

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 1, Session 1

CONNECTION POINT:

Be ready to give and receive godly wisdom.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Good leaders surround themselves with good advisors. The best leaders are those who do not think too highly of themselves and have a teachable spirit. This applies to all of us regardless of our role or position in life. At the same time, we should not be hesitant to offer wise principles to those who would benefit. Each one of us needs a mentor, and each one of us can serve as a mentor.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: 2 Kings 22:1–23:3

Live It Out: Help your child look in the Bible to find favorite Bible stories. If you have a Bible with pictures, she can find a picture she likes and you can tell the story.

Josiah became king when he was 8 years old. He loved God and wanted to obey Him. Josiah grew to be a man and still wanted to obey God.

The temple needed to be cleaned and repaired. King Josiah told one of his helpers to give money to the workers to clean and repair the temple.

When the workers found a Bible scroll, one of the king's helpers read words from the scroll. When King Josiah heard the words, he was upset. He tore his clothes. "These words tell us what God wants us to do and we have not been obeying God," Josiah said.

King Josiah called the people to the temple. The people listened to the words from the Bible scroll. King Josiah and the people promised God they would do all the things in the Bible scroll.

KIDS

Scripture: 2 Kings 22:1–23:3

Live It Out: Read the Weekly Verse, Psalm 119:34, from different translations of the Bible. Help your child memorize his favorite translation of the verse.

Josiah became king of Judah when he was 8 years old, and he reigned for 31 years. King Josiah was a good king who made choices that honored God.

King Josiah told the Hilkiah, high priest, to organize workers to repair God's temple. While working, a Book of the Law was found. Hilkiah gave the book to the king's secretary. Then secretary brought the book to King Josiah and read it aloud to him.

When Josiah heard God's Word, he knew that the kingdom of Judah had not obeyed it and deserved God's judgment. King Josiah gathered all the people of Judah together, and he read God's Word to them. Then before all the people, he promised to obey the Word of God to the best of his ability. And all the people joined in the promise.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Exodus 18:9-11,14-21

- Who do you trust for insight or wisdom? (This can be any family member or simply someone who loves you like family.)
- How have you responded when others have given you honest feedback that wasn't necessarily easy to hear?
- When have good or important things distracted you from serving God well?

Live It Out: God calls us to belong to a church family so we can serve one another. One of the most powerful ways we serve is by sharing the lessons God is teaching us. What lessons can you share with your teen today? Be sure to pass on the things you are learning in your own Bible study. Consider setting aside a specific time each day to share what you're all learning in your walk with God together as a family.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 1, Session 2

CONNECTION POINT:

Mentor and disciple those who come after you.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Training up the next generation comes naturally to parents and those with little children. Many people grow into adults having learned good life skills from their parents, but they lack the guidance to follow Christ well. While pastors, church leaders, and Bible study leaders can play a key role in discipleship, every believer has a role to play in guiding someone younger to grow in Christ.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Jeremiah 36

Live It Out: Review the Bible story. Find other books named for the people who wrote them such as Daniel, Matthew, Luke, and John. Say these people wrote God's words in the Bible.

God told Jeremiah, "Take a scroll and write the words I tell you."

Jeremiah asked his helper, Baruch, to write the words. Baruch wrote on the scroll all the words God spoke to Jeremiah. Baruch went to the temple and read the scroll to help the people know God's words.

A king's helper told the king about the scroll. The king wanted to hear the words. When the king's helper read the scroll, the king cut the scroll into pieces and threw it into the fire.

God told Jeremiah to get another scroll and write the words about how to live. Baruch helped Jeremiah write the words from the first scroll again and write many more words. These words from the scroll are in our Bibles today. They help us learn how to live.

KIDS

Scripture: Jeremiah 36

Live It Out: Read together 2 Timothy 3:16. Discuss with your child how God inspired many people to write the books of the Bible. Use a concordance to learn about other authors.

God directed Jeremiah to write down everything God told him. Jeremiah called his scribe, Baruch, to write down the words God spoke. Jeremiah told Baruch to read the scroll aloud at the temple so that the people would turn from their evil ways. But the people did not respond.

The princes of Judah summoned Baruch to read the scroll to them. When they heard the words of God in the scroll, they knew King Jehoiakim needed to hear them, too.

King Jehoiakim was sitting by a fire when the scroll was brought to him. Each time part of the scroll was read aloud to him, the king would cut off that portion and throw it into the fire. The king commanded the arrest of Baruch and Jeremiah, but the Lord hid them.

