



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### JEREMIAH ENCOURAGED GOD'S PEOPLE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Jeremiah 29–30](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

If you visit your church's nursery, you might hear a baby crying because he didn't want his mommy and daddy to leave him. Even though parents promise they'll come back after the service, the baby continues to look for and anticipate when his parents will return. When the parents return, the baby is overwhelmed with joy because they kept their promise!

Because God's people didn't listen and continued to sin, God allowed their enemies to take them captive. While the people were living in exile, God sent the prophet Jeremiah to remind His people that He would not abandon or leave them. They would have to wait for the time when God would bring them back home. They would face more hard times and would have to wait for 70 years, but God promised that He would bring the people back to the land of Judah.

The people of Israel were comforted by the promise that God shared through Jeremiah. Through Jeremiah, God told the people how He would raise up a new King from the family of David. God had a plan for His people. They would soon learn that God is faithful and always keeps His promises. God kept His promise and sent Jesus, a descendant of David, to be the eternal King!

**God did not abandon His people. The prophet Jeremiah encouraged God's people. He said God was going to save His people from captivity and raise up a new King—a forever King—from David's family.**

***Pray:*** God, thank You for always keeping Your promises. We can know that Your plans for us are good. Help us to seek You with all our heart and trust that You will do all that You promise. Amen.



## Family Worship Experience

— LEARN SCRIPTURE —

*The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.*



**“The LORD your God is among you,  
a warrior who saves. He will rejoice  
over you with gladness. He will be  
quiet in his love. He will delight in  
you with singing.”**

Zephaniah 3:17



## Family Worship Experience

— SING SCRIPTURE —

Finish your family worship experience by playing the Key Passage song to worship and as a further way to memorize Scripture.



## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

As you wake up to a new sunrise, thank God for His mercies that are new every morning and His faithfulness that stretches as far as the skies. How have you seen God's faithfulness to you and your family?

### **Evenings**

Ask God to help you walk in the plans He has for you. Spend time reading His Word, praying, and worshiping Him to seek more of Him and His will for your life.



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Play "Simon Says" as a family; however, when "Simon" says to do something, everyone should do the opposite. Make the motions simple for younger kids but increase complexity as the game progresses. Talk about how the Israelites faced consequences when they didn't listen to God. End the discussion by reminding kids that Jesus took our punishment and provided us a way to be brought back to God's presence!

### **To Serve**

Offer to babysit for a neighbor or family in your church. Plan dinner and age-appropriate activities for the kids. Afterward, talk about how the activities helped to pass the time as the kids waited on their parents to return. Remind kids that Jesus has given us a mission to make disciples by telling others about Him while we wait for His return.



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### DANIEL SERVED GOD



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Daniel 1](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE

What ingredients do you need to make chocolate chip cookies? You might use flour, sugar, eggs, baking soda, butter, vanilla, salt, and chocolate chips. What would happen if you gathered each of these items and dumped them into a bowl? You'd have a big mess and no cookies to enjoy! That's because the recipe requires you to follow the specific instructions and steps to make the perfect cookie.

In the Bible, Daniel loved God and wanted to obey Him. Even though he was living in a different land with a different king, Daniel wanted to remain faithful to God's laws. Like a recipe with specific instructions, God's laws told Daniel what he could and could not eat. Daniel chose to honor God by refusing the king's food and asking permission to eat only vegetables and drink only water. God blessed Daniel's faithfulness by giving him wisdom and strength!

The Bible tells us that God is perfect and holy, and God's people must perfectly obey His instructions to have a relationship with Him. The bad news is that we have all rebelled against God, and no matter how hard we try, none of us can perfectly obey!

Daniel's obedience is a reminder of the greater, perfect obedience we see in Jesus. Jesus perfectly obeyed God's plan—even to the point of dying on the cross. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives our sin and gives us credit for His righteousness!

**Daniel was faithful to God, and God blessed him. In an even greater way, Jesus was always faithful to God. He came to earth and followed God's plan to save sinners. Those who trust in Jesus receive God's forgiveness and blessing.**

***Pray:** God, we praise You because You are holy and perfect. You have given us Your Word to show us how to follow You. Even when we sinned, You sent Jesus to die on the cross in our place and provide the righteousness we could never earn. Thank You for Jesus and His perfect obedience! Amen.*





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## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Ask God to show you ways to honor Him today. Think about the choices you will make, the interactions you will have with others, and the opportunities you'll have to trust Him. Ask Him to help you honor Him in each of those areas.

