



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

CROSSING THE JORDAN RIVER



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Joshua 1; 3–4 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

The Gateway Arch stands 630-feet tall over the city of St. Louis, Missouri. Built in 1963, the arch is made of concrete and steel, and it weighs more than 43 tons! This impressive monument is meant to remember and celebrate the westward expansion of the United States that connected the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It is known as the “Gateway to the West.”

Monuments like the Gateway Arch are meant to help people remember the past and symbolize important events. The practice of building monuments dates back to ancient history and can be seen many times throughout the Bible. After God miraculously stopped the Jordan River for the Israelites to pass through, He gave Joshua specific instructions for building a monument. The Israelites took 12 stones from the middle of the river, and they built a monument to remember what God had done. Whenever someone asked why those stones were there, the Israelites could retell the stories of their strong and mighty God.

Psalm 78:4 says, “...tell a future generation the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, his might, and the wondrous works he has performed.” Remembering the amazing things God has done helps us trust Him. We can also tell others about His wondrous works—like how He sent Jesus to save us from our sin—so that they might believe in Him.

God’s presence went before the people, and the waters of the Jordan were stopped. God’s people crossed safely into the Promised Land. Jesus went before God on behalf of sinners. All who trust in His life, death, and resurrection are saved from judgment and enter into eternal life.

***Pray:** Lord, we praise You because You have done great things! Help us remember all the amazing things You have done and to share those stories with others to help them know You. 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.



**Who is this King of glory? The
LORD, strong and mighty, the
LORD, mighty in battle.**

Psalm 24:8



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

Praise God for one of His amazing works you've learned about from the Bible. How does remembering God's works teach us more about who He is and what He can do for us?

Evenings

Praise God for one way He helped you today. How can God's help today remind you to trust Him tomorrow? How can sharing the story of God's work in your life help others trust in Him?



Family Activities

For Fun

Make a memorial wall in your home. Use objects, photos, or drawings to help your family remember the amazing things God has done in and through your family. Take time sharing the stories with one another and praising God for His goodness.

To Serve

Visit an elderly church member. As you share a meal or visit together, ask the person to share stories of God's faithfulness in his life. Encourage your kids to ask questions and listen to learn more about who God is and how He displays His power.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

CONQUERING JERICHO



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Joshua 2–4; 6 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever participated in a trust fall? This is when a person stands in a chair and falls backward into the arms of a few people waiting to catch them. It can be very scary to trust others to catch you. One way to make a trust fall easier is to select people you know can be trusted to catch you—like your parents or guardians. Falling backward to them is easier because you know they love you and want to protect you.

To enter the land God promised them, the Israelites had to first defeat the city of Jericho. This would not be an ordinary battle. This battle was all about trust. God gave Joshua specific (and very strange) instructions for how to conquer the city.

Joshua sent spies into Jericho to see what it was like. They were housed and protected by a woman named Rahab. In exchange for her kindness, Rahab asked the Israelites to keep her safe when they conquered the city, so the spies promised to keep her and her family safe.

Joshua and the Israelites followed God's instructions by marching around the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day, the Israelite army marched around the city seven times, and the priests blew their trumpets loudly. As the people shouted, the walls of Jericho fell to the ground. The whole city was destroyed, but Rahab and her family were saved.

It can be hard for us to trust God, especially when we don't understand what He is doing. Even in those moments, we can know that God is good and that He is in control. The Israelites and Rahab trusted God would win the battle, and He delivered!

God's people could not bring down Jericho's walls in their own power. They trusted God and were victorious. We cannot defeat sin and death in our own power. When we trust in Jesus, we are saved from sin and death.

***Pray:** Lord, help us trust that You are good and always in control. We know that Your plans will never fail, and we thank you most of all for Your plan to send Jesus so everyone who trusts in Him will be saved! 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.



**Who is this King of glory? The
LORD, strong and mighty, the
LORD, mighty in battle.**

Psalm 24:8



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

Ask God to give you guidance as you interact with others, make wise choices, and follow Him. How does God give us instructions for living for Him? Why is it important for us to follow the instructions God gives through the Bible?

Evenings

Praise God for the mercy He showed Rahab through the Israelites and for the mercy He has shown us through Jesus. How has God shown mercy through Jesus? How does it feel to know God loves you and wants to save you from the consequences of sin?



Family Activities

For Fun

Hold a competition to see who in your family can build the sturdiest tower using building blocks or interlocking blocks. Use books or weights to see whose structure can hold the most weight. As you build, discuss why only God could defeat Jericho. Then, read Matthew 1 to find Rahab in Jesus' genealogy. Discuss how God used this event to save Rahab and how she became part of His story to bring Jesus as the Savior we need!

