



FIRST GRADE

Discipleship Essentials Pathway

Discipleship Essentials Pathways

NEW VISION

DISCIPLESHIP ESSENTIALS PATHWAY

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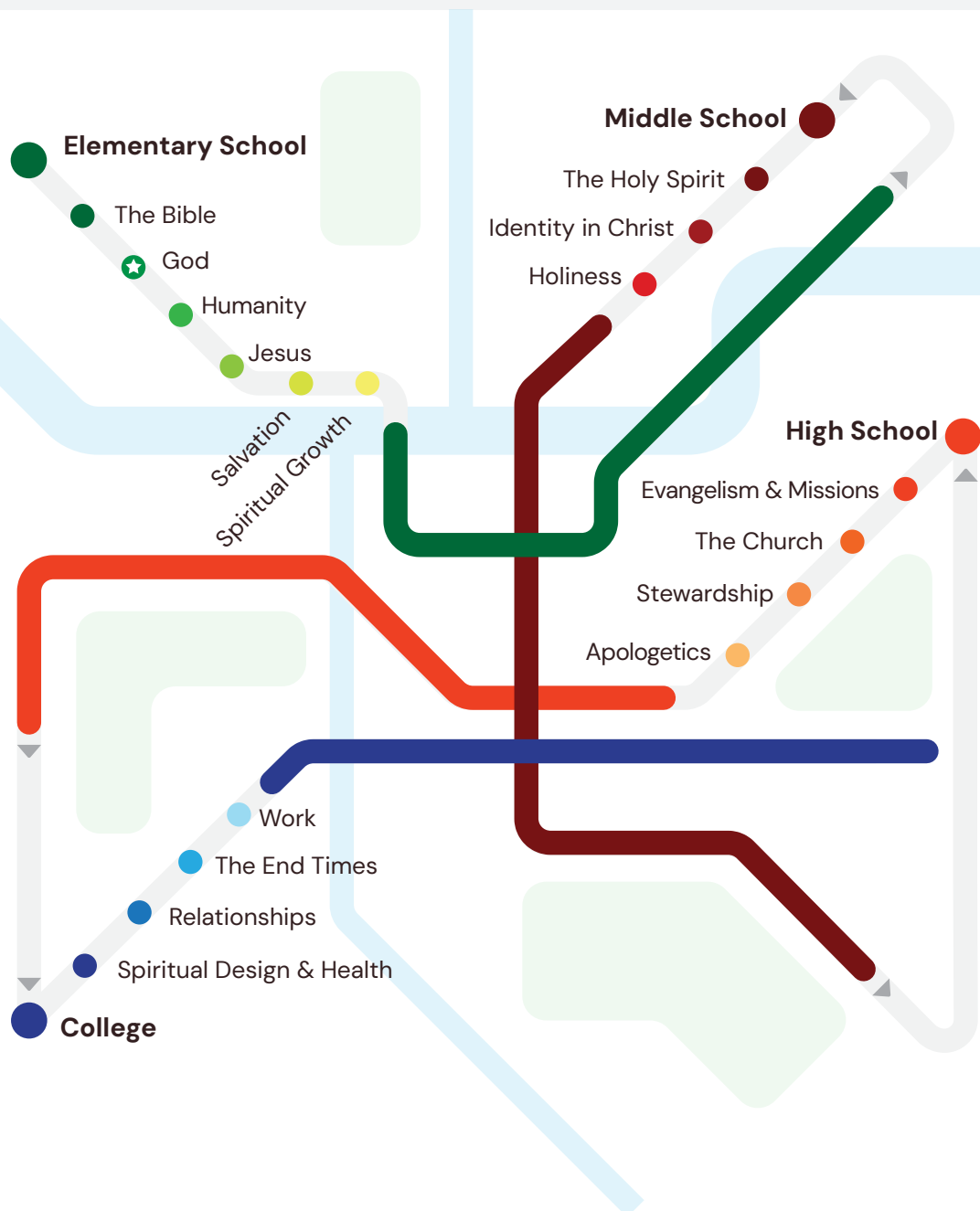
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We Obey God

System Map

LEGEND

- Elementary School
- Middle School
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- College



Discipleship Essentials Pathway

Detailed Overview

Elementary Schoolers

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- First Grade: God
- Second Grade: Humanity
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Middle Schoolers

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- Tenth Grade: The Church
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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 2: God and is designed to be used with first 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 first 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. An asterisk after a memory verse Scripture reference indicates that not the full verse is provided for memorization. If your child memorizes the part provided, feel free to work on the rest of the verse, too.

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 3 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 wrong with starting right where you are and moving forward without looking back!

If you already have a family devotion plan or find one along the way, feel free to couple 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 *Discipleship Essentials Pathway* doesn't provide you with all the answers about our faith, but it should give you a solid framework from which you can explore additional questions as they come up.

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.

FIRST 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.

God is the Creator



Who is God?

God is the Creator and Ruler of everyone and everything. God is eternal, meaning He has always existed and always will exist, and God is Spirit. Everything exists for God's glory.

Bible Story

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

² The earth didn't have any shape. And it was empty. There was darkness over the surface of the waves. At that time, the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ God said, "Let there be light." And there was light.

⁴ God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness.

⁵ God called the light "day." He called the darkness "night." There was evening, and there was morning. It was day one.

— Genesis 1:1–5

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

Play dough is a fun material! You can press it, roll it, squeeze it, and flatten it to form different shapes and creations. You can press play dough to make it look like a flower, or you can smash it to make it resemble a cookie. But can you create a flower or a cookie from nothing? No, we can not. It would be impossible for us to make something without first having materials. Yet, God created the whole world from nothing!

In Genesis 1, we are introduced to our Creator and Ruler: God. From the very first words of the Bible, we learn how God existed before everything else; He is eternal. And then, God chose to create a good world filled with good things.

God didn't need to create anything, but out of His great love, God created the whole universe and everything in it. God spoke and everything came to be. He made light. He made the sky, land, and seas. He made plants. He made animals. And He made people—a man and a woman. In fact, people were God's most special creation because they were made in

God's image. People were made to show the world what God is like. God made us to know, love, and praise Him.

After God made the whole world, He said it was very good. All of creation was good because a good God made it. Everything God made shows how wonderful, powerful, and awesome He is! We can see God's power when we look up at the stars in the sky. We can see God's creativity when we look at a funny monkey or a towering redwood tree. Even now, God rules over His creation like a good King. He continues to care for the world He made.