### **Evenings**

Thank God for the Bible and how it instructs our lives. Ask God to give you strength and wisdom to follow His commands. Remember that God's forgiveness and blessing is based on Jesus' perfect obedience and not our own!



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Plan a vegetable snack or dinner for your family. Serve different kinds of veggies and dips for kids to try. Talk about how Daniel obeyed God and honored Him by not eating the king's food. Remind kids that it was God, not the diet, that made Daniel wise and strong! We can ask God for the same wisdom and strength to follow Him.

### **To Serve**

Find a recipe for banana bread or similar treat. Work with kids to follow the recipe as it is written. Share the baked treat with a neighbor or friend. Remind kids that God wants us to follow Him and obey Him. While we can't do that perfectly, Jesus did! He gives us His righteousness when we trust in Him.





## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### GOD IS PRESENT WITH US



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Daniel 5](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever heard the phrase “the writing is on the wall”? It’s an expression people use to say that something bad is likely to happen soon. What most people may not know is that this phrase comes from the Bible story we read in Daniel 5.

When the Babylonian king, Belshazzar, was misusing items taken from God’s temple, God sent a message that was written on the wall by a mysterious hand! Understandably, the king was terrified and wanted to know what the message meant. Only Daniel could understand and interpret God’s message.

The writing on the wall was bad news for King Belshazzar. Daniel reminded the king of how God has punished Nebuchadnezzar for thinking too highly of himself and dishonoring God. Belshazzar had made the same mistake. Because of His pride, God was going to punish Belshazzar and take away his kingdom. That same night, God’s message came true. King Belshazzar was killed, and a new king took over in Babylon.

History is full of kings who made the same mistake as Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. The sin of pride makes them feel like they are more important than God, but just as the saying goes, the writing is on the wall! God humbles the proud because they are taking honor that belongs only to Jesus! Jesus is the only king who perfectly obeyed God, and God has exalted Him over all other kings!

**God humbled the proud king of Babylon by taking away his kingdom. King Jesus willingly humbled Himself by dying on the cross for our sin. God raised up Jesus and gave Him honor forever. When we humble ourselves and trust in Jesus, God will raise us up to enjoy Jesus in His kingdom forever.**

***Pray:** Jesus, we honor You because You are King above all kings! You willingly humbled Yourself and You went to the cross to take our sin. You deserve all the glory and honor forever and ever. Help us to honor You above everything else! Amen.*



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## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Ask God for humility. Ask God to reveal the ways pride has influenced your thoughts and actions. Ask Him to remove it so that you can humbly follow Him. How does pride keep us from following God? Why are God's ways better than our own?

### **Evenings**

List as many ways as you can that Jesus is greater and better than earthly kings. Think about His power, His compassion, and His knowledge of the future. How does knowing Jesus as the true and better King help us to trust Him more?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Stack blocks, books, or household objects to see how tall of a tower the family can build. Keep building until the tower falls. Read Proverbs 16:18 and discuss what it says about pride. Remind kids how Jesus humbled himself by dying on the cross to save us from sin.

### **To Serve**

Go out to eat as a family. While dining, choose another table to bless by anonymously paying for their meal. Afterward, talk with kids about how Jesus' sacrifice paid the cost of our sin. Remind kids that Jesus is now exalted over everything, and we can trust in Him as our King.



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### DANIEL WAS FAITHFUL



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Isaiah 7](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Do you get scared or anxious when you wait in the doctor's office? It can be a nerve-wracking time as you wait, especially if your appointment involves getting any shots! In those anxious moments, it is comforting to have a parent with you. You feel a little better just having someone to sit with you, hold your hand, and remind you that everything is going to be OK.