God told Jeremiah and Baruch to write His words again. God's Word cannot be destroyed.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Numbers 27:12-23

- What steps will you take to make sure you focus more on the future than on the present?
- What qualities does God look for in a leader?
- Why can it sometimes be difficult to entrust others with responsibility?

Live It Out: Joshua served under Moses from their earliest days in the wilderness, and Moses was very intentional about investing in the young man, including teaching Joshua the law and encouraging him to grow day by day. As God's people, we are called to invest in others in the same way, as community is essential to growing in our faith.

One way we can invest in others is through encouragement. Write a note or send a text encouraging a friend who has been growing in their faith and serving others well. Acknowledge how you've seen them growing in their relationship with the Lord. Then, challenge your teen to also write a note to a friend that could use encouragement and the acknowledgment of the steps they have taken to better walk with God.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 1, Session 3

CONNECTION POINT:

Help others discern the voice of God.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Babe Ruth may have hit 714 home runs, but he also struck out 1330 times. Michael Jordan admitted he missed over 12,000 shots in his career. In spite of these failings, both are considered among the greats in their games. As followers of Christ, we often don't do as we should. We fail, but God still wants to work through us. God will even use those failures to teach us and make us better mentors.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-12

Live It Out: Review the Bible story. Say that the Bible is like no other book because it teaches about God. Review some of your child's favorite Bible stories.

All the people gathered in front of a high platform. Ezra stood on the platform so everyone could see him.

Ezra opened the Bible scroll and read to the people. The people stood up and listened. The people worshiped God as they heard the words.

While Ezra read, some men helped the people understand what the words meant. The people became sad. They had not been doing what God wanted them to do. The men told the people, "Do not be sad. This is a special day. God wants you to be happy. Go home and cook some good food. Share your food with people who do not have food to eat."

All the people went to their homes. They cooked and shared the food with others. Everyone was happy because they had learned from the Bible what God wanted them to do.

KIDS

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-12

Live It Out: Explain that many people who listened to Ezra read the Scriptures had not heard them in a long time, or even at all. Emphasize the importance of reading the Bible.

All of the people gathered in the open square. Ezra stood on a tall platform so that everyone could hear and see him, and he read God's Law from morning to mid-day. From the moment Ezra opened the Book of the Law, all the people stood and listened. And when Ezra blessed the Lord, the people shouted "Amen" and worshipped God.

Then teachers helped everyone understand the things that Ezra read from God's Word. The people felt sad when they understood they had been disobeying God's Word. Ezra and the teachers of the Law told the people not to be sad because God had forgiven them. Instead, they should rejoice and be joyful because God was at work in their lives. So, all the people ate good foods and celebrated the important day they heard and understood God's Word.

STUDENTS

Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:22-26; 3:7-10,15-18

- When have you seen God use your own mistakes to help you grow?
- In what ways do you most clearly hear God speak into your life?
- How would you describe the connection between hearing from God and obedience?

Live It Out: Eli's sons were sinful and selfish, and they refused to honor either their father or God. Because of their rebellion, they received a harsh judgment. Today, if we want to experience God's blessings, we must choose to show honor to those in positions of authority. This helps us learn humility and submission, ultimately in relation to God.

When you see others going astray from Scripture and God's will for their lives, talk to them. With gentleness and respect, encourage them to seek God, trust Him, and respond in obedience. This includes respecting the authorities in our lives and responding to criticism with grace and humility.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 1, Session 4

CONNECTION

POINT: Encourage others to follow God's leadership—no matter the cost.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Following Christ and being obedient to Him is not always easy, and the growing antipathy the world feels towards Christians adds to that challenge. Christians stand better when we stand together. When we take the opportunity to mentor someone, our presence, words, and example can be a great benefit and encouragement as they live for Christ in an antagonistic world.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Acts 16:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:1-5; 3:14-17

Live It Out: Play a game about right and wrong choices with your child. Name some things your child may be tempted to do. Comment that the Bible helps us know what is right.

Paul was a missionary. He traveled many places and told people about God and Jesus.

On one trip, Paul met a young man named Timothy. Timothy loved God. Paul asked Timothy to help him tell others about Jesus.

Timothy and Paul told many people about God and Jesus. They helped start new churches so more people could learn what the Bible says.

