A vintage-style world map with various geographical features and text. Overlaid on the map are several items: a pair of round-rimmed glasses in the upper left, a brass compass in the upper right, and a magnifying glass with a red handle in the lower left. The main title 'A GO' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'Lit' in a blue font below the 'A' and 'MISSION TRIP' in yellow on a red banner below 'GO'.

A GO

Lit MISSION TRIP

**PREPARING FOR MY MISSION TRIP
STUDENT DEVOTIONALS**

L.I.T.: Preparing for My Mission Trip
Student Devotionals

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ARMOR UP!

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR BATTLE

As you prepare for your mission trip, be aware that spiritual attacks will come. Realize now that this is normal. No matter what the attacks are, your victory is secure in Christ. When you begin the process to prepare for your trip, you are preparing to go into the

enemy's territory. God has provided the armor of God for battle so that you might stand against the enemy's attacks. Putting on the armor of God daily isn't an option. You must put it on if you want to win the battle.



“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:10-18)



MEMORY VERSES

WEEK ONE

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9-10)

WEEK TWO

"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'" (Luke 9:23)

WEEK THREE

"Do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit." (Mark 13:11b)

WEEK FOUR

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

WEEK FIVE

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

WEEK SIX

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

WEEK SEVEN

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

WEEK EIGHT

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

WEEK NINE

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." (John 1:12)



WEEK 1

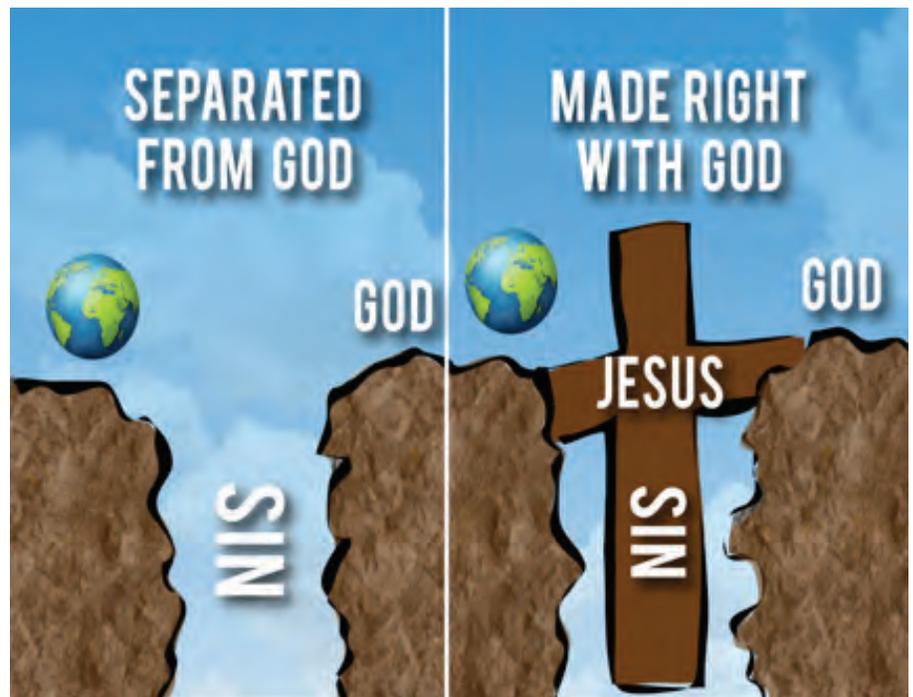
SALVATION - DAY ONE

READ: Romans 10:9-10

MEMORIZE:

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
(Romans 10:9-10)

Before you can be a witness for Jesus to others, you must first make sure that you yourself have received salvation through Jesus Christ. The first and most important step of being a disciple of Christ is to receive God’s gift of eternal life. Do you know for certain that if you were to die today, you would spend eternity in Heaven with God? Have you taken that step yet? Have you crossed from death to eternal life? Your sin separates you from God, and there is nothing you can do to save yourself from the penalty of sin, which is death. However, Jesus Christ died on the cross in your place to save you from sin and death. Jesus is the only way you can have salvation and eternal life with God in Heaven.



This week, you will study key passages of Scripture that discuss what it means to be saved and how to know for certain that you will spend eternity with God. Remember, this is serious business. We are talking about eternity here, so ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to what God has to say to you. If you do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ, take time today to make Jesus the Lord and Savior of your life. Romans 10:9-10 explains clearly how to do that:

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

If you already know Jesus as Lord, spend time in worship, praising His name for what He has done for you.

P.R.A.Y.: Give thanks to God that your sin does not have to keep you separated from Him. Thank Him for sending Jesus to die for your sins.

ARMOR UP!





WEEK 1

DAY TWO

READ: 1 John 5:11

MEMORIZE:

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
(Romans 10:9-10)

Take time today to write out your personal testimony. Write in detail what happened when you trusted Christ as your Savior and Lord. This is the most important day of your life. It is called your “spiritual birthday” because you were “born again” (John 3:3) that day. The questions below will help you understand and process what you did on that special day. You will be asked to share your testimony in your small group and with others during the mission trip.

- What is the date when you asked Jesus to come into your life and save you?

- Where were you when you accepted Christ as your Savior and Lord?

Describe in detail the location: _____

- Who led you to Christ? _____

- Why did you think you needed to accept Christ as your Savior and Lord?

- Describe what your life was like before you accepted Christ as your Savior:

- How has your life been different since you accepted Christ?

- Briefly write out the story of your salvation experience, giving details of this wonderful event in your life:

P.R.A.Y.: Thank Jesus for dying for your sins and for changing your life. Ask Him to give you courage to share with others what He has done in your life. Thank God for His amazing love.

ARMOR UP!





WEEK 1

DAY THREE

MEMORIZE:

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
(Romans 10:9-10)

READ: John 3:16-17 and Romans 10:9-10

- What is God’s way of salvation?

- Who is God’s Son, and what did He do for you so that you can be saved?

- Why is it important for a person to verbally confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord?

- What must we believe in order to be saved?

- What is God saying to you today?:

- Write out a brief prayer thanking God for what He has done for you:

P.R.A.Y.: Pray that the Lord will help you understand and believe that you are secure in your salvation. Ask Him to help you grasp the truth of His Word and its promises to you.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 1

DAY FOUR

READ: Romans 3:23, 6:23, and 5:8

MEMORIZE:

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
(Romans 10:9-10)

- According to today’s Scriptures, who has sinned?

- What are the wages, or the price, for your sins?

- What is God’s free gift to us?

- From where does the free gift come?

- Briefly describe Romans 5:8 in your own words:

- What is sin?

- What are some sins that you have committed?

- What is God saying to you today about your sins?

P.R.A.Y.: Give thanks to Jesus for saving you from your sins. Ask Him to help you never to forget the sacrifice He made for you.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 1

DAY FIVE

MEMORIZE:

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
(Romans 10:9-10)

READ: John 10:10 and 14:6

- Who is your enemy?

- What three things does He desire for you?

- What does Jesus offer instead?

- How would you describe an abundant life?

- According to John 14:6, what did Jesus say He was?

- Why is Jesus the only way to the Father?

- If Jesus is the only way to Heaven, will a person in the Hindu or Islamic faith who does not believe in Jesus as Lord have eternal life without Him?

Explain why or why not:

P.R.A.Y.: Praise the Father that you have found the one and only way—Jesus Christ. Ask Him to give you courage today to tell others about Him.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 1

DAY SIX

MEMORIZE:

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

(Romans 10:9-10)

READ: John 5:24

At school, in your neighborhood, on mission trips, and in other places, you will meet people who have never heard the truths from the Bible about sin, death, Jesus, and eternal life. Once you have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and know that you will spend eternity with God in Heaven, you should become burdened for those who do not know Jesus and do not have eternal life with Him. Jesus wants you to share Him with others so that they, too, can have a relationship with God and spend eternity in Heaven with Him.

The following activity will help you to share these truths with others in a clear way. In the space below, draw a simple diagram (see Day 1 for help) showing the person standing on a cliff on the left and God’s name on a cliff on the right. The person’s sin separates them from God (write “SIN” between the person and God) because God is holy, and He cannot accept sin. There is nothing the person can do on their own to get right with God, and they are condemned to eternal death (write “DEATH” below the person) for their sin. However, Jesus Christ, God’s perfect and holy Son, came to Earth and took the place of sinners on the cross (draw a cross and write “JESUS” on it between the person and God, connecting the two). Jesus died for the sins of the whole world so that the people could be made right with God. Jesus is the only way that anyone can be right with God and have eternal life (write “LIFE” below God) instead of eternal death. Salvation is not automatic, though. Each person must believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died for them and rose again and accept His free gift of eternal life in order to be saved.

P.R.A.Y.: Ask God to help you be bold in sharing Jesus with others. Pray that His Spirit will go before you and prepare someone’s heart to hear the message.

ARMOR UP!





WEEK 1

DAY SEVEN

PARENT TALK: DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

PARENT: Your child has read the Scriptures about how sin separates us from God, that death is the punishment for sin, that Jesus took our punishment on the cross, and that we can have forgiveness and eternal life by believing in Jesus as Lord. Now the question is, have they done it? Has your child trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord? Have they fully given their life to Him? These questions apply to you as well. Have you ever accepted Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for your sins and confessed Him as Lord of your life? Read through the following outline. If you or your L.I.T. have never made the decision to accept Christ as Savior and Lord, you can both do it today

READ: First, read aloud these very important truths and verses about Jesus and salvation:

1. **God loves you!** He truly does. He wants you to have a new life here on Earth and eternal life with Him in Heaven. Read John 10:10 and John 3:16-17.
2. **We have all sinned and are separated from God and His best for us.** Read Romans 5:8, 3:23, and 6:23.
3. **God has provided a way.** Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 and Romans 10:9-10.
4. **You must ABC:**
 - A—**Admit** that you have sinned.
 - B—**Believe** that Jesus is God's Son and that He died for your sins and rose on the third day.
 - C—**Choose** to receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord. This is the biggest decision you will ever make because you are making Jesus the Boss of your life forever.

If you are not sure that if you died tonight, you would go to Heaven, you can make sure right now by praying the following prayer

"Lord Jesus, I recognize that I am a sinner and that You died for my sins and rose on the third day. I believe You are the Son of God and that You paid for my sins through Your death and resurrection. I ask You right now to come into my life to be my Savior and Lord. Thank You for Your free gift of eternal life. Amen."

If you prayed the prayer above, congratulations! You are now part of God's family. If you have already accepted Christ as your Savior, take a few moments to thank Him for saving you.

MEMORY VERSE: Have your child quote Romans 10:9-10 from memory. Work on it together if needed. Discuss its meaning.

P.R.A.Y.: Pray together, thanking Jesus for what He has done for you.

ARMOR UP!