Just like God made the whole world, God made you. And He created you to know Him and love Him. God deserves our praise because He is our Creator and Ruler who loves us.

WEEK ONE

Memory Verse

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

— Genesis 1:1

Prayer

Thank God for being your Creator and King who loves you.

WEEK TWO

Memory Verse

The heavens were made when the Lord commanded it to happen.

All the stars were created by the breath of his mouth. — Psalm 33:6

Prayer

Thank God for making a good world for us to enjoy and for continuing to care for us.

WEEK THREE

Memory Verse

All things were created in him. He created everything in heaven and on earth. He created everything that can be seen and everything that can't be seen...All things have been created by him and for him.

— Colossians 1:16*

Prayer

Ask God to help you to always recognize and love Him as your Creator and King.

WEEK FOUR

Memory Verse

You are worthy, our Lord and God! You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power. You are worthy because you created all things.

— Revelation 4:11*

Prayer

Thank God for being so amazing and surely worthy of your praise and love.



Definition

Eternal: God has always existed, not having a beginning nor an end. God has always been and will always be.



Next Steps

Go on a nature walk. As you walk, notice as many different things that God made as possible. Which are your favorite? Which do you find strange? Is there anything you wish God had also made? Anything you wish He hadn't made?

Notes:

AUGUST



God is Eternal



Has God always existed?

Yes, God has always existed. He is eternal; He has no beginning or end. No one created God. God is separate from creation and exists outside of time. He is not dependent on anything and does not need anything. God is complete in Himself.

Bible Story

¹ Lord, from the very beginning you have been like a home to us.

² Before you created the whole world and the mountains were made, from the beginning to the end you are God.

³ You turn human beings back to dust.
You say to them, "Return to dust."

⁴ To you a thousand years are like a day that has just gone by.
They are like a few hours of the night.

— Psalm 90:1–4

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 been to the beach? It's full of soft, warm sand. Did you notice how small a piece of sand is? It's incredibly tiny! How many pieces of sand do you think were on that beach? More than you could ever count, right? Now, think about this: That was only one beach in a world full of beaches. Can you imagine how many pieces of sand are in the entire world?

While we could never count how many pieces of sand are on all the world's beaches, there is a certain number. We can't count them only because we'd run out of time. It may feel like there's unending sand, but there isn't. But when we think of how much sand there is in the world, that can help us begin to understand what eternity is like. *Eternity* is time going on and on without end. Eternity means time goes on without end into the future, and it also means time goes on and on into the past. That's hard to understand, isn't it? It's okay; no one completely understands it. The best we can do is think about how unlimited sand seems; time truly is infinite.

Moses wrote Psalm 90, teaching us that God is eternal. Before time began, God alone existed. He is the everlasting God, who has no beginning or end. God called Himself "I AM," which can mean "I exist" (Exodus 3:14). This was God's way of declaring that He is, He always has been, and He always will be.

God was there when the mountains were formed because He created them. He was there when the first elephant trumpeted from its long trunk. He was there when the sun first beamed light and warmth. And He was there when He made each and every one of those pieces of sand. Seeing the beauty and greatness of the created world should cause us to think about God's eternal power (Romans 1:20). It also reminds us of His eternity because everything we see comes after God!

Because God is eternal, He is not affected by time. Moses wrote that a thousand years is like a day for God. God created time, and time works for God. He uses time for His plans and purposes. While we may wonder when

something will happen, God never does! Because He is eternal, God rules over time. He knows the past, the present, and the future.

Remember, God has no beginning or end. While God is eternal, people are not—every person was born on a particular day chosen by God. Moses

also reminds us of how people return to dust—we eventually die. And yet, the eternal God has made the way for people to have eternal life. Even though sin brings death, God sent His Son, Jesus, so that we could live with Him forever. Those who trust in Jesus will be forgiven of sin and one day see our eternal God face to face.

WEEK ONE



Memory Verse

God said to Moses, "I am who I am. Here is what you must say to the Israelites. Tell them, 'I am has sent me to you.' " — Exodus 3:14

Prayer

Praise God for who He is and that He has always existed and will always exist.

WEEK TWO



Memory Verse

The Lord is the God who lives forever. He created everything on earth. He won't become worn out or get tired. No one will ever know how great his understanding is. — Isaiah 40:28*

Prayer

Thank God that He is eternal and never grows tired or misunderstands anything.

WEEK THREE



Memory Verse

Before you created the whole world and the mountains were made, from the beginning to the end you are God. — Psalm 90:2

Prayer

Ask God to help you take care of His good creation.

WEEK FOUR



Memory Verse

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord God. "I am the God who is, and who was, and who will come. I am the Mighty One." — Revelation 1:8

Prayer

Thank God that because He is eternal, He knows the beginning and end of everything.



Challenging Thought

Think about other created things that seem to have no end but actually do, like the number of stars in the sky, the drops of water in the oceans, and the weight of a mountain. Try to imagine how large of a number we would need to know to count these things, but also remember that they are not infinite or eternal. Only God is.

Notes:

God is Sovereign



Is God in control of everything?

Yes, God is in control of everything. He has all authority, wisdom, and power. Nothing or no one is greater than God. Everything He desires will happen exactly when and how He wants it to.

Bible Story

⁹ Remember what happened in the past. Think about what took place long ago. I am God. There is no other God. I am God. There is no one like me.

¹⁰ Before something even happens, I announce how it will end. In fact, from times long ago I announced what was still to come. I say, 'My plan will succeed. I will do anything I want to do.'

¹¹ I will send for a man from the east to carry out my plan. From a land far away, he will come like a bird that kills its food. I will bring about what I have said. I will do what I have planned.

¹² Listen to me, you stubborn people. Pay attention, you who now refuse to do what I have said is right.

¹³ The time is almost here for me to make everything right. It is not far away. The time for me to save you will not be put off. I will save the city of Zion. I will bring honor to Israel.

— Isaiah 46:9–13

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

Can you think of a time when you planned something, but it didn't work out like you hoped? It's easy to make plans, but it's not always easy to keep those plans. Sometimes, our plans fail because something out of our control happens. Other times, we forget to follow through or get busy with other things.

Although our plans can go wrong, God's plans never fail. God's plans and purposes always happen. Everything is in God's control; He never forgets or fails to follow through. He is the only perfect King! God even rules over our plans so they work according to His good purposes.