Later, Timothy left Paul. Paul wrote Timothy a letter. Paul wrote: "I remember how much you love God. I thank God for your mother, Eunice, and your grandmother, Lois, who taught you about God. Since you were a child, you have learned from the Bible. All that the Bible says is from God. The Bible tells us what God wants us to do, teaches us how to live, and helps us make right choices. Keep doing what the Bible says."

KIDS

Scripture: Acts 16:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:1-5; 3:14-17

Live It Out: Review the Bible story and read some of what Paul wrote about living a Christian life. Discuss how your family is being successful in following God's directions.

Paul visited places he had shared the good news of Jesus and started new churches. When Paul arrived in Lystra, he met a young man who loved the Lord named Timothy. Paul asked Timothy to join him on the rest of his journey visiting churches.

Several years later, Paul was imprisoned in Rome. While in prison, Paul wrote a letter to Timothy who was leading one of the new churches the two men had visited. Paul promised to pray for Timothy every day. He also wrote that it brought Paul joy to think about how much Timothy loved the Lord and how Timothy's mother and grandmother had helped Timothy grow in his faith. He encouraged Timothy to stand firm in that faith and in the Word of God because God's Word teaches Christians everything that they need to know to live a Christian life.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Esther 2:5-7; 4:8-17

- Why did Haman hate the Jewish people so much? When have you seen or heard of hatred or discrimination being passed down through generations?
- When has God called you to take a risk to do what was right?
- How does your life show that you live with continual dependence upon God?

Live It Out: Jesus said that if we follow Him, we will be rejected by the world in the same ways He was. Spend time this week thinking about how you are prepared to face rejection or hostility for your faith. How would you describe your willingness to remain faithful through persecution?

Our communities, states, nation, and beyond desperately need spiritual renewal. Commit to praying every day for the brokenness you see around you. With your family, create a list of specific people or issues you will pray for and commit to a set time every day to pray for these things.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 1, Session 5

CONNECTION POINT:

Expect mentoring relationships to change over time.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Most relationships change over time. A father's relationship with a son changes as the son moves from childhood to adulthood. Close friendships change as both parties move into different stages of life. While the love Christians are to have for one another is to remain constant, how we work or interact together can change. A mentor relationship is no exception. As the one we're discipling grows in his own walk with Christ, God will often take his ministry in a different direction.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: 1 Kings 6; 8

Live It Out: Talk about what your child does at church. Give him paper and crayons to draw a picture of his favorite thing to do at church. Pray and thank God for your church.

King Solomon wanted to build the temple in Jerusalem. The temple was a place for people to worship God. King Solomon built the temple exactly like God wanted.

After the temple was built, King Solomon planned a celebration. Many people came to see this temple.

The church priests carried the ark of the covenant into its place in the temple. The ark of the covenant was a large gold box that held the Ten Commandments.

King Solomon prayed to God and praised Him. He thanked God for the new temple. He thanked God for always keeping His promises. He asked God to help the people obey Him. The king said the people were sorry for their wrong actions.

Everyone celebrated for two weeks. People were happy to have a place to worship God.

KIDS

Scripture: 1 Kings 6; 8

Live It Out: Define *church* as a group of believers who worship together. Talk about ways your church worships God. Explain that worship is responding to God and what He has done.

God told King David that his son, Solomon, would build the temple. When Solomon became king, he began to build God's temple. He used stone, wood, and gold to build the temple. After seven years of work, the temple was complete.

Solomon gathered all the people to worship God at the temple. The priests the ark of the covenant inside the temple.

Solomon prayed to God. He prayed, "God, there is no God like you. You keep all your promises. You listen when your people pray. You forgive sin. You care for your people. You are the One True God."

Solomon blessed the people. He told them to obey God and keep God's commands. Solomon and the people celebrated for fourteen days. Then the people went home.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26; 15:36-40

- Why is sharing our faith such an important part of our relationship with Jesus?
- What practical steps can you take to grow from learner to leader?
- What can we learn from Paul and Barnabas about having healthy disagreement?

Live It Out: Barnabas and Paul weren't family in a biological sense, but they were both part of the family of God. At a certain point in their time together, Barnabas and Paul had a disagreement that led to their parting ways. It's important that we understand, however, that they didn't separate on bad terms. Though they didn't agree on every detail, they were able to maintain unity and a healthy respect for one another. God calls us to this same reality.

