



FOURTH GRADE

# Discipleship Essentials Pathway





# **Discipleship Essentials Pathways**

NEW VISION

## DISCIPLESHIP ESSENTIALS PATHWAY

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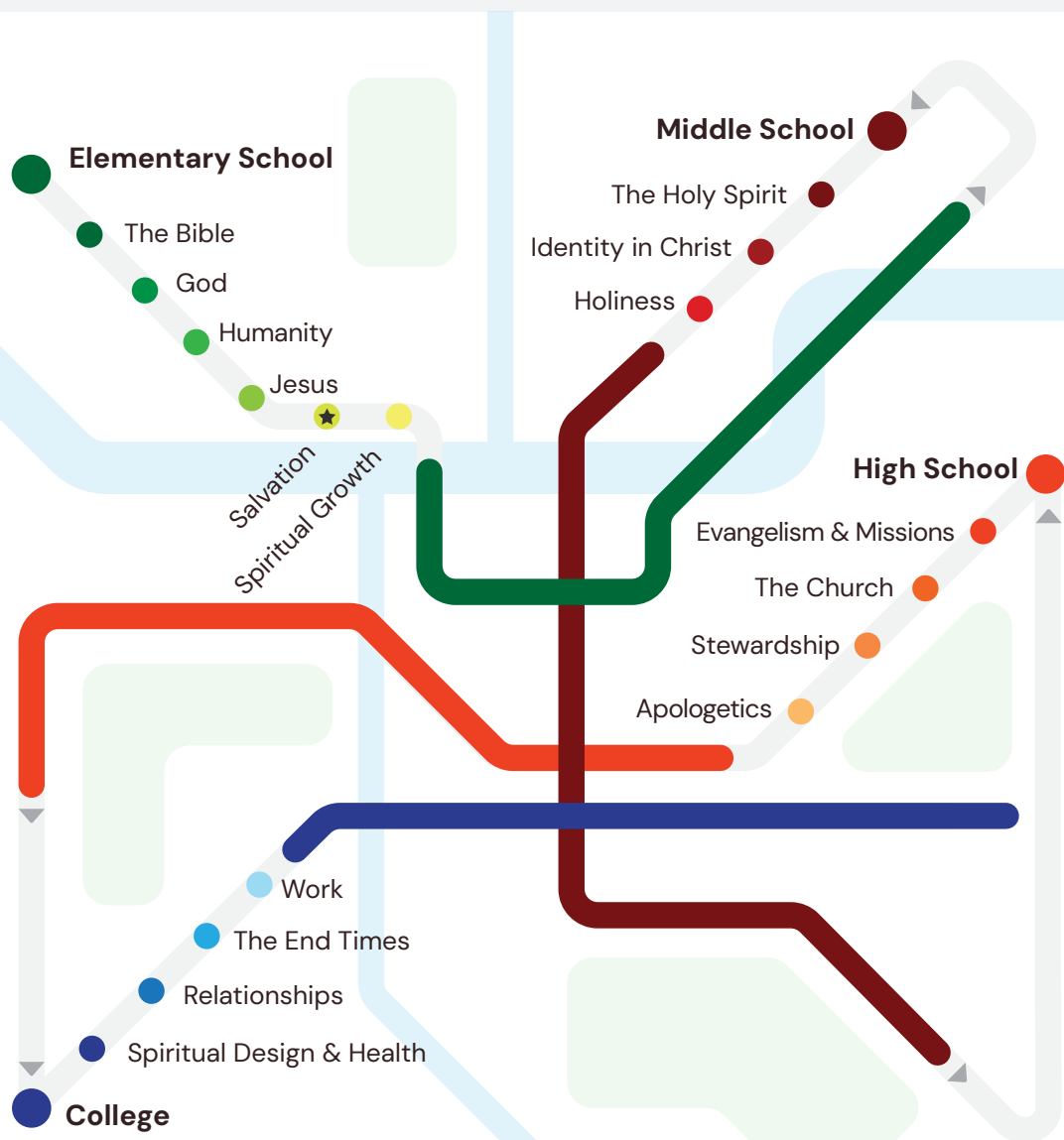
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Heaven: Our Home with Jesus

# System Map

## LEGEND

- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- College



# Discipleship Essentials Pathway

## Detailed Overview

### Elementary Schoolers

- Kindergarten: The Bible
- First Grade: God
- Second Grade: Humanity
- Third Grade: Jesus
- Fourth Grade: Salvation
- Fifth Grade: Spiritual Growth

### Middle Schoolers

- Sixth Grade: The Holy Spirit
- Seventh Grade: Identity in Christ
- Eighth Grade: Holiness

### High Schoolers

- Ninth Grade: Evangelism and Missions
- Tenth Grade: The Church
- Eleventh Grade: Stewardship
- Twelfth Grade: Apologetics

### College Students

- Freshman: Spiritual Design & Health
- Sophomore: Relationships
- Junior: The End Times
- Senior: Work



# Introduction

To be a follower of Jesus means that we are to lead others to follow Jesus too. Contrary to the spirit of the famous “The Buck Stops Here” placard on President Harry S. Truman’s desk, Jesus’ desk placard might have said something like “You’re One Link in a Long Chain.” To be a *disciple* of Jesus is to be a *discipler* of others, just as Jesus told us in what is known as the Great Commission:

Then Jesus came to them. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”  
– Matthew 28:18–20

Often, when we think of people discipling to fulfill the Great Commission, we think of men and women discipling other men and women at coffee shops, a collegiate minister discipling students at the student union, or perhaps a church staff discipling its members on the church campus. All of that is true, of course, but one of the most important places for discipleship is our homes. As a Christian, God has called you to disciple others; as a Christian parent or guardian, He has called you to disciple your children. This is the central point of what God told His people, the Israelites, through Moses:

“The commandments I give you today must be in your hearts. Make sure your children learn them. Talk about them when you are at home. Talk about them when you walk along the road. Speak about them when you go to bed. And speak about them when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:6–7).

This is your highest calling as a parent and family—and it’s what we want to help you with through the *Discipleship Essentials Pathway*.

# How to Use the Discipleship Pathway

The *Discipleship Essentials Pathway* is built on a framework of seventeen modules to be used one per year. This book includes Module 5: Salvation and is designed to be used with fourth graders. Modules 1–6 are to be used for kindergartners through fifth graders. Modules 7–9 are to be used with sixth through eighth graders. Modules 10–13 are to be used with ninth through twelfth graders. And finally, Modules 14–17 are to be used with college students. Throughout the seventeen modules, you will have the opportunity to engage with the core doctrines of the Christian faith and explore many practical aspects of following Jesus.

Each module contains twelve units, one for each month beginning in August and ending in July of the following year. Here's how to use the *Pathway*:

## The First Week of August

### STEP ONE

Choose a day and time when it is easiest to block out about fifteen minutes for a family devotion each week. Many families find dinner time or bedtime as the ideal times for family devotions. Of course, if you already have a regular family devotion time, that would be the best time to choose.

### STEP TWO

During your family devotion time in the first week of August, open the *Discipleship Essentials Pathway* book to August's content.

### STEP THREE

Begin by reading the catechism to your family. A catechism is a method of instruction based on a question-and-answer format that has been used throughout church history. The catechism provides the main idea your family will focus on for the month. You may notice definitions or further inspections provided. These are provided to help your child learn these important terms or dive deeper into the topic.

#### STEP FOUR

Next, read the Bible story to your family either from the *Pathway* book or from a Bible. The NlrV is used in Modules 1 through 6.

#### STEP FIVE

Now, it is time to read the devotion to your family.

#### STEP SIX

Next, find the memory verse and prayer prompt for week 1. These will provide your focus for the rest of the week. Begin by reading the memory verse a few times, inviting your fourth grader to say as much with you as they can. Then, close your devotional time in prayer, using the prompt as a guideline for what to pray about. Of course, you can pray about more than that, but be sure to at least pray about the topic provided.

#### **That's it! You're done.**

You will notice that each unit concludes with a next step, challenging thought, or reflection questions. If you choose, you can use these during the week and on the rest of the family devotion days of the month.

During the week, look for opportunities to talk about the main ideas of the catechism, Bible story, and devotional you covered. This is in the spirit of Deuteronomy 6:7, which calls us to talk about God throughout the day in our homes. The goal is to help your child keep God at the top of the mind and deep down in the heart. Also, continue working on memorizing the memory verse and praying for the topic of the prayer prompt. Bedtime each day might be the ideal time for this.

## The Second, Third, and Fourth Weeks of August

### STEP ONE

During your family devotion time on the second, third, and fourth weeks of the month, go over the catechism again, perhaps inviting your child to memorize it too, along with the memory verses.

### STEP TWO

You do not need to read the Bible story or devotion again, but of course, you can if you want.

### STEP THREE

Spend more time working on the memory verse. Many of the memory verses are part of the verse to make it more accessible for children. But if your child has mastered the verse, consider sharing the rest of the verse to memorize it as well.

### STEP FOUR

Close your time in prayer, once again using the prayer prompt as your baseline.

## The First Week of September

Once the calendar flips to September, it's time to move on to the next unit, repeating the process. Then, once July arrives, it will be time to get Module 6 to begin using that next August.