Isaiah 46 explains how God was planning to rescue His people, the Israelites, from a foreign country where they were held captive. The Israelites were in that faraway land because they had disobeyed God. But even when God's people turned away from Him, He never left them. Through the prophet Isaiah, God gave His people hope and reminded them that He had not forgotten them. He had a good plan and was in control of when and how His people would be rescued.

When God forms a plan, it *will* happen because He is in charge of everything; nothing can stand in His way. In fact, God has already planned everything from beginning to end. And guess what? God brought His people back to their home just as He promised. Years later, God used King Cyrus to free the Israelites so they could go home.

But you want to know the absolute best news about God being in charge? His plans include the only way for people to be saved from their sin. Before God created the world, He made a plan to rescue sinful people through His Son, Jesus (Ephesians 1:4). This plan happened just like God said. Jesus came to earth, died on the cross, and rose again so all who trust in Him will have their sins forgiven. God loves us so much that He accomplished the most wonderful, extraordinary plan ever!

Because God loves us and wants what's best for us, we can find comfort in knowing God is in control. Even when things don't always go like we hope, we can trust that God rules over everything and that His plans for His people are always good.

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

The Lord does anything he wants to do in the heavens and on the earth. He does it even in the deepest parts of the oceans.
— Psalm 135:6

Prayer

Praise God that He is in control of everything and that He has all authority and power.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

A person may have many plans in their heart. But the Lord's purpose wins out in the end.
— Proverbs 19:21

Prayer

Thank God for His good plans, especially His plan to save people through Jesus.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

I know that you can do anything. No one can keep you from doing what you plan to do. — Job 42:2

Prayer

Ask God to help you remember He can do anything, especially when you are going through difficult times.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

We were also chosen to belong to him. God decided to choose us long ago in keeping with his plan. He works out everything to fit his plan and purpose. — Ephesians 1:11

Prayer

Thank God for loving you and for having good plans for that He will always bring to pass.



Definition

Control: Authority, power, or influence over self, others, or circumstances.

This is called God's *sovereignty*. Even when things seem hard or confusing, we can trust that God has a good plan, that He's in control, and that He loves us.



Reflection Questions

01 How does it make you feel knowing that God is in complete control over everything?

02 What are some things in your life that you're extra glad that God is in control of?

03 What are some things in your life that you need to let go of and trust in God to control?

Notes:

OCTOBER



God is Involved



Is God at work in the world right now?

God is actively working in the world and our lives. God works in ways that show Himself to us. Because God loves us, He works everything for our good, including giving us life, providing what we need, and showing us our need for Him.

Bible Story

¹⁵ Now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers were worried. They said, "Remember all the bad things we did to Joseph? What if he decides to hold those things against us? What if he pays us back for them?" ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph. They said, "Your father gave us directions before he died. ¹⁷ He said, 'Here's what you must say to Joseph. Tell him, "I'm asking you to forgive your brothers. Forgive the terrible things they did to you. Forgive them for treating you so badly." ' Now then, please forgive our sins. We serve the God of your father." When their message came to Joseph, he wept.

¹⁸ Then his brothers came and threw themselves down in front of him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Do you think I'm God? ²⁰ You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good. He planned to do what is now being done. He wanted to save many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I'll provide for you and your children." He calmed their fears. And he spoke in a kind way to them.

— Genesis 50:15–21

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

We all have people in our lives who want what's best for us. Many people—our family, teachers, coaches, and friends—are involved in our lives in different ways, and they show their love for us when they do things for our good, like telling us to brush our teeth or teaching us a new skill. In an even greater way, God loves us and always works in our lives for our good.

The story in Genesis 50 tells us about Joseph and his many brothers. Even though Joseph's brothers should have done good to him, they didn't. Sometimes, siblings find it hard to get along, but this is much, much worse. Joseph's brothers were jealous and unkind to him; they sold Joseph as a slave, and Joseph was taken to Egypt (Genesis 37). But God was involved in Joseph's life, even when he was far away from his family. God loved Joseph, even when his brothers didn't. While Joseph was a slave and prisoner in Egypt, God gave Joseph the power to explain dreams (Genesis 41:39). God helped Joseph tell Pharaoh about a severe famine that would come to the land. Because of this, Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of Egypt, and Joseph formed a plan to store food.

Later, when the famine came, Joseph's brothers needed food. So, they traveled to Egypt, eventually learning that their brother Joseph was in charge. The brothers were afraid that Joseph would punish them for the wrong they had done to him. But Joseph didn't get mad. Instead, Joseph told them about God's perfect plans and how God planned everything for good. God used the brothers' unkindness for good, bringing Joseph to rule in Egypt so that people would have food. God saved many people through Joseph—because He plans everything for good.

God is all-powerful and uses all things in His people's lives for their good. Most importantly, God works so you can know and love Him. We must look carefully for God as He works in our life. As we learn more about Him, we can trust that God loves us and is always working for the good of those who love Him!

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good. He planned to do what is now being done. He wanted to save many lives.
— Genesis 50:20

Prayer

Ask God to help you remember that He is always at work, even in difficult times.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

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.
— Romans 8:28

Prayer

Thank God for His promise to bring good from every situation.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

Blessed is the person who keeps on going when times are hard. After they have come through hard times, this person will receive a crown. The crown is life itself. The Lord has promised it to those who love him. — James 1:12

Prayer

Ask God to give you the strength to keep going in hard times.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

God has saved us. He has chosen us to live a holy life. It wasn't because of anything we have done. It was because of his own purpose and grace. Through Christ Jesus, God gave us this grace even before time began. — 2 Timothy 1:9

Prayer

Thank God for His wonderful gift in Jesus and the life we have by trusting in Him.



Challenging Thought

Joseph's brothers planned evil against him, which was wrong. In a similar way, people planned evil against God's Son, Jesus. But God used that plan for our good so we can be saved from sin and live with God forever (Acts 2:23–24).

Is it hard to believe that God can use the bad things in our lives for good? What can you do the next time something bad happens to help you remember God is there with you, that He loves you, and that He is working for your good?

Notes:

NOVEMBER



God is Holy



What does it mean that God is holy?

God is holy because He always does what is right and cannot do anything wrong. God is perfect in every way. God's holiness also means that He is set apart, unlike anyone or anything else. Only God is eternal, all-powerful, and all-knowing.