As humans with our own perspectives (and weaknesses), we won't always see eye to eye with others. This is especially true for your teens. Ask your teen if there is someone they have struggled to get along with. Create a list steps to make sure that when disagreements happen, it is in a healthy and respectful way that doesn't cause division.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 1, Session 6

CONNECTION POINT:

Focus your mentoring on growth in Christ and in His Word.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: It can be a bittersweet moment as a parent watches a child leave home to live on his own as an adult. A parent may miss the days when the son was young and dependent on him, but achieving adulthood is the ultimate goal of parenting. When we mentor and disciple, our goal is to lead those we disciple to a place of spiritual maturity. Mentoring is not about us, but about Jesus and leading those we disciple to follow, love, and obey Jesus.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 24:1-14

Live It Out: Help your child learn to be a giver. Give her money to give each Sunday. Remind your child that people at church give money to help the church do God's work.

Joash became king when he was only 7 years old. He was king for 40 years.

Joash obeyed God. While he was king, Joash decided to repair the temple. He led the people to bring their money, gold, and silver to help repair the temple.

The men made a chest and placed it outside the gate of the temple. The leaders and the people brought offerings and put them in the chest until it was full.

The money was used to pay the stonecutters who repaired stone walls. The money paid the carpenters who sawed, hammered, and nailed. It was used to pay metal workers called blacksmiths and coppersmiths. They repaired the metal in the temple and made new gold and silver items for the temple.

The workmen rebuilt God's temple. People could worship God there again.

KIDS

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 24:1-14

Live It Out: Encourage your child to give part of her allowances to church. Talk with her about what ministries of the church are supported by the offerings people give.

Joash was 7 years old when he became king. He was king for 40 years. Joash obeyed God.

Joash wanted to renovate God's temple. He told the church leaders to gather the offerings from the people to pay for the repairs. The church leaders did not tell the people to bring their offerings.

Joash made a chest and placed it outside the temple. He told the people to bring their offerings to God. The people filled up the chest. The leaders emptied the chest, and the people filled it up again and again with their offerings.

Joash gave the money to workmen. The workmen repaired the temple.

When they finished repairing the temple, they still had extra silver. They used the silver to make special tools for the temple. The people worshiped God in the temple.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Acts 16:1-5; 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 3:10-12

- Why is one-on-one learning so important, especially when it comes to growing in our faith?
- Why is a relationship of trust and openness such an important part of discipling others?
- How specifically will you invest in others and help them to grow in living out these values?

Live It Out: The gospel message contains the power to change lives, and God used Paul to carry the gospel to places far beyond Jerusalem. Because of the ways Paul invested in Timothy, he was also able to carry on the same gospel work. God is sovereign and He will accomplish His purposes in the world, and just as He used Paul and Timothy, God desires to use us today.

Churches are called to have a culture of discipleship, and this involves healthy mentoring relationships. Make sure that your teen has a mentor who is helping him or her to grow in their faith—this could you or another trusted adult. It's important to walk alongside others investing in them as Paul did for Timothy.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 2, Session 1

CONNECTION POINT:

God is holy and set apart from everything else in His creation.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Religions will use different words to describe God; many will have a skewed version of Him. The Bible identifies many attributes of God, but one cannot talk about God without acknowledging that He is the holy God. Some religions teach that we are all a part of God, but God's holiness means He is wholly set apart from us and everything else in His creation. A right understanding of God must begin with recognizing His holiness.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Acts 17:1-12

Live It Out: Help a younger preschooler turn the pages of the Bible. Point to words in the Bible for your older preschooler as you read verses. Talk about learning from the Bible.

Paul and Silas traveled to many cities telling people about Jesus. In one large city, Paul and Silas told the people that God sent Jesus. They said that Jesus was God's Son.

Some of the people listened carefully and were happy to hear about Jesus. Some men and women believed in Jesus. Others were very angry that Paul was teaching in their city.

Paul's friends sent Paul and Silas to another city called Berea. When they got to Berea, Paul and Silas went to the synagogue. They began to teach the people in Berea about God's plan.

The people in Berea listened carefully to what Paul and Silas said. Every day they looked in the Bible scroll to see if what Paul said was true. The words in the Bible were the same as what Paul said. The people in Berea learned from Paul and from the Bible.

KIDS

Scripture: Acts 17:1-12

Live It Out: Help your child find his favorite Bible stories in his Bible. Discuss the truth of these stories about real people. Pray with him, thanking God for the truth of the Bible.

Paul and Silas traveled telling people about Jesus. In the city of Thessalonica, Paul went to the synagogue on the Sabbath, the day of worship.

For three weeks, Paul taught the Jewish people in the synagogue about Jesus. Many people believed Paul's message including Gentiles and women who were leaders in the city.