PARENT CHALLENGE:

1. Share with your child how the Lord worked in your heart to draw you to Him.
2. Plan to spend time with your child each day this week sharing with each other what God is doing in your life.



WEEK 2

THE CALL OF THE CROSS - DAY ONE

MEMORIZE:

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’” (Luke 9:23)

READ: Luke 9:23

“He is no fool to give up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” The late missionary Jim Elliot discovered there was nothing physical here on Earth that a person can take with them when they die. However, what a person gives up on Earth for God results in great rewards in Heaven.

You are about to be given a choice. Do you want all that God has planned for your life? Or, are you enticed by the world and its desires and pleasures? Guess what, that is normal, but it will destroy your life. Scripture says we are not to love this world: “If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15b). Imagine a person sitting on a fence. On one side of the fence is the world of sinful pleasures; on the other side is God and righteousness. The world is so tempting that the person wants to get off the fence when they desire the pleasures of the world. Then, they get back on the fence again. When the person needs God, they get off on God’s side and seek His help. The person wants to stay in the middle so that they can have the best of both worlds.

Well, God wants all of you. You cannot play games with Him, or He will allow you to learn a big lesson. Eventually, you will get off the fence on the side of the world and stay there because you have been convinced by the enemy that this is the better way. You might think, “But everything looks and feels so good.” The truth is, it will NOT bring happiness because it is contrary to God’s will for you. God is calling you to get off the fence on His side and fully give up everything worldly for Him. When you follow Jesus, you will have all that you have been looking for. He said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23).

P.R.A.Y.: Share with the Lord your desire to get off the fence on His side and stay there. Ask Him to give you courage to go deeper and deeper with Him. Surrender your life to Him today.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 2

DAY TWO

MEMORIZE:

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’” (Luke 9:23)

READ: Mark 1:14-20

- What did Jesus say to the men fishing by the Sea of Galilee?

- What was their response to Jesus’ call to follow Him?

- What were Simon and Andrew doing when Jesus called them?

- What were James the son of Zebedee and his brother John doing when Jesus walked by?

Jesus came upon James and John as they were going about their daily business. They were no one special. They were just ordinary men doing what they normally do. But Jesus knew their hearts. He knew what would happen when He called them to follow Him. As you go about your daily business doing the things you normally do, be aware that Jesus is calling you to follow Him, too. He wants you to immediately do what He calls you to do.

- What is God calling you to do today?

- What steps will you take to obey His call?

P.R.A.Y.: Surrender your life to Jesus today. Ask Him to help you choose to follow Him immediately when He calls you.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 2

DAY THREE

MEMORIZE:

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’” (Luke 9:23)

READ: Matthew 16:24-27

- What does Jesus say to those who want to follow Him?

- Whoever loses their life for Jesus will

- What does a person lose if they choose to follow the world instead of following Christ?

The cost of being a disciple of Jesus Christ is a call to abandon all and follow Him. Are you willing to fully abandon your desires and dreams to follow the Master? You might think, “What in the world is God asking of me?” He is asking you to abandon everything for Him. This is His call. Are you ready to obey? You might be struggling inwardly right now with this call, but when you follow Him, you find all that you were looking for in life.

- According to verse 27, what will Jesus do for those who have followed Him?

- What is God saying to you personally through today’s lesson?

- Are you ready to abandon all to follow Christ?

P.R.A.Y.: Commit to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Ask Him to help you choose Him over your worldly desires. Surrender your life fully to Him today. When you give up all to Him, you will discover everything you were ever looking for.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 2

DAY FOUR

MEMORIZE:

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’” (Luke 9:23)

READ: Mark 10:17-31

- What did the man ask Jesus in verse 17?

- Had the man kept all the commandments that Jesus mentioned in verses 18-20?

- What did Jesus tell the man to do in verse 21?

- What was the man’s response to Jesus’ call to follow Him?

- What did Jesus say in verses 29-31 that His disciples would receive if they gave up everything for Him?

The call of Jesus is to give up everything to follow Him. What this means is to have a willingness to obey God’s call no matter what He asks of you. Jesus told the rich man in this story to sell everything he had and give it to the poor and then follow Him. The rich man was not willing to do this and walked away. Are you willing to give up everything to follow Christ? This is another bridge you must cross in order to enter into God’s best for your life.

P.R.A.Y.: Choose today to follow the Lord in everything. Ask Him to give you courage and power to faithfully obey His calling on your life to surrender.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 2

DAY FIVE

MEMORIZE:

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’” (Luke 9:23)

READ: John 13:33-35 and 15:9-17

- Jesus calls His disciples to _____ one another just as He _____ us. (13:34, 15:12)
- Others will know that we are His _____ if we _____ one another. (13:35)
- What was Jesus foretelling in John 15:13?

Jesus laid down His life for His disciples and for all the world because of His deep love for us. He did this so that we would not have to endure the suffering of eternal death but could have eternal life with Him in Heaven. He gave up everything for us.

Jesus calls you to lay down your life, too. He commands you to love others with your life. That means making sacrifices for others to show them the love of Jesus. Have you come to the point of saying, “Jesus, I surrender. I give up everything for You. I will follow You”?

- How can you love others the way Jesus loves you?

- What does it mean for you personally to “lay down your life for your friends”?

P.R.A.Y.: Praise God for giving you life through Jesus Christ. Choose today to love others as He has loved you. Lay down your life for Jesus today.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 2

DAY SIX

READ: Ezekiel 47:1-5

MEMORIZE:

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’” (Luke 9:23)

• There are five levels that Ezekiel saw concerning the river and where he was standing. List the levels below:

1. _____ On the bank _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

If you look at this vision, where do you want to be with God right now? Ezekiel is pictured standing on the bank, and the angel measures out a thousand cubits to where the water is ankle deep. Then another thousand, and it is knee deep. Another thousand, and it is waist deep, and then another thousand where it is so deep that he has to swim. Where do you want to be with God in your life? Check where you want to be now:

- On the bank
- Ankle deep
- Knee deep
- Waist deep
- Swimming

• Why do you want to be at this level with God?

“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.” (Revelations 22:1)

The river is the water of life—Jesus. Fully trusting Christ with your life is like diving into everything that God has to offer you for your life. It may seem crazy to abandon all and follow Him, but through it, you experience the abundant life that Jesus offers His disciples.

P.R.A.Y.: Surrender everything to Jesus today. Ask Him to let you rest in His arms. Allow Him to take you deep into His water of life so that you can experience all that Christ has for you today.

ARMOR UP!





WEEK 2

DAY SEVEN

PARENT TALK: DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

READ: Luke 9:23 where Jesus tells us, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

PARENT: Your child has been challenged this week to abandon all to follow the cross. So many times in the church today, there is an invitation to accept God’s gift of salvation, but it does not stop there. The call of Christ is the call of the cross—the call to lay one’s life down and follow the Savior. This may seem a little extreme, but it is the Lord’s command. Jesus tells us, “The thief (Satan) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). When we lay down our lives, we find our lives. A life that is fully surrendered to Christ is a life that comes under the control and work of the Holy Spirit. We give God permission to work in and through us. The key to the Christ life is death of self. Through death of self, we find life in Him. So, surrender is the key to power and life in Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: Have your child quote Luke 9:23 from memory. Take some time to discuss its meaning and how you will apply it to your life.

REVIEW:

1. What is the call of the cross?
2. What does it mean to fully surrender to Christ?

P.R.A.Y.: Pray together with your child. If your child has not fully surrendered to the Lord, encourage them to do so through your prayer time together.

ARMOR UP!

PARENT CHALLENGE: If you have done so, share with your child your experience of when you allowed Christ to have full control of your life. Share how your life was before and after you chose to lay it down. If you have not given Jesus full control of your life, consider what is holding you back. Pray that God will help you lay it all down for Him. In doing so, you will be an example to your child of living in complete obedience to God, and His power and presence in your life will be evident.



WEEK 3

THE HOLY SPIRIT - DAY ONE

MEMORIZE:

“Do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”
(Mark 13:11b)

READ: John 14:16-17

The Holy Spirit is power. He permanently indwells the life of every believer at the moment of salvation.

“Do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 13:11b)

Jesus tells us not to worry about what to say when we witness because the Holy Spirit will give us the words to say. Be prepared on your mission trip for the Holy Spirit to speak through you. There are some things that quench, or stop, the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. One is sin. Unconfessed sin and willful sin will quench the Holy Spirit’s work in your life. Just like throwing water on a fire, sin puts out the work of the Spirit. The second thing that quenches the Holy Spirit is disobedience. When the Spirit leads, you should immediately follow Him. When you choose not to obey because of fear, you quench His work in your life. It is sin not to follow His leadership.

- What are two ways you can quench the Spirit?

The believer in Christ should depend daily on the power of the Holy Spirit for victory, power, and His leadership in their life. Invite Him each day to fill you and take control of your life.

P.R.A.Y.: Ask the Lord to reveal to you what to pray for, and then write it in your prayer journal. Simply pray, “Holy Spirit, please speak to me and show me who and what to pray for.” Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill you so that you will be empowered to follow His lead in all things every day.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 3

DAY TWO

READ: 1 Corinthians 2:2-5

MEMORIZE:

“Do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”
(Mark 13:11b)

- What did Paul resolve to know? What was most important to Paul?

- What was Paul like when he went to the church in Corinth? (v. 3)

- Did Paul speak with wise and persuasive words?

- How did Paul speak?

Paul learned a key to the Christian life and God’s power. It was through his own weaknesses that Christ’s power was manifest in his life. He could speak in the power of the Holy Spirit when he allowed the Lord to speak through him. You will never experience the power of the Holy Spirit until you surrender to Him and allow Him to work in and through your life.

Learning to listen to the Holy Spirit is the key to victory and His power working in and through you. He is that still, small voice that speaks within your heart. Listen and obey!

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Submit to the power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 3

DAY THREE

MEMORIZE:

“Do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”

(Mark 13:11b)

READ: 2 Corinthians 13:4

- What was Christ crucified in?

- Now what does Christ live by?

- How is God’s power manifest in us? Is it through our weakness or through our strength?

For Christians, our strength is not what turns on the power of God in our lives; it is our weakness. When God wants to use you, a lot of the time, it is in your weakest moment that His power is manifest. Think about it. Have you ever been in a situation where you needed to do something for God and you came to the point of praying earnestly to the Lord for help? When you did, you experienced His power in the situation. The Holy Spirit gives power whenever you surrender to Him and allow Him to take control.

On the mission trip, you will experience times of fear, but seeking the Lord for help results in the power to speak in His name. God works through our weaknesses so that the glory is given to Him not us.

P.R.A.Y.: Write out a prayer thanking the Lord for the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to fill you and take control of your life.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 3

DAY FOUR

MEMORIZE:

“Do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”

(Mark 13:11b)

READ: Joel 2:28-29

- What is God promising to happen in the last days?