To Serve

As a family, donate to or serve a local organization that supports children in foster care. As a family, commit to praying for foster-care workers and for children to be united with loving families. Thank God for His love through Jesus that makes it possible for anyone who believes to be welcomed into His family and loved forever!



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

ACHAN'S SIN AND THE DEFEAT OF AI



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Joshua 7–8 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Opossums are known for “playing dead” when a predator attacks. When threatened, the animal’s body goes limp, its tongue comes out of its mouth, and a pungent odor is released to make it smell like the animal has been dead for a while. Talk about a stinky situation!

The men of Israel suffered, and many died, because Achan did not follow God’s instructions. Once Achan had been punished for his disobedience, God promised Joshua that He would give them victory over the armies of Ai. Joshua and the men pretended to be defeated and ran, but it was a trap. The people of God won the battle and worshipped God.

The story of Joshua and Achan reminds us that we too are in a stinky situation. We are all sinners, and sin has deadly consequences. Our sin must be punished, but Jesus took our place on the cross to pay the price for our sin. As Jesus died, it looked like Satan had won and all hope was lost, but Jesus rose from the grave with victory and forgiveness for all who trust in Him.

Achan disobeyed the command of God, and his punishment was death. We also deserve the punishment of death for our sin. Jesus, God’s sinless Son, was punished in our place for our sin. Those who trust in Him are forever forgiven of their sin.

***Pray:** Thank You, Jesus, for taking our place on the cross and for enduring the punishment of sin that was meant for us. Though our sin made us enemies with God, Your perfect work has brought peace with God for all who trust in Your name. We will worship You because You are the victorious King. 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.



**Who is this King of glory? The
LORD, strong and mighty, the
LORD, mighty in battle.**

Psalm 24:8



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

Praise God for His mercy that is new every morning. Thank Him for being always present and always ready to help you obey His commands. How does the Holy Spirit remind us of God's commands? How does the Holy Spirit help us obey?

Evenings

Ask God to remind you of His forgiveness and mercy provided in Jesus. Ask Him to help you flee from sin and obey Him in the areas where you struggle. How does knowing God's mercy is never-ending help you deal with your failures?



Family Activities

For Fun

Talk about how no sin is hidden. As a family, choose five sins that people often try to hide (lying, being prideful, being jealous, and so forth), and write those sins on index cards. Then have your kids close their eyes as you hide the cards around the room. Hide the cards so they are difficult, but not impossible, for kids to find. As kids find the cards, make the connection to how Achan tried to hide his sin. Though we all try to hide our sin, God sees it and must punish it. However, there is forgiveness for all who believe in Jesus and His sacrifice for our sins.

To Serve

Volunteer to help with the next baptism celebration at your church. Your family could fill the baptistry prior to the service, arrange the supplies and rooms where families will prepare, or make cards for those who are getting baptized. Talk as a family about how baptism is a picture of what Jesus has done to save us. He died for our sin, and He rose again to give us new life in Him.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

TAKING THE LAND



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Joshua 10–11 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Derek Redmond was ready to run the 400m race at the 1992 Olympic Games. Many thought Derek would win the race. But halfway through the race, Derek fell to the ground with an injured hamstring that made it impossible to run.

Determined to finish, Derek attempted to limp toward the finish line. Just then, Derek's father, Jim, came from the crowd, lifted his son on his shoulder, and helped Derek finish the race. When he needed it the most, Derek's father was there to help!

God had promised victory for the Israelite army. As Joshua and the Israelites fought the five kings' armies, the Lord was with them. And when they needed it the most, God was there to help!

When Joshua prayed, God made the sun stand still and allowed the Israelites to conquer the enemy armies. Like a father who comes to help his children, God fought for His people and gave them the land He had promised.

God fought for Israel, and all their enemies were defeated. Jesus lived a sinless life and defeated our enemies—sin and death—when He died on the cross. If we believe in Him, we receive His righteousness.

***Pray:** God, we know that You are a loving Father. You love Your children and always want to help them in their time of need. We praise You because You saw our greatest need was salvation and You sent Jesus to be the Savior we needed. 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.



**Who is this King of glory? The
LORD, strong and mighty, the
LORD, mighty in battle.**

Psalm 24:8



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 people who help you and take care of you. Ask God to help you show appreciation for the ways they serve you today. How has God met your needs through the help of others? How is this a sign of His love for you?

Evenings

Ask God to remind you of His power to do what might seem impossible. What thoughts did you have about God when you read of His miracle that helped Joshua? How does this story show us His power over creation?