### A FEW FINAL TIPS

If you have multiple children going through different modules, that's awesome! As a family, go through the lesson with the youngest child in the first week, and move to the second youngest the next week, and so on. As you move to the new lessons, review the others together as needed, and turn your prayer prompts into a prayer list!

## DISCIPLESHIP ESSENTIALS PATHWAY

If you miss a family devotion one week, that's okay! Give yourself grace and pick back up next week. Consistency over the long term is the key to family discipleship.

As you and your family grow more comfortable using the *Discipleship Essentials Pathway*, try to encourage questions from your child. Dialogue is always better than monologue when it comes to discipleship.

If you are just starting your journey using the *Discipleship Essentials Pathway* with this Module, you might consider using what you have missed during Christmas break, Spring break, or the summer as a short-term intensive, covering one unit per day instead of per month, and forgoing memorizing the memory verses. Of course, there's also nothing at all wrong with starting right where you are and moving forward without ever looking back!

If you already have a family devotion plan or find one along the way, feel free to pair it with the *Pathway*. Do both on the same day or choose a second day to stretch your discipleship efforts further throughout the week.



# The Gospel Message

In the beginning, God created the universe (Genesis 1:1). He formed light and darkness, land and sea, fish and birds, plants and animals. But on the final day of creation, He saved His best work for last: He made people. God created us in His image (Genesis 1:27) and designed us to love, trust, worship, and follow Him.

However, God didn't force us to love Him; He gave us a choice. We can choose to trust and obey Him or we can go our own way. When we choose to go our own way instead of God's way, that's called sin, and sin breaks our relationship with God. The Bible tells us: "Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory" (Romans 3:23). The bad news is that our sin separates us from God, and we cannot fix this problem on our own. We need help.

The good news is that God, in His great love, made a way for us to be forgiven through Jesus. God sent His one and only Son Jesus to live a perfect life and take the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross (John 3:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21). But He didn't stay dead. On the third day, He rose again, defeating sin and death so we could have new life in Him. Jesus did for us what we could never do for ourselves.

God now offers each of us the opportunity to turn from sin and be restored to a right relationship with Him. This requires us turning away from sin and choosing to follow Jesus. By placing our faith and trust in Jesus, we receive forgiveness and are saved from the power and punishment of our sins.

So, how can a person be forgiven of sin and follow Jesus? The Bible tells us: "Say with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord.' Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

## If you're ready to follow Jesus, here's what you need to do:

### 01

Admit that you are a sinner in need of forgiveness.

### 02

Believe that Jesus is God's Son, who died for your sins and rose again.

### 03

Confess Jesus as your Savior and Lord, choosing to follow Him daily.

The following is an example of what to pray if you are ready to put your faith and trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord today. The words themselves aren't special. It's your heart behind them if you believe it.

*Dear God,*

*I know that You created me in Your image to love, trust, and follow You. But I confess that I have sinned against You. I have chosen my own way instead of Yours, and my sins have separated me from You. And I know that I cannot fix this problem on my own.*

*Thank You for loving me so much that You sent Your Son Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. I believe that He paid my punishment, and I believe that He rose from the dead, defeating sin and death so that I could have new life in Him.*

*Today, I turn away from my sin and I surrender my life to You. I ask for Your forgiveness and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Please change my heart, help me to follow You daily, and give me the strength to live for You.*

*Thank You for Your love and the gift of salvation.*

*In Jesus name I pray, Amen.*

## FOURTH GRADE

If you just prayed that prayer for the first time, don't keep it to yourself, share it with someone! Tell a parent, guardian, pastor, or trusted Christian friend. They would love to celebrate with you, encourage you, and help you to take your next steps in following Jesus.

# Sin's Separation



## **Why does sin separate us from God?**

Sin separates us from God because our sin violates his holy and perfect will and commands. To sin is to make ourselves God's enemies. But despite our sin, and because of His great love, God made a way—the one and *only* way—through Jesus for us to be forgiven of our sins and be welcomed into a right relationship with Him.



## Definition

**Separates:** breaks the relationship between; moves far apart from each other.

Since Adam and Eve, every person is born with a sinful nature, and our sin damages our relationship with God. It creates an uncrossable gap between God and us that we can't do anything about.

## Bible Story

<sup>23</sup> When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

— Romans 6:23

## Discussion Questions

- 01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- 02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- 03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?



## Devotion

Fighting or arguing with a friend is never fun. Think about how you feel when someone you used to get along with is no longer close to you. Maybe you said something mean or did something wrong, and suddenly, things felt different. Your relationship with that person was now hurt and broken.

Sin does the same thing in our relationship with God but in a much bigger way. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, sin entered the world (Genesis 3). Because God is completely perfect, He will not ignore sin. Isaiah 59:2 says, "But your sins have separated you from your God. They have caused him to turn his face away from you. So he won't listen to you."

Sin doesn't just cause problems; it leads to death. Romans 6:23 says sin earns us death, just like a job earns a paycheck. But this isn't just physical death; this death means that we are separated from God forever. No amount of good deeds or hard work can erase our sin. There's no way we can escape this death.

But here's the good news: God loves us so much that He made a way to fix what sin broke. Romans 5:8 tells us, "But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus paid the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross. His sacrifice made a way—the one and only way—to repair our broken relationship with God and provided a way for us to be friends with Him.

In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." When we believe in Jesus and receive His gift of forgiveness, all our sins are forgiven and no longer in the way between us and God. The gap is gone. Instead of being separated from God, we have a relationship with Him that lasts forever!

When we confess our sins and trust in Jesus for salvation, we are no longer separated from God. Instead, we are welcomed into God's forever family and given eternal life.

## WEEK ONE

## Memory Verse

The world and its evil desires are passing away. But whoever does what God wants them to do lives forever. — 1 John 2:17

## Prayer

Praise God for His holiness and His love, which made a way for us to be with Him.

## WEEK TWO

## Memory Verse

They will be destroyed forever.  
They will be shut out of heaven.  
They will never see the glory of the Lord's strength.  
— 2 Thessalonians 1:9

## Prayer

Ask God to help you have love and compassion for people who don't know Jesus.

## WEEK THREE

## Memory Verse

But your sins have separated you from your God. They have caused him to turn his face away from you. So he won't listen to you.  
— Isaiah 59:2

## Prayer

Ask God to help you turn away from any sin that might come between you and Him.

## WEEK FOUR

## Memory Verse

"Then they will go away to be punished forever. But those who have done what is right will receive eternal life." — Matthew 25:46

## Prayer

Pray for others to trust in Jesus to receive God's gift of salvation.



## Reflection Questions

**01** Do you think it's fair that your sins earned you separation from God? Why?

**02** Do you think it's fair that you can be forgiven of all your sins by trusting in who Jesus is and what He has done? Why?

**03** Who do you know who needs to hear about the forgiveness of sins through Jesus?

Notes:

AUGUST

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# Jesus' Death and Resurrection



## Why are Jesus' death and resurrection so important?

Jesus' death and resurrection are the heart of the gospel—the good news of what God has done through Jesus. In dying on the cross, Jesus paid the penalty our sins deserved. In his resurrection, Jesus overcame death's power. Together, they prove Jesus' power to save people from sin and death.





## Definition

**Gospel:** in the Bible, literally “the good news” of Jesus Christ.

The gospel is this: when Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price for people’s sin and took God’s judgment for sin on Himself. When Jesus rose from the dead, He proved that He defeated sin and death once and for all. When we trust Him as Savior and Lord, we are forgiven of our sin and our relationship with God is restored.

## Bible Story

<sup>1</sup> Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the good news I preached to you. You received it and have put your faith in it. <sup>2</sup> Because you believed the good news, you are saved. But you must hold firmly to the message I preached to you. If you don’t, you have believed it for nothing. <sup>3</sup> What I received I passed on to you. And it is the most important of all. Here is what it is. Christ died for our sins, just as Scripture said he would. <sup>4</sup> He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be.

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin. And the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But let us give thanks to God! He gives us the victory because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done.

— 1 Corinthians 15:1–4, 56–57

## Discussion Questions

- 01** What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- 02** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- 03** Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

## Devotion

Everyone likes to receive good news. What's some good news you have heard? Maybe you found out you made a good grade on a test. Or maybe your parents told you about an exciting trip coming up. Good news makes us happy and causes us to be thankful.

The Bible has the best good news of all—better than an exciting trip, a good grade, or a new toy. The Bible shares good news that lasts forever and truly changes our lives! The good news of the Bible is called the *gospel*, and it's what God has done for us through His Son, Jesus.

So, what has Jesus done that is such good news? First, the apostle Paul teaches us that Jesus died for our sins, just as God had promised. God knew we would disobey Him and turn away from Him, but God loves us! And so He sent Jesus to live a perfect life in our place and die on the cross to pay the punishment we deserve. Jesus' death paid the price for sin.

Next, Paul said that Jesus was buried. Now, this may not sound like good news. But it is because Jesus didn't stay dead. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He defeated death! Jesus proved that He is greater than sin and death and showed that He has the power to give people new life in Him.

The gospel message is so important because it's the only way for people to be saved from sin and death. Without Jesus' death and resurrection, we would remain dead in our sins, separated from God, and without any hope. But when we place our faith in Jesus, we are saved! We believe that He died for our sins and rose back to life. Those who trust in Jesus and what He has done are free from the punishment of sin and will live with God forever. Those who trust in Jesus have the greatest hope of all because nothing can ever separate us from God.