- On whom is His Spirit going to be poured out?

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Open your heart to Him to allow Him to work in your life this week. The Holy Spirit may speak to you in many ways. It might be through God’s Word, through another person (a teacher, pastor, your friends, or your leader), or in your thoughts or dreams. The Holy Spirit is there for you. When you accepted Jesus into your heart to be your Savior and Lord, you were sealed by the Holy Spirit forever. For you to experience His power, you only need to invite Him to take control. Be still, and invite Him to speak to your heart right now.

- On whom is His Spirit going to be poured out?

P.R.A.Y.: Invite the Holy Spirit to fill you and take control of your life. Surrender fully to Him, and ask Him to come and live through you as you deny yourself and give God full control of your life.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 3

DAY SIX

MEMORIZE:

“Do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”

(Mark 13:11b)

READ: Galatians 5:16-18

- If we walk in the Spirit, what will happen? (v. 16)

- What two things are contrary to (in conflict with) one another? (v. 17)

Have you ever seen the old cartoons? The character is having an inward struggle, and on one shoulder there is an angel telling him the right things to do. On the other shoulder, the devil is telling him to do what is NOT right. This is a conflict. You have a conflict, or battle, going on within yourself between the flesh (the old you) and the Spirit (the Holy Spirit living in you). In order for the conflict to be won, you have to come to the point of joining up with the one you want—either the flesh, which is death, or the Holy Spirit, who will bring you life. For you to win in spiritual battles, you must invite the Holy Spirit to take control.

Draw a picture in the blank space of a person with their arms stretched out. Now, draw someone on their right side pulling the person’s right arm and someone else on the left side pulling the person’s left arm. Write the word Spirit above the person on the right and the word flesh above the person on the left. This represents a tug-of-war between the flesh and the Spirit. Now, circle the one that should be in control.

P.R.A.Y.: Ask Jesus to take control of your life. Surrender to Him today. Give God your battles to fight for you. Choose to allow the Holy Spirit to fill you and control your daily walk with Him.

ARMOR UP!





WEEK 3

DAY SEVEN

PARENT TALK: DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

READ: Mark 13:11b

PARENT: Every year on the mission trip, children and students share how God spoke through them. Many times they experience His presence in powerful ways that they do not understand. We have heard many times on past mission trips children sharing, “God spoke through me in a powerful way today, but I don’t remember what I said.” The Holy Spirit promises the believer power to witness according Acts 1:8. The Holy Spirit comes to dwell in every believer in Christ, and He gives the ability and power to share the Good News of Jesus to a lost and dying world.

This week’s memory verse makes it very clear in Mark 13:11b, “Do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.” This is true for children when they cry out to God for help on the mission trip. He is faithful to show up and empower them to share on His behalf.

The Holy Spirit is also there as our Source of power when we give Him full control of our lives. This is done when we invite Him to fill us and empower us to walk in His presence and power throughout our day (Ephesians 5:18). The Holy Spirit will also guide us as we pray for other believers in Christ (Ephesians 6:18, Romans 8:26-27). As you pray, ask the Holy Spirit to show you who to pray for and how to pray for them.

MEMORY VERSE: Have your child quote Mark 13:11b from memory. Take some time to discuss its meaning and how you will apply it to your life.

REVIEW:

1. Who empowers us to speak about Jesus to others? (Holy Spirit)
2. What must we do to receive this power from the Holy Spirit? (Pray and ask Him to fill us.)

P.R.A.Y.: Thank God for the Holy Spirit, and invite Him to show you how to walk with Him each day. Ask the Spirit to guide you to someone who does not know Christ and help you as you witness for Him today.

ARMOR UP!

PARENT CHALLENGE: Talk with your child about times when you sensed God’s Spirit working in your life or speaking through you in sharing Christ with others. If you have never shared Christ with a non-believer, pray for the Spirit to empower you to do so. Ask Him to lead you to someone who needs to hear the Gospel message.



WEEK 4

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Being a Christian comes with responsibilities. One of the primary calls of believers is to tell others about Jesus. You will find a copy of the ABC Counseling Card below.

Take some time this week to read through and practice using the card with someone in your family or with a friend. Who knows, you may lead one of them to Christ! Take your time. Look up the verses in your Bible and become familiar with them as you share with others. Your leader will also give you a card to practice with.

All L.I.T.s will be expected to memorize the ABC Counseling Card and be confident sharing it with others. Ask your leader and your parents to help you practice. Make sure you have all the verses perfectly memorized. Have your parent sign their initial on the lines beside each section when you have it memorized.

ABC Counseling Card

1. I am so glad you came forward today. (smile)
2. Can you tell me why you came forward?
3. Have you ever done this before?
4. (If "no," continue...) I would like to talk with you about how you can make this decision whenever you are ready.

God Loves You

God made a way for you to be together with Him forever and have eternal life. (Read John 3:16.) In order to receive eternal life, you must ABC:

A

—**ADMIT** (Tell on yourself to God that you have sinned.)

1. Read Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23.
2. Have you ever sinned?
3. Can you name some sins you have done?
4. How can your sins be forgiven?

B

—**BELIEVE** (Believe that God's Son, Jesus, died for your sins and then rose from the dead.)

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.
2. Who is God's Son?
3. What did Jesus do for our sins?
4. What happened to Jesus after He died?

C

—**CHOOSE** (Choose to receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord.)

1. Read Romans 10:13.
2. How can you be together with God forever?
3. What does it mean to choose Jesus as Boss?
4. After hearing this, what would you like to do today?

(Lead the child in a prayer using the ABCs ONLY if they are understanding the Gospel.)

"Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I am sorry for my sins. I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died for my sins and rose on the third day. Please forgive me of my sins and come into my life right now to be my Savior and Lord forever. Amen."

How do you know that you are forgiven?

1. Where is Jesus right now? (He is in your heart.)
2. Read John 1:12. (You are a child of God now.)
3. Read 1 John 5:13. (A person can know that they have eternal life because of the promise of God's Word.)
4. Read Hebrews 13:5. (Use 5 fingers to show God's promise to His children: "I-will-never-leave-you.")
5. Read John 10:28-29. (Use your fist to show how Jesus and God keep their people forever.)

Continue to grow in your faith now that you are forgiven.

1. Go to church.
2. Read the Bible.
3. Tell others about Jesus.
4. Pray.
5. Let Jesus be the Leader of your life every day.

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WEEK 4

DAY ONE

MEMORIZE:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

READ: Jonah 1:1-10

- To what city did God tell Jonah to go?

- Why did God want Jonah to go to this great city?

- What was Jonah’s response to God’s call on his life?

- Where did Jonah head to instead of Nineveh?

As Christians, we sometimes feel resentful toward others. They have wronged us so many times that we do not want anything to do with them. Or, they are just outright bad people. We think that they do not deserve God’s love or that they have too many sin problems for God to fix. God called Jonah to go for Him. But instead of obeying God’s call, he packed up and headed the opposite way.

Has God been speaking to you about sharing with your friends and family? Are you being like Jonah, not wanting to go? To say “no” to God is disobedience. To go is being obedient.

Write out the names of five friends or family members who do not know Christ. Pray for them every day this week.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

P.R.A.Y.: Praise God for His love for all people. Ask Him to fill you with His power to share with your friends and family. Allow His Holy Spirit to speak through you.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 4

DAY TWO

MEMORIZE:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

READ:

 Jonah 1:10-17

- Was Jonah’s disobedience to God taken seriously by the men on the ship?

- What was their response when they found out that Jonah had been running from God?

- What did the sailors do with Jonah?

Jonah had a calling on his life to go to Nineveh to warn the people of God’s coming punishment. Jonah may have been fearful about talking with them. God saw the condition of Nineveh and wanted Jonah to go and speak with them. The Lord was going to forgive them if they would repent (turn from their sinful ways), and He would not punish them. Are there people around you who do not know Jesus? Is there anyone who you would be afraid would reject you if you told them about the Lord? Remember, God has a message for them, a message that will save them from the eternal punishment of God, which is hell. That powerful and saving message is Jesus Christ, who died so that all might live in Him.

P.R.A.Y.: Give thanks to the Lord that He has called you to take His message to a lost world. Ask Him to help you overcome your fears. Let Him fill you with His Holy Spirit and His power.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 4

DAY THREE

MEMORIZE:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

READ: Jonah 2:1-10

- According to verse 1, from where was Jonah praying?

- What was he praying about?

- What was God’s answer to Jonah’s prayer?

- Why was Jonah in the belly of the fish?

- Did God take Jonah’s rebellion seriously?

- Does God take it seriously if we do not go tell others about Him?

Remember, you are not alone. Jesus promised not to ever leave us or forsake us. In Acts 1:8, He promised to give us His power when we witness for Him.

P.R.A.Y.: Thank God for His promise to be with you when you share His message. Ask Him to open the hearts of those you will be speaking to today. Pray for the Lord to fill you with His Holy Spirit and His power as you share.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 4

DAY FOUR

MEMORIZE:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

READ: Jonah 3:1-10

- When the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, what was the message? (v. 2)

- What was Jonah’s response to God this time? (v. 3)

- What did Jonah tell the people of Nineveh? (v. 4)

- What was the response of the people of Nineveh to Jonah’s message from God?

- What did the King do as a result of the message from Jonah? (vs. 6-7)

The message of the Gospel of Christ has just as much impact today as Jonah’s message of repentance did back then. The call of every Christian is to tell the world about Jesus Christ. Have you obeyed the call this week?

Stop a moment and ask the Lord to give you the names of people He wants you to tell about Him. Be still and ask, “Lord, please show me who You want me to talk to today.” As He speaks to you, write their names down below:

P.R.A.Y.: Ask the Lord to show you people who need to hear the Gospel of Christ. Pray for God to use you to reach them for Him. Ask the Lord to help you speak boldly for Him.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 4

DAY FIVE

MEMORIZE:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

READ: Isaiah 6:1-8

- What did Isaiah see when he was called up into Heaven?

- What sin was Isaiah guilty of? (v. 5)

- What did the angel do to cleanse Isaiah of his sins?

- What question did God ask Isaiah? (v. 8)

- What was Isaiah’s response to God’s question?

We as Christians have the privilege of knowing Jesus Christ as our Savior. Just like Isaiah, we have a call from God: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” (Isaiah 6:8) The question is, what will be your response to God’s call on your life to “Go”?

P.R.A.Y.: Commit to the Lord as Isaiah did: “Lord, here am I! Send me.” Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you to share the Good News of Jesus Christ today.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 4

DAY SEVEN

PARENT TALK: DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

READ: Read Luke 12:8-12 with your child.