Other Jewish people did not believe Paul's message. They began a riot in the city. They searched for Paul and Silas to arrest them, but they could not find them.

When it was night, the believers helped Paul and Silas escape from the city. They traveled Berea. They went to the synagogue to teach people the Scriptures. The people in Berea believed Paul's message. They were eager to hear God's Word. They studied the Scriptures every day. Many leaders in the city, both men and women, also believed God's truth.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Psalm 99:1-9

- What does it mean that God is holy? How specifically can we live to honor God's holiness?
- When have you experienced the peace that comes only from God?
- Why must we have a mediator to live in connection with God?

Live It Out: God is holy—this means He is high above us and perfectly righteous. A formal way of thinking of this reality is to say that God is “transcendent.” At the same time, God is “immanent”—which means He has come near to us. Though God is set apart, He isn't far and distant but has called us friends, sons, and daughters. We must be careful to honor God as Holy. At the same time, we must understand that God loves us.

Spend some time thinking about the moral attributes of God—His holiness, righteousness, justice, love, mercy, and wisdom. With your teen, consider how God demonstrate these in the ways He relates to His people and to the world. How can you reflect these attributes to the people around you in the ways you live?

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 2, Session 2

CONNECTION POINT:

In Christ, we are dead to sin but alive to God.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Sin remains a struggle for believers. Even though we have trusted Christ and chosen to follow Him, the sin nature in us still tries to assert itself. As we grow in Christ, we learn to resist temptation, sin, and the persistent tug of the sin nature. By His death and resurrection, Christ has rendered sin and death powerless over us, so we must learn to live in that truth, no longer letting sin have control.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Acts 12:1-19

Live It Out: Help your child think of his friends that need help. Write a list and help your child pray and ask God to help his friends. Say that people at church pray for others.

The king put Peter in jail for telling about Jesus. Peter's church friends prayed for him.

Peter was asleep in the jail. An angel appeared and said, "Quick, get up." Chains fell off of Peter, and the gates were unlocked. The angel said, "Follow me." Peter obeyed and followed the angel. The angel led Peter into the city. Then the angel left.

Peter went to the house where his church friends were praying. He knocked. A girl named Rhoda heard Peter's voice. She ran to tell the others before she opened the door.

The people didn't believe that Peter was there. Peter knocked again and Peter's friends were surprised to see him. Peter told his friends how God had helped him. Peter thanked his church friends for praying for him. Peter left to go to another place.

KIDS

Scripture: Acts 12:1-19

Live It Out: Help your child name people for whom your family can pray. Include familiar people, but also other you do not know. Pray with your child each day.

King Herod arrested Peter and put him in prison because the king did not like people telling about Jesus. The church prayed for God to protect Peter.

The night before Peter's trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers. Suddenly a bright light woke Peter up. He saw an angel in the cell.

The angel said, "Quick, get up!" The Peter's chains fell off. The angel told Peter to get dressed and to put on his sandals. The angel said, "Follow me." Peter followed the angel. He thought he might be dreaming.

When the angel and Peter reached the city gate, the angel left. Peter knew that God had rescued him. When he reached Mary's house where the friends were praying, he explained what happened and how God rescued him. He thanked his friends and went to a safe place.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Romans 6:5-14

- How does sharing in Jesus's death and resurrection translate into our being free from sin?
- For Jesus's followers, why is there no reason to fear death?
- How does your life exhibit that sin doesn't rule over you?

Live It Out: God is holy, and no sin can enter His presence. That's bad news for you and me, because we have all sinned. Thankfully, Jesus died on the cross and paid the price for our sins, and when we identify with Jesus in His burial and resurrection, we are made dead to sin and alive in Christ.

God is good, but our world is broken, and we suffer the effects of the fall. Through Christ, we are given the opportunity to enjoy victory over sin and experience a life of purpose and meaning. It only depends on our living by the power of God. Consider whether you have been trying to live the Christian life by desiring the right things or simply by trying to do the right things. Ask God to help you to rely on Him to overcome sin.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 2, Session 3

CONNECTION POINT:

The Holy Spirit helps us to live holy lives.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Gaining wisdom is almost universally considered a virtue, but we must ask: What kind of wisdom are we seeking? A lot of people and religions claim wisdom, but wisdom that does not begin with a fear of God (Prov. 1:7) is not properly grounded. As followers of Christ, we are not left alone to find wisdom, hoping we are looking in the right direction. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer and helps us understand God's truth and wisdom.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Acts 13

Live It Out: Share some information on missionaries with your child. Help your child write a thank-you note to the missionary. Pray for the missionary before you send the note.