Family Activities

For Fun

Take your family on an outing to a place where you can get a good view of the sunset (or sunrise). As you take in the beauty of the changing sun, talk about how God fought for His people by making the sun stand still. Remind your kids that God is in control of everything, and we can find comfort in trusting Him.

To Serve

Guide each family member to come up with a way they can serve another family member this week. It could be making their lunch, doing their chores, cleaning their room, and so forth. Remind each family member that these acts of service for one another are just small reminders of how God loves and helps His people. The greatest example of this is Jesus, who came to serve as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

JOSHUA'S FAREWELL



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Joshua 23–24 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Here's a quick challenge: make a list of all the different ways people have shown they love and care for your family. This could be through gifts, time, or words of kindness.

When we remember the ways others have shown love to us, it naturally makes our love for them grow. When Joshua came to end of his life, he took time to recall all the ways God had shown love to him and the Israelites. Joshua reminded the Israelites how God had rescued them out of Egypt, brought them across the Red Sea on dry land, and helped them win so many battles! God had shown His faithful love to Israel over and over again.

As they remembered the ways God had shown His love, Joshua urged the people to give thanks by worshiping and obeying God. Their obedience would be a sign that they remembered everything God had done. It would be an act of worship to the God who had shown them such great love!

Joshua reminded the people that God saved them from Egypt and gave them the Promised Land. He told them to worship God alone. Jesus is worthy of all worship because He saves those who trust in Him from sin and gives them eternal life.

***Pray:** God, help us remember all the ways You have shown love to us. When we think of those things, help us respond by loving You with our trust and our obedience. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to save us from our sins. 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.



**Who is this King of glory? The
LORD, strong and mighty, the
LORD, mighty in battle.**

Psalm 24:8



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 gifts and talents He has given you. What abilities has God gifted to you? How can those abilities be used to worship Him?

Evenings

Ask God to help you use the gifts and talents He gave you to tell others about Jesus and bring glory to Himself. How can the talents and abilities God gives be used to share the gospel with others? How can we honor God by using our gifts this way?



Family Activities

For Fun

Look through family photo albums with kids. Talk about the seasons or special moments when your family experienced God's loving-kindness. Discuss how remembering His love for us makes our love for Him grow. Encourage kids to worship God with their obedience.

To Serve

Write a card or letter to the individuals God has used to teach you about Him. It could be a Sunday School teacher, pastor, friend, or family member. Thank the person for telling you about God and all the things He has done. Thank them for taking the time to encourage you in the faith.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

THE FIRST JUDGES



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Judges 3:7-31 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

In 1998, five countries worked together to launch the International Space Station. It orbits Earth approximately 15 times per day collecting data for research. It's been flying the same path around the planet for 24 years. If you do the math, this means the International Space Station has circled the planet more than 131,000 times! Talk about going around in circles!

After Joshua died, the next generation of Israelites forgot about the wondrous works God had done. For many years after that, the people followed the same devastating cycle of sin. Over and over again, the Israelites forgot God, turned away from God, and then cried out "God save us!" Each time, God sent a judge to deliver His people and save them from their enemy. But the cycle of sin kept going around and around.

This same cycle is in our lives. We have sinned and turned away from God. When we realize how sin separates us from God, we should cry out "God save us!" Glory to God that He has heard those cries for help! He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sin and be the perfect Deliverer. Only Jesus has the power to defeat sin. He is the better rescuer who can deliver us from the cycle of sin.

God brought consequences to His people for their sins, but He also raised up judges to save them from their enemies. We also have consequences for our sins, but God sent Jesus to save us from our sins once and for all.

***Pray:** Jesus, thank You for being the Rescuer we need! Only You can save us from our sins. Help us remember Your works and help us follow You as King. 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.



**[If] my people, who bear my name,
humble themselves, pray and seek
my face, and turn from their evil
ways, then I will hear from heaven,
forgive their sin, and heal their land.**

2 Chronicles 7:14



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

Ask God for His wisdom and strength to confess sin. How can confessing our sin and seeking God's help break the cycle of sin? What is God's reaction when His people repent?

Evenings

Thank God for always hearing our prayers and responding according to His will. How did God respond to the cries of the Israelites? What does this teach us about His patience and love for His people—even when they disobey?



Family Activities

For Fun

Play a game of follow-the-leader. Have the leader walk in a funny way, sing a song, or dance while others follow their motions. Assign one family member to shout 'Repent' at any point during the game, at which point the entire family must turn and begin marching in the opposite direction. The person at the opposite end of the line is now the leader. After playing discuss what repentance means (Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus). Talk with kids about God's desire for people—including your family—to turn away from sin and follow Jesus.