PARENT: Explain to your child that when we do not know what to say, Jesus promises us that the Holy Spirit will speak for us. He will give us the words to say. The power of the Holy Spirit comes when we allow Him to take control of our lives. This power comes through surrender. Romans 12:1 tells us to offer our lives to God as living sacrifices. When we surrender to Christ, we give Him permission to use our lives as He pleases. At any point in a conversation when we do not know what to say, we can quietly pray, “Lord Jesus, I do not know what to say or how to say it. Please come and take control and put Your words into my mouth that they might believe in You.” As you wait for the Lord, He will begin to speak to you and show you what to say. He will give you the right words to say.

Write below the names of family members and family friends who do not know Christ. Commit as a family to pray for them daily, for God to open their eyes that they might receive Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.

MEMORY VERSE: Have your child quote Acts 1:8 from memory. Take some time to discuss its meaning and how you will apply it to your life.

REVIEW:

1. Ask your preteen if God has called them to share the message of Jesus Christ with others.
2. Are you “on your own” when you talk about Jesus?

P.R.A.Y.: Pray together for family members and family friends who do not know Christ. Ask the Lord to give you and your child opportunities to share your faith with them.

ARMOR UP!

PARENT CHALLENGE:

1. Allow your child to practice sharing the Gospel with you using the ABC Counseling Card (**page 30**).
2. Encourage them to go through the ABC card with you each day until they feel comfortable sharing.
3. Help your child find an opportunity to share with a lost person. Stay and pray while your child shares.



WEEK 5

CREATION AND THE FALL OF MAN - DAY ONE

MEMORIZE:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
(Romans 3:23)

READ: Genesis 1:1-31

- In the beginning, who created the heavens and the earth?

- God called the light _____, and the darkness He called _____. (v. 5)

- Write below what God created on each day:

Day One: (vs. 3-5) _____

Day Two: (vs. 6-8) _____

Day Three: (vs. 9-13) _____

Day Four: (vs. 14-19) _____

Day Five: (vs. 20-25) _____

Day Six: (v. 26) _____

God is the Creator all things. Take a moment today to look around at God’s amazing creation. Look at the awesome details of everything He has made. Remember, the most special and unique thing He created was man—who was created in the image of God. You were created for a relationship with God.

P.R.A.Y.: Take time today to praise God for His amazing and wonderful creation. Thank Him for creating you and allowing you to have a relationship with Him.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 5

DAY TWO

MEMORIZE:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
(Romans 3:23)

READ: Genesis 2:7-18

- God made man from what?

- What was the name of the garden where God placed Adam?

- What was Adam’s purpose in the garden? (v. 15)

- What did God say about the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden? (v. 17)

- From memory, what did Adam and Eve choose to do with regards to the tree after God warned them?

God created Adam and gave him responsibilities in the garden. His role was to tend the garden and take care of it. God made it clear that Adam could have anything in the garden, but he was not to even touch the tree of life. If he did, he would die. When someone tells you not to do something, does it seem to become harder and harder not to do it? In each person, there is a draw to sin, and it started in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. At that moment, sin entered into the world.

P.R.A.Y.: Thank the Lord for creating you. Pray for strength today to overcome sin in your life. Surrender to the Lord, and ask Him to take control.

ARMOR UP!



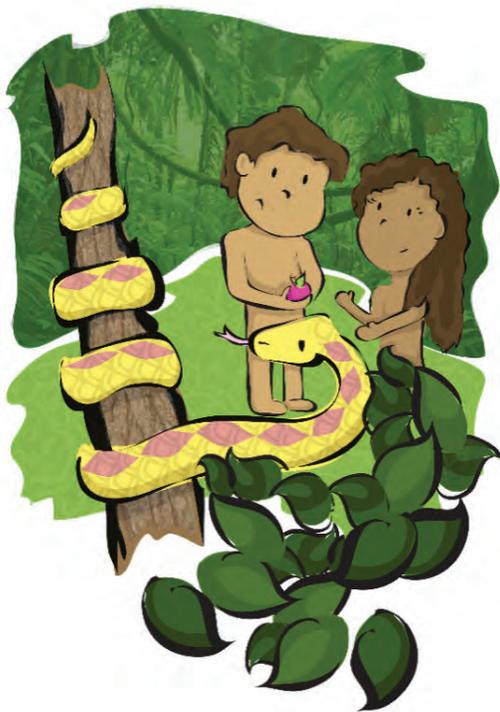


WEEK 5

DAY THREE

MEMORIZE:

“For all have sinned
and fall short of the
glory of God.”
(Romans 3:23)



READ: Genesis 3:1-8

- Who does the serpent represent in verse one?

- What was special about the serpent over all other beasts?

- What did the serpent tell Eve about the tree of knowledge of good and evil? (v. 4)

- What did the serpent tell Eve would happen if she ate from the tree? (v. 5)

- “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that is was pleasant to the _____, and a tree desirable to make one _____, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he _____.” (v. 6)
- Then their eyes were _____
- What did Adam and Eve do when they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day? (v. 8)

Satan (the serpent) is very crafty. He convinced Eve to take the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil and eat it and to give it also to Adam. At that moment, their hearts became darkened by their sin. Through the sin of Adam and Eve, sin entered into the world. Through giving in to that temptation, they lost everything. They had broken their close relationship with God by one bad choice—sin. The consequence of sin is death and eternal judgment, but Christ took the punishment for our sin.

P.R.A.Y.: Thank the Lord for saving you. Thank Him that even though sin entered the world through Adam and Eve resulting in separation from God, Jesus restored that relationship through laying down His life for our sins. Thank the Lord for His salvation. Pray for your friends who do not know Him, that you might have an opportunity to share.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 5

DAY FOUR

MEMORIZE:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
(Romans 3:23)

READ:

 Genesis 3:9-17

• The Lord was walking in the garden that day, and He asked Adam, “Where are you?” Adam told God that when he heard His voice that he was _____ . (v. 10)

• Why would Adam and Eve be afraid? What had they done that they should be afraid of God?

• What was Adam’s response when God asked him if he had eaten from the tree which He had warned Adam not to eat?

• Who did Eve blame for her disobedience?

• What was God’s punishment for Adam?

• What was God’s punishment for Eve?

• What was God’s punishment for the serpent?

Sin has a consequence. We might try to blame someone else, but sin has a consequence. Adam and Eve suffered for their sin, and the consequence was being banned from the garden (vs. 22-23). Each one had their own punishment. The gravest of the consequences for Adam and Eve was their separation from God. They were kicked out of the garden, which resulted in their death.

P.R.A.Y.: Thank the Lord for saving you from your sin. Pray for strength to avoid willfully sinning against God and His commands for your life. Pray for your friends and family members who do not know Him.

ARMOR UP!





WEEK 5

DAY FIVE

MEMORIZE:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
(Romans 3:23)

READ: Romans 5:12-21

- Through the sin of one man, sin entered into the

-
- Who was the one man who sinned and caused sin to enter the world?

-
- What spread to all man because of sin? (v. 12)

-
- How many people have sinned?

- “For if by the one man’s offense many _____, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, _____, abounded to many.” (v. 15b)

- So sin entered the world through _____, but grace and forgiveness came through _____. (v. 15)

- “Therefore, as through one man’s offense _____ came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s _____ act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man’s _____ many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made _____.” (vs. 18-19)

Isn’t it amazing the grace of God? Through Adam, sin entered into the world and spread to you and me. But through God’s amazing gift of grace through Jesus Christ, we have become righteous—right before God. “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). We have something to talk about!

P.R.A.Y.: Thank the Lord for His amazing grace and love for you. Praise Him that He no longer sees your sins. You are forgiven. You are His child.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 5

DAY SIX

MEMORIZE:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
(Romans 3:23)

READ: Romans 3:23 and 6:23

- “For all have _____ and fall short of the glory of _____.” (3:23)

This verse can be compared to an archer shooting a target. They take aim and miss the target all together. When this verse says, “For all have sinned and fall short,” it means we have completely missed the target with God. Everyone has sinned and is separated from God because of their sin. “Sin is anything you think, say, do, or don’t do that displeases God.”

- “For the _____ of sin is _____.” (6:23a)

God’s punishment for Adam and Eve’s disobedience was death. They paid a terrible price for taking a bite of the forbidden fruit that day. Sin brings death for every person on Earth as a result of Adam and Eve’s choice in the garden. But it didn’t end there.

- “...but the _____ of God is eternal life in Christ _____ our Lord.” (6:23b)

- Jesus paid the ultimate price. Sin was so bad that God’s Son was beaten almost to death and then nailed to a horrible cross where He died in our place. But it wasn’t over. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead, removing the curse of sin by taking the punishment upon Himself. Through His death and resurrection, we have something to celebrate. We are saved and have eternal life.

P.R.A.Y.: Take some time right now to praise the Lord for what He has done for you. Praise Him for His amazing grace that even though we were dead in our sins, Jesus saved us from our sins and death. Pray for power and courage to tell the world about Him and His Gospel message.

ARMOR UP!

GOSPEL MESSAGE CRAFT: During the next few weeks, you will be preparing to lead others and share the Gospel while on mission trip. In *The Gift*, you have the instructions, pictures, and Bible verses that you need to teach others about the love of God. Take time to read through the steps involved in sharing Jesus through making the Power Band Craft (**page 17** in *The Gift*). As you study, read out loud (maybe while looking in a mirror) and practice as if you had a group listening. Go through each step, telling your audience what each color represents and sharing the Bible verses that apply to each bead. (If you don’t have the bracelet materials, use objects you have at home, and pretend you are making a bracelet or just pantomime.)





WEEK 5

DAY SEVEN

PARENT TALK: DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

READ: Read Genesis 3:1-24 with your child.

PARENT: Discuss as a family the fall of man: the temptation of Adam of Eve and the consequence of their disobedience to God.

1. What was God's punishment for Adam?
2. What was God's punishment for Eve?
3. What was God's punishment for the serpent?
4. What happened in verse 24?

In Romans 5:12-21, Paul discusses how sin entered the world and affected everyone as a result of Adam's sin. Discuss what Jesus did about our sin and how we have been made righteous in the eyes of God because of Christ's sacrifice.

MEMORY VERSE: Have your child quote Romans 3:23 from memory. Take some time to discuss its meaning and how you will apply it to your life.

P.R.A.Y.: Pray together with your child. Spend time thanking the Lord for your salvation. Praise Him for eternal life. Pray for those who do not know Him and for the Lord to give you an opportunity to share.

ARMOR UP!

PARENT CHALLENGE: Share with your child an experience you have had with temptation to sin. If it was a situation where you withstood the temptation, share how God helped you make the right choice. If you fell to the temptation and sinned, be open about the consequences of that sin and how God has forgiven and restored you because of what Jesus did on the cross for you.

REVIEW: In preparation for the mission trip, your child will be teaching the lessons covered in this week's Bible study. Go through the Day One: Bible Study Review Questions from *The Gift* (page 16) with your child. (Answers can be found in *The Gift*.)