**WEEK ONE****Memory Verse**

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die." — John 11:25

**Prayer**

Praise God for Jesus' death and resurrection, which makes the way for you to be forgiven of sin and receive eternal life.

**WEEK TWO****Memory Verse**

Christ also suffered once for sins. The one who did what is right suffered for those who don't do right. He suffered to bring you to God. His body was put to death. But the Holy Spirit brought him back to life. — 1 Peter 3:18

**Prayer**

Thank God for Jesus' suffering and for giving up His life so that we can have peace with God and eternal life.

**WEEK THREE****Memory Verse**

Then who can sentence us to death? No one. Christ Jesus is at the right hand of God and is also praying for us. He died. More than that, he was raised to life. — Romans 8:34

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you live to the fullest for His glory because of the gift Jesus has given you.

**WEEK FOUR****Memory Verse**

I want to preach it because I'm not ashamed of the good news. It is God's power to save everyone who believes. It is meant first for the Jews. It is meant also for the Gentiles. — Romans 1:16

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you share the good news of Jesus with others, helping them see God's love for them and how they can live with Him forever.



## Challenging Thought

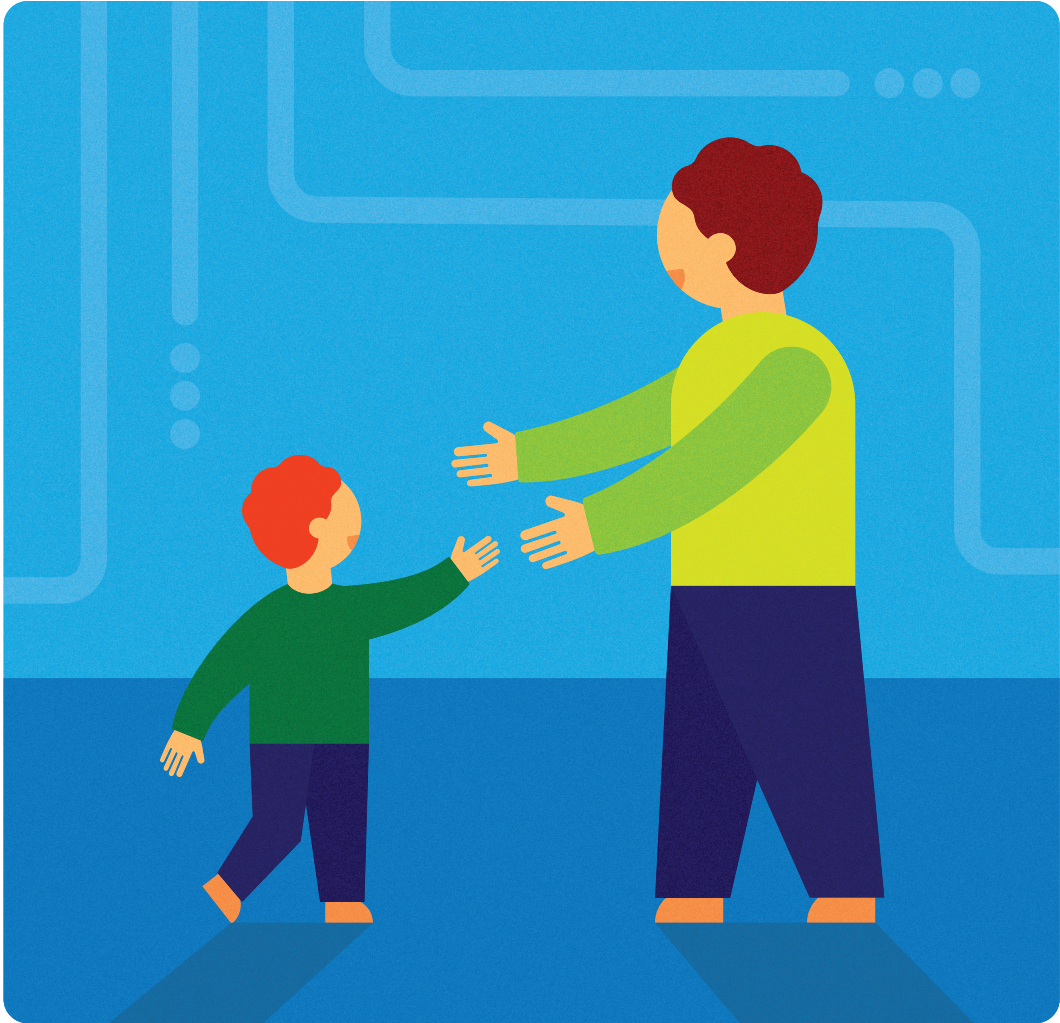
Explain in your own words why Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection matter. Think about why they each were needed and what they each prove.

Notes:

SEPTEMBER

# Repentance and Faith:

How We Become Christians



## How can I be forgiven of my sins and follow Jesus?

Being forgiven of your sins and becoming a follower of Jesus means admitting that you are a sinner, repenting of sin, and putting your faith and trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven through His death and resurrection. When we believe in Jesus, God forgives our sins, gives us a new life, and invites us to follow Him.

## Bible Story

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger son spoke to his father. He said, 'Father, give me my share of the family property.' So the father divided his property between his two sons. <sup>13</sup> "Not long after that, the younger son packed up all he had. Then he left for a country far away. There he wasted his money on wild living. <sup>14</sup> He spent everything he had. Then the whole country ran low on food. So the son didn't have what he needed. <sup>15</sup> He went to work for someone who lived in that country. That person sent the son to the fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> The son wanted to fill his stomach with the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> "Then he began to think clearly again. He said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough food! But here I am dying from hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go back to my father. I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven. And I have sinned against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer fit to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."' <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father. "While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattest calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> This son of mine was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.' So they began to celebrate."

— Luke 15:11–24

## Discussion Questions

- 01** What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- 02** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- 03** Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

## Devotion

One day, as Jesus was teaching, He told a story about a son who had made bad choices and turned away from his father. This young man wasted everything and found himself lost in sin. He even felt hopeless. Then, one day, he decided to go back home, admit his sin, and ask his father for forgiveness. And when he did, something amazing happened: his father wasn't angry or hateful toward his son. He actually ran to his son, forgave him, and welcomed him home.

This is the same for us. Like the lost son, we have all sinned and turned away from God. Romans 3:23 says, "Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory." The bad news is that because everyone has sinned, our sin separates us from God. There is nothing that we can do to fix our sin problem on our own. It's simply a problem that we can't fix. We need help.

But the good news is that God loves us and has made a way for us to be forgiven through Jesus. In God's great love, He sent His one and only son, Jesus, down to earth to live a perfect life and make a way for us to

be forgiven of our sins. Jesus paid the punishment for sin when He died on the cross as the perfect sacrifice. Then, on the third day, He rose from the dead so that we could have new life. Jesus made the way for us to be forgiven of our sins. God did for us what we could not do for ourselves.

In Jesus' parable, the lost son realized that he had messed up and wasn't where he was meant to be. He knew he didn't deserve his father's love, but he still chose to go back home. Just like the lost son, we each have been given an opportunity to turn from our sinful ways and be brought back into a right relationship with our Heavenly Father. We can admit our sin and turn back to God; that's what repentance is. But repentance means more than just saying, "I'm sorry." It means turning away from sin and choosing to follow Jesus. By placing our faith in Jesus, we are saved from our sins.

So, how can a person do this and be forgiven of their sins and follow Jesus? The Bible tells us in Romans 10:9 to "Say with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord.' Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved."



If you are ready to follow Jesus, here's what you need to do. Pray to God and:

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Believe that Jesus is God's only Son, who died for your sins and rose again.
3. Confess Jesus as your Savior and Lord, trusting in Him and committing to follow Him every day of your life.

God promises that when you repent of your sins and put your faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord, you are saved!

*For more, read the Gospel Message at the beginning of this book!*

**WEEK ONE**



**Memory Verse**

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. — Acts 3:19

**Prayer**

Thank God for giving you the opportunity to repent of your sins and be saved.

**WEEK TWO**



**Memory Verse**

Godly sadness causes us to turn away from our sins and be saved. And we are certainly not sorry about that! But worldly sadness brings death. — 2 Corinthians 7:10

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you to have a godly sadness whenever you sin, but to turn that into joy knowing you are forgiven in Jesus.

**WEEK THREE**



**Memory Verse**

The Lord is not slow to keep his promise. He is not slow in the way some people understand it. Instead, he is patient with you. He doesn't want anyone to be destroyed. Instead, he wants all people to turn away from their sins. — 2 Peter 3:9

**Prayer**

Praise God for His love and the gift of salvation through Jesus.

**WEEK FOUR**



**Memory Verse**

"The Babylonians are very proud. What they want is not good. But the person who is godly will live by his faithfulness." — Habakkuk 2:4

**Prayer**

Thank God for forgiving you and giving you everlasting life the moment you trusted in Jesus.



## Definition

**Repent:** To turn away from sin and turn toward God.

To repent is to change your mind about sin and agree with God that it is wrong. Then, you can change the way you live by turning from sin with God's help.