Bible Story

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord. He was seated on his throne. His long robe filled the temple. He was highly honored. ² Above him were seraphs. Each of them had six wings. With two wings they covered their faces. With two wings they covered their feet. And with two wings they were flying. ³ They were calling out to one another. They were saying,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord who rules over all.
The whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ The sound of their voices caused the stone doorframe to shake. The temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ “How terrible it is for me!” I cried out. “I’m about to be destroyed! My mouth speaks sinful words. And I live among people who speak sinful words. Now I have seen the King with my own eyes. He is the Lord who rules over all.”

⁶ A seraph flew over to me. He was holding a hot coal. He had used tongs to take it from the altar.

⁷ He touched my mouth with the coal. He said, “This has touched your lips. Your guilt has been taken away. Your sin has been paid for.”

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord. He said, “Who will I send? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me!”

— Isaiah 6:1–8

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 someone gave you a large, expensive diamond. You hold the diamond up to the sunlight, and it sparkles and glimmers, reflecting light all around. Now, imagine someone gave you a lump of coal. Which would you treasure more: the diamond or the coal? Of course, you would treasure the diamond because it's pure, has great worth, and is beautiful!

One day, God's prophet, Isaiah, had a vision and saw God. It was like Isaiah saw the world's most beautiful, brilliant diamond. But God is better and even more beautiful than a diamond. God is absolutely pure and perfect. This is why the seraphim—a certain type of angel—cried, "Holy, holy, holy." Saying *holy* three times was a way to express that nothing is like God. They were words of worship toward God. God's holiness is so great! Only God is perfect and set apart from everything else. And because God is holy, He is worthy of all worship. He deserves to be treasured more than anyone else.

But when Isaiah saw God, he also recognized that God's holiness was wonderful and frightening. Isaiah was not pure and perfect like God. God has no sin, but Isaiah was a sinner. Next to God's holiness, Isaiah was like a lump of coal. Isaiah recognized that he deserved to be far away from God's perfection. But then something amazing happened to Isaiah! Isaiah's guilt of sin was taken away; His punishment for his wrong choices was removed. Isaiah's sin was paid for. God made Isaiah clean and holy. Because God saved Isaiah, he could stand in front of God and listen to His words. For a moment, Isaiah saw God for who He is, perfectly beautiful and perfect in every way.

WEEK ONE

Memory Verse

Speak to the whole community of Israel. Tell them, "Be holy, because I am holy. I am the Lord your God."
— Leviticus 19:2

Prayer

Praise God for His holiness, and that even though He is holy, He loves sinful people.

WEEK TWO

Memory Verse

Worship the Lord because of his beauty and holiness. All you people of the earth, tremble when you are with him. — Psalm 96:9

Prayer

Thank God for being holy and beautiful and for always doing what is right.

WEEK THREE

Memory Verse

Honor the Lord our God. Worship at his holy mountain. The Lord our God is holy. — Psalm 99:9

Prayer

Ask God to help you honor Him and worship Him the way He deserves.

WEEK FOUR

Memory Verse

Lord, who will not have respect for you? Who will not bring glory to your name? You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you. They see that the things you do are right. — Revelation 15:4

Prayer

Praise God that one day all the nations—all the people of the earth—will know He is God.



Further Inspection

We aren't pure and perfect like God is. We think, say, and do wrong things that make us unholy and unable to stand in the presence of a holy God. The Bible tells us we deserve permanent separation from God—death—because of our sin. But God wants to save us and for us to be holy like Him. We can not be holy like God on our own; only God can clean us from sin. So, in His love, God provided Jesus to pay for our sin through His death on the cross. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our guilt and makes us right with God. He takes us and turns us into perfect diamonds. Through Jesus, we can be holy. And just as Isaiah was sent to share God's words, we are sent to share how others can become holy through Jesus.



Challenging Thought

Would you ever mix chocolate and tuna? Why or why not?

How much tuna would be needed to ruin the chocolate? If the tiniest amount of tuna was mixed into your chocolate, would you eat any of it? Think of some other things that don't go well together. This gives us an idea of what God's holiness is like. God is like that wonderful, sweet, milky chocolate. And it would only take the smallest amount of tuna to ruin it! In the same way, even the teeniest, tiniest sin would ruin God's holiness.

Notes:

DECEMBER

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God is Good



Is God good?

Yes, God is good. God is the standard of goodness; He defines what is good, and His words and actions are always good. God shows His goodness through His kindness, grace, and compassion. Everything good we have comes from God.

Bible Story

²⁵ One day an authority on the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to receive eternal life?" ²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" Jesus replied. "How do you understand it?" ²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength and with all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'" ²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do that, and you will live." ²⁹ But the man wanted to make himself look good. So he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. Robbers attacked him. They stripped off his clothes and beat him. Then they went away, leaving him almost dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down that same road. When he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² A Levite also came by. When he saw the man, he passed by on the other side too. ³³ But a Samaritan came to the place where the man was. When he saw the man, he felt sorry for him. ³⁴ He went to him, poured olive oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey. He brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins. He gave them to the owner of the inn. 'Take care of him,' he said. 'When I return, I will pay you back for any extra expense you may have.'" ³⁶ "Which of the three do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?" ³⁷ The authority on the law replied, "The one who felt sorry for him." Jesus told him, "Go and do as he did."

— Luke 10:25–37

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

When it's cold outside or when we're feeling sad, sometimes it can make us feel better to have someone wrap us up in a big, soft, warm blanket. As we curl up in the blanket, we feel safe and secure. By giving us the blanket, they did something good for us—they showed that they love us.

When Jesus was on earth, He told stories to help people understand God and His kingdom. One of the stories Jesus told was about a good Samaritan man. This story, a parable, gives us an example of God's goodness. God's goodness is like a warm blanket He wants to wrap us up in.

Jesus told how a Jewish man was hurt by robbers and how a Jewish priest and Levite ignored that poor man. But when a Samaritan saw the man, he felt sorry for him. The Samaritan chose to do what was good for the man: caring for his wounds, carrying him on a donkey, and paying for him to stay in an inn where he could heal. He gave the man *grace*, which is a good gift that we don't deserve. The Samaritan was kind, compassionate, and loving.

Now, back in Jesus' day, the Samaritan and Jewish people didn't like each other. So, it was a big deal for a Samaritan to help a Jewish man. The Samaritan was good to someone who was considered his enemy. Like the good Samaritan, God is good to all people and loves all people, even His enemies (Romans 5:8). Everything God is and does is good. God wants what is best for us. He listens when we talk to Him. He shows that He is kind by caring for us. He shows compassion by helping us when we can't help ourselves. And He shows grace because He is good to us, even when we don't deserve it.