1. Who created everything?
2. The Bible says, "In the beginning _____ created the heavens and the earth."
3. What was the very special thing God created on the sixth day?
4. Of what tree did God tell Adam he could not eat?
5. What did Satan, or the serpent, tell Eve about eating the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil?
6. What is it called when a person disobeys God's commands?
7. What does the Bible say about sin?
8. What promise did God make to Adam and Eve?
9. Did Adam and Eve die after eating the fruit from the tree?
10. Can you quote today's memory verse?



WEEK 6

JESUS' BIRTH - DAY ONE

MEMORIZE:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16)

READ: John 3:16

In your mind, picture for a moment two soldiers on a battlefield surrounded in all directions by fighting. These men are on different sides of the battle—enemies. As the fighting wages on, the first man is hit, gravely wounded, and hopelessly facing death under such a heavy attack. As he lays there dying, his counterpart (the enemy) leaves the safety of his position, rushes into the danger, and pulls the critically injured soldier to safety. Just moments before, they were enemies who longed with everything in them to see each other dead. Now, one is rescued and alive because of the other's actions, not of loyalty or duty, but out of a deep and unexplainable self-sacrificing love for someone who did not deserve it.

Romans 5:8 tells us that Jesus was the Savior who left safety to go and save the one who was attacking Him. It reads, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Jesus' death showed that God's love was not just for those who loved Him. Jesus came to save THE WORLD, even those who hate Him.

- In Colossians 1:21, Paul writes that we were once enemies of God in our and by our _____.
- According to Romans 5:10, even though we were enemies of God, the death of the Son _____ us to God. What does that mean?

- Just like the dying soldier, we have hope because of what Jesus has done for us.
- What does 1 Peter 3:15 tell you to do with the hope Jesus gives?

P.R.A.Y.: Thank God that He sent Jesus to save us. Ask Him to help you be willing to share the Gospel with others, even those who treat you as an enemy. Ask God to make you more like Jesus and to help you love people who are not easy to love.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 6

DAY TWO

MEMORIZE:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16)



READ: Luke 1:30-32a, 35

- Who appeared to Mary? What was the message given to her?

- How did Mary respond to the message she was given?

- What was the title that the baby Jesus would be known by? (v. 32a)

- How long would Jesus be King over Israel?

Mary was a teenage girl when the angel appeared to her. She was faithful to God and engaged to be married to Joseph. The news that she was given probably frightened her, but she trusted God. Joseph was also surprised by the news, but he obeyed God and married Mary.

King David was known as “a man after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14). Because of David’s love for the Lord, God promised that “David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel (Jacob)” (Jeremiah 33:17). Jesus, being of the line of David, fulfilled that promise when He rose from the grave and conquered death. He is alive today and sits at the right hand of God as the Son of the Most High.

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Thank God that Jesus became an infant in a manger so that He could grow up obedient to God’s laws and to die for our sins to bring us salvation.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 6

DAY THREE

MEMORIZE:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

(John 3:16)

READ: Luke 2:4-7

- Why did Joseph and Mary have to go to Bethlehem to register for the census?

- What happened to Mary while they were in Bethlehem?

- What is the importance of Jesus being from the line of David?

Jesus' coming to Earth as an infant was the most humbling experience ever. Colossians 1:16-17 tell us, “For by Him all things were created...and in Him all things consist.” Jesus, the Creator and Sustainer, left Heaven to come to Earth as a helpless infant. Giving up all His position as “firstborn over all creation” (Colossians 1:15), He came to a place that had no regard for Him and was laid in a feed trough.

Although Jesus was born into humble circumstances, He was still a king. First Timothy 6:15 refers to Jesus as, “the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.” Through Joseph, Jesus was born in the line of David, the king of Israel, God’s chosen people. It was because of this that Jesus had the earthly claim to be the King of the Jews. He was the Messiah whom the prophets spoke of and Israel had been waiting for to save them. Jesus came to save us from our sins so that we could have a relationship with God the Father.

P.R.A.Y.: Write down a prayer thanking God that Jesus humbled Himself and came to Earth to die for us. Ask God to help you daily to humble yourself and be obedient to His will for your life.

ARMOR UP!





WEEK 6

DAY FOUR

MEMORIZE:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16)

READ: Luke 2:8-15

- Why do you think God sent the angels to the shepherds first to tell them about Jesus’ birth?

- Where were the shepherds when the angels came to give them the news of Jesus? What were they doing?

- What happened as the angel of the Lord was speaking to the shepherds?



Luke 2:8 tells us that the shepherds were “living out in the fields.” Tending sheep was an around-the-clock job. Without the shepherds, they were at risk of attack from lions, hyenas, wolves, jackals, dogs, and other predators. They had a very important job, but shepherds were not well respected and did not have the chance to gain power in the political world. In fact, the religious leaders of Jesus’ time treated shepherds as outcasts, banning their flocks in many parts of Israel and treating shepherds as thieves and lawbreakers.

The fact that the angels came first to shepherds showed that God truly sent Jesus to “all of the world.” Jesus’ birth was the lowest of the low. Born in a barn, He spent His first nights there. But, as you know, God raised Jesus up to stand before kings and judges and to overcome sin and death. That humble infant grew to change the world and become the greatest man the world has ever known. Just like Jesus, you must be content in where God has placed you, no matter how high or low that may be, and live for Him.

P.R.A.Y.: Thank the Lord Jesus for showing us what it means to be humble and for loving those whom the world despises. Thank Him for being the perfect example of wisdom, humility, strength, and love. Ask Him to help you always to have “the mind of Christ” and to follow His will for your life.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 6

DAY FIVE

MEMORIZE:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16)

READ: Why Did Jesus Come to Earth?, Sin Separates You and Me from God, Decision, and Invitation to Make a Choice (The Gift, p. 27)

- What led Jesus to leave His position of authority in Heaven and come to Earth?

- What happened as a result of sin?

- What must we do to restore our fellowship with God instead of being separated from Him?

P.R.A.Y.: Take a moment to write down your prayer asking God to reveal to you any unconfessed sins. Wait patiently for God to speak, and as He brings them to mind, confess them to God and seek His forgiveness. Share with God your desire to have close fellowship with Him, and then accept His grace as He works in your heart to strengthen your friendship with Him. Ask God to reveal people against whom you may have sinned, and then be willing to go and request forgiveness from them. Ask God to help you lovingly forgive others who may have sinned against you, and ask Him to heal your relationship with them as well.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 6

DAY SIX

MEMORIZE:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16)

READ: John 3:16

- “For God so _____ that He gave His only _____, that whoever believes in Him should not _____ but have _____.”

First John 4:7 reads, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God.” To “love one another” means to be merciful to those who do not always deserve it. Jesus, God’s only Son, willingly obeyed His Father in coming to Earth and dying for sinners. His obedience was driven, not by fear or obligation, but by love for the Father and for mankind.

- In John 13:35, what did Jesus say His disciples would be known by?

The Jewish people were looking for a Messiah to come from God, overthrow their enemies, and make them a nation again. Jesus did overthrow our greatest enemies, sin and death, and He offers freedom to all people through adoption as sons and daughters of God for all who believe in Christ.

Ephesians 6:12 explains that Jesus did not come to Earth to set up a temporary government and free God’s people only from the Romans or Greeks or Britons. It reads, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

- How does 1 Peter 5:8 describe the enemy that you face?

P.R.A.Y.: Give thanks to Jesus for coming to Earth, living in perfect obedience to God, and dying for our sins. Thank Him for loving us that much. Ask Him to help you to love others the same way that He loves us and to lead others to know Him as their Savior and Lord.

ARMOR UP!

GOSPEL MESSAGE CRAFT: Read through the instructions for the Picture Frame Craft in *The Gift* (page 28) a couple of times until you are familiar with the project.

When you are ready, practice instructing a friend or family member how to complete the project. Try practicing in front of a mirror. Give the instructions, say the verse, and explain the meaning out loud to help you remember it. If you do not have the materials to make the frame, write or type the verse on a piece of paper and use small objects, such as pens or pencils, to lay down as a frame as you are teaching.





WEEK 6

DAY SEVEN

PARENT TALK: DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

READ: Read Luke 1:30-35 & Luke 2:4-15 with your child.

PARENT: Discuss as a family the announcement and birth of Jesus and the angels' appearance to the shepherds.

1. What is the title that the angel gave for Jesus? (Son of the Most High God)
2. What did the angel say about Jesus' reign? (He will sit on the throne of David and rule over the house of Jacob [Israel] forever.)
3. Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem? (They had to register in Bethlehem because Joseph was from the line of David.)
4. Where was Jesus when He was born? (He was born in a stable and laid in a manger.)
5. When the angels appeared to the shepherds to announce Jesus' birth, what message does that give us? (That God sent His Son for everyone, even the lowest of the low)

Second Samuel 7:12-13 provides a prophecy about Jesus being in David's line and reigning forever—"I will set up your seed [Jesus] after you...and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (v. 12b, 13b). Discuss the difference between how this prophecy was understood by the Jews (an earthly king who would overthrow the Romans) and what Jesus' kingdom has actually come to be (a kingdom that conquered sin and death and reigns in the hearts of men).

MEMORY VERSE: Have your child quote John 3:16 from memory. Take some time to discuss its meaning and how you will apply it to your life.

P.R.A.Y.: Pray together with your child. Spend time thanking the Lord for bringing hope to those without hope, even when we were living like enemies of God.

ARMOR UP!

PARENT CHALLENGE: Share with your child about a time when you had a relationship become severed by sin. How was the relationship reconciled, and what kind humility and response did it take to restore fellowship?

REVIEW: In preparation for the mission trip, your child will be teaching the lessons covered in this week's Bible study. Go through the Day Two: Bible Study Review Questions from *The Gift* (page 28) with your child. (Answers can be found in *The Gift*.)

1. What did the angel say that Mary's baby would be called?
2. Where was Jesus born?
3. What was Jesus' father's name?
4. Why was Jesus born in a stable?
5. Who told the shepherds about Jesus' birth?
6. What happened after the angel told the shepherds about Jesus' birth?
7. Why did Jesus come to Earth?
8. Did Jesus ever sin?
9. What is sin?
10. How do we receive God's forgiveness for our sins?



WEEK 7

JESUS' LIFE AND MIRACLES - DAY ONE

MEMORIZE:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 6:23)

READ: Romans 5:12-21

By now, you have probably heard someone point out to you a trait that you got from your mom or dad, such as your mom’s eyes, your dad’s smile, your sense of humor, etc. From the very first human created, mankind has had an inheritance to pass down. Unfortunately, our first father did not leave an honorable inheritance.

- What does verse 12 say entered the world through the first man, Adam?

- What did that bring to all men?