Because of their disobedience, God's people continued to live under the rule of enemy kings. Ahaz was one of those kings. Ahaz ruled over Judah and chose to worship idols instead of worshiping the one true God. When Ahaz was panicked by the threat of armies coming to attack, God sent the prophet Isaiah to deliver a message. Isaiah told Ahaz that those who trust in God have no reason to be afraid because God will take care of them. Isaiah told Ahaz that this promise would be proven by a sign—a baby born of a virgin and called Immanuel, meaning “God with us.”

Isaiah's message brought hope to God's people. Even while they were suffering in captivity, Isaiah's message reminded them that God had not forgotten them. God kept His promise by sending His own Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus is God with us. Even in the most anxious moments, we can find comfort and peace by knowing that Jesus came to be God with us! Those who trust in Him receive the Holy Spirit to be with us, to care for us, and to remind us that all things will soon be OK when Jesus returns!

**God is present with us. He sent prophets to His people, even in captivity, and promised to send Immanuel, which means “God with us.” Jesus fulfilled this promise when He came to earth and was born of a virgin. Jesus is our Immanuel, God with us.**

***Pray:** Thank You God for sending Jesus to be with us! He understands our weakness because He is fully human like us. But unlike us, He is also fully God—perfect, holy, and powerful enough to save. Help us trust in Him and find the peace we need for all our anxious moments. We know that He is our Immanuel—God with us! Amen.*





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## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Ask God to calm you in moments when you feel nervous or anxious. Think on His promises and let those be your reasons not to fear.

### **Evenings**

Make a list of words that describe Jesus. Take time to thank Him for being all those things and for being Immanuel—God with us!



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Take a picture of each family member and print a few copies of each picture. Encourage each family member to “hide” their picture around the house in places where it might be found this week. When a picture is found, it can be a reminder that your family is always with one another and ready to serve one another. Remind kids that Jesus is the ultimate servant who came to live with us and serve us by dying in our place for sin. He is our Immanuel—God with us!

### **To Serve**

Invite family members to take turns serving the rest of the family during dinner time. The chosen servant should prepare the table, serve the food, take drink orders, refill cups when needed, and clean up for the family after the meal. Discuss the sacrifices the chosen family member had to make to serve the family. Read Isaiah 52 and talk about Isaiah’s other prophecies that describe Jesus as the suffering servant. Take time to thank God for Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice to serve us and save us from sin.



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### GOD DELIVERED HIS PEOPLE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Ezra 1](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Harriet Tubman was known as the “Moses of her people.” Born into slavery in 1822, Harriet later escaped and led other slaves to their freedom. Over a 10-year span, Harriet Tubman made many trips from Maryland to the Southern states and helped free more than 300 people from slavery. She often helped those individuals find work and homes to start their new lives. Harriet Tubman is a hero for the time and sacrifice she gave to helping others find freedom.

God used Harriet Tubman to lead others to freedom. Her story reminds us of how God used a king named Cyrus to bring His people out of captivity. King Cyrus decided to let all of God’s people return to Jerusalem to build God a temple there. Cyrus sent gold, silver, animals, and other supplies to help the people. Just as God had promised, the people were free to return to their homes after 70 years in exile.

Stories like these point us to an even greater rescue story. The Bible tells us that apart from Jesus, all people are captive to sin and have no power to free themselves from its consequences. God loved us and sent Jesus as our Deliverer. He is the One who came to free us from the power of sin. If we trust in Him, we have freedom, forgiveness, and a new home with Him forever and ever.

**God always keeps His promises. God chose to use King Cyrus in His plan to graciously deliver His people from exile. King Cyrus’ action to free the people reminds us of Jesus, whom God chose to rescue sinners and bring us to our true home in His kingdom of grace.**

***Pray:** Jesus, thank You for loving us with such an amazing love. Our sin held us captive, but You sent Your Son, Jesus, to free us! We know that His death has paid the price for freedom, and His resurrection promises a new life and eternal home with You for all who believe. Thank You. Amen.*



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Jeremiah 17:7



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## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Thank God for the freedom He has provided for all who trust in Jesus. What price did Jesus pay for our freedom?