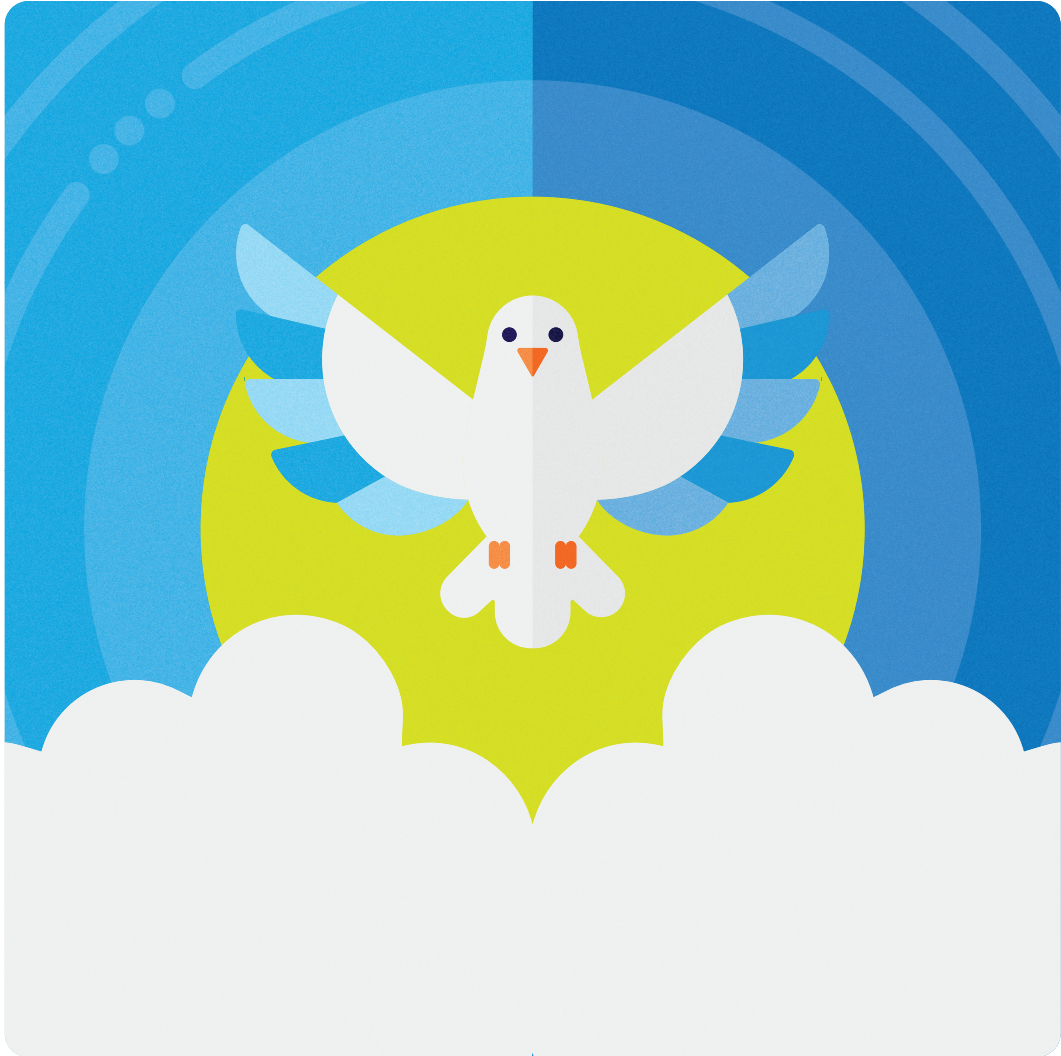


## Next Steps

If you have trusted in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are completely forgiven, but that doesn't mean you don't sin anymore. While we repent the first time for salvation, we repent of our other sins after that so we can stay close to God. In the days ahead, keep close track of the times when you sin and repent as soon as possible. Agree with God that your sin was wrong, but then thank Him for forgiving you and loving you fully no matter what.

## Notes:

# The Holy Spirit's Role in Salvation



## How does the Holy Spirit help us be saved?

The Holy Spirit first draws us to believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. Then, when we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives us new, everlasting life. At the same time, He comes to live within us to show that we now belong to God.

## Bible Story

<sup>13</sup> You also became believers in Christ. That happened when you heard the message of truth. It was the good news about how you could be saved. When you believed, he stamped you with an official mark. That official mark is the Holy Spirit that he promised.

<sup>14</sup> The Spirit marks us as God's own. We can now be sure that someday we will receive all that God has promised. That will happen after God sets all his people completely free. All these things will bring praise to his glory.

— Ephesians 1:13–14

## Discussion Questions

- 01** What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- 02** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- 03** Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

## Devotion

Have you ever written your name on something like a hat, a coat, or a backpack? We often do that for one simple reason: to show others who that item belongs to. Say you forgot your favorite hat at school. If someone else found it and it had your name written on it, they would know right away whose it was. Your name shows ownership. It might even help prove ownership if someone else claimed it was their hat. It might seem like a small thing, but it can matter quite a lot.

That's a picture of what the Holy Spirit does for us. We often think about how important God the Father and God the Son are when it comes to us being forgiven of our sins. But did you know that the Holy Spirit plays just as important of a part too? He does three key things for us, one of which is a lot like when we write our name on a hat.

First, the Holy Spirit guides our minds and hearts to believe in who Jesus is and what He did for us on the cross. Because of sin, we can't always think of and believe what is right. Sometimes, we need some help. This is where the Holy Spirit comes

alongside us to help us. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see God's truth about who we are and our need for forgiveness, as He also helps us see who Jesus truly is and what He did for us. Many people don't think Jesus is real, that He died and rose again, or that they need forgiveness. We wouldn't either if it weren't for the Holy Spirit helping us.

The second thing the Holy Spirit does is give us new life when we believe in Jesus. The split second we trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit gives us the wonderful gift of eternal life. The second before, we were dead in our sins. But then, we are alive forevermore!

The third thing the Holy Spirit does takes us back to writing our name in a hat. Ephesians 1 tells us that the second we trust in Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live within us to be an "official mark." Think of that like God writing His name on you. That mark shows us and everyone else who we belong to now; we belong to God! As amazing as this is, it gets even better. In the past, stores used to have something called "layaway." If you didn't have quite enough money

to buy something but were afraid someone else would buy it, you could put down a deposit—part of the total price—and the store would hold that item aside until you came back with the rest of the money. That’s exactly what the Holy Spirit is for us, too! He is a “down payment,”

showing that we belong to God and one day, God will send Jesus back for us so that we can experience the fullness of our salvation. When Jesus returns, there will be no doubt that you belong to God. His “name” is stamped on you!

## WEEK ONE

## Memory Verse

Jesus answered, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's kingdom unless they are born with water and the Holy Spirit."

— John 3:5

## Prayer

Thank God for the Holy Spirit, who helps us turn to Jesus to find new life.

## WEEK TWO

## Memory Verse

Some of you used to do those things. But your sins were washed away. You were made holy. You were made right with God. All of this was done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was also done by the Spirit of our God.

— 1 Corinthians 6:11

## Prayer

Thank God for the Holy Spirit who gives us new life in Jesus.

## WEEK THREE

## Memory Verse

The Spirit himself joins with our spirits. Together they tell us that we are God's children. — Romans 8:16

## Prayer

Ask God to help you remember that you belong to Him and always will.

## WEEK FOUR

## Memory Verse

The Spirit marks us as God's own. We can now be sure that someday we will receive all that God has promised. That will happen after God sets all his people completely free. All these things will bring praise to his glory. — Ephesians 1:14

## Prayer

Thank God for the forever future with Him and all others who believe in Jesus that He has promised you.





## Reflection Questions

- 01** In your own words, how do you understand what each Person of the Trinity does in the process of salvation? What questions do you have about that?

- 02** How does it make you feel that the Holy Spirit has been given to you as a “mark” showing who you belong to?

**Notes:**

# Born Again:

A New Creation in Jesus



## **What does it mean to be made a new creation?**

When someone believes in Jesus and asks for forgiveness of their sins, God changes their heart and makes them spiritually new. They are “born again” (John 3:3). Instead of being controlled by their old nature, the flesh, they are led by the Holy Spirit, who comes to live within them.



## Further Inspection

Becoming a new creation doesn't mean there is a physical change; instead, it refers to a change in purpose and desire because of a new relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Before Jesus, we thought and acted in sinful ways that rebelled against God and didn't want to please Him. As a new creation, this old way of living is replaced with a new purpose and desire to honor God by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Bible Story

<sup>17</sup> When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

## Discussion Questions

- 01** What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- 02** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- 03** Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

## Devotion

Have you ever witnessed the incredible transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly? The caterpillar starts as a small, crawling creature, often unnoticed. But then, something amazing happens. The caterpillar encloses itself in a cocoon, hidden away for a time. Days and weeks pass, and when it finally comes out, it's no longer the same. It has become a beautiful butterfly, a new creation!

This transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly helps us understand what it means to be a "new creation" in Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul tells us that when a person puts their faith and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, they are made into a new creation. They think and behave in a new and different way, one that honors God. Before a person decides to follow Jesus, they are lost in their sinful ways, not caring if they please God or not. They are often consumed by sin, standing in rebellion against God. But through Jesus and what He did on the cross, God can rescue us.