Jesus ended the story by telling those listening to go and be like the good Samaritan. Sadly, we can't be good on our own. But God is good, and He sent Jesus to take away our sin, so we can be made good like Him (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus changes our hearts so we can be good like God, loving people just as He loves us. After Jesus changes us, we can live to help others and show God's goodness to everyone we meet.



Definition

Parable: A story that shows a spiritual point, usually told by Jesus in the Bible.

WEEK ONE



Memory Verse

The Lord is good. His faithful love continues forever. It will last for all time to come. — Psalm 100:5

Prayer

Praise God for His goodness and all the good things He does and has done for you.

WEEK TWO



Memory Verse

The Lord is good to all. He shows deep concern for everything he has made. — Psalm 145:9

Prayer

Thank God for always doing good, even when we don't deserve it.

WEEK THREE



Memory Verse

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the person who goes to him for safety.
— Psalm 34:8

Prayer

Ask God to help you turn to Him for safety, knowing that He is good and loving and powerful.

WEEK FOUR



Memory Verse

The Lord is good. When people are in trouble, they can go to him for safety. He takes good care of those who trust in him. — Nahum 1:7

Prayer

Ask God to help you do good to others just as He has done good to you.



Reflection Questions

01 How have you seen God's goodness to you and others?

02 How have other followers of Jesus been good to you?

03 How can you be good to others around you?

Notes:

JANUARY



God Knows Everything



Does God know everything?

Yes, God knows everything because He has all wisdom. God is outside of time, so He sees everything at once. He knows everything about the past, the present, and the future. Nothing is hidden from God, not even our thoughts.

Bible Story

¹ Lord, you have seen what is in my heart.
You know all about me.

² You know when I sit down and when I get up.
You know what I'm thinking even though you are far away.

³ You know when I go out to work and when I come back home.
You know exactly how I live.

⁴ Lord, even before I speak a word,
you know all about it.

⁵ You are all around me, behind me and in front of me.
You hold me safe in your hand.

⁶ I'm amazed at how well you know me.
It's more than I can understand.

— Psalm 139:1–6

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 know the capital of the state you live in? How about the capital of all fifty states? How about the capital of every nation in the world? How about every city and town in every nation in the world? How about the name of every person in every city and town in every nation of the world? This is impossible, right? No one can know all these things! That's true; no person can. But God does. He knows all these things and so much more. God knows everything about everything because He is all-knowing. That's called God's *omniscience*.

Psalm 139 was written by David, God's chosen king to lead His people, the Israelites. David praised God and was amazed by all God knows. God knows how to create planets from nothing, how to take care of all the animals of the world, and how to do all the most challenging math problems. He knows what will happen: twenty seconds, twenty days, and 2,000 years from now.

But what David really loved about God was how much God knew *him*. God knew everything about David—what was in his heart, when he would sit down, what he would say before

he even said it. God knew David better than David even knew himself! God's knowledge was so great David couldn't fully understand it. It was just far too fantastic for him!

Like how God knew David, God knows *you*. He knows your past, your present, and your future. He knows every second of your life. And just as God knew what was in David's heart, God knows what's in your heart. Nothing is hidden from God, not even your thoughts. He knows you better than you know yourself, which is good. You might think God can't love you if He knows everything about you, but you'd be wrong! Even though you make wrong choices and have bad thoughts, God loves you and knows you need Him. In His perfect knowledge, God knows everything you need, and He knew you would need a Savior. And because He wants you to know Him, He sent Jesus to rescue you and help you grow to know God more.

WEEK ONE

Memory Verse

Lord, even before I speak a word,
you know all about it.

— Psalm 139:4

Prayer

Praise God that He knows
everything about you, and He still
loves you.

WEEK TWO

Memory Verse

Who can ever know what the Lord
is thinking? Or who can ever give
him advice? — Romans 11:34

Prayer

Thank God for knowing what is best
for you, especially knowing that you
need Jesus.

WEEK THREE

Memory Verse

Great is our Lord. His power is
mighty. There is no limit to his
understanding. — Psalm 147:5

Prayer

Ask God to help you trust Him,
believing He knows everything,
including what is best for you.

WEEK FOUR

Memory Verse

If our hearts judge us, we know that
God is greater than our hearts. And
he knows everything.

— 1 John 3:20

Prayer

Ask God to help you remember
that He loves you and has forgiven
you because of Jesus.



Reflection Questions

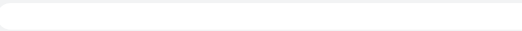
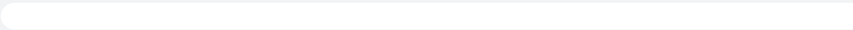
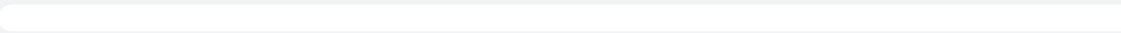
01 How does it make you feel knowing that God knows everything about everything?