Verse 14 refers to Adam as “a type of Him who was to come,” meaning Jesus. Name two similarities between Adam and Jesus (i.e., Adam had no earthly father). Refer to Genesis 1-3 for the account of Adam.

- According to verse 18, what does the judgment Adam brought result in?

- What does the free gift (grace) that Christ brought result in?

- According to verses 20-21, is it possible to be too full of sin that God’s grace cannot save you?

- What leads you to your answer?

Romans 3:23 reminds us that no one is able to perfectly obey all of God’s commands. Even the smallest lie is sin. And yet, Jesus, God in human form, lived a life of obedience to the Father and died on a cross for sin. Because the Holy One took the “wages of sin” for us, the guilty and condemned are now forgiven and justified and are given eternal life.

In Romans 6, Paul speaks about grace being a gift that cannot be earned. As an acronym, some say that “grace” means “God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.” The cost of forgiveness and grace is much too high for anyone to pay, but God, being rich in love, gives it freely to those who ask.

P.R.A.Y.: Thank God that He sent Jesus to save us and that His grace is abundant. Ask Him to help you show the love of God to others as you share with them the free gift of grace that He offers. Praise God for the life that He gives through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ARMOR UP!





WEEK 7

DAY TWO

MEMORIZE:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 6:23)



READ: Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43

- Who was the man that came to Jesus, and why did he come to see Him?

- What did Jesus say about the girl when they told Him she was dead? (v. 39)

- How did the crowd respond when Jesus said that the girl was only sleeping?

- How did Jesus heal the little girl?

- What happened next?

As a leader of the synagogue, Jairus showed that he was desperate by coming to Jesus. Most Jewish leaders felt threatened by Jesus, but Jairus had a greater desire for his child to be well than his reputation. Jairus was not asking for a sign, like some had asked of Jesus to show and prove that He was the Messiah. Jairus' request showed that he wholeheartedly believed Jesus was who He said He was.

As a result of his faith, Jairus got to see the power of God firsthand in his life. Jesus entered into the house, being ridiculed by the crowd (v. 40), commanded the girl to arise from her sleep, and left the people inside “overcome with great amazement” (v. 42). Hebrews 11:6 says, “But without faith it is impossible to please Him [God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Pray that God would help you recognize when He is leading you to be part of His work and that your faith would be strong enough to respond. Pray that you would be bold in sharing your faith.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 7

DAY THREE

READ: John 9:1-7

MEMORIZE:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 6:23)



- How would you have felt if you had been the blind man and heard the disciples talking?

- How did Jesus respond to the disciples' claim that sin caused the man's blindness?

- What did Jesus do to heal the man?

- What happened when the man went to the pool and washed?

Sin changed the story from Genesis 2:7—“...and [God] breathed into his [man's] nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”—to Genesis 3:19—“For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.” Romans 3:23 reminds us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” The weaknesses, diseases, and disabilities that exist now are a result of the fall of mankind, not a result of each individual's sin.

Jesus changed the focus, both in this account and in human history. The disciples saw this man and his inability to see, but Jesus showed them the ability of God to meet his need and give new life. Often, people see others whose lives are unhealthy or seem to be in shambles and wonder how they got there, instead of sharing with them the love of God, which can change everything.

- According to John 3:17, why did Jesus come into the world?

- In Colossians 2:13, what caused death to enter into man, and how did Jesus respond to our trespasses so that we can live?

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Thank God for the hope that is found in Jesus and the healing that He offers. Ask God to help you love those who are hurting or in need. Pray that God would always give you a desire to lead others to Him.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 7

DAY FOUR

MEMORIZE:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 6:23)



READ: Mark 6:34-44

- As Jesus was heading away to rest, who was waiting on Him when He got out of the boat?

- What did Jesus' disciples suggest that He do when it got late in the day? How did He respond?

- How much food did the disciples find to feed the crowd of people? Did it feed everyone?

- Although He was very tired, what mattered most to Jesus from this account?

Jesus' disciples had had a full day, and Jesus' friend, John the Baptist, had just been killed. So, they got in a boat to get away for a while to rest. As they reached the other side, they found a crowd of more than 5,000 people waiting for Jesus. Moved with compassion, according to v. 34, Jesus began to teach the crowd. Even tired and hungry, we must still be moved by the needs of others sometimes. Jesus always put the needs of others above His own needs.

When you reach the end of your strength and are fully relying on God, He is able to do amazing things. The disciples, understandably exhausted, wanted to send the people away to eat, but Jesus wanted them to see the power of God at work. On days when you feel you have no energy left to serve, be faithful and obedient to God, allowing Him to work through you, show His power, and minister to those who are spiritually and physically hungry.

P.R.A.Y.: Thank God that He has called you and equipped you for ministry. Thank God for being your strength each day, even when you feel like you have none left. Ask God to help you meet the needs of others when He puts them in your path.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 7

DAY FIVE

READ: Mark 4:35-41

MEMORIZE:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 6:23)



- After Jesus and the disciples left the multitude in a boat, what started happening?

- Where was Jesus at this time, and what was He doing?

- While the disciples were terrified, how did Jesus respond to the storm?

- What did the wind do? _____

- What did the disciples learn about Jesus as a result of this event?

As Jesus and His disciples were getting away from the shore, a violent storm came on and their boat began to take on water from the waves that beat against it. While Jesus slept, His disciples were terrified and woke Him up, questioning His lack of concern. Jesus simply spoke the words, “Peace, be still!” to both the storm and His disciples. Immediately, the storm died down, but the disciples became even more terrified because of Jesus’ authority.

Jesus showed His complete faith in God the Father as He rested in the middle of a storm. The disciples, however, were still in the process of learning to trust. When “storms” come in your life or when God calls you and you are afraid, let your mind stay on God and He will give you peace.

- What does Isaiah 26:3 say God will do for those whose faith in God stays focused on Him?

- What does John 14:27 say that Jesus gives you, and what should be the result of that gift? _____

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Praise God that all of creation is under His control and He is able to protect and save you from any threat. Ask God to pour out His Holy Spirit on you so that you can rest at peace in knowing Him.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 7

DAY SIX

READ: Romans 6:23

- “For the _____ of sin is _____.” (v. 23a)

Many people today speak of “pay equality.” God’s Word is clear that the wage for our sin is fair and equal for all people. Man’s disobedience earns separation from God, which is death. Sin entered the world as Adam and Eve disobeyed God in Eden, but each man and woman is called to account for their own sins.

- “...but the _____ of God is eternal life in Christ _____ our Lord.” (v. 23b)

In times past, companies would own stores and allow their workers to buy things they needed on credit if they did not earn enough to pay for it up front. This debt would continue to grow, and some employees were never able to pay it off, which forced them to work for the company all of their lives.

Mankind continues to try to work to earn salvation, but it is an impossible task. Sin committed cannot be undone by doing good. However, God willingly offered to pay off the debt by sending Jesus to cover the price for sin. His death offers a paid off debt and the opportunity to live forever with God.

- What is the debt for sin? How did God pay that debt for us?

- What does Ephesians 2:8-9 tell us our salvation is? What can be done to earn it?

P.R.A.Y.: Take some time right now to thank the Lord for what He has done for you. Praise Him that He lovingly offered to wipe away all debts that were owed through Jesus’ death. Thank Jesus that He freely gives all the things that you need to live an abundant life.

ARMOR UP!

GOSPEL MESSAGE CRAFT: In *The Gift*, you have the instructions, pictures, and Bible verses that you need to teach others about the love of God. Take time to read through the steps involved in sharing Jesus through making the Cross Necklace Craft (**page 43** in *The Gift*). As you study, read out loud (maybe while looking in a mirror), and practice as if you had a group listening. Go through each step, telling your audience what each color represents and sharing the Bible verses that apply to each bead. (If you do not have the necklace materials, use colored objects you have at home to pretend you are making a necklace, or just pantomime.)

MEMORIZE:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 6:23)



WEEK 7

DAY SEVEN

PARENT TALK: DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

READ: John 2:11

PARENT: Discuss as a family the different miracles of Jesus that your child studied about this week.

1. First, according to John 2:11, what was the purpose of Jesus performing miracles? (Glorify God; revealed that He was the Son of God; caused people to believe in Him)
2. What was the significance of Jairus coming to Jesus when his daughter was gravely ill? (Mark 5:21-42) (Jairus was a prominent Jewish leader who went against his fellow synagogue rulers by turning to Jesus for help. He believed in Jesus could heal her.)
3. When Jesus healed the blind man (Mark 8:22-25), it was a demonstration of Jesus' compassion for the afflicted. Discuss ways that Jesus has shown compassion to your family or friends.
4. In Mark 6:30-44, we find the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. How do you think this miracle impacted the many people who ate that day?
5. When Jesus calmed the storm (Mark 4:35-41), what miracles did He perform in that event? (He demonstrated power over nature, which only God can do. He brought peace to the seas, and He brings peace to our lives.)

Let your L.I.T. briefly share Day Three: "Jesus' Life and Miracles" from *The Gift* by reviewing each picture.

MEMORY VERSE: Have your child quote Romans 6:23 from memory. Take some time to discuss its meaning and how you will apply it to your life.

P.R.A.Y.: Pray together with your child, thanking God for His Son Jesus who performed miracles in the Bible and still performs miracles today. Pray for those who do not believe in Jesus, that they will experience the power of Jesus in their lives and believe. Pray for boldness to share the life and miracles of Jesus with others.

ARMOR UP!

PARENT CHALLENGE: Share with your child a time when Jesus performed a miracle in your life, strengthening your faith and belief in Him as Lord.

REVIEW: Go through the Day Three: Bible Study Review Questions from *The Gift* (page 42) with your child. (Answers can be found in *The Gift*.)

1. How did the people respond when Jesus told them that the little girl was not dead?
2. What did Jesus do for the little girl that died?
3. What did Jesus do for the blind man?
4. When the blind man's eyes were first being healed, what did he say that people looked like?
5. How many people did Jesus feed?
6. When the disciples were scared of the storm, who did they go find in the boat?
7. What did Jesus do about the storm?
8. What separates us from God?
9. What did Jesus do for you and me?
10. How can a person be saved?



WEEK 8

JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION - DAY ONE

MEMORIZE:

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

READ: Isaiah 53:1-12

Isaiah was a prophet who lived 700 years before Jesus came to Earth. God used Isaiah to tell the nation of Israel about the great things that He would do and to warn them of their sin. One of Isaiah's best-known prophecies is found in chapter 53. In this passage, God reveals the death of Jesus' and the purpose of the events related to His death. By perfectly fulfilling prophecies, Jesus showed Himself to be the Messiah whom God had promised to send ever since sin entered into creation. As you read the account of Jesus' death and resurrection this week, think back to this prophecy.

- In Mark 14:66-72, you will find the account of Peter fulfilling Isaiah 53:3. Explain how Peter fulfilled the prophecy found in Isaiah 53:3?