It's like having an old, dirty shirt. It's so stained that you decide to throw it away. Then, you put on a brand-

new shirt, clean and bright. This is what happens when we choose to follow Jesus. Our old sinful self is gone and we become a new person in God's eyes. It doesn't mean we will be perfect or that we will look different, but it does mean we have help and hope because of Jesus. The Holy Spirit lives inside of us and helps us obey Jesus. We can begin to sin less. We desire to live for Jesus and not ourselves. It's an amazing transformation!

If you are a follower of Jesus, remember that He made you into a new creation. You are not the same. The old sinful ways are dead and gone. Now, through the power of the Holy Spirit living inside you, you can turn from sin and live the way God created you to live, bringing honor and glory to Him.

**WEEK ONE****Memory Verse**

I have been crucified with Christ.  
I don't live any longer, but Christ  
lives in me. Now I live my life in my  
body by faith in the Son of God. He  
loved me and gave himself for me.  
— Galatians 2:20

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you remember  
that you are not living for yourself,  
but rather you are living to honor  
Jesus in all things.

**WEEK TWO****Memory Verse**

You were taught to start living a  
new life. It is created to be truly  
good and holy, just as God is.  
— Ephesians 4:24

**Prayer**

Praise God that He has changed  
you and continues to change you  
from the inside out.

**WEEK THREE****Memory Verse**

By being baptized, we were buried  
with Christ into his death. Christ  
has been raised from the dead  
by the Father's glory. And like  
Christ we also can live a new life.  
— Romans 6:4

**Prayer**

Thank God for forgiving your  
sins and always loving and  
accepting you, even when you do  
wrong things.

**WEEK FOUR****Memory Verse**

When anyone lives in Christ, the  
new creation has come. The old is  
gone! The new is here!  
— 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Prayer**

Thank God for making you a new  
creation in Jesus Christ.



## Next Steps

Make a hot dog fold with a piece of paper. Write "Old Self" at the top of the left side and "New Self" at the top of the right side. Now, brainstorm as many sinful actions and attitudes as you can think of and write them down on the left side. Next, do the same with actions and attitudes that honor God and write them down on the right side. In the middle, draw a big cross. Circle a few things on the left side that you want to ask God to help you break free from and circle a few things on the right side that you want to ask God to help you do.

Notes:

DECEMBER



# Adoption:

Welcomed into God's Family



## What does it mean to be adopted into God's family?

Being adopted into God's family means that through faith and trust in Jesus, we become God's children. We are no longer separated from God because of sin, but instead, we have now been brought into His forever family as His beloved sons and daughters.





## Definition

**Adoption:** the act of officially welcoming a child into a family.

Also known as “spiritual adoption,” this acceptance into God’s family is made possible by what Jesus accomplished for us through His death on the cross and resurrection. As God’s children, we have access to Him and are also promised eternal life with Him in heaven one day.

## Bible Story

<sup>5</sup> So he decided long ago to adopt us as his children. He did it because of what Jesus Christ has done. It pleased God to do it.

— Ephesians 1:5

## Discussion Questions

- 01** What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- 02** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- 03** Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

## Devotion

Have you ever felt left out or like you didn't belong? Maybe it was at school, on a team, or even within your own family. Feeling unwanted or unnoticed can be hard, but here's the good news: God wants you! Through Jesus, God welcomes you into His kingdom family, and nothing can ever change that!

When a family adopts a child, they choose to love them, care for them, and give them a new home and a new name. That child fully becomes part of their new family. God does the same for us, but even greater! When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, God brings us into His forever, or eternal, family. Romans 8:14–17 tells us that as children of God, we are no longer spiritual orphans. Instead, we can call God “Abba, Father,” which is a loving and personal way of saying “Dad.” You are fully loved because God's perfect love never changes. You have an eternal inheritance because one day, you will live with Him forever.

This fantastic reality is shared with us in 1 John 3:1, which says, “See what amazing love the Father has given us! Because of it, we are called children of God. And that's what we really are!” That means that when God sees you, He doesn't see your sinfulness, but rather, He sees your faith in Jesus. God calls you His child, and nothing can ever take that away.

Just as a family adoption is permanent, God's adoption into His forever family is permanent, too. No matter what happens, God promises to love and never leave us. Like a child with a parent, we can talk to God whenever we want; He hears and listens to us. God promises to provide what we need and to watch over us. Our position as a child of God is not based on anything we have done or could do; we are God's children based only on Jesus. All we have to do is place our faith and trust in who Jesus is and what He has done. Then, we will be children of God forever!

## WEEK ONE

## Memory Verse

So he decided long ago to adopt us as his children. He did it because of what Jesus Christ has done. It pleased God to do it.  
— Ephesians 1:5

## Prayer

Praise God for adopting you into His family through Jesus.

## WEEK TWO

## Memory Verse

See what amazing love the Father has given us! Because of it, we are called children of God. And that's what we really are! — 1 John 3:1

## Prayer

Ask God to remind you each day that you are His beloved forever child.

## WEEK THREE

## Memory Verse

The Spirit you received doesn't make you slaves. Otherwise you would live in fear again. Instead, the Holy Spirit you received made you God's adopted child. By the Spirit's power we call God *Abba*. *Abba* means Father. — Romans 8:15

## Prayer

Thank God for being your Creator, Lord, and loving Father.

## WEEK FOUR

## Memory Verse

Some people did accept him and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God. — John 1:12

## Prayer

Pray for others who need to know the joy and hope of being adopted into God's family.



## Reflection Questions

**01** Share three benefits of being adopted by God.

**02** Adoption is why many followers of Jesus call each other “brother” and “sister”; we’re all spiritual siblings. Who makes you especially happy to be your spiritual brother or sister?

**03** How does it make you feel knowing that your Creator—the God who made everything and is all-powerful—is your Abba?

Notes:

JANUARY



# Righteousness:

A Gift from Jesus



## What does it mean to be righteous?

As a follower of Jesus, being righteous means that you have been made right with God and are spiritually in a right standing with Him. This is not because of anything you have done. It is only because of who Jesus is, what He has done for you, and your faith and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.



## Definition

**Righteousness:** living in right relationship with God, other people, and all creation; morally perfect; without sin.

Being right with God is not something we can achieve on our own; it is a gift from God, given to us through faith in Jesus Christ.

## Bible Story

<sup>19</sup> God was bringing the world back to himself through Christ. He did not hold people's sins against them. God has trusted us with the message that people may be brought back to him.

<sup>20</sup> So we are Christ's official messengers. It is as if God were making his appeal through us. Here is what Christ wants us to beg you to do. Come back to God!

<sup>21</sup> Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us.

— 2 Corinthians 5:19–21

## Discussion Questions

- 01** What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- 02** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- 03** Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

## Devotion

Think about your favorite gift you have received. Maybe it was on your birthday or Christmas. What if, when you were given that present or another beautifully wrapped gift, instead of just accepting it for free, you try to earn it by working really hard, or you try to pay the giver? That's not how receiving a gift works, is it? Righteousness is like that gift—it can't be earned, and you can't pay for it. It is given to us by God through faith in Jesus; He provided for it when He died on the cross and came back to life.

The Bible tells us that no one is righteous on their own. To be righteous, or in a right relationship with God, you must be without sin. But all of us have sinned and fallen short of God's perfect standard. Because of sin, we deserve the consequence of being separated from God. That's the bad news, but here's the good news: God, in His great love for us, sent Jesus to make a way for us to be righteous.

When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the punishment for our sin that we deserve and made it possible for us to be made right with God.

This is called *justification*. It means that through faith in Jesus, God declares us righteous—not because of anything we've done, but because of what Jesus has done for us.

But righteousness doesn't stop there. Once we are made right with God, He works in us to help us live righteously. This process is called *sanctification*, in which the Holy Spirit changes us from the inside out and helps us to live in a way that shows God's love and holiness.

As a follower of Jesus, righteousness is about having a right relationship with God. It means that when God looks at you, He doesn't see your sin and the wrong you have done, but instead, He sees Jesus and His perfection and sacrifice. This is what Paul wrote about in 2 Corinthians 5. Righteousness is also about living in a way that brings honor and glory to God. It is not a way to try to earn or gain God's love; you are already perfectly loved because of what Jesus has done. Because we are followers of Jesus, we live in a way that says "thank you" to God.



## WEEK ONE

## Memory Verse

Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us. — 2 Corinthians 5:21

## Prayer

Thank God for not only taking your sins from you but also for giving you His perfect righteousness in their place.

## WEEK TWO

## Memory Verse

The Lord has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God. — Micah 6:8

## Prayer

Ask God to help you live with justice, mercy, and humility so that your actions align with who you are in Christ.

## WEEK THREE

## Memory Verse

The good news shows God's power to make people right with himself. God's power to be made right with him is given to the person who has faith. It happens by faith from beginning to end. It is written, "The one who is right with God will live by faith." — Romans 1:17

## Prayer

Ask God to help you live in faith, knowing you are right with God in Jesus.

## WEEK FOUR

## Memory Verse

Dear children, don't let anyone lead you astray. The person who does what is right is holy, just as Christ is holy. — 1 John 3:7

## Prayer

Ask God to help you see yourself as He always does: holy and righteous.



## Reflection Questions

**01** What are some ways that people try to earn God's forgiveness and righteousness? Have you tried to do any of them?

**02** What do you think it would look like to live righteously?

**03** What is one thing you will try to do this week to live out the righteousness that God has given you because of Jesus?