### **Evenings**

Praise God for the way He uses ordinary people to accomplish His plans. How did God use King Cyrus to fulfill the promise to His people? Who has God used in your life to help you know Him and learn more about Him?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Hide a stuffed animal or favorite toy of each child. Give them a list of funny activities they must do to “free” the item. Think of silly tasks like hop on one foot and sing the happy birthday song, try to whistle while eating three crackers, or walking around the kitchen while balancing an egg on a spoon. After kids complete the tasks, give them the stuffed animal or toy. While this was silly and fun, talk with kids about the seriousness of what Jesus did to purchase our freedom from sin.

### **To Serve**

Take some time as a family to create “coupon books” of kind acts or favors you can do for one another. Exchange the coupon books at the beginning of the week and try to complete as many of the acts and favors as possible by the end of the week. Discuss how the act or favor cost something for the giver, but it is free for the recipient. Remind kids that Jesus paid the penalty for sin so that we could experience freedom. This is all an act of His amazing grace!





## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### ZECHARIAH GAVE HOPE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Zechariah 13–14](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE

On May 8, 1945, radio broadcasts and newspaper headlines announced that World War I had ended in Europe. Celebrations erupted all over the world as people heard the war had ended. After years of fighting, the people of Europe could celebrate this good news of peace!

God's people had been in exile 70 years when they finally received the news that they could return home. How do you think they felt? Back in Jerusalem, the people began rebuilding the temple, but some of the neighbors in the land didn't want them to finish the temple. God's people continued to face struggles, so God sent a prophet named Zechariah to give the people hope. Zechariah told the people that a day was coming when God would give His people a new King and a new kingdom.

God sent Zechariah to deliver good news for His people. They could have hope for the future because they heard that God would be with them. God sent Jesus to be good news for all people! Everyone who believes in Him can now have peace and a hope for the future because He is the eternal King!

**Zechariah spoke a message of hope to God's people. God would one day set up a new and better kingdom with a new and better King. God kept His promise by sending Jesus. Because of Jesus, we can have hope and forgiveness of sins by trusting in Him.**

***Pray:** Thank You, God, for sending good news to us! While we were still sinners, Jesus died in our place to save us from sin. Help us to know Him and trust in Him as Lord. All who believe in Him can have hope and forgiveness of sins. Amen.*



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## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Pray for the leaders who serve in your city. Pray specifically for the mayor, city council members, police officers and firefighters, and others who serve the public in various ways. Ask God to protect them and give them wisdom as they lead the city.

### **Evenings**

Thank God for the good news of Jesus and how it brings us hope for the future. Reflect on this question: How does Jesus' resurrection give us hope for our future?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Use colored paper or scrapbooking supplies to make "Encouragement Cards" for friends and neighbors. Write messages or Scriptures to give hope to each recipient. Distribute the cards to share good news and give hope to neighbors and friends. Talk with kids about how Zechariah's message gave hope to God's people and how Jesus brings hope to all who believe in Him!

### **To Serve**

Work as a family to clean up an area of your city. Collect litter, rake leaves, or plant flowers to beautify the area. Afterward, talk about how God's people worked to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Remind kids of the promise God made to build a new city that brings all nations together and heals all of creation. We can look forward with hope for that day!



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### THE PEOPLE REBUILT THE TEMPLE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Ezra 2–6](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE

Martin Handford, a British illustrator, created the popular series of books called *Where's Waldo?* In the books, Handford creates a two-page scene of a large crowd, and the reader must find Waldo, a character wearing a red and white striped outfit. These seemingly simple books are available in 31 different languages and have sold more than 70 million copies worldwide! That's a lot of people searching for Waldo!

Unlike Waldo who hides in the picture books, God never wanted to hide from His people. In the Old Testament, God gave His people a special place where they could find Him—first the tabernacle and then the temple. This was the place where the priests could meet with God and where God would dwell with His people.

After returning from exile, the high priest Zerubbabel worked with the people to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. The people celebrated and made offerings to God because the temple was complete. Instead of searching for an unseen God, the people had the temple as a reminder that God was dwelling with them.

The Bible says that everyone who trusts in Jesus receives His Spirit. We don't have to search like we're looking for Waldo, and we don't have to build a temple. The Spirit is God living with us and in us. Followers of Jesus have the Holy Spirit as our reminder that God is with us always and forever!

