

This Month's Memory Verse

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

September 1

Title: We are to Worship God Alone

Passage: Isaiah 44

Christ Connection:

God alone is worthy of our worship. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and save us from our sins. We can turn from our idolatry and evil ways to rejoice in the God who saves.

Questions to Discuss:

- What is one thing you remember from this week's Bible story?
- Isaiah means "the Lord saves" How does this name match his message?
- What idols do you need to set aside in your life?

Family Connection:

Gather art supplies (ex. Crayons, markers, paper, chenille sticks, string, beads, etc.) that you have around your home. Everyone sit around the table and create a piece of art with whatever supplies they would like. Take turns sharing about your art, and why you created it the way that you did. Ask your children if they love each other's art more or each other more. Remind them that even when we create great things, the creator is more important than the creation. God is worthy of our praise, not the things He has created.

1. God Rules: Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. (Do a hand motion of a crown on your head!);

2. We sinned: Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death (Make an "X" with your arms

3. God provided: God sent His Son Jesus to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us (Make a cross with your fingers

4. Jesus gives: Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever (put hands out like they're holding a gift

5. We respond: Tell your kids that they can respond to Jesus. Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus (make celebratory motions with your hands in the air!)

Parent Action:

God's glory and majesty is indescribable. Consider taking this week to focus on your praise and worship of the Lord.

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September 8

Title: Ezekiel Gave Hope

Passage: Ezekiel 37

Christ Connection:

Apart from Jesus, we are like the dry bones Ezekiel saw. God showed Ezekiel His power to make dead people alive. We see God's power at the cross. Jesus died to save sinners. God raised Jesus from the dead, and He gives us eternal life.

Questions to Discuss:

- What is one thing you remember from this week's Bible story?
- What was God's message to His people?
- When does our life with God start?

Family Connection:

Parents, share your testimonies with your children of how God gave you new life with Him and what you are most hopeful for in eternal life with the Lord. As your share with your children, be sure to touch on what God did for you and the Gospel, and what God can do for your children.

Parent Action:

We too can experience God's power and restoration, both already and not yet. Look up Romans 8:18-25 and reflect on what that means in your life now.

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September 15

Title: Daniel in the Lions' Den

Passage: Daniel 6

Christ Connection:

God showed His power to rescue Daniel from the lions, but Daniel was just a small part of a much bigger story. God ultimately rescued us from a much bigger problem – sin and death – through His Son, Jesus.

Questions to Discuss:

- What is one thing you remember from this week's Bible story?
- It is always easy to obey God? Why or why not?
- How can your obedience to God point others to Him?

Family Connection:

Play Simon Says with your children. Give them a number of silly instructions, and play through a few times. Ask your children, what they would do if you started to give them instructions during the game to do things they KNOW are sinful (ex. Hit their sibling, break something, speak unkindly, etc.). If they didn't do it they would have to lose the game, but if they did do it, they would be sinning. Talk through what that would be like and remind them that God will guide them to honor Him through their words and actions if they seek Him.

Parent Action:

When opposition arises, what is your first reaction? Who do you go to? Remember that who you go to matters.

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September 22

Title: The Temple was Rebuilt

Passage: Ezra 4-6, Haggai

Christ Connection:

God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus to be with His people. Jesus provided something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.

Questions to Discuss:

- What is one thing you remember from this week's Bible story?
- How does the Holy Spirit help Christians?
- How can you encourage someone who is suffering and ready to give up hope?

Family Connection:

Using blocks or other building toys, take turns building a temple for God. Remind your children that now that Jesus has come to us, died, and resurrected, God doesn't need a physical temple. He sends His Holy Spirit to live in Christians. And, we can worship God anywhere! Talk about ways that you can worship God at home, in the car, and at church.

Parent Action:

In our brokenness of our past, we can look to the One who redeems our past. Reflect on how this gives us hope in Him for the future.

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September 29

Title: Esther Saved Her People

Passage: Esther

Christ Connection:

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

Questions to Discuss:

- What is one thing you remember from this week's Bible story?
- Why do you think Esther was willing to die to save her people?
- How can you speak up for a friend in need?

Family Connection:

Using paper, stapled or taped together, make and decorate crowns to wear. As you decorate your crowns, talk about ways that each of your family members can be brave and a true queen/king like Esther was to serve the people in your lives. This could be at school, home, work, or even church. Remind your children that just like God gave Esther the authority and opportunity to save Her people, God gives each of us opportunities to serve the people around us.

Parent Action:

Because of God's providential care and love for us, it is wholly possible to serve God in a culture that refuses to do likewise. What are ways that you can be a light of God's love and to serve Him in the places in your life that may be dark?