- How does Isaiah 53:7 say that Jesus responded to the accusations that were being made against Him?

- Which prophecy or prophecies in Isaiah 53 are fulfilled by the actions of the soldiers as told in Matthew 27:27-31?

- How does fulfilling prophecies that were written 700 years before His birth help to lead people to faith in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God?

First Peter 3:15 says, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” In the last few weeks, you have hopefully seen many reasons to hope in Christ: He is Creator, He took on human flesh and came to Earth, and He taught with authority while performing miracles. This week, you will study how Jesus fulfilled the Word of God perfectly, died on a cross for the sin of the world, and arose victorious over sin and death, just as Scripture said He would.

P.R.A.Y.: Thank God that your faith in Him is not wasted. Praise Him that He is the one true God and that He is loving, He is more than enough, He is perfectly able, and He is deeply personal. Ask God to give you a deeper desire to know Him and to lead others to Christ. Pray that the Holy Spirit would show you God’s will for your life and give you the strength and wisdom to obey.

ARMOR UP!





WEEK 8

DAY TWO

READ: Mark 15:1-5, 12-15

MEMORIZE:

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)



- Who delivered Jesus to the Roman governor, Pilate?

- How did Jesus respond when He was accused by the Jewish religious leaders?

- What did the people want Pilate to do with Jesus?

- How did Pilate respond to calls for Jesus' crucifixion?

The Jewish leaders arrested Jesus in the middle of the night and carried Him to the temple for a trial of sorts, before taking Him to the Roman officials. On their own, they did not have the authority to put Jesus to death, so they agreed with one another on their accusations and took Him to the Roman governor insisting that he crucify Jesus.

Jesus never spoke up in His own defense other than to affirm Pilate's assertion that He is the king of the Jews. Jesus' silence was obedience. Jesus came bringing peace with God by obediently dying on the cross for our sins. Isaiah 53:7 prophesied about Jesus: "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth." Jesus' desire was to save mankind from sin by obedience to the Father, not to defend His name against people who hated Him.

- What could have happened if Jesus had defended Himself to Pilate against the priests?

- If Jesus had spoken up for Himself against His accusers, would His actions have saved us from sin? Why or why not?

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Pray that God would help you live obediently to His will, no matter what those around you say or do. Ask Him for the strength to follow Jesus even when it can cost you everything, even your life.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 8

DAY THREE

READ: Mark 15:16-32

MEMORIZE:

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)



ARMOR UP!

- What did the Praetorian soldiers put on Jesus and say to Him?

- Where was Jesus crucified? What does the name of the place mean?

- What did the guards do with Jesus’ clothing after they hung Him on the cross, fulfilling the prophecy found in Psalm 22:18?

- What did the passersby shout at Jesus and tell Him He should do?

Mark 15:16-32 tells the account of Satan’s “best day ever.” Even today, we still have an enemy at war with us, according to Ephesians 6:12. Hebrews 2:14-15 tell us that Jesus’ death rendered the enemy powerless, but on the day of the crucifixion, Satan must have claimed victory, unaware of the work that God was doing and the permanent defeat the devil would soon suffer.

It was not enough for the enemy to simply see Jesus put to death; Satan sought humiliation. Roman soldiers mocked and spat on Him. The public hurled insults as He carried the cross to Golgotha. The leaders who arrested Jesus challenged Him to come down from the cross and “save” Himself. And still, the One who powerfully spoke creation into existence, hung silently as His human flesh died in agony. Obedience to the Father was more important to Jesus than being liked.

- What is the desire of Satan, according to 1 Peter 5:8 and John 10:10?

- In 1 Corinthians 15:54-56, what has swallowed up death, and where does it come from?

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Thank God that, in Jesus, we have life, victory, grace, and forgiveness. Ask God to forgive you for times when you allow the opinions of others or your personal desires to stand in the way of obedience to Him.



WEEK 8

DAY FOUR

READ: Mark 15:33-39; John 19:28-30

MEMORIZE:

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)



- How long did the darkness cover the land over Jesus?

- What were Jesus' final words before He took His final breath?

- What did the soldier proclaim about Jesus while He was on the cross? (v. 39)

- What happened to the curtain in the temple that separated the people from the holy of holies as Jesus died?

As Jesus hung on the cross, the weight of our sin bearing on Him, He cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (v. 34). This cry echoed King David's found in Psalm 22:1 and demonstrated that the fellowship enjoyed between God the Father and Christ the Son had been broken. Jesus, in His humanity, was separated from the Father as He died for our sin. Sin always destroys fellowship with God.

But that death, the separation of the man Jesus from God the Father, allowed mankind to return to personal fellowship with God. The veil that kept sinful man apart from holy God came down as Jesus took the punishment once and for all that our sins deserved. Ephesians 1:7 tells us that we have redemption through Jesus and are justified (made righteous) through faith in Him.

- According to Romans 5:1, what does being justified through faith in Christ give us?

- Write a one sentence summary of Isaiah 53:10-12.

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Thank God that He has power over sin and death. Thank Him that nothing can separate us from Him or keep Him from us. Ask God to give you peace when life seems hopeless or out of His control.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 8

DAY FIVE

MEMORIZE:

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)



READ: John 19:38-42; Mark 15:46; John 20:1-8

- What did Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus do for Jesus’ body after His death?

-
- As they left the tomb, what was placed over the entrance?

-
- After Mary Magdalene saw the open tomb, what did she tell the disciples had happened? Who did she think had done it?

-
- When the disciples ran to the tomb, what did they find inside?

Jewish law and traditions had strict guidelines for burial. The body must be washed clean and placed in the ground as soon after death as possible in a box that allows the body to “return to dust” quickly. The body must be dressed in white linen like a priest wears. To fulfill obedience to the law, Joseph and Nicodemus prepared Jesus’ body quickly, as the Sabbath was coming and they would not be able to bury Jesus’ body after dark.

Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene returned to add additional ointment to Jesus’ body, only to find the stone removed and the tomb empty. She ran and told the disciples that His body was stolen. When they found His burial clothes neatly folded where He had been laying, they knew it was not a robbery. Jesus had conquered death, just as He said, and gave hope to those who follow Him. He is RISEN!

- Look up Matthew 5:17, and explain why you think it was important for Jesus’ body to be buried according to the Jewish laws and customs?

-
- Read John 2:18-22, and tell how Jesus kept His promise to the people: “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Praise God that Jesus is “the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2) who died on the cross for our sins. Thank God that the gift of eternal life in Christ is available for all who believe. Ask the Lord to help you to be a living example of a life that is lived for Christ and a bold witness for Him.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 8

DAY SIX

MEMORIZE:

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

READ: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

• “For I _____ to you first of all that which I also _____: that Christ died for our sins _____ to the _____” (v. 3).

The words “according to” often mean “I was told by.” But, as Paul writes here, the words mean “as it was predicted by.” Jesus, the long awaited Messiah, fulfilled more than 353 prophecies about Him. Long before Jesus took the form of a man, God shared with us how we could recognize His arrival, His life, and His death. In John 5:39, Jesus affirms that He is the Messiah about which Scripture speaks.

• What does Jesus say to the Jewish religious leaders in John 5:39 about the Scriptures they study so much?

• “...and that He was _____, and that He _____ again the third day _____ to the _____” (v. 4).

In Acts 26, Paul is in front of the court defending his faith in Christ against the accusation of blasphemy (showing disrespect to God). Paul was trained from childhood to be a Jewish leader, and he saw to it that Christians were killed before he came to know Christ personally. His defense to the court was that he was “saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles” (vs. 22-23). That is exactly what Jesus did!

• What promise about Jesus is found in Isaiah 26:19?

P.R.A.Y.: Take some time right now to thank the Lord for what He has done for you. Praise Him that all of His Word is true and that Scripture is a faithful guide for you each day. Thank God that He gave the Scriptures to help you know Him more and that He gives you the Holy Spirit as a teacher to help you understand His great love for you and stand firm each day in His will.

ARMOR UP!

GOSPEL MESSAGE CRAFT: In *The Gift*, you have the instructions, pictures, and Bible verses that you need to teach others about the love of God. Take time to read through the steps involved in sharing Jesus through making the Wordless Book Craft (page 57 in *The Gift*). As you study, read out loud (maybe while looking in a mirror) and practice as if you had a group listening. Go through each step, telling your audience what each color represents and sharing the Bible verses that apply to each page. (If you do not have colored construction paper, you may want to write the name of each color on blank white pages or use a crayon to color a square on each page and pretend it is the construction paper.)





WEEK 8

DAY SEVEN

PARENT TALK: DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

READ: Read Luke 9:18-26 with your child.

PARENT: As a family, discuss the approval that Jesus wanted most, what He was willing to do to live in obedience to God the Father, and what He commanded His followers to do. Also discuss the following questions:

1. While the crowds thought Jesus was a prophet, who did Peter say He was?
2. In verse 22, what did Jesus prophesy would happen to Him? How did He know?
3. In verse 23, what did Jesus say was necessary for believers to come after Him?
4. How did Jesus show that, even if people disapproved, following the will of God was the most important thing to Him and should be to us?

Philippians 2:8 says of Jesus, “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” Leading up to His death, Jesus was humiliated, mocked, tortured, and spat on. But His focus was always on eternity with His Father and those whom He died to save. Each day, we all make a choice to follow Christ in obedience or to follow the ways of the world. As you face those choices, reflect on the love Christ showed on the cross and remember His words in Luke 9:25: “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost.”

MEMORY VERSE: Have your child quote 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 from memory. Take some time to discuss its meaning and how you will apply it to your life.

P.R.A.Y.: Pray together with your child. Ask God to help you overcome the temptations that you face each day and obediently lead others to salvation in Christ. Thank God that even though there are times of trouble, Jesus gives us peace through overcoming the world. Praise God that He is greater than all things and in Him we can find rest and hope.

ARMOR UP!

PARENT CHALLENGE: Share with your child a time when you faced the decision to either follow Jesus or “gain the world.” What did you decide to do, and how did it affect you and your relationship to God or others? What was the result of your decision?

REVIEW: In preparation for the mission trip, your child will be teaching the lessons covered in this week’s Bible study. Go through the Day Four: Bible Study Review Questions from The Gift (p. 56) with your child. (Some of the answers can be found in The Gift.)

1. Who arrested Jesus and took Him to Pilate, accusing Him of blasphemy?
2. What did Jesus say when Pilate asked Him if He was the king of the Jews?
3. When Pilate asked the crowd what he should do with Jesus, what did they say?
4. What was the crown made of that the soldiers put on Jesus’ head?
5. What did the people yell at Jesus while He hung on the cross?
6. How long did the darkness over the land last?
7. What did Jesus cry out at 3 o’clock that afternoon? Why did He say this?
8. What happened in the temple when Jesus died? What did that mean?
9. What was the evidence to the disciples that Jesus had truly risen?