Paul and Barnabas led the church at Antioch. God wanted them to go and tell people about Jesus. The church prayed for Paul and Barnabas and sent them out as missionaries.

Paul and Barnabas sailed to Cyprus. They taught about Jesus in the synagogues.

Then they sailed from the island and went to many other places. Everywhere they went, they told the people about God and that Jesus was God's Son. Many people wanted to hear more about Jesus.

In one town, the people asked Paul and Barnabas to teach them more about Jesus. Many people came. Some of the people believed Jesus was God's Son, but other people did not.

Paul and Barnabas continued to go and tell people about Jesus in many different places.

KIDS

Scripture: Acts 13

Live It Out: Research well-known missionaries. Talk about their lives and what they had to sacrifice to tell others about Jesus. Start with Paul in the Book of Acts.

God told the church in Antioch to send Barnabas and Saul to do work for God. The church prayed over Barnabas and Saul and sent them to be missionaries.

Barnabas and Paul sailed to Cyprus. Saul, now called Paul, performed a miracle. The leader in the city believed in God when he heard Paul's teaching and saw God's miracle.

Paul and his friends continued their journey. In another city, they preached about Jesus. The next week, almost the whole town gathered to hear Paul's message. Some Jewish people were became angry and began to speak against Paul and Barnabas.

God told Paul and Barnabas to share the message of Jesus to the Gentile people. The Gentile people were happy to hear God's Word. Many believed that Jesus was God's Son. The Jewish leaders made Paul and Barnabas leave their city. They continued on their journey.

STUDENTS

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

- When have you sought God in humility and He opened your eyes to a specific truth?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us understand the truth of God?
- What role does the Spirit play in seeing the world rightly?

Live It Out: As humans, we are individually responsible for the ways we live. However, this doesn't mean that we are alone. When we trust in Jesus for salvation, the Spirit comes into our lives and teaches us the ways we should walk and provides the strength to live well. Further, the Spirit, as our Helper, continually intercedes before the Father on our behalf.

We are commanded to live lives of holiness (Lev. 11:44-45), but we cannot do it on our own. Actively seek the Holy Spirit's help in pursuing holiness. Help your teen to create a list of areas where they need wisdom. Then, seek answers in Scripture and pray that God would help you know how to apply His wisdom to your life in real ways.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 2, Session 4

CONNECTION POINT:

Living for Christ changes the way we think.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: The world encourages us to make a name for ourselves. When we come to Christ, realizing all He has done for us, we discover that life is not enriched by making much of ourselves but in making much of Jesus. As followers of Christ, our thinking changes as our thinking is “reset” to focus on Christ. We grow in our love and service to Christ by loving and serving others.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-2; 6:25-34

Live It Out: Talk with your child about the good things in your family. Say that God gives all good things, because He cares for people. Thank God for Jesus.

Many people were following Jesus to hear Him tell about God. Jesus went up a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came close to Him. He began to teach the people.

“Do not worry about what you will eat or drink,” Jesus said. “Look at the birds who fly in the air. They do not plant seed or grow crops. God feeds the birds. He takes care of them. God will take care of you, too.”

“And do not worry about what you will wear,” Jesus said as He pointed to the flowers growing nearby. “See these flowers? God makes the beautiful flowers grow. They do not work or make clothes. But they have what they need. You are much more important to God than flowers. God loves you more than the birds and flowers. So do not worry about food to eat or clothes to wear. God knows what you need. God will take care of you.”

KIDS

Scripture: John 14:15-26

Live It Out: Review the Bible story. Read the Weekly Verse, John 14:26. Explain how the Holy Spirit guides Christians. Thank God for the Holy Spirit.

Jesus and His disciples were having their last meal together. Jesus told His disciples He would have to go away, but they did not understand what would happen soon.

Jesus told the disciples things to remember when He was no longer with them. He promised that He would ask His Father to send the Holy Spirit to be with those who believe in Him. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would teach them and help them remember what Jesus taught them. Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit will lead people to know what God says is true.

“Obey My commandments if you love Me,” Jesus said. He pointed out that whoever loves Him will be loved by both God and He. Jesus explained that He and His Father would always be with that person. Jesus also said that the one who doesn’t love Him will not obey His commands. Jesus told the disciples these words were not His, but were from His Father, God.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Romans 12:1-5,9-13

- How does God work in our lives to transform us to be like Jesus?
- Why is unity so important in the church? How are you pursuing unity with other believers?
- How can we live set apart lives while engaging with the world?