Notes:

FEBRUARY



# Justification:

Declared Righteous Because of Jesus



## What happens to me after I become a Christian?

One of the changes that happens when you are saved is *Justification*, which is God declaring sinners righteous and forgiven through faith in Jesus Christ.



## Further Inspection

Justification is a legal term meaning *made right*, similar to a person being declared “not guilty” in a courtroom. In doing so, we are made right with God. Justification is God viewing us as sinless, so a good way to remember justification is “just if I’d never sinned.” When justified, you are promised you won’t pay eternally for your sins.

## Bible Story

<sup>21</sup> But now God has shown us his saving power without the help of the law. But the Law and the Prophets tell us about this. <sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ. This happens to all who believe. It is no different for the Jews than for the Gentiles. <sup>23</sup> Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God’s glory. <sup>24</sup> The free gift of God’s grace makes us right with him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free. <sup>25</sup> God gave Christ as a sacrifice to pay for sins through the spilling of his blood. So God forgives the sins of those who have faith. God did all this to prove that he does what is right. He is a God of mercy. So he did not punish for their sins the people who lived before Jesus lived. <sup>26</sup> God did all this to prove in our own time that he does what is right. He also makes right with himself those who believe in Jesus.

— Romans 3:21–26

## Discussion Questions

- 01** What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- 02** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- 03** Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

## Devotion

Have you ever spilled something messy on your shirt? If you haven't, someone in your family probably has spilled coffee right on their shirt before work! You try everything to clean it, but the stain won't disappear. It can be frustrating to realize that something you own is ruined, and no matter how hard you try, you just can't fix it on your own.

Sin is like a stain on our hearts. It separates us from God, and no matter how hard we try to be good enough or make it go away, we can't remove the stain of sin by ourselves. But the good news is that God loves us so much that He made a way for us to be made clean from our sin and right with Him. That way is called *justification*.

The Bible teaches us that everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's glory. We have all missed the mark of His perfect standard (Romans 3:23). Sin makes us guilty before God, and we deserve punishment for breaking His perfect law. But because of His great love for us, God sent Jesus to pay the punishment for our sin. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross as our substitute. When we believe in Jesus, God

forgives our sins and declares us righteous. Jesus took our sin; we receive His perfection. This is what it means to be justified.

Justification isn't something we can earn. It's a gift of God's grace. In Romans 3, Paul explains that we are made right with God through faith in Jesus, not by following rules or doing good deeds. There is nothing we can do to earn God's forgiveness. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross paid the full price for our sins so that we could be forgiven.

When God justifies us, He no longer sees our sin. Instead, He sees the righteousness of Jesus. It's like trading our stained shirt for a brand-new one that is perfectly clean. This doesn't mean that we will never sin again, but it does mean that Jesus' righteousness covers us forever!

Because of justification, we have peace with God and the sure hope of eternal life. We are no longer separated from Him, but welcomed into His forever family. And now, we can live in gratitude, trusting that we are fully forgiven and saved because of Jesus.

**WEEK ONE****Memory Verse**

We have been made right with God because of our faith. Now we have peace with him because of our Lord Jesus Christ. — Romans 5:1

**Prayer**

Thank God for forgiving your sins and giving you peace with Him.

**WEEK TWO****Memory Verse**

God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it. — Ephesians 2:8–9

**Prayer**

Praise God for His grace in justifying us through faith in Jesus.

**WEEK THREE****Memory Verse**

The blood of Christ has made us right with God. So we are even more sure that Jesus will save us from God's anger. — Romans 5:9

**Prayer**

Thank God that because of Jesus, you have been spared from God's rightful anger toward sin.

**WEEK FOUR****Memory Verse**

He saved us. It wasn't because of the good things we had done. It was because of his mercy. He saved us by washing away our sins. We were born again. The Holy Spirit gave us new life. — Titus 3:5

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you remember your salvation is not based on what you have done or can do; it's based entirely on God's good, loving mercy.



## Next Steps

Grab a sheet of paper and color it as completely as possible with a marker or crayon. Then, pull out a fresh sheet of paper and place it next to the sheet you've marked.

1. How do these two sheets of paper represent justification? Discuss.

2. Describe how you often see yourself. If the marks on the paper were sin, how do you see yourself? Do you notice what you do wrong more than what you do right?

3. Now, describe how you often think God sees you. Which sheet represents how God sees you? What do you think God feels about you?

4. Finally, speak the truth to yourself. Remember that because of Jesus, God doesn't see your sins; He sees you as perfectly righteous. God loves you, and His love is fixed on you forever!



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MARCH

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# Sanctification:

Becoming More like Jesus



## How does God change my life after I become a Christian?

God grows Christians to make them more like Jesus through a process called *sanctification*. God helps you to make choices that Jesus would make. Over time, you obey God more and sin less.



## Definition

**Sanctification:** a long-term gradual process of growing in holiness to be more like Jesus.

The word *sanctification* is rooted in the same word as *holy*, or to be set apart. You might be aware of this term because some churches call the place where worship occurs the *sanctuary*. That's the space in a church building that is set apart for worship. Sanctification is not something we can do alone. It happens through the work of the Holy Spirit as we grow in our faith and follow Jesus daily.

## Bible Story

<sup>15</sup> The God who chose you is holy. So you should be holy in all that you do.

<sup>16</sup> It is written, "Be holy, because I am holy."

— 1 Peter 1:15–16

## Discussion Questions

- 01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- 02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- 03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

## Devotion

Imagine a big garden. Picture the fruits and vegetables: lettuce, tomatoes, watermelon, and whatever other garden goodness you like. Now, imagine a big garden filled with weeds. That doesn't sound very fun, does it? At first, it might look wild and messy, but when a gardener starts working in it, pulling out the weeds and planting seeds, the garden begins to look beautiful. It eventually looks the way it was always meant to be. Sanctification is a lot like that. When you become a follower of Jesus, God works in your heart, removing the "weeds" of sin. And at the same time, through the work of the Holy Spirit, He makes you more like Jesus. This process doesn't happen all at once; rather, God shapes you into someone who reflects His holiness over time.

When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He made it possible for us to be rescued from the power and punishment of our sins. That's when sanctification begins, right after we are justified (when we are forgiven and made right with God). But God doesn't stop there. He wants us to continue to work in our lives so we look more and more like Jesus.

As good as this news is, it gets even better. It's not only up to us to grow in this way. Instead, the

Holy Spirit helps us in the process of sanctification. He refines us and draws out any sin in our lives—anything that is not of God. He also reminds us of God's Word, gives us strength and courage to resist the temptation of sin, and helps us live in a way that honors and brings glory to Him. Sanctification also helps us show the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23). These are the wonderful qualities that God grows in us so we can reflect Jesus to the world around us.

The process of sanctification isn't always easy. Sometimes, we are tempted to go back to our old sinful ways, to stop trusting and obeying God, or to hold on to sinful things in our lives. But God promises to be with us and help every step of the way. As we draw closer to Him through prayer, reading the Bible, and spending time with other followers of Jesus, God helps us grow more and more like Jesus.

Sanctification is the ongoing work of God in our lives, beginning the moment we put our faith and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord and continuing until we are with Him in Heaven. God's transformative

process shapes us from the inside out, changing our hearts, minds, and actions to reflect the person He created us to be.

This transformation is only possible because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit within us, all motivated by God's deep and unchanging love.

**WEEK ONE****Memory Verse**

The God who chose you is holy. So you should be holy in all that you do. — 1 Peter 1:15

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you understand how to be holy in all you do, as God is perfectly holy.

**WEEK TWO****Memory Verse**

So I say, live by the Holy Spirit's power. Then you will not do what your sinful nature wants you to do. — Galatians 5:16

**Prayer**

Thank God for the Holy Spirit within you who helps you turn away from sin.

**WEEK THREE****Memory Verse**

"Use the truth to make them holy. Your word is truth." — John 17:17

**Prayer**

Thank God for giving us the Bible so we can know and live out the truth.

**WEEK FOUR****Memory Verse**

At one time you were in the dark. But now you are in the light because of what the Lord has done. Live like children of the light. The light produces what is completely good, right and true. Ephesians 5:8–9

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you be the light others around you need to see.



## Next Steps

Make a list of ways that you have seen God grow you through the process of sanctification and ways that you want God to continue growing you. Pray and ask Him to do just that.

APRIL

Notes:

APRIL

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# Glorification

## The Goal of Our Salvation



### What does glorification mean?

Glorification is when our salvation will be made complete. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we immediately receive forgiveness and eternal life. However, one day, when Jesus returns, He will make all things right and new again, including us. We will receive new, perfect, sinless bodies and live forever with Him.



## Bible Story

<sup>28</sup> We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. He appointed them to be saved in keeping with his purpose.

<sup>29</sup> God planned that those he had chosen would become like his Son. In that way, Christ will be the first and most honored among many brothers and sisters.

<sup>30</sup> And those God has planned for, he has also appointed to be saved. Those he has appointed, he has made right with himself. To those he has made right with himself, he has given his glory.