**God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people. Now, God does not dwell with His people through the temple. Instead, God dwells directly with His people through His Spirit. Jesus provided something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.**

***Pray:** God, thank You for sending Your Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus. We are glad that we don't have to search for You or wonder where You are. Thank You that the Spirit is our Helper, our Comforter, and our reminder that You are living with and in those who trust in You. Amen.*





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## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Ask God to help you feel His presence today. Ask Him to remind you that He is not far off and not hiding from His people. What are some of the ways you can be reminded of God's presence? How does Bible reading, prayer, and worship help you to feel closer with Him?

### **Evenings**

Thank God for sending His Spirit to all who trust in Jesus. How is the Holy Spirit our Helper? How does the Spirit remind us of God's promise to never leave us?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Borrow a *Where's Waldo?* book from your local library or explore another hidden pictures book. Track how long it takes for each family member to find the character. Award a prize for the family member who is the quickest to find Waldo. Talk with kids about how God dwelled with the Israelites in the tabernacle and the temple. Remind them that God, through His Spirit, now dwells directly with everyone who trusts in Jesus.

### **To Serve**

Ask your church if there are any cleaning, maintenance, or beautification projects that your family can complete for the church. Work as a family to gather supplies, organize volunteers, and complete the project. Reminds kids that God is not confined to a building, but the church building is a place where we can connect with God and with other believers. We attend, serve, and invite others to church because it is a place where we can hear the good news of Jesus.



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### GOD CAN ALWAYS BE TRUSTED



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Jeremiah 31](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever seen one of those TV shows where people buy an old, run-down house and make it look totally new again? It's always fascinating to see how they can take something that everyone believed was ruined and make it into something beautiful and special. But that is nothing compared to the work God does to bring dead hearts to life!

The prophet Jeremiah warned the people of Judah about the consequences that would come because they were disobedient and had broken the covenant with God. But along with those words of bad news, Jeremiah also shared a message of good news. He told the people about a day when God would forgive sin and change people's hearts. He said that God would turn their mourning into joy and bring happiness out of their grief. Jesus made these words come true!

God forgives our sin through His Son, Jesus. He changes us and gives us power through His Spirit to obey His commands. Jesus did not come to get rid of the law; through His sinless life, Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the old covenant. When we trust in Jesus, we are credited with His righteousness and our changed hearts enable us to want to follow in Christ's footsteps and obey God as well.

**God's words brought hope to God's people because His words were true. God can always be trusted. Jeremiah told about a day when God would forgive sin and change people's hearts. Jesus' death and resurrection provides forgiveness of sins. Through Jesus, we have new hearts and life with God forever.**

***Pray:** Jesus, You gave Your life on the cross so that all who trust in You could have new life. You are the fulfillment of the promise spoken through Jeremiah. You are the One who turns mourning to joy and brings happiness to our grief. Help us to know You and trust in You as our King! Amen.*



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### **Mornings**

Jeremiah said God would give His people the power to obey. Ask God for His power and help to obey His commands today. Why does God give His children the power to obey? How is that honoring to Him?

### **Evenings**

Make a list of opposite emotions: sad/happy, nervous/calm, angry/joyful. Take time to thank Jesus for being the One who brings the good from the bad! He is the One who brings new life and changes the hearts of everyone who trusts in Him.



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Plan a trip to a flea market or secondhand store. Work as a family to select an item that you think you can “flip” into something new and better. It could be a new coat of paint on a lamp or a complete repurpose of an old coffee table. Over the next few weeks, work on the renovation project and discuss how Jesus gives the ultimate restoration and renovation by giving us new hearts when we believe in Him!

### **To Serve**

Put together care packages to be given away at a local shelter. Include items like socks, toothbrush, hand warmers, and granola bars. Write a note for each package to provide encouragement and hope for the recipient. Talk with kids about how God promised to be a comfort to His people and how His people can be a comfort to others.





## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### ESTHER SAVED HER PEOPLE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [the Book of Esther](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

In 2011, Volkswagen aired a Super Bowl commercial that featured a young boy, dressed as Darth Vader, trying to control things by using “the force.” After several failed attempts at moving objects, the boy stands in front of his dad’s car, puts his hands out toward the car, and the car engine starts! The boy is amazed at his powers, but the commercial reveals the dad standing inside the house using a remote to start the car. The father was in control the whole time!

