REMEMBER

Jesus sends me to tell others, and He is always with me.



Pray: Jesus, thank You for promising to be with me always. Give me courage to tell others about You wherever I go. Amen.

DAY
6

He's Coming Back!

 **Read:** Acts 1:6-11  **Go further:** John 14:1-3



“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven. **Acts 1:11**

Next time you watch clouds drift across the sky, remember this story. For forty days after He rose, Jesus kept appearing to His followers. Then one day, as they watched, He was lifted up until a cloud hid Him. The disciples kept staring up. Suddenly two men in white stood beside them. They said this same Jesus would come back in the same way they saw Him go. Nobody knows the day. But Jesus promised He is preparing a place for us, and He will come back for us. Until then, keep following Him!

 **Your Turn!** Jesus is coming back! What are you most looking forward to when you see Him face to face?

★ REMEMBER

Jesus is coming back, and I will see Him face to face!



Pray: Jesus, I can't wait to see You! Until You come back, help me keep following You and telling others about You every day. Amen.

 **Family Huddle:** Talk it over with a grown-up: How can we keep following Jesus together after this journal is finished?



WEEK 15 • HE IS ALIVE!

Looking Back Down the Trail



You did it! You've walked with Jesus from long before Bethlehem all the way to the empty tomb and beyond. Before you close this journal, flip back through the pages and look back down the trail. This journal is ending, but your journey with Jesus isn't. He is still saying, "Follow me."

● My Favorite Stop on the Trail

Which place did you like best: Bethlehem, the Jordan River, the lakeshore, Jerusalem, or somewhere else? Why?

● A Story I'll Never Forget

Which story about Jesus do you want to remember your whole life?

● A Verse I Know by Heart

Write one memory verse from this journal without peeking. Then say it to someone!

● How I Will Keep Following Jesus

Circle the ones you will do. Then add your own idea on the line.

- Read the Bible and pray every day. The Gospel of John is a great place to start.
- Keep going to Sunday School, worship, and Bible study.
- Tell a friend what Jesus has done for you.
- If you have trusted Jesus but haven't been baptized, talk with Pastor James.

● Me on the Trail

Draw yourself on the trail, following Jesus. He goes with you every step of the way!

draw here

Memory Verse Challenge



Check a box each time you can say a verse without peeking: **1** to a grown-up at home, **2** to your Sunday School teacher or Pastor James, and **3** one month later—do you still know it?

		1	2	3
1	2 Corinthians 1:20 — For every one of God's promises is "Yes" in him.	☐	☐	☐
2	Luke 2:11 — Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord.	☐	☐	☐
3	John 1:14 — The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.	☐	☐	☐
4	John 1:29 — Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!	☐	☐	☐
5	Matthew 4:4 — It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.	☐	☐	☐
6	Matthew 4:19 — "Follow me," he told them, "and I will make you fish for people."	☐	☐	☐
7	Matthew 6:33 — But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.	☐	☐	☐
8	Mark 4:41 — And they were terrified and asked one another, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"	☐	☐	☐
9	Mark 10:52 — Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has saved you." Immediately he could see and began to follow Jesus on the road.	☐	☐	☐
10	Luke 19:10 — For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.	☐	☐	☐
11	Luke 11:28 — ...blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.	☐	☐	☐
12	John 14:6 — I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.	☐	☐	☐
13	John 13:34 — I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.	☐	☐	☐
14	Romans 5:8 — But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.	☐	☐	☐
15	John 11:25 — I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live.	☐	☐	☐

✂ Memory Verse Cards

Ask a grown-up to help you cut these out. Keep them in your Bible, on the fridge, or by your bed.

📖 WEEK 1

For every one of God's promises is "Yes" in him.

2 Corinthians 1:20

👶 WEEK 2

Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:11

🔑 WEEK 3

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

⋮ WEEK 4

Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 1:29

⬇ WEEK 5

It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4

➡ WEEK 6

"Follow me," he told them, "and I will make you fish for people."

Matthew 4:19

⬆ WEEK 7

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Matthew 6:33

⚓ WEEK 8

And they were terrified and asked one another, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

Mark 4:41

✂ Memory Verse Cards

Ask a grown-up to help you cut these out. Keep them in your Bible, on the fridge, or by your bed.

💖 WEEK 9

Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has saved you."
Immediately he could see and began to follow
Jesus on the road.

Mark 10:52

📖 WEEK 10

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save
the lost.

Luke 19:10

🌱 WEEK 11

...blessed are those who hear the word of God and
keep it.

Luke 11:28

🏠 WEEK 12

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes
to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

👑 WEEK 13

I give you a new command: Love one another. Just
as I have loved you, you are also to love one
another.

John 13:34

✝ WEEK 14

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

Romans 5:8

👼 WEEK 15

I am the resurrection and the life. The one who
believes in me, even if he dies, will live.