— Romans 8:28–30

## Discussion Questions

**01** What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

**02** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?

**03** Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

## Devotion

Do you like soft and gooey brownies? Think about all of the chocolate goodness; they are an amazing dessert! They are so good that eating the batter straight from the bowl might be tempting. That's not a good idea, though, because eating

raw batter isn't good for you. But there's another reason not to do that: that batter turns into something even better after baking in the oven. Something good now gets even better!

Our salvation is sort of like that. When we trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, several wonderful things happen in the blink of an eye. We are forgiven from all our sin. We are given eternal life. We are adopted into God's forever family. We're made righteous. We are justified. But as good as all that is, like the brownie batter, there's something even better waiting for us. One day, Jesus will return and put an end to all sin, suffering, and death. And when He does that, we will be changed. We will be given new, perfect bodies, and we will live forever with God on the new heavens and earth, no longer being able to sin. Followers of Jesus will no longer experience pain or sorrow. There will be no more struggling to love and worship God. This is what glorification is all about. It's when we experience our salvation in full. This is what God has promised us will happen. It is completely sure, which is what we see in Romans 8. Those who God saves, He has given His glory. It's a sure thing.

This is why each of these three statements is true:

1. I was saved.
2. I am being saved.
3. I will be saved.

That might seem a little funny, but here's why this is true and such a wonderful truth. We can say that we were saved when we think back to when we trusted in Jesus. When we believed in Jesus as Lord and Savior, we were saved. But as God continues to grow us to become more like Jesus through sanctification, we can say we are being saved. We are slowly but surely turning away from sin and toward Jesus. But then, one day, the brownie batter will come out of the oven as amazing, warm, gooey, sweet brownies. When Jesus returns, He will put that end to sin and death that we talked about, and He will make us new. And on that day, we will be fully and completely saved forevermore.

This is God's wonderful plan of salvation. This is what Jesus came to earth to bring to pass. This is what the Holy Spirit shows us as beautiful and true. This is the amazing gift you were given, you are being given, and you will be given.

**WEEK ONE****Memory Verse**

And those God has planned for, he has also appointed to be saved. Those he has appointed, he has made right with himself. To those he has made right with himself, he has given his glory. — Romans 8:30

**Prayer**

Praise God for the plan of salvation that didn't end when you trusted in Jesus, but it continues.

**WEEK TWO****Memory Verse**

None of our faces are covered with a veil. All of us can see the Lord's glory and think deeply about it. So we are being changed to become more like him so that we have more and more glory. And this glory comes from the Lord, who is the Holy Spirit. — 2 Corinthians 3:18

**Prayer**

Thank God that He is making you more like Jesus daily and that you will be complete one day.

**WEEK THREE****Memory Verse**

He has the power to bring everything under his control. By his power he will change our earthly bodies. They will become like his glorious body. — Philippians 3:21

**Prayer**

Thank God for the perfect future body that waits for you in eternity.

**WEEK FOUR****Memory Verse**

And by doing these things, remain in God's love as you wait. You are waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you eternal life. — Jude v. 21

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you wait patiently for the return of Jesus.



## Reflection Questions

**01** What most excites you about the future glorification that has been promised to you?

**02** What do you think our new, glorified bodies might be like? Do you think they will be about the same as our bodies now or totally different?

**03** Glorification is only promised to those who have trusted in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Who do you know who needs to hear about Jesus?

Notes:

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# Assurance:

Our Confidence in Jesus



## **How can I know that I am really saved from my sins?**

You can have confidence in your salvation, also called having "assurance of salvation," by trusting in and relying only on Jesus' finished work on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins. It is not based on anything that you do, but only in what Jesus has already done for you.



## Definition

**Assurance of salvation:** to be confident or sure of.

Having confidence that you have completely been forgiven of your sins and belong to God and nothing will ever change that.

## Bible Story

<sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.

<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never die. No one will steal them out of my hand.

<sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than anyone. No one can steal them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one.

— John 10:27–30

## Discussion Questions

- 01** What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- 02** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- 03** Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

## Devotion

Have you ever wondered if you're really saved? Maybe you've thought, "What if I'm not good enough for God? What if I do something bad enough to lose my salvation?" It's normal to have questions or doubts, but God wants us to have peace and confidence that we have truly and completely been forgiven of our sins and are in a right relationship with Him forever.

In John 10, Jesus described Himself as the Good Shepherd. He knows His sheep, and they know His voice. When you trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you become one of His sheep, and He promises to give you eternal life—not the possibility of eternal life, but life that will never end no matter what. Jesus also said that no one can take you out of His hand. That means your salvation is secure, not because of anything that you do, but because of what Jesus has already done for you when He died on the cross and came back to life, and because of the character and power of God.

So how can you know that you're really saved? The first step is to have confidence that you really believe in and have put your faith in who

Jesus is and what He has done. This isn't just believing that Jesus was a person, but believing that He really is God's one and only Son sent down from heaven to earth. That He really lived a sinless life. And that He died on the cross and came back to life, all to make a way so that you can be forgiven of your sins. Have you put your faith in Jesus as your Savior and Lord? Once you have made that decision in your heart and told God, then you can know and be confident that you truly are saved from your sins and that you are His, and He is yours forevermore.

Being saved from your sins comes through faith alone, not by trying to earn God's love or approval. We sometimes feel like we have to do something to make it happen. Or maybe we think we haven't done enough, but that isn't true. When you wholeheartedly trust in Jesus to forgive you of your sins and give you eternal life, He keeps His promise to save you. And nothing will ever change that or take that away.

Assurance isn't just about believing but also about seeing the evidence of God working in your life. Do you feel the Holy Spirit leading you to love



God and others, even if just a little bit? Do you desire to turn away from sin and live in a way that pleases God, even if not always? Do you feel God reminding you about right and wrong when you sin? These desires and changes in your heart are signs that you belong to God.

It's also important to remember that your feelings can change, but God's promises and truth never change. Even when you don't feel close to God, His Word assures you that He is faithful. Verses like Romans 8:38–39 remind us that nothing can separate us from God's love.

Finally, having assurance doesn't mean we'll never sin again. But when we do sin, we can repent and trust that God has forgiven us because of Jesus; 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." Be assured: If you trust in Jesus, He will never let you down or let you go!

## WEEK ONE

## Memory Verse

I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can separate us. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can separate us.

Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

— Romans 8:38–39

## Prayer

Praise God that absolutely nothing can separate you from Him and His love because of Jesus.

## WEEK TWO

## Memory Verse

I'm writing these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God. I'm writing so you will know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:13

## Prayer

Thank God that your salvation doesn't depend on your performance but on His promises.

## WEEK THREE

## Memory Verse

"What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. They will not be judged. They have crossed over from death to life." — John 5:24

## Prayer

Thank God for giving us the Bible so we can know and live out the truth.

## WEEK FOUR

## Memory Verse

My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never die. No one will steal them out of my hand. — John 10:27–28

## Prayer

Ask God to help you grow in faith and to remind you of His love and forgiveness when you feel uncertain.



## Reflection Questions

- 01** On a scale of 1 to 10, how confident are you that you placed your faith in Jesus for salvation? If it's less than 10, why?

- 02** On a scale of 1 to 10, how confident are you that your salvation is secure—that you have eternal life and Jesus will never let you fall out of His hand? If it's less than 10, why?

# Heaven:

## Our Home With Jesus



### **What is heaven?**

Heaven is the perfect, eternal home where God dwells, and His people will live with Him forever. It is a place more incredible than we can imagine. It is full of joy, peace, and worship and free from sin, sickness, pain, and death.

## Bible Story

<sup>1</sup> I saw “a new heaven and a new earth.” The first heaven and the first earth were completely gone. There was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem. It was coming down out of heaven from God. It was prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, “Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death.’ And there will be no more sadness. There will be no more crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be.”

<sup>5</sup> He who was sitting on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down. You can trust these words. They are true.”

<sup>6</sup> He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give water to anyone who is thirsty. The water will come from the spring of the water of life. It doesn’t cost anything! <sup>7</sup> Those who have victory will receive all this from me. I will be their God, and they will be my children.”

— Revelation 21:1–7

## Discussion Questions

- 01** What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- 02** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- 03** Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

## Devotion

Have you ever imagined what heaven might be like? Think about the most beautiful place you've ever seen. What does it look like? Now, try to imagine something even better! That's what it's like to try to imagine heaven—a place where God lives and where His people will be with Him forever.

In Revelation 21, John describes the new heaven and new earth that God will create. In this perfect place, there will be no sadness, sickness, pain, or death. God will wipe away every tear. There will be nothing bad. In heaven, everyone who has put their faith and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord will live with God and one another in perfect joy and peace forever.

The Bible tells us that heaven is more wonderful than we can fully understand. This means that right now, our minds cannot even imagine how amazing it will be. It is not until we actually experience it for ourselves that we will be able to fully grasp the awesomeness and majesty of being with God in heaven.

But heaven isn't just a place of beauty—it's also a place of belonging. God promises that those who trust in Jesus will live with Him forever. When you believe in Jesus, your sins are forgiven, and you are made right with God. That means you're a part of His family, and He has prepared a place for you in heaven (John 14:2–3).

In heaven, we will worship God with all our hearts. Imagine joining with people from every nation, tribe, and language to praise God together (Revelation 7:9–10). We will also enjoy God's presence in a way we've never experienced before. There will be no more distance or separation from Him—just perfect fellowship with our Creator.