Live It Out: Growing in Christlikeness involves a change in thinking. Our hearts and minds are transformed as we continually grow, specifically in understanding and living out the truth found in Scripture.

With your teen, find a passage of Scripture to memorize this week about wisdom. Consider continuing the challenge and selecting a new passage each week to better fill your hearts and minds with the voice of the Lord. Pray that God would work in the coming weeks and years to align your thinking to His as you study His Word and pray.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 2, Session 5

CONNECTION

POINT: We grow in Christlikeness as we walk in truth and love.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: A common criticism of Christians is that we are hypocritical, judgmental, and unloving. Christians might disagree with that statement, but that is the perception of us by many outside the church. It is a sad indictment that can be offset when we live holy lives, set apart to Christ. Being holy does not mean a holier-than-thou attitude, but rather a lifestyle that is clearly marked by love and truth. When we walk like Christ, we walk in truth and love.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Luke 13:10-17

Live It Out: Give your child a toy doctor's kit to play with as you review the Bible story with her. As he doctors a toy doll or animal, say that Jesus made people well.

Jesus often taught in the synagogue. People would come to hear Jesus tell about God.

One day when Jesus was teaching people at church, He saw a woman there. She was bent over. For a long time, the woman had not been able to straighten up. How sad she must have been.

Jesus wanted to help the woman. He called for the woman to come to Him. When the woman got to where Jesus stood, He told her that she was well. Jesus touched the woman with His hands, and immediately she could stand up straight! Jesus had made her back well.

The woman was so happy! She had been bent over. Now she could straighten her back and stand up tall. The woman thanked Jesus for making her well. Many people at church were happy about what Jesus had done.

KIDS

Scripture: Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-60

Live It Out: If your child has been a Christian for a few years, help him learn how to share the plan of salvation with a friend. Remind him that he will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Stephen preached about Jesus. Some people didn't like what he was saying. When men told lies about Stephen, people believed the lies and became angry. They took Stephen before the Jewish leaders.

When asked if these accusations were true, Stephen began to preach a sermon about Jesus. He told how God was with Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David and others. He explained that even though they knew God's law, the Israelites disobeyed God. He said the Jewish leaders were like the Israelites. He said they murdered Jesus. The leaders became furious.

Then Stephen gazed into heaven. He saw Jesus standing at God's right hand. When Stephen told the people what he saw, the crowd angrily stoned Stephen! Stephen asked God to forgive them, and he died.

STUDENTS

Scripture: 2 John 1-9

- How do truth, love, and obedience help protect us against the dangers of false teaching?
- How did Jesus show His love? How do you love others in this spirit?
- Why is it so important that we believe the truth as Jesus taught it?

Live It Out: God transforms us into the likeness of Jesus, not only when we study the Scriptures and grow in understanding, but when we further live out the things we learn. As followers of Jesus, we are called to know Him and to live like Him.

Being set apart to reflect Jesus can be summarized in the following three actions: truth, love, and obedience. With your teen, consider how you are living out each of these actions. Challenge yourself to also create some ways you might further grow in truth, love, and obedience.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 2, Session 6

CONNECTION POINT:

Growing in Christ is a lifelong journey.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: We live in a world of instant gratification, and we often get frustrated when things don't occur as quickly as we'd like. The desire of every Christian should be to live as mature, complete Christians, but that transformation doesn't happen overnight. We still battle with sin and replacing bad habits with good ones, so instead of our goal being some form of instant maturity, we should strive to be ever moving forward in our walk with Christ.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Live It Out: Help your child make a list of people she knows whom Jesus loves. Take time each day to pray for one or two people on her list.

Jesus and His disciples were traveled to the town where two sisters lived. The sisters were named Mary and Martha. They were friends of Jesus.

Martha invited Jesus to come inside the house. Mary sat on the floor near Jesus. She listened carefully as Jesus talked. She wanted to hear everything Jesus said.

Martha was busy in the house preparing food for Jesus to eat. Soon, Martha noticed that she was doing all the work. She said to Jesus, "I'm doing all the work by myself. Don't you think Mary should be helping me? Tell my sister to help me."

In a kind voice, Jesus said, "Martha, do not worry about what needs to be done. Mary is listening to Me, and that is very important. She has made the right choice."

Jesus loved His friends Mary and Martha. They loved Jesus, too.