As we read the Book of Esther, God’s name never appears in the story. He is not mentioned one time, yet it is evident that He is control the whole time! When Mordecai heard of Haman’s evil plan to kill the Jews, he reminded Esther that perhaps God had made her queen for a purpose. God used Esther to save His people from Haman.

Esther’s life did not go exactly the way she planned. There were ups and downs, but God was in control the whole time! We can trust that God has a plan for us, too. No matter what happens in our lives, we can trust that God is in control, and His plans will always be for His glory and our good!

**God was in control over Haman’s evil plan to destroy the Jews. Like Haman, Satan wants to ruin God’s plan and destroy believers. Satan thought he had won when Jesus died on the cross, but God raised Jesus from the dead and defeated Satan once and for all. All who believe in Jesus are rescued from sin and death.**

***Pray:** God, You are always in control. Help us to trust that You have a plan, and Your plans are good. Even when we don’t understand what is happening, remind us that You have the power to use what the enemy means for evil and turn it for good and for Your glory! Amen.*



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**For godly grief produces a  
repentance that leads to salvation  
without regret, but worldly grief  
produces death.**

2 Corinthians 7:10



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## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Ask God to help you trust Him more. How can learning more about God's character and His mighty works help you to trust Him more?

### **Evenings**

Thank God for His good and perfect will for your life. Even when we don't know or understand His plans, we can trust that He is perfectly working out His plan. Why can we trust that His plans for us are good?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Take turns playing with a remote-control car or helicopter. Set up an obstacle course for each family member to guide the car through. Afterward, talk about how the remote gave control to whoever was holding it. While we aren't perfect with that power, God always is perfect and will work out His good plans no matter what.

### **To Serve**

Purim is a Jewish feast to celebrate the saving of the Jewish people from Haman's plan. Baskets of pastries, candy, and juice are often given to family members and those in need as part of the celebration. Assemble a basket of food and drinks that you can give to someone else. Take the opportunity to share the story of Esther and how her story points us to the greater rescuer—Jesus!



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### NEHEMIAH REBUILT THE WALLS



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Nehemiah 1–7](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

In October 2019, more than 1,600 Delaware State University students set the Guinness World Record for number of people buzzing at the same time. The record didn't exist before that day, but Antonio Boyle, Vice President of the university, came up with the idea and organized the students to set the record. The school's mascot is the Hornets, so you could say the students were just "buzzing" with school spirit!

You can imagine the thought and work it takes to get such a large group of people to work together. It takes a plan and a leader. When the time came for God's people to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem, God gave Nehemiah a plan and called him to be the leader for the project.

The work was hard, and it was made harder by those who tried to stop Nehemiah and the people's work. Through it all, God was with them. The people worked together to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. The gates and walls were finished in only 52 days!

The amazing feat was just another reminder of how powerful God is and how much He loves His children. God's greatest demonstration of power and love is seen in Jesus. God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus to save sinners. On the third day, Jesus rose again and secure eternal life for all who trust in Him. This was God's plan to rescue people from sin and to be with His people forever.

**Nehemiah led the people to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem to protect them from their enemies. Jesus came to protect us from our greatest enemies, sin and death. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue everyone who trusts in Him.**

***Pray:** God, we praise You because You are powerful and loving. Thank You for showing us Your power and love by sending Jesus to save people from sin. Help us to trust in Jesus and receive the salvation that comes from believing in Him. Amen.*





## Family Worship Experience

- LEARN SCRIPTURE -

*The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.*



**For godly grief produces a  
repentance that leads to salvation  
without regret, but worldly grief  
produces death.**

2 Corinthians 7:10



## Family Worship Experience

- SING SCRIPTURE -

Finish your family worship experience by playing the Key Passage song to worship and as a further way to memorize Scripture.





## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Thank God for His power. Think of all the stories and examples of God's power found in Scripture. How do these examples show us God's power? How does seeing God's power help you to trust in Him?