John 11:25

💖 MY FAVORITE VERSE

Church Notes



Date: _____

Preacher: _____

Bible passage: _____

Sermon title: _____

Listen for these words! Make a tally mark each time you hear one.

God

Jesus

Holy Spirit

love

Bible

pray

grace

your word:

Draw something from today's sermon

draw here

One thing I learned about God

A question I have

Songs we sang

This week I will...

Church Notes



Date: _____

Preacher: _____

Bible passage: _____

Sermon title: _____

 **Listen for these words! Make a tally mark each time you hear one.**

God

Jesus

Holy Spirit

love

Bible

pray

grace

your word:

 **Draw something from today's sermon**

draw here

 **One thing I learned about God**

 **A question I have**

 **Songs we sang**

 **This week I will...**

Church Notes



Date: _____

Preacher: _____

Bible passage: _____

Sermon title: _____

 **Listen for these words! Make a tally mark each time you hear one.**

God

Jesus

Holy Spirit

love

Bible

pray

grace

your word:

 **Draw something from today's sermon**

draw here

 **One thing I learned about God**

 **A question I have**

 **Songs we sang**

 **This week I will...**

Church Notes



Date: _____

Preacher: _____

Bible passage: _____

Sermon title: _____

 **Listen for these words! Make a tally mark each time you hear one.**

God

Jesus

Holy Spirit

love

Bible

pray

grace

your word:

 **Draw something from today's sermon**

draw here

 **One thing I learned about God**

 **A question I have**

 **Songs we sang**

 **This week I will...**

My ROOT Bible Study



Use these four steps with any Bible passage. Grown-ups can print more copies of this page.

Date: _____ I read: _____



Read it

Read the passage slowly—twice! What words or people stand out to you?



Observe

What happens? What does this passage show you about God or about Jesus?



Own it

What does God want you to know, believe, or do because of this passage?



Talk to God

Write a short prayer about what you read. Thank Him and ask for His help.

My ROOT Bible Study



Use these four steps with any Bible passage. Grown-ups can print more copies of this page.

Date: _____ I read: _____



Read it

Read the passage slowly—twice! What words or people stand out to you?



Observe

What happens? What does this passage show you about God or about Jesus?



Own it

What does God want you to know, believe, or do because of this passage?



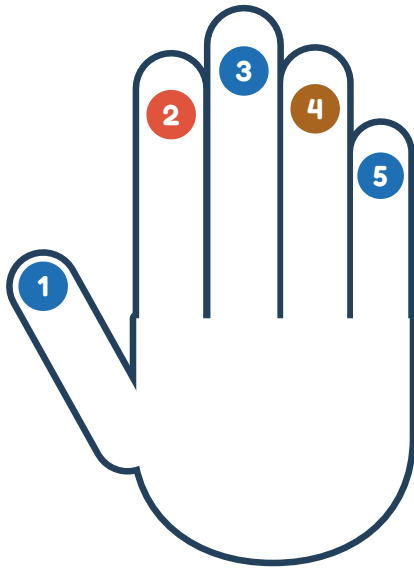
Talk to God

Write a short prayer about what you read. Thank Him and ask for His help.

The Good News on Your Hand



Want to tell a friend about Jesus? You carry a reminder everywhere you go—your hand! Point to each finger as you share.



- 1 God loves you. Thumb**
Thumbs up! God made you, and He loves you more than you can imagine.
"For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16
- 2 Sin separates. Pointer finger**
Everyone has sinned—we point our own way instead of God's way. Sin separates us from God.
"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23
- 3 Jesus saves. Middle finger (the tallest!)**
Jesus is the greatest of all. God's Son died on the cross to pay for our sin, and He rose again!
"But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8
- 4 Trust Him. Ring finger**
A ring is a promise. Turn away from your sin and trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord.
"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9
- 5 Follow Him. Pinky (the smallest)**
Following Jesus happens in small steps, every day, for the rest of your life.
"So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him." Colossians 2:6

♥ Have you trusted Jesus?

If you're not sure, or you'd like to talk about it, ask a parent or grown-up, your Sunday School teacher, or Pastor James Safrit. We would love to talk with you!

What's Next?



Ninety days! Look how far you've come. Here's how to keep growing:



Keep meeting with God every day.

Read the Gospel of John, one chapter a day. John wrote his Gospel so that you may believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Check off each chapter:

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21



Take your next step: baptism.

If you haven't been baptized since you trusted Jesus, talk with a parent or grown-up, and then with Pastor James Safrit.



Be with your church family.

Sunday School: Sundays, 9:45 AM · Worship: Sundays, 11:00 AM · Bible Study: Wednesdays, 6:00 PM.



Try Deep Roots next.

It's a 90-day growing journal for kids who are new in Christ. Download it free at pgbcronda.com/resources.



Keep praying and studying.

Use the ROOT Bible Study and Church Notes pages again and again. Grown-ups can print more copies.