To Serve

Work as a family to pick up trash and litter in a nearby park or along a neighborhood road. Talk with kids about how this area will likely be littered again and will need another cleanup in time. Remind kids that the judges could only bring temporary relief from the consequences of sin, but Jesus has completely defeated sin. Through Him, we can have forgiveness and total deliverance!



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

DEBORAH LED ISRAEL



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Judges 4–5 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

After being declared the Emperor of France in 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte was determined to conquer all of Europe. He was known for his military tactics and won many victories, but his success ended at the battle of Waterloo. In this battle, Napoleon found himself fighting against two enemies, the Britain and Prussian armies. Napoleon had made many enemies, and in the end, they proved to be too many and too powerful for him to defeat.

As God's people continued to sin against Him, they found themselves facing many enemies. God was faithful to provide judges like Deborah who reminded the people that their God was bigger and stronger than their enemies. When the people trusted God and cried out to Him, He provided a way for them to be saved from their enemies.

Just as God provided victory over the enemies His people faced, God has defeated sin and provided victory for all who trust in Jesus. By His work on the cross and through His resurrection, Jesus defeated Satan. Because victory is only possible through Jesus, He deserves all the honor and glory. We can rejoice in the name of Jesus because it is the only name by which we all can be saved!

God used Deborah to lead Israel in victory over their enemies, and God received the glory. God sent Jesus to reign victorious over sin and death. Jesus is worthy of all honor, glory, and power (Revelation 4:11).

***Pray:** God, You reign over everything in Your creation. There is no power greater than Yours. Thank You for providing the victory over sin for us through Jesus. We will give Him all the glory and honor for saving those who cry out to 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.



**[If] my people, who bear my name,
humble themselves, pray and seek
my face, and turn from their evil
ways, then I will hear from heaven,
forgive their sin, and heal their land.**

2 Chronicles 7:14



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

Praise God for the ways He has provided for your family. Make a list of reasons you can give Him glory today.

Evenings

Thank God for the women He has put in your life to lead you closer to Him. Think of your mother, grandmothers, teachers, or church leaders. Give God glory for using these women like He used Deborah to build His kingdom here on earth.



Family Activities

For Fun

Play a game that involves a battle of wits, like checkers or chess. As you play, talk about how God's people fought battles during the period of the judges. Remind kids that God was always faithful to be with His people and to keep His promises. He provided judges like Deborah to help the people defeat their enemies.

To Serve

Write cards of encouragement and thankfulness to the women who serve in your church. Try to think of as many women as you can, and talk about the ways they serve the church. Pray for them, and give them the cards to praise God for using them in your church and in the life of your family.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

GIDEON LED ISRAEL



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Judges 6–8 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

One thing we see repeatedly in the Bible is God displaying His strength by using weak people. Gideon came from a weak, insignificant family. His fear seemed bigger than his faith, but God assured Gideon that His power would work in and through Gideon. Everything Gideon asked God to do to prove His power, God did.

Gideon and the army went to fight the Midianites, but God wasn't finished showing His power. God reduced Gideon's army from 32,000 men all the way down to only 300 men. Victory over the Midianites seemed impossible with these odds, but nothing is impossible with God! God confused the Midianites and made them fight with each other! Gideon and his army easily defeated the Midianites because God's power was working through Gideon's army.

When we feel the guilt from our sin, we often try to earn God's love and forgiveness. The problem is that we will never be strong enough or good enough on our own to defeat the power sin has over us. The good news is that God has shown His power through the work of Jesus who died to save us from sin. When we trust in Him, He gives us forgiveness and victory through His power.

Gideon could have never won the battle without God's power. Victory came from God alone. We cannot save ourselves from sin. Only Jesus can save us from our sin. .

***Pray:** God, are more powerful than anyone else. When we are afraid or when we face hard times, help us trust that You are powerful and good enough to help us. We can trust in Your power because we see it best through Jesus who came to save us from our sin. 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.



**[If] my people, who bear my name,
humble themselves, pray and seek
my face, and turn from their evil
ways, then I will hear from heaven,
forgive their sin, and heal their land.**

2 Chronicles 7:14



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

Ask God to give you the strength you need for today. Remember that He knows everything you will face, and He has the power to help you. How does knowing God's goodness and power help you to face hard things?

Evenings

Rejoice in the ways God has helped you in difficult times. Write down the fears or hard situations you've faced, and then write down the ways God was present and powerful for you.