WEEK 9

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE - DAY ONE

MEMORIZE:

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

(John 1:12)

READ: John 1:11-13

- What did the people of Israel do when Jesus came into the world?
-

- What did Jesus give to those who received Him and believed in His name?
-

The Jewish people had long awaited the Messiah. However, when Jesus was born into a lowly situation, instead of a powerful home, many overlooked or denied Him. But, as Isaiah 55:8 says, “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord.” Like many today, the people rejected Him because God did not follow their plans.

God’s purpose was much larger than the nation of Israel, and so, God acted accordingly. Jesus came to Earth, so that ALL people could be saved. His death did not just offer salvation only to the people of God awaiting the Messiah. He offered each of us adoption into the family of God. Jesus’ one saving act did what all of our efforts could not do: it brought salvation to all who put their trust in Him.

- What is one reason that the Jews refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah, according to John 6:42?
-

- What promise does Matthew 6:31-32 give us when we begin to worry about things in life?
-

- If the Spirit of God lives in you, according to Romans 8:15, how does it affect our relationship to God?
-

- Ephesians 1:5 says that God has predestined us to what through Jesus?
-

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Praise God that He is much wiser than we are and knows all things. Thank God for adopting us as His children through our faith in Jesus. Ask God to help you share His love with others and help them come to know God as the Loving Father He is to you.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 9

DAY TWO

READ: Acts 9:1-20

MEMORIZE:

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

(John 1:12)

- What was Saul going to Damascus to do? (v. 2)

- Why do you think that the Lord blinded Paul until Ananias laid hands on him?

- What was Ananias’ initial response to the vision in which he saw Jesus telling him to find Saul? (vs. 13-14) How did Ananias finally respond? (v. 17)

- What did the Lord tell Ananias that Paul would do from then on? (v. 15)

Saul was born into a family of wealth and privilege. He received the highest education and was a Roman citizen by birth, which was rare for Jewish people. Saul was also very zealous in his faith with “reason to boast” if he wanted (see Philippians 3:4).

On the day he met Jesus, Saul was on his way to arrest or kill people who followed Jesus--Christians. But through all of his pride, hatred, and anger, Jesus knew how to humble Saul and get his attention. Jesus met Saul in a light that blinded him for three days. In need of help, Saul was led to a man in Damascus who loved Jesus. As soon as the man laid his hands on Saul, his vision returned. Saul trusted in Christ and was baptized. Shortly, Saul began to visit synagogues, preaching Jesus as the Son of God.

- Who do you know that seems like the least likely person to become a Christian? What can you do to help lead them to Jesus?

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Pray that God would use you, like He did Ananias, to help the “least likely” to believe in Jesus. Ask God to give you a spirit that boldly proclaims the Gospel of Christ to others.



ARMOR UP!



WEEK 9

DAY THREE

READ: Acts 13:1-5; 14:1, 21-22

MEMORIZE:

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”
(John 1:12)

- What position did Saul and Barnabas have at the church in Antioch? (13:1)

- What did the Holy Spirit say for the church to do with them? (v. 2)

- What did Paul (previously called Saul) and Barnabas do when they got to Iconium and what happened as a result? (14:1)

- When they returned to the established churches in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, what did Paul and Barnabas focus on doing? (14:22)

After Jesus’ death, the violence against His followers continued. Stephen was the first follower of Christ to be killed for his faith (Acts 7:59). As a result, disciples of Jesus scattered for fear of persecution. As time passed and the Gospel was preached, the church continued to grow. Acts 11:26 tells us that the church had grown so much after a year of Paul’s teaching that “the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”

In today’s verses, we read two things that should always be part of the Christian life: 1) Hearing and following the Holy Spirit, and 2) preaching the Gospel to others. Isaiah 55:11 tells us, “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” If you are faithful to tell others the Good News of Jesus and the words of God, you will see God work in the lives of those who hear as others come to faith in Christ.

- According to Romans 10:14, why is it important for believers to share the Gospel with the lost?

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Thank God that He has planned to use you to bring others to salvation in Christ. Thank God for the person or people who led you to Christ and are discipling you. Ask God to put someone in your path each day who needs to hear the Gospel and to give you the wisdom to share Jesus with them.

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 9

DAY FOUR

READ: Philippians 3:1-11

MEMORIZE:

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

(John 1:12)

- What three things in verse 3 did Paul say identify a follower of God?

- What are some of the things that Paul, in the flesh, could have had confidence? (vs. 5-6)

- Paul’s attitude toward earthly gain changed when He met Jesus. What did he say in verse 7?

Paul wrote this letter to the Church at Philippi from prison, having been accused by Jewish religious leaders of breaking Jewish law. Paul had previously arrested Christians for their faith; now he was in the same place where he had locked up others. Rather than complain about his circumstances, Paul chose to encourage other Christ followers by explaining that Jesus mattered more to him now than any situation, possession, or accomplishment.

In John 16:33, Jesus says, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Paul’s ability to continue ministering through his letters shows that his faith in Christ was most important to him. Even in prison, Paul was secure in Christ, and he continued to do the work that God had for him and to grow in his relationship with Jesus.

- In John 15:18-19, why did Jesus say that the world would hate His followers?

- In your own words, explain how Paul’s example shows Christians how to respond to evil.

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Praise God that nothing can take His children away from Him. Thank God that, even when we do not see His plan, He is in control of each situation. Ask God to grow your trust in Him, and be faithful in serving Him.



ARMOR UP!



WEEK 9

DAY FIVE

MEMORIZE:

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

(John 1:12)

READ: How Do I Find Things in the Bible? (*The Gift*, page 67)

- What are two things we can learn about God and mankind from reading the Bible? (bold print)

- What are four kinds of sections in the Bible that we use to look up a passage?

- What does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tell us about the Bible?

The Bible contains two major sections called “testaments.” The Old Testament accounts for the covenant God made with man regarding the law He gave Moses, the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28), while the New Testament tells of the life of Jesus, who brought the New Covenant (Luke 22:20).

The Bible was written by men whom God inspired and gave the words to share. The books of the Bible were not written down and put into the form that we have today until hundreds of years after Jesus died. However, their words agree perfectly on who God is, His purpose, and His plan: He is holy and righteous, we were created to know and worship Him, and Jesus came to Earth to die for our sins so that we are able to live with Him forever. The Bible truly is a gift from a loving God to His people.

- Knowing that God is able to perfectly protect His Word against errors while imperfect authors write it down, what confidence does that give us about our salvation? (See John 10:28.)

P.R.A.Y.: Write a brief prayer expressing your heart to the Lord today. Thank God for protecting His Word as He inspired its authors, so that we could know Him. Ask God to give you a passion to read His Word and an understanding of what He is saying to you as you read Scripture.

ARMOR UP!





WEEK 9

DAY SIX

READ: John 1:12

• “But as many as _____ Him, to them He gave the right to become _____ of God, to those who _____ in His _____.”

Has there ever been a time when you did not feel like talking to someone because of something that happened? Most likely you have. Because of sin, we have all done things that damage our relationship with people who love us. Those relationships do not just heal without some kind of loving action.

• If you have mended the relationship that was broken (mentioned above), what caused reconciliation to happen between the two of you?

• What are some things that keep relationships from ever being repaired?

When we sin against God, we feel distanced from Him. God does not leave us, but our shame, guilt, or pride get in the way of close fellowship with Him. God desires a close friendship with us and always offers forgiveness and grace. Romans 5:8 tells us, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” In Jesus, God took the first step toward repairing our broken relationship with Him. Through Christ, He offers forgiveness and grace, even before we ask. Our best response is to receive Christ and be counted as children of God.

• What does 1 John 1:9 say God does to our sin when we confess it to Him?

P.R.A.Y.: Take some time right now to thank the Lord for what He has done for you. Praise Him that He is always patient with us and that His grace is always available to us. Thank Him that He forgives us when we ask and does not hold our sins against us when we confess them to Him. Ask God to help you to be patient with others and forgive them, as He has forgiven you..

GOSPEL MESSAGE CRAFT: In *The Gift*, you have the instructions, pictures, and Bible verses that you need to teach others about the love of God. Take time to read through the steps involved in sharing Jesus through making The Cross Craft (**page 73** in *The Gift*). When you are ready, practice instructing a friend or family member how to complete the project. Try practicing in front of a mirror. Give the instructions, and explain the meaning of each part of The Cross out loud to help you remember it.

MEMORIZE:

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

(John 1:12)

ARMOR UP!



WEEK 9

DAY SEVEN

PARENT TALK: DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

READ: Read Psalm 51:1-17 with your child.

PARENT: As a family, discuss David's brokenness, repentance, and reconciliation to God after His sin with Bathsheba. Talk about what David did to seek God's forgiveness and what God asks from us, according to David's psalm.

1. What did David need from God according to verses 1-2?
2. In verses 3-4, how did David show he was sorry for the wrong he had done?
3. What was David's response to having his sins forgiven? (vs. 14-15)
4. In verses 16-17, what does David say about trying to "buy" God's forgiveness, and what does God want instead?

Many people believe the way to make up for sin or a wrong done is to do something good in return. They might say to buy them a gift and say, "I'm sorry." David recognized that there is no gift that God wants from us. The best thing we can do to repair fellowship with Him is to ask forgiveness and repent of the sin. David begs of God, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:10). God showed that His greatest desire is fellowship with His children by sending Jesus so that all who trust in His gift of salvation are made righteous.

MEMORY VERSE: Have your child quote John 1:12 from memory. Take some time to discuss its meaning and how you will apply it to your life.

P.R.A.Y.: Pray together with your child. Spend time thanking the Lord for your family. Praise Him for being a loving God who never changes or walks away from us. Thank God that, even when we sin, we can come to Him in repentance and He will always forgive us, like a loving Father would. Ask Him to strengthen your relationships in your family and help you love as He loves.

ARMOR UP!

PARENT CHALLENGE: Discuss a time when you struggled to forgive someone for something they did to hurt you. What did it take from you to finally overcome the hurt and restore the relationship? How do you keep the relationship strong now?

REVIEW: In preparation for the mission trip, your child will be teaching the lessons covered in this week's Bible study. Go through the Day Five: Bible Study Review Questions from *The Gift* (page 72) with your child. (Answers can be found in *The Gift*.)

1. Who stopped Saul on the road to Damascus?
2. What happened to Saul's eyes when Jesus spoke to him?
3. What happened to Saul after Ananias prayed for him?
4. What did Saul do after he found out who Jesus was?
5. How did Paul (previously called Saul) speak to the people he led to Jesus?
6. Who wrote many of the books of the New Testament?
7. What is the Bible?
8. What is the Bible about?
9. Why should we read the Bible?
10. Why is it important for us to tell our friends about Jesus?



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