02 How does it make you feel that God knows every single thing about you?

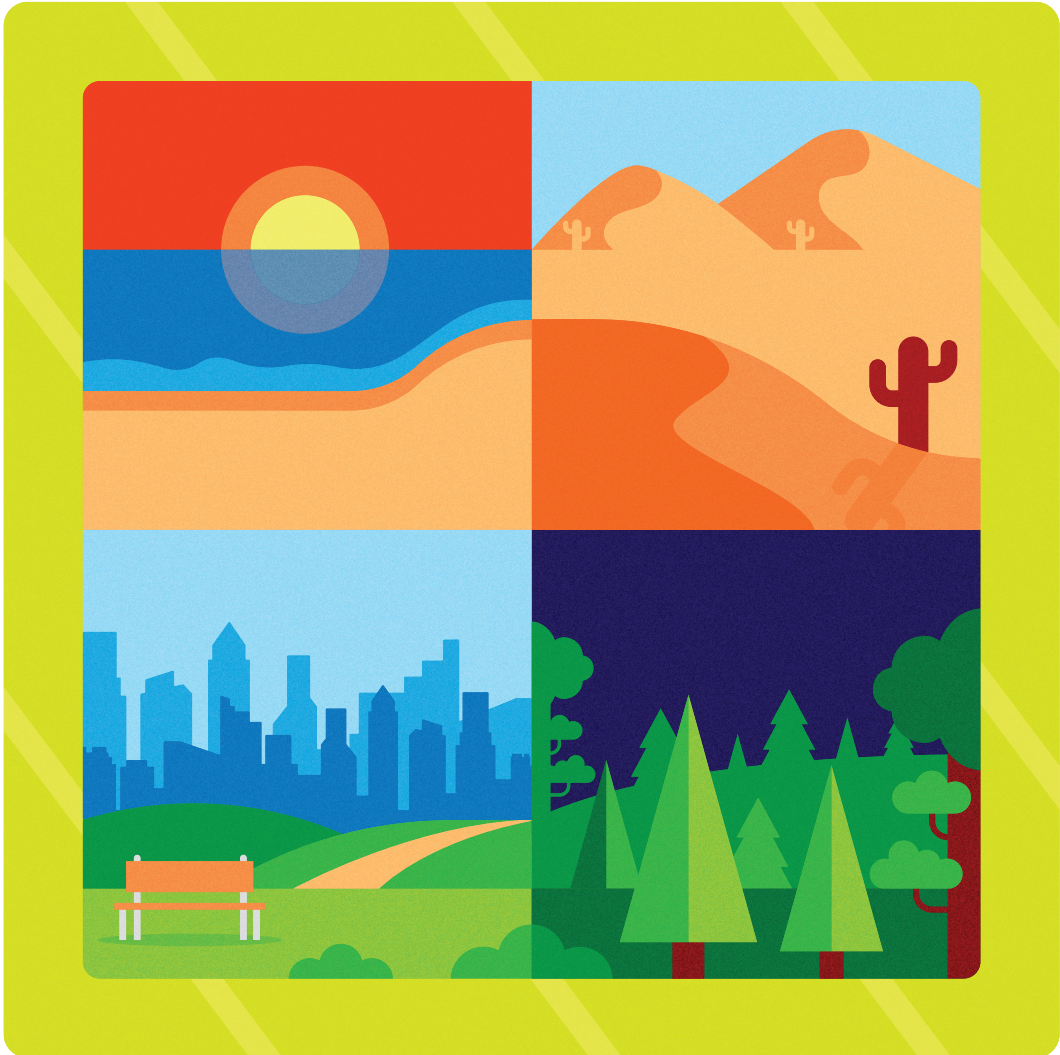
03 If you could ask God one question based on Him knowing everything, what would you ask Him?

Notes:

FEBRUARY



God Is Everywhere



Is God everywhere?

God is everywhere because He is Spirit, and He cannot be kept in one place by space or time. God is fully in every place at the same time. This is called God's *omnipresence*. We are never away from God's presence.

Bible Story

⁷ How can I get away from your Spirit?
Where can I go to escape from you?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there.
If I lie down in the deepest parts of the earth, you are also there.

⁹ Suppose I were to rise with the sun in the east.
Suppose I travel to the west where it sinks into the ocean.

¹⁰ Your hand would always be there to guide me.
Your right hand would still be holding me close.

¹¹ Suppose I were to say, "I'm sure the darkness will hide me.
The light around me will become as dark as night."

¹² Even that darkness would not be dark to you.
The night would shine like the day,
because darkness is like light to you.

— Psalm 139:7–12

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 all alone? Maybe your family went across the street for a few minutes, and you were home by yourself. Maybe your best friend didn't come to school, and you had no one to sit with. Or maybe you stopped to look at something in a store for just a second, but when you looked up, your parents were gone. We've all felt this, and it can be scary. But the really good news is that we are never truly alone. God is always with us!

When we read Psalm 139, we learn how God is everywhere. God is Spirit, which means He doesn't have a body like we do. Our bodies are limited – for example, we can't do everything we can imagine. God is unlimited – He can do anything He wants! We can only be in one place at a time, but God is everywhere! He is in all places at all times.

We could travel to Saturn, and God would be there. We could take a submarine to the deepest part of the ocean, and God would be there. We could find the darkest cave in the biggest mountain in the world, and God would be there. God is fully present in all places at once. He is with the people who live in the jungles of the Amazon right now, just as He is with you. God is so incredible that He is greater than space and time. Instead of being in only one place in a moment, He holds *all* moments and places. He is bigger than everything, so every place exists in Him. What an encouragement that nothing is bigger than our God and that He is always with us wherever we go!

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I lie down in the deepest parts of the earth, you are also there. — Psalm 139:8

Prayer

Praise God that He can be everywhere at once, including always being with you.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

"Who can hide in secret places so that I can't see them?" announces the Lord. "Don't I fill heaven and earth?" announces the Lord.
— Jeremiah 23:24

Prayer

Ask God to help remind you of His presence with you, especially when you feel sad, scared, or uncertain.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

He is the God who made the world. He also made everything in it. He is the Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples built by human hands. — Acts 17:24

Prayer

Thank God that even as big as the world and universe are, He is forever bigger.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

The one who obeys God's commands remains joined to him. And he remains joined to them. Here is how we know that God lives in us. We know it because of the Holy Spirit he gave us.
— 1 John 3:24

Prayer

Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit so God's presence can be with us forever.



Further Inspection

There's a difference between God being *in* the same place as us and God living in us. In God's love, He made the way to live in His people forever and always. God did this through Jesus. When Jesus was on earth, He became *Immanuel*, which means "God with us." When Jesus returned to heaven after He rose from the dead, God sent the Holy Spirit to live inside His people. God's Spirit comes to live in us when we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord. If you are a Christian, God's presence is in us through His Spirit. This is an incredible comfort because no matter where we are or what we're going through, God lives in us. He promises never to leave us. Knowing that God is not just everywhere but also lives in us helps us follow Him and reminds us that we were made to live for God.



Next Steps

Look at a globe or world map. Find where you live. Then take time finding countries that you know—perhaps some you've been to—and ones you don't know. What do you think all these places are like? What do you think they eat there? What do they do for fun? What school is like? While these countries and peoples are often quite different, they all have one thing in common: God is with them! Pray that God would save people in those countries and send missionaries to tell everyone the good news of Jesus.

Notes:

MARCH

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God Never Changes



Does God change?

No, God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God can never stop being God. He will always be perfect in every way. God is faithful—He will never go back on His promises. God is worthy of our trust because He will never change.