Family Activities

For Fun

Fold paper into a cone shape to make a simple trumpet. Help kids make and decorate their own trumpets. Have a competition to see who can make the loudest trumpet call. Talk about how Gideon blew his trumpet and how God provided power and victory to defeat the Midianites.

To Serve

Go on a prayer walk around your neighborhood. Pray for neighbors (by name if possible), and ask God to make His power and goodness visible to them so they will trust in Him. Remind kids that the work of salvation is only possible through God's power. We want to share the good news with neighbors because we trust that God is good enough and powerful enough to save them.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

SAMSON AND THE PHILISTINES



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Judges 13–16 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever been in the kitchen when your mom is icing a cake that smells and looks delicious? You'd give anything just for a bite, and then it happens—she lets you lick the icing off the spatula! As good as licking the icing is, it's still nothing like getting to enjoy the whole cake. The icing is just a taste of something that will be better later!

In the story of Samson, we can clearly see details that remind us of Jesus' story—Samson's birth was announced by an angel, he was betrayed by someone he trusted, he was taken away, mocked, and his death freed people from their captivity. But in the end, Samson wasn't perfect and therefore his death didn't give the people complete salvation. Only Jesus can do that!

The freedom the people found in Samson's death was just a taste of the greater freedom that comes through Jesus! Through Jesus' death, we can have complete forgiveness and salvation. There is no sweeter name than the name of Jesus!

Samson's great strength came from God alone. Samson had no power to defeat the Philistines on his own. We cannot please God on our own. Through faith in Jesus, people are saved from sin and receive the Holy Spirit, who helps them live to please God.

***Pray:** God, thank You for giving us glimpses of Your plan through stories like Samson's. Every story points us to the greatest story of how You sent Jesus to save everyone who believes 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.



**[If] my people, who bear my name,
humble themselves, pray and seek
my face, and turn from their evil
ways, then I will hear from heaven,
forgive their sin, and heal their land.**

2 Chronicles 7:14



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

Ask God to keep your mind and heart focused on Jesus as the greatest treasure. Whenever you want food, water, or entertainment today, ask God to use that desire as a reminder that true satisfaction is found only in Jesus! What makes Jesus the greatest hero, greatest friend, and greatest treasure?

Evenings

Thank God for the greatest peace that comes from knowing and trusting in Jesus. Ask God to grow your faith in Jesus. How has Jesus brought ultimate peace for those who believe in Him? Have you trusted in Him for that peace?



Family Activities

For Fun

Work as a family to make a cake. Let your kids choose the icing and decorations that will go on the cake. As you slice and enjoy the cake, talk about how each story you've been learning shows God's love as He saves people from their enemies, but—like slices of a cake—those stories are meant to point us to the bigger story of God's great love and His ultimate act of salvation through the work of Jesus.

To Serve

Volunteer to wash toys or clean furniture for your church's preschool ministry. When finished, thank your kids for helping clean these areas so that ministry can happen on Sundays. Read 1 John 1:9 and discuss how Jesus' work can cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

THE STORY OF RUTH



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of the book of Ruth from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Can you imagine what it would be like to go deep inside a cave with no flashlight? The heavy darkness of an unlit cave is the ultimate example of what it means to feel alone and how scary that can be!

When we read the story of Naomi, we see how she was experiencing loneliness and sadness. Her husband and sons had died, and she was in a strange land with just her two daughters-in-law. So, Naomi decided she would return to her home in Bethlehem, but she gave permission for the two younger women to return to their families in Moab. But Ruth said to Naomi, "Where you go, I will go...your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." So, the two women returned to Bethlehem together.

Ruth's decision to follow Naomi was also a decision to trust and follow the one true God. The love they had for one another and for God helped them to return to Bethlehem as a family. And God continued to add to that family through Boaz—who married Ruth and bought back the land Naomi's family had lost. Through Ruth and Boaz, God had completely restored the inheritance and the family of Naomi. Not only that, but Ruth and Boaz had a son named Obed. When Obed grew up, he was the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David! God made Naomi's family a part of Jesus' family tree!

Boaz cared for Ruth and Naomi. In a much greater way, Jesus is our Redeemer. Sin leaves people alone and separated from God, but Jesus died and rose again to pay for the sins of those who believe in Him and to make the way for them to be adopted into His family.

Ruth was in great need and unable to provide for herself. God provided Boaz as her redeemer. We are in great need and unable to save ourselves from our sin. God provided Jesus as our Redeemer.

Pray: God, You provided for Ruth and Naomi when they were in great need, and You have provided for us in our greatest need. Thank You for sending Jesus to take our punishment on the cross. 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.