KIDS

Scripture: Acts 15:40-41; 16:1-12

Live It Out: Remind your child that Paul listened to God and obeyed Him about where to travel. Talk with your child about time he might have difficulty obeying God.

Paul and Silas were traveling, preaching about Jesus and encouraging churches everywhere they went. In Lystra, Paul met a young disciple named Timothy. Paul selected Timothy to go with them on the missionary journey. They continued to tell the good news of Jesus to the churches and encouraged believers that were not Jewish. The churches grew stronger in their faith and more people became part of the churches.

As they traveled, the Holy Spirit told them not to preach in Asia. So they continued on to Troas. That night Paul saw a vision from God. A man from Macedonia was begging Paul to come to Macedonia and help the people there.

They immediately went to Macedonia. God called them to preach the gospel there. They arrived in Philippi, a city in Macedonia. Paul and his friends stayed in Philippi for several days.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-21

- What does it take to be made right with God? Why can we never earn salvation?
- Who do you know who is an example of godly living? How do you emulate them?
- How can someone have confidence heaven will be their home?

Live It Out: Growing in Christlikeness is accomplished as we act intentionally to pursue Christ, and God works in our lives. We naturally want things right now, but our faith isn't like that. Growing to be like Jesus doesn't happen quickly. Instead, growing in maturity takes place slowly by the Holy Spirit's power as we pursue Jesus every day.

Help your teen to identify a specific area where they have stopped growing spiritually. Pray together for grace to continue growing. Then, make a specific plan and get back on track. What steps are you committed to taking?

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2023

Unit 2, Session 7

CONNECTION POINT:

Step in to keep a bad situation from getting worse.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: We are usually advised to “keep our noses out of other people’s business,” but as members of the body of Christ, we are to love and work for the benefit of others. How do we respond when we see someone on the verge of a poor action or decision? The easy path is to say, “It’s none of my business,” but we should consider what love would compel us to do (Eph. 4:15). Christ lovingly confronts and helps us, and we are to follow His example and lovingly help others reconcile.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

Live It Out: Print *Jesus told the wind and sea to be still. Mark 4:39* on a sheet of paper. Tell the Bible story as your child decorates the paper. Say Jesus is God’s Son.

A crowd of people had gathered near the lake. Jesus sat in a boat and spoke to them. The people sat on the shore and listened to many stories that helped them learn about God.

Later, Jesus said, “Let’s go across the lake.” They left the crowd and sailed toward the other side. Jesus went to the back of the boat so He could rest. He went to sleep on a cushion.

While Jesus was sleeping, a big storm came up. Wind and waves rocked the boat. Water splashed into the boat. The disciples were afraid. They called, “Jesus! Wake up! We’re in danger!”

Jesus stood up. He told the wind and the waves to be still. The wind stopped! The waves became calm and still! The disciples were surprised that Jesus had stopped the storm.

KIDS

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

Live It Out: Review parts of “armor” that Paul mentions. Help your child cut paper into a shield shape. Then tell her to write Ephesians 6:13 in the center of the shield and decorate it.

Paul wrote a letter to the Christians in Ephesus, encouraging them to live in ways that honor God. Paul talked about ways that would help Christians obey God and battle evil. He compared these tools to the armor that a soldier would use in battle. God’s armor will help a Christian stand strong.

Paul wrote to stand with truth like the belt a soldier would wear; put on righteousness like a breastplate of armor; put on sandals, like a soldier would wear, to go and tell the gospel; take the shield of faith to block the evil one; put on the helmet of salvation; take the sword of the Spirit, God’s Word.

Pray always with the Holy Spirit’s help. Stay alert! Pay attention! Pray for other Christians. Remember that God is strong and mighty and will help Christians be strong.

STUDENTS

Scripture: 1 Samuel 25:14-17, 23-28, 32-35

- When are you tempted to react with anger, rather than reflecting God through intention, patience, and grace?
- How can we know when it’s appropriate to go against cultural standards?
- How accomplished are you in exercising discernment, boldness, and humility? Where do you have room to grow?

Live It Out: Jesus sits at God’s right hand and continually intercedes for believers as our advocate, mediator, and high priest. In doing so, we are protected from the consequences we rightly deserve because of our sin.

Consider any non-believing friends or neighbors who need to hear the message of Jesus’s saving grace. As a family, pray for opportunity to help them understand the consequences of their sin with discernment and humility. Share that Jesus desires to give them the gift of salvation, protecting them from the consequences of their disobedience.