Bible Story

¹⁶ The Lord met with Balaam. He put a message in Balaam's mouth. The Lord said, "Go back to Balak. Give him my message."

¹⁷ So Balaam went to Balak. He found him standing beside his offering. The Moabite officials were with him. Balak asked him, "What did the Lord say?"

¹⁸ Then Balaam spoke the message he had received from God. He said, "Balak, rise up and listen. Son of Zippor, hear me.

¹⁹ God isn't a mere human. He can't lie. He isn't a human being. He doesn't change his mind. He speaks, and then he acts. He makes a promise, and then he keeps it.

²⁰ He has commanded me to bless Israel. He has given them his blessing. And I can't change it.

²¹ I don't see any trouble coming on the people of Jacob. I don't see any suffering in Israel. The Lord their God is with them. The shout of the King is among them."

— Numbers 23:16–21

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

Have you ever seen an ocean wave crash over a sandcastle? What happens? The sandcastle gets washed away, doesn't it? Even if parts of the sandcastle remain, it has changed. It's no longer firmly sitting on the beach. Now, think of a big mountain. Surely, that's unchanging, right? It's not! As rain, water, and wind go over that mountain, it can slowly take some of it away. This is called erosion. A mountain might seem permanent and unchanging, but it's not!

We live in a world where everything changes, but not God! He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God doesn't change who He is or His ways. That includes His promises. He never goes back on His word. And nothing can change God, either. Nothing can erode His goodness, His love, or His holiness. And He will never grow tired. God is as He always has been and always will be!

In Numbers 23, God's people were traveling in the wilderness toward the land God promised to give them. God had rescued His people from Egypt and promised to be with them, even though they didn't always trust God or love Him.

Now, a king named Balak was afraid of God's people, and when he saw them coming toward his land, Balak hired a prophet named Balaam to curse God's people. But instead of cursing God's people, Balaam could only bless them! Why? Because God said it would happen. Balaam had to speak God's true, unchanging words. God will always keep His promises and be faithful to His people.

Even though God's people had sinned and didn't always trust Him, God had not changed His mind about them. He loved them. God had chosen the Israelites to be His special people, and He would take care of them no matter what. When God makes a promise, He will keep it because He is always true. A wicked king couldn't stop God from being the same good God He'd always been. A wicked prophet couldn't change God's blessing to a curse. God remains the same today and forever.

God didn't just want to bless people in the Old Testament; He is still the same God who wants to bless people today. The greatest blessing He gives us is His Son, Jesus. Even though we sin, God kept His promise to save us from sin. God still loves us. And when

we trust in Jesus, we receive blessings instead of curses. Jesus took the curse of sin for us so that we can have eternal life. We can trust that God

will always be true and faithful to His Word, and His love for us will never change.

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

God isn't a mere human. He can't lie. He isn't a human being. He doesn't change his mind. He speaks, and then he acts. He makes a promise, and then he keeps it.
— Numbers 23:19

Prayer

Thank God for keeping all His promises, especially that we are forever forgiven because of Jesus.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

The God who is the Glory of Israel does not lie. He doesn't change his mind. That's because he isn't a mere human being. If he were, he might change his mind. — 1 Samuel 15:29

Prayer

Praise God for being the only One who never changes and who we can always trust.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

I am the Lord. I do not change.
— Malachi 3:6*

Prayer

Ask God to give you an unchanging love for Him.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
— Hebrews 13:8

Prayer

Ask God to help you remember that His perfect love for you will never change.



Reflection Questions

01 What are some unchanging things about God that you are extra glad for?

02 What are some of God's unchanging promises that make you happy?

03 In what ways should we try to be unchanging and faithful like God? Are there any ways we shouldn't be?

Notes:

APRIL

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God Loves Us



Why does God love us?

God loves us because He is love and because He created us. Although people reject God's love, He continues to love us. Ultimately, God proved that He loves us by sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross to take the punishment for sin.

Bible Story

⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹ Here is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him.

¹⁰ Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another.

— 1 John 4:8–11

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

How do you show someone you love them? Maybe you show your love with a hug, a kind word, a gift, or a meaningful “I love you.” However you show them, it’s special. When we love someone, we want them to know it. Showing that we love someone doesn’t make our love for them any better; it’s just a way for us to share that love with them in a way they can easily experience.

If we are honest, it is harder to love someone who is unkind to us than someone who is always good. The Bible teaches us that we are sinners who disobey God. We choose to do what we want instead of listening to God’s ways and rules. You might think we shouldn’t get God’s love because we don’t do what He says. It is true; we don’t deserve God’s love. But the wonderful news is that God loves us anyway because He chooses to. God created us to love Him and be loved by Him. Before we were ever born, God decided to show us His love. He gave His one and only Son, Jesus, to pay for our sin. God gave His treasured Son to save us from sin because He loves us!

Jesus, God’s Son, willingly went to the cross to die for our sins. Jesus shows us what God’s love is like: God’s love puts other people first. God’s love is giving. God’s love is sacrificial. God’s love is unconditional. And God’s love is powerful. Because of God’s love, we can trust Jesus as our Savior and Lord and have our sins forgiven. Then, we will have eternal life, where we will love God and be loved by Him forever.

God’s love doesn’t just change us; it changes the way we treat others, too. Remember those people who are unkind to us, that it might be harder to love? Because God showed His love to us through Jesus, we can them. Because we have God’s love, we can others the way God has loved us.

God loved us before we ever loved Him. When we need to remember how much God loves us, all we need to do is look to Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. Then we can know, without a doubt, that God loves us with perfect, never-failing, and forever love.

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. — John 3:16

Prayer

Ask God to help you love Him and to help you love others by putting them first.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
— Romans 5:8

Prayer

Thank God for showing His love to us through Jesus.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. — 1 John 4:10

Prayer

Ask God for the opportunity to tell someone you know about God's love for them.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

We love because he loved us first.
— 1 John 4:19

Prayer

Praise God for loving us before we ever loved Him.



Next Steps

Think of how much God loves us, that He would give up His only Son for us. Now, think of someone who is hard for you to love.

Why is it hard for you to love them? Would God love them? Ask God to help you love that person—and show them that you love them this month.

Notes:

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We Trust God



Why should we trust God?

We should trust God because He is honest, true, and reliable. Because God is perfect, all-powerful, and good, we can always trust everything He says and does. Trusting God means believing and putting our faith in Him.