**My God will supply all your
needs according to his riches
in glory in Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 4:19



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

Praise God for the friends who love you, help you, and encourage you to follow God. What qualities make a great friend? How are these people a gift from God to you?

Evenings

Thank God for your family. Thank Him for the ways they have protected and provided for you. Ask God to remind you of how Jesus has provided the forgiveness we need and how we are welcomed into His family when we trust in Him!



Family Activities

For Fun

Do some research to discover more about your family lineage. Interview elderly relatives or use photo albums to introduce your kids to their heritage. Be sensitive to kids in your home who may be in foster or adoptive situations and those who may or may not have information on their biological family trees. Discuss the ways God has knit your family together. As you talk about your family, discuss the story of Ruth. Talk about what it means to be a part of God's family and how Jesus has made that possible through His sacrifice.

To Serve

Make cards or treats for the widows in your local church. Talk with kids about how Jesus is our comfort in hard times and how everyone who believes in Him is welcomed into God's family.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

SAMUEL WAS BORN AND CALLED



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of 1 Samuel 1–3 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

How does it feel when someone knows your name and uses it when they are talking to you? Research has shown that using someone's name when talking to them can help build stronger relationships and increase the positive feelings between two people. We all like to be known and to be called by our name.

When God wanted to speak to Samuel, He called to him by name. God continued to speak to and through Samuel. He used Samuel to share His message of salvation to the people of Israel. Just as Samuel was a blessing to Hannah, God blessed the people by speaking His words through Samuel.

God wants us to spend time with Him through prayer and reading the Bible so we can learn to hear His voice. He has spoken wonderful promises and wisdom through His Word, and He wants us to listen so we can trust and obey Him.

While it feels good for someone to call us by name, it is even more thrilling to think that God knows our name. He speaks to us by His Word and through His Spirit, and He calls on us to follow Him.

God called to Samuel, and Samuel responded. God calls people to turn from sin and follow Jesus. Everyone who responds by trusting in Jesus is saved from sin.

Pray: God, thank You for speaking to us through the Bible and helping us follow You. You love Your people and call them by name to follow you. Help us listen to You and trust You with our lives. 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.



**My God will supply all your
needs according to his riches
in glory in Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 4:19



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

Praise God for His attributes we see in the story of Hannah and Samuel: His love, His patience, and His provision. How did God show love to Hannah? How did He provide for Hannah? How have you seen these same attributes of God in your life?

Evenings

Ask God to give you faith like Hannah when you pray to Him. Ask Him to help you trust in His ability to hear your prayers and respond to them. Why do you think Hannah trusted God when she prayed? Why can you trust God when you pray?



Family Activities

For Fun

Have a diaper-changing contest with the family. Use baby dolls or watermelons as the “Baby” and see who can remove and replace a diaper the fastest. Talk about Hannah’s trust in God to answer her prayer and her devotion to give her son back to God for His use. Ask your kids to think about why Hannah trusted God so much and how we can grow in our trust of Him.

To Serve

Deliver a meal, gift, or offer to drop off a cup of coffee for a young mom in your church. Talk with your kids about Hannah’s prayer and how God provided a son for her. Explain how God used Samuel, Hannah’s son, to anoint David as God’s chosen king over Israel and ancestor of Jesus—the King of kings!



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

THE ARK WAS CAPTURED



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of 1 Samuel 4–6 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

On April 21, 1980, Rosie Ruiz was declared the winner of the women's division of the Boston Marathon. The only problem was that Rosie Ruiz was a fraud. Instead of running the 26.2-mile race, Ruiz waited in the crowd and snuck onto the road to run only the final mile of the race. She was disqualified, and the real winner was crowned. Clearly, she had no business running the race with the real marathoners!

After the Philistines defeated the Israelites, they captured the ark of the covenant and took it back to their city. The ark was a symbol of God's presence, but the Philistines placed it beside the statue of Dagon, a false god they worshiped. The next morning, the statue of Dagon had fallen on its face in front of the ark. The Philistines set the statue up again, but it fell again, causing its head and hands to fall off! God was making it clear that He is the One True God and that Dagon—or any false god—has no business standing next to Him!

God promised to be with His people. This promise gives comfort to know that God is near, but it also gives courage to know that He is the One True God who has all power, authority, and control. There is no one as great as Him!

God is holy and punished the Israelites and Philistines for misusing the ark. All people sin and deserve God's judgment, but Jesus took that judgment when He died on the cross. All who trust in Jesus are forgiven of sin and saved from judgment.