### **Evenings**

Thank God for His love. Think of a story in Scripture that teach of God's love. Think of the ways you have felt God's love. How does God demonstrate His love? Why is Jesus the greatest example of God's love?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Use uncooked spaghetti noodles and marshmallows to see which family member can build the tallest and longest wall. If someone has trouble or gets frustrated, prompt other family members to step in to help. By the end, lead all family members to work together for a greater result. As you build, talk about how the Israelites worked together to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. Because God was with them and they worked together, the walls were finished in 52 days!

### **To Serve**

Volunteer to organize items for a local food pantry. Work together as a family and alongside other volunteers. Remind kids of how God's people worked together and how their work protected the entire city from enemies. After organizing, pray for the food pantry and those who will receive food from it. Ask God to be with them and show them His love.



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### EZRA READ THE LAW



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Ezra 7–10](#); [Nehemiah 8](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time; somewhere between 5 to 7 billion Bibles have been purchased. More than 80 million Bibles will be produced this year! The Bible is also the most translated book of all time. At least a portion of the Bible has been translated into 3,500 languages! God's Word continues to spread around the world and change hearts as people hear the truth about Jesus.

Ezra loved to study and teach God's law. After returning to Jerusalem and promising to follow God, the people of Israel gathered to hear Ezra read from God's Word. For hours and hours, the people stood and listened to Ezra read. The people cried and repented as God's Word showed them how they had disobeyed God. Ezra told the people to prepare a feast to celebrate the power of God's Word.

The Bible is God's Word to us. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible shows how our sin separates us from a holy God. It also shows us God's plan to fix all that is broken by sending His own Son, Jesus, to be the Savior we need. Jesus perfectly obeyed God's commands, died on the cross in the place of sinners, and rose again to conquer sin and death. As we read the Bible, we learn that forgiveness and salvation is God's gift to all who believe in Jesus!

**God's Word is powerful. When Ezra read God's Word, the people loved God more and changed their ways. The Bible says that Jesus is "the Word." Jesus is God who came to live with people on earth. Jesus has the power to change our hearts.**

***Pray:** God, Your Word is perfect and powerful! The Bible shows us our sin, but we praise You because it also shows us Jesus and His power to save us from sin. Help us to understand Your Word and let it change us to honor You more. Amen.*



## Family Worship Experience

- LEARN SCRIPTURE -

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2 Corinthians 7:10



## Family Worship Experience

- SING SCRIPTURE -

Finish your family worship experience by playing the Key Passage song to worship and as a further way to memorize Scripture.



## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Thank God for the Bible and all it teaches us about His plan to save sinners through Jesus. What does the Bible show us about our sin? How does the Bible point us to Jesus as Savior and Lord?

### **Evenings**

Ask God to give you a love for His Word and the help you need to understand it. How does more time reading and memorizing God's Word help us to love Him and His Word? Who can help you to understand God's Word?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Throw a party to celebrate God's work in your family. Decorate, serve dessert, and sing worship songs as a family. Take turns telling stories and naming specific things God has done for you and your family in this past year.

### **To Serve**

Decide as a family to purchase one or more children's Bibles to make available for kids in your church or community to have their own copy of God's Word. Pray for the families who will encounter God's Word because of your donation. Remind kids that people need to hear God's Word in order to understand and believe the good news of Jesus.



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### THE PEOPLE PROMISED TO BE FAITHFUL



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Nehemiah 9–10](#) from the Bible.





## Family Worship Experience

TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE

Does your family have a photo album or memory box to collect special memories for your family? A lot of times, parents will keep photos or memorabilia to help them remember special occasions like the day they were married, a baby's first steps, or a high school graduation. We keep these items because we want to remember the good times we share as a family. Looking back on memories can also remind us of God's faithfulness to us.

After God's people returned to their homes, they had to rebuild their homes and their lives. As they entered this new beginning, they took time to remember the ways God had been faithful to them. They recounted the ways God led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness. They retold stories of God's faithfulness to provide bread from heaven for the people to eat. Even when the people did not trust God or obey His commands, God remained faithful to His people.

The Bible says that God is patient with us. He does not want us to die in our sin, but He wants all of us to come to repentance. We can look back and see God's faithfulness in our lives. It may be in big ways or small ways, but just the fact that we have more days to learn about Him is a gift of His grace. His ultimate gift of grace was Jesus—the Savior who rescues us from sin.