Tell your story.

Use "The Good News on Your Hand" to tell a friend what Jesus has done for you.

For Grown-Ups: Keep Growing Together



Congratulations! Ninety days of Bible reading and prayer is a real accomplishment—celebrate it together. Sign the certificate on the next page and let your child hear how proud you are.

Ideas for the months ahead

- Make Bible time a family habit. Read a chapter of a Gospel together a few nights a week.
- Keep praying together. Let your child pray out loud at meals and at bedtime.
- Talk about Sunday. Ask what they heard in Sunday School and in worship, and share what you heard too.
- Serve together. Look for one way your family can help someone this month.
- Ask about baptism. If your child has not been baptized, talk with Pastor James about next steps.
- Keep the questions coming. If you don't know an answer, look for it together—or ask us!

We're here to help

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church would love to walk with your family. Reach Pastor James Safrit at (336) 984-3360 or pastor@pgbcronda.com, or visit pgbcronda.com.

Sunday School Sundays, 9:45 AM

Worship Sundays, 11:00 AM

Bible Study Wednesdays, 6:00 PM

3982 Clingman Rd, Ronda, NC 28670



Certificate of Completion

This certifies that

_____ completed Follow Me: a 90-day journey through the life of Jesus!

"Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will
have the light of life." [John 8:12](#)

Parent or grown-up

Pastor or teacher

Date

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

90 DAYS!

Answer Key (1 of 2)

Week 1: The Promise

Day 2: 5, 1, 4, 2, 3 (top to bottom)

Day 3: ALL NATIONS BLESSED

Day 5: Bethlehem; David; Immanuel

Bonus: Promises Kept: 1-C, 2-B, 3-G, 4-I, 5-A, 6-H, 7-E, 8-D, 9-F

Week 2: A Savior Is Born

Day 2: the Lord saves; God is with us; sins; obeyed

Bonus: When Jesus Was Born:



Week 3: Growing Up

Day 1: 5, 1, 2, 4, 3 (top to bottom)

Day 6: Circle: Hope for the poor, Freedom for prisoners, Sight for the blind, Help for the hurting

Week 4: The Lamb of God

Day 1: away / to; ready; forgives

Day 2: 1-A, 2-C, 3-B

Day 5: LAMB OF GOD

Week 5: Tested

Day 2: forty; stones; God's Word; bread

Day 3: 1 T, 2 F, 3 T, 4 T, 5 F

Day 5: JESUS HELPS ME

Bonus: Sword Practice: 1-E, 2-G, 3-C, 4-F, 5-A, 6-D, 7-B

Week 6: Come, Follow Me

Day 4: PETER, ANDREW, JAMES, JOHN, PHILIP, THOMAS

Week 7: Words to Build On

Day 1: Circle: The humble, The merciful, Peacemakers, The pure in heart

Bonus: Blessed Are...: 1-D, 2-C, 3-G, 4-A, 5-E, 6-F, 7-B

Week 8: Even the Wind Obeys

Day 2: 5; 2; 5,000; 12

Day 4: JESUS IS LORD OF ALL

Day 5: 1 T, 2 F, 3 T, 4 F, 5 T

Week 9: Jesus Heals

Day 3: 4, 1, 2, 6, 3, 5 (top to bottom)

Day 5: LAZARUS, MARTHA, MARY, TOMB, STONE, ALIVE

Bonus: Healing Stories:



Week 10: Friend of Sinners

Day 1: loved; gave; believes; eternal life

Week 11: Stories Jesus Told

Day 1: 1-D, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B

Day 6: 2, 4, 3, 5, 6, 1 (top to bottom)

Week 12: Who Is Jesus?

Day 3: shepherd; runs; knows; laid down

Day 5: JESUS IS THE WAY

Week 13: The King Comes

Day 6: 1-C, 2-A, 3-D, 4-B

Week 14: The Cross

Day 2: 1 F, 2 T, 3 F, 4 T, 5 T

Day 4: king; world; truth

Day 6: IT IS FINISHED

Answer Key (2 of 2)

Week 15: He Is Alive!

Day 1: third; stone; tell; 500

Church Notes



Date: _____

Preacher: _____

Bible passage: _____

Sermon title: _____

Listen for these words! Make a tally mark each time you hear one.

God

Jesus

Holy Spirit

love

Bible

pray

grace

your word:

Draw something from today's sermon

draw here

One thing I learned about God

A question I have

Songs we sang

This week I will...



Follow Me is one of the **Growing in the Grove** journals—free resources from Pleasant Grove Baptist Church for kids who are new in Christ and the grown-ups who love them.

Sunday School · Sundays, 9:45 AM

Worship · Sundays, 11:00 AM

Bible Study · Wednesdays, 6:00 PM

3982 Clingman Rd, Ronda, NC 28670
(336) 984-3360 · pastor@pgbcronda.com

pgbcronda.com/resources