***Pray:** There is no one as great as You, God! You sent Jesus to be God with us. Help us believe in Him so we can experience the comfort and courage of knowing You are always with us. 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.



**My God will supply all your
needs according to his riches
in glory in Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 4:19



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

Worship God as the one true God. Praise Him because there is no one as great as Him! How do you see God's superiority in this week's Bible story? What other stories in the Bible show us that He is the one true God?

Evenings

Thank God for His power. Thank Him for the comfort and confidence that comes with knowing the Almighty God. How does this Bible story show us the one-of-a-kind power of God? How does His ultimate power help us trust in Him?



Family Activities

For Fun

Go for a walk or run as a family. Allow your kids to pick the route. Talk about God's promise to be with Joshua wherever he went. Ask your kids how God has extended that promise to everyone who believes in Jesus. How is God with them wherever they go?

To Serve

Volunteer to plant flowers or participate in another beautification project at your local church. Use your time and energy to be a light in your community. Talk with your kids about how God might use the church to draw people to Himself. Be sure to explain that God's presence is not limited to the church building, but it can still be a reminder of God's presence and activity for the community.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

FREEDOM FROM THE PHILISTINES



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of 1 Samuel 7 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

You might have heard the word repent before, but do you know what it means? The word repent means to change your mind. It means that you think one way about something but then change to think and believe the opposite.

In the Bible, the word repent is meant to call people to change the way we think about sin. We tend to think that doing things our own way and pursuing whatever pleases us is the best way to live, but the Bible calls this sin. Because God is Creator and Ruler over all creation, He wants us to pursue what is pleasing to Him and do things His way. To repent means to turn away from sin and toward God.

When the people continued to disobey God, they realized the consequences of their sin. They cried out to Samuel for help, and he told them to repent—turning away from sin and turning to Jesus. When the people repented and turned to God, He blessed them with victory over their enemy and restored everything they had lost because of sin. If we repent of sin and turn to Jesus, God blesses us with salvation and restores the relationship with Him that we had lost because of sin.

Samuel called the people to turn away from false gods and to worship God, and God gave them victory over their enemies. God calls us to turn away from sin and to trust in Jesus who gives us victory over our enemies of sin and death.

***Pray:** God, we praise You for being compassionate and gracious to us. If we turn away from sin and turn to You, You will restore the relationship we are meant to have with You. Thank You for providing everything we need for salvation in Jesus. 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.



**My God will supply all your
needs according to his riches
in glory in Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 4:19



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 hearing us when we call on Him. Think about the love, power, and mercy God has available for you when you call on Him.

Evenings

Ask God to help you face the hard things you're going through in your life. Whether it's a fear, a struggle in school, or a relationship that needs help, God is available to help us in our need when we turn to Him.



Family Activities

For Fun

Set up an obstacle course through the house. Have each family member complete the course with a small rock in each shoe. Talk about how the rock felt small but caused pain and hindered the way they walked. Similarly, sin may feel small, but it has big consequences on our ability to walk with God. The Bible calls us to repent—to turn away from sin—so that we can walk with God and follow His ways for us.

To Serve

Gather supplies to clean the inside and outside of windows at your church. Spend an afternoon washing and cleaning. When finished cleaning, read Psalm 51:10 and 1 John 1:9. Reminds kids that the Bible calls us to repent of sin and to turn to God because He is faithful to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; or John 12 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Jesus came into Jerusalem with cheers and celebration! The people had heard the great miracles of Jesus, and they believed in His power. The people displayed their worship of Jesus by waving palm branches and laying them out on the road as Jesus rode into the city on a donkey.

The people shouted, “Hosanna!” Do you know what that word means? It means “Save us!” The people were shouting “Hosanna” because they believed Jesus was coming to be their king and to rule over them with goodness and mercy. They were probably expecting Jesus to be the kind of king they were used to—one who wears a crown and sits on a throne—but Jesus is the King of kings. He was the King who had come to save all who believe in Him!

John 3:16 says, “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.” This is the true reason why Jesus came—to bring salvation and eternal life for everyone who believes in Him. Jesus is the King who has come to save!

The people welcomed Jesus as King, but they did not recognize Him as their Savior. Jesus calls all people to trust in Him as Savior and Lord. When we do, we will be saved from sin and death.