**God's people remembered all He had done and promised to be faithful. God is gracious and compassionate. All along, God has been faithful to people who are unfaithful. We experience God's grace and compassion in Jesus, who gave His life so we can receive mercy and life forever.**

***Pray:** God, You are faithful. You always do what You promise. Thank You for loving us and showing compassion to us. Even though we have been unfaithful, You remain faithful. Most of all, we thank You for Jesus and His sacrifice. Through faith in Him, we can experience the fullness of your mercy and grace. Amen.*





## Family Worship Experience

- LEARN SCRIPTURE -

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## Family Worship Experience

- SING SCRIPTURE -

Finish your family worship experience by playing the Key Passage song to worship and as a further way to memorize Scripture.



## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Pray for the strength to worship God through obedience today. How is obedience a way of worshiping God? How can remembering His faithfulness help you obey?

### **Evenings**

Praise God for the ways you saw His faithfulness today. How does the sunrise and sunset remind you of His faithfulness? How can your family, your home, and the food you ate be a reminder of God's compassion toward you?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Look through family photo albums or watch home videos to recount special occasions. Share stories and memories with one another. End the time by thanking God for the memories He has given your family and the reminders of His faithfulness.

### **To Serve**

Invite another family or multiple families to join you in a family worship night. Sing worship songs together, ask parents or kids to share testimonies of God's faithfulness, and take time to thank God for His compassion and grace. Provide instant cameras for families to capture memories of the night for future celebrations.



## Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

### WE SHOULD BE SORRY FOR SIN



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of [Romans 8](#) from the Bible.



## Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Tug-of-war is a fierce game. Two teams hold opposite ends of a rope and try to pull the other team to their side. Each team is fighting to overpower the other team. One minute, team A is winning and doing great. Then, BAM! Team B takes over and starts to win. It's a back-and-forth battle.

The people of Israel promised to follow God and be faithful to Him, but they would always mess up and fail to do what He required. While it might have felt like they were winning at times, the reality is that they were never going to be able to win that battle on their own. That's why God sent Jesus. Jesus came to battle and defeat sin for good.

The Bible says that when we trust in Jesus, we have victory over sin. Sin no longer has the power to control us, and we are freed to live in a way that honors God. But this isn't always easy for us! In his letter to the Christians in Rome, Paul said that every believer is playing this game of tug-of-war between doing what we want to do and what God wants us to do. It's a battle because we still want to do sinful things because we are sinful people. Thankfully, God has given us His Spirit! The Holy Spirit changes our hearts and gives us the desire to live for Jesus. We can let the Spirit transform us to look more and more like Jesus!

**God sent Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves. Because of Jesus, we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. God gives us His Spirit so we can become righteous like Christ, hating sinning and living to bring glory and honor to God the Father.**

***Pray:** Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross and rising again to defeat the power of sin! We can have forgiveness and eternal life because You did that for us. Thank You for giving Your Spirit to all who believe so that we can have a new heart and new desire to honor You. Amen.*



## Family Worship Experience

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## Family Worship Experience

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Finish your family worship experience by playing the Key Passage song to worship and as a further way to memorize Scripture.



## **Family Prayer Time**

### **Mornings**

Praise God for the new identity we receive when we trust in Jesus as Lord. How is this identity different from our old sinful identity? What does it mean to have no condemnation for those in Christ?

### **Evenings**

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live in a way that honors Jesus. How does experiencing God's love through Jesus motivate us to obey? How can we be sure of God's forgiveness and acceptance even when we mess up?



## **Family Activities**

### **For Fun**

Play a game of tug-of-war with your family or with another family. Keep the game easy for young kids. Afterward, read Galatians 5:16-18 and talk about how the battle between flesh and Spirit can be like a game of tug-of-war. Ask for the help of the Spirit as we continue to grow in Christ.

### **To Serve**

Search online or talk to church leaders to find out about local prison ministries. Seek out ways your family can volunteer or donate to ministries for incarcerated individuals and their families. Pray as a family for the message of the gospel to change hearts through this ministry. Remind kids that those who trust Christ are no longer guilty but freed from their sin. Jesus' work on the cross has defeated sin and given us the victory!