God wants everyone to know and experience the joy of heaven and how to get there. The way to heaven is through Jesus. He said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). When we trust in Jesus, we can confidently look forward to experiencing heaven one day.

**WEEK ONE****Memory Verse**

It is written that “no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human mind has known.” God has prepared these things for those who love him. — 1 Corinthians 2:9

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you know that heaven is real, even if it is difficult to understand or imagine.

**WEEK TWO****Memory Verse**

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God. Believe in me also. There are many rooms in my Father’s house. If this were not true, would I have told you that I am going there? Would I have told you that I would prepare a place for you there? — John 14:1–2

**Prayer**

Praise God for Jesus, who saved you and is preparing a perfect home where His people will live with Him forever.

**WEEK THREE****Memory Verse**

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death.’ And there will be no more sadness. There will be no more crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be.” — Revelation 21:4

**Prayer**

Thank God for providing Jesus, who has defeated sin, pain, sadness, and death.

**WEEK FOUR****Memory Verse**

But we are citizens of heaven. And we can hardly wait for a Savior from there. He is the Lord Jesus Christ. — Philippians 3:20

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you live with the hope of heaven and to share the good news of Jesus with others so they can know Him, too.



## Reflection Questions

**01** What do you think heaven will be like? What do you think you will do? What will you see?

**02** What excites you most about heaven? Is there anything that you aren't looking forward to?

**03** When you think of heaven, how do you mostly feel? Excited? Afraid? Bored?



Notes:

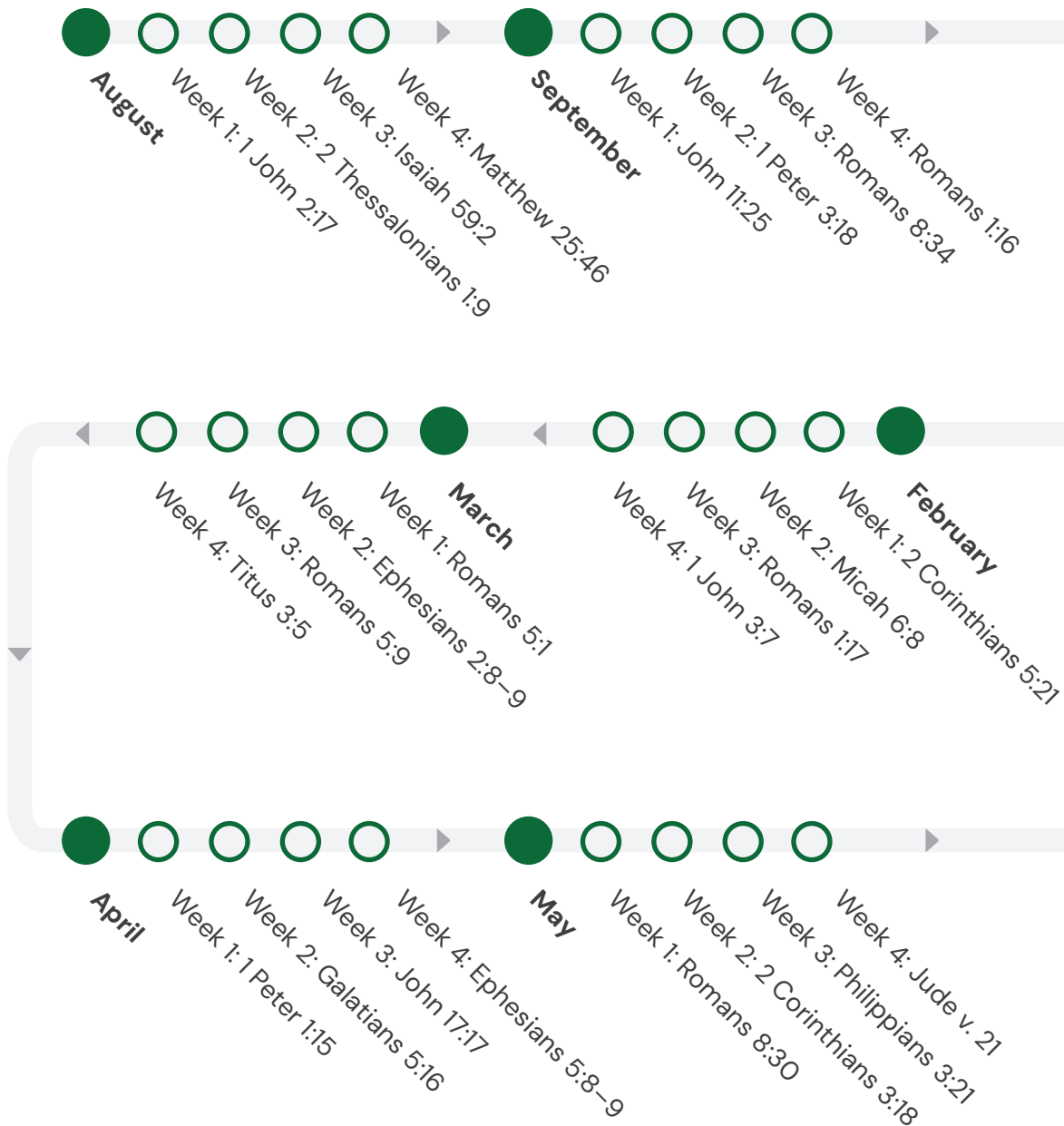
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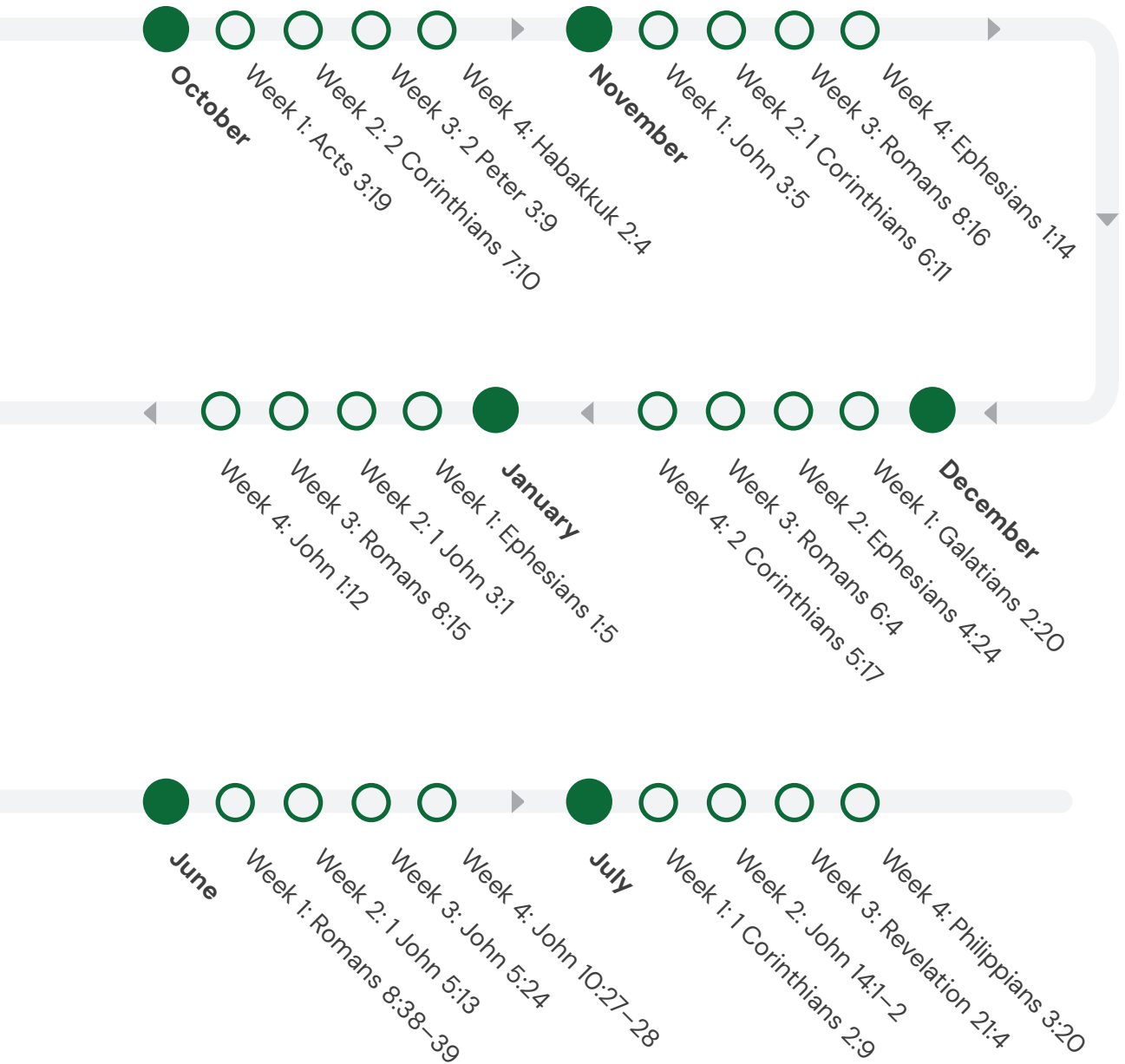
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# Memory Verse Tracking Log



# FOURTH GRADE









NEW VISION