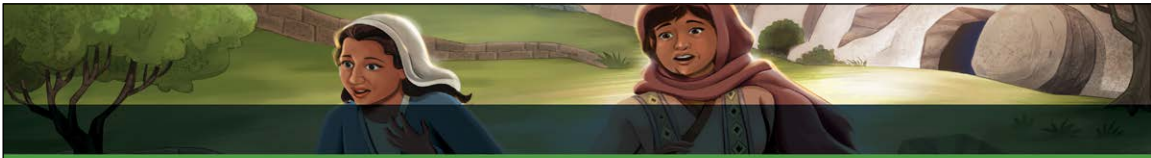
Pray: *Jesus, You are the King who has come to save! Help us follow and obey You as King. We wait with excitement for the day when You will return to rule over everything forever and ever! Amen.*



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.



**[If] my people, who bear my name,
humble themselves, pray and seek
my face, and turn from their evil
ways, then I will hear from heaven,
forgive their sin, and heal their land.**

2 Chronicles 7:14



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

Begin each day with a prayer of praise. Just like the people in the streets, say “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!” What are some ways you can honor Jesus as King today?

Evenings

Ask God for His peace to rule over any difficult situation your family is facing. How was Jesus so calm when He knew this would be His final week before His crucifixion? How can we have confidence and peace through knowing Jesus as King?



Family Activities

For Fun

Choose some rocks from your yard or a nearby stream. Use acrylic paints to decorate the rocks with words of praise or the word “Hosanna.” Place the rocks in your yard or around the neighborhood. Jesus told the Pharisees that if the people did not praise Him then the rocks would cry out and praise Him (Luke 19:40). Talk as a family about how these rocks can remind us to worship Jesus as King!

To Serve

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, some of the people threw their cloaks on the ground in front of him, which was a way to worship Him as King. Donate unused coats or clothes to individuals or organizations who have need. Consider starting a collection with others in your church to provide winter coats for those in need. This can also be a way to worship Jesus as King!



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

JESUS SAVES US FROM OUR ENEMIES



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 27–28; Mark 15–16; Luke 23–24; or John 19–20 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

In the 1980 Winter Olympics, the United States hockey team was up against the powerhouse Russian hockey team, who had won every gold medal for the previous 16 years! The Russian team seemed unbeatable, but the U.S. team was in the lead as the final minutes of the match ticked down. As the final buzzer sounded and the U.S. team claimed the unexpected victory, announcer Al Michaels shouted, “Do you believe in miracles? Yes!”

While winning a hockey game isn’t actually a miracle, this question does make us think of the greatest miracle of all time—the resurrection of Jesus! On the third day after Jesus’ death and burial, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. An angel of the Lord had rolled back the stone. The angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said.” At this announcement, the women ran to share the good news with the other disciples.

The death and resurrection of Jesus are at the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. Because Jesus is alive, we do not need to fear anything. Those who trust in Jesus have forgiveness and eternal life, and we can joyfully obey Him. Now that’s a miracle to believe in!

God’s plan was always to send Jesus to die for the sins of the world. Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and rose on the third day. All who place their faith in Him will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

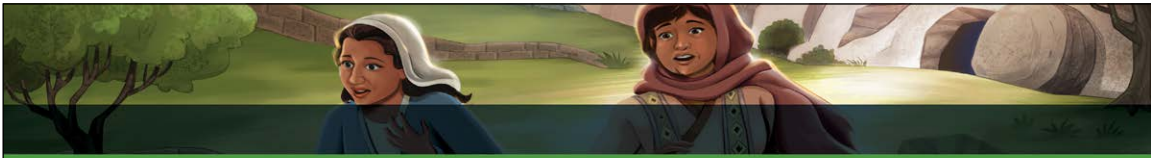
***Pray:** Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross for our sins and for rising again on the third day. We celebrate and worship because You are alive! You have defeated sin, and Your resurrection guarantees eternal life for all who believe in You! Amen.*



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.



**[If] my people, who bear my name,
humble themselves, pray and seek
my face, and turn from their evil
ways, then I will hear from heaven,
forgive their sin, and heal their land.**

2 Chronicles 7:14



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

Ask God to help you see the beauty of new life today. How does creation show us the story of death and new life? Where else do we see the beauty of new life?

Evenings

Praise God for new life in Christ. What must we do to receive eternal life? How does the resurrection of Jesus guarantee the promise of eternal life?



Family Activities

For Fun

Search online for a recipe to make “Resurrection Rolls,” and bake the treat together as a family. As you sit and share the treat for breakfast, talk about why the empty tomb is good news for believers and how the resurrection of Jesus shows God’s power.

To Serve

Use “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” to create a witnessing tool your family can use to share Jesus with others. Use an index card and colored pencils to draw the icons, and write the Scripture references for each part of the plan. Encourage your kids to carry the card in their backpack, and ask God for opportunities to share the gospel with friends.