Further Inspection

There are many people you trust in your life. You trust your family—you rely on them to provide for you. You trust your friends—you tell them about your feelings and have fun with them. You trust your teachers—they teach you true things about the world around you. But most, we should trust God. He is reliable, honest, and true and never makes a mistake. He is always good and works good things in your life. He is deserving of our trust: He is trustworthy. We will never regret putting our trust in Him!

Bible Story

⁵ The Lord took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can.” Then he said to him, “That’s how many children will be born into your family.”

⁶ Abram believed the Lord. The Lord was pleased with Abram because he believed. So Abram’s faith made him right with the Lord.

⁷ He also said to Abram, “I am the Lord. I brought you out of Ur in the land of Babylon. I will give you this land to have as your very own.”

— Genesis 15:5–7

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

It's hard to trust someone who has broken promises. Maybe you've had a friend say they would play with you, but they didn't show up. We might feel sad, and we might be unsure if we can believe them next time. But God is different! God always keeps His promises. He is trustworthy. We can trust Him no matter what.

The Bible is full of stories about people who trusted God. One of those people was a man named Abram, who later became known as Abraham. God called Abraham from his home and made promises to Abraham: God said He would bless Abraham, give him a large family and a special land, and make his family a blessing to the whole world.

After God spoke to Abraham, many years passed, and Abraham still waited for God's promises. But throughout those years, God continued to be with Abraham. God protected Abraham and provided for him. God loved Abraham and helped Abraham trust Him during the wait. One night, God spoke to Abraham and reminded him of His promises. God never forgets His promises, and He was going to make them come true.

Abraham believed in God. Even before the promises came true, Abraham trusted God and believed God would do exactly what He promised.

When Abraham trusted God, something amazing happened. He was forgiven for his sins and made right with God. This means that even though Abraham had sinned (as all people do), God accepted him. Abraham had been saved because of his trust and faith in God!

Years later, God's promises to Abraham came true. God blessed the world by providing Jesus through Abraham's family. God wants us to trust Him and believe in His promises as Abraham did. He wants us to place our faith and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord. Even when others break their promises, when we have challenging times, or when we don't know where to turn for help, we can trust God because He will never let us down.

WEEK ONE

Memory Verse

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. — Proverbs 3:5

Prayer

Ask God for His help to trust Him fully, even when you think you know better.

WEEK TWO

Memory Verse

But I trust in you, Lord. I say, "You are my God." — Psalm 31:14

Prayer

Thank God for helping us trust Him and reminding us of all the ways He has proven trustworthy in the Bible.

WEEK THREE

Memory Verse

God, you are the one who saves us. We will trust in you. Then we won't be afraid. — Isaiah 12:2*

Prayer

Praise God for providing salvation in Jesus that we can trust completely.

WEEK FOUR

Memory Verse

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Those who come to God must believe that he exists. And they must believe that he rewards those who look to him. — Hebrews 11:6

Prayer

Ask God to help you trust Him no matter what, knowing that He will never fail you.



Challenging Thought

God kept His promise to Abraham, even when it seemed unlikely or impossible. Abraham believed God would keep His word, even when he didn't know how. Take some time to search the Bible for promises that God has made to you. Do you trust that God will keep His promises to you? Why or why not?

Notes:

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We Obey God



Why should we obey God?

We should obey God because we love Him and trust Him, and we believe He knows what is best for us. Obeying God is for our good. We show that we love and trust God by obeying Him and living for Him. By obeying God, we show we want to honor Him.

Bible Story

¹² And now, Israel, what is the Lord your God asking you to do? Honor him. Live exactly as he wants you to live. Love him. Serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹³ Obey the Lord's commands and rules. I'm giving them to you today for your own good.

— Deuteronomy 10:12–13

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

What would you do if you had a puppy who kept running into the street? You would most likely build a fence or put your puppy on a leash! You know that running into the street is dangerous, so you would be keeping your puppy safe by providing boundaries.

Just like you show love to a puppy by wanting to do what is best for them, God shows He loves us by giving us good commands or rules to follow. Everything God commands is always for our good and the good of others. He knows what is best because He knows everything.

When God's people, the Israelites, were in the wilderness, God gave them commands to follow. God would say something like, "Don't lie or steal." Then Moses, their leader, shared God's commands with the people and told them to obey God. Now, the Israelites were stubborn, and they didn't always obey God. But when they did, they were agreeing with God. Their obedience showed they trusted that God knew what was best. By obeying God's commands, they honored God and showed they loved Him.

In the same way, we obey God because we love and trust Him. When we read God's commands in the Bible, our hearts want to obey them because we trust God. We obey even when we don't totally understand because we believe He knows best and wants what's best for us. Sadly, we won't obey God perfectly. Because of sin, we'll sometimes do things our way instead of God's way. But here's the good news: We don't have to obey God perfectly for Him to love us. Only Jesus obeyed God perfectly, and when we trust in Jesus, God looks at us as if we followed all His commands.

Knowing Jesus lived a perfect life for us should make us want to love God and honor Him. Even when God's commands are hard—like loving people who are mean to you—we can remember how God's commands are always for our good and we can choose to obey Him.

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

Obey the commands of the Lord
your God. Live as he wants you to
live. Have respect for him.
— Deuteronomy 8:6

Prayer

Praise God for loving us, even when
we don't obey Him.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

Praise the Lord. Blessed are those
who have respect for the Lord.
They find great delight when they
obey God's commands.
— Psalm 112:1

Prayer

Ask God to help you delight in His
commands as you obey them.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

If you love me, obey my
commands. — John 14:15

Prayer

Ask God to help your love for Him
to grow so that your obedience
grows, too.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

In fact, here is what it means to
love God. We love him by obeying
his commands. And his commands
are not hard to obey. — 1 John 5:3

Prayer

Thank God that His commands are
all good, and ask Him to show you
how they aren't hard to obey when
we love Him.



Further Inspection

As you continue to study the Bible and learn more about God's commands, you will have more instructions to obey! That is a good thing. There is one that God has for you right now: Honor your Father and Mother. Follow your family's instructions (Exodus 20:12). This isn't the only instruction God has for you, but this is very important for you as a child. Obeying the family God has placed in charge of you shows you how to obey God as you grow.



Next Steps

Think of and write down as many of God's commands as possible. After that, use your Bible to find a few more.

Which of these are easy for you to follow? Which are hard? Which commands can you obey at school, in the neighborhood, with your friends, or at other activities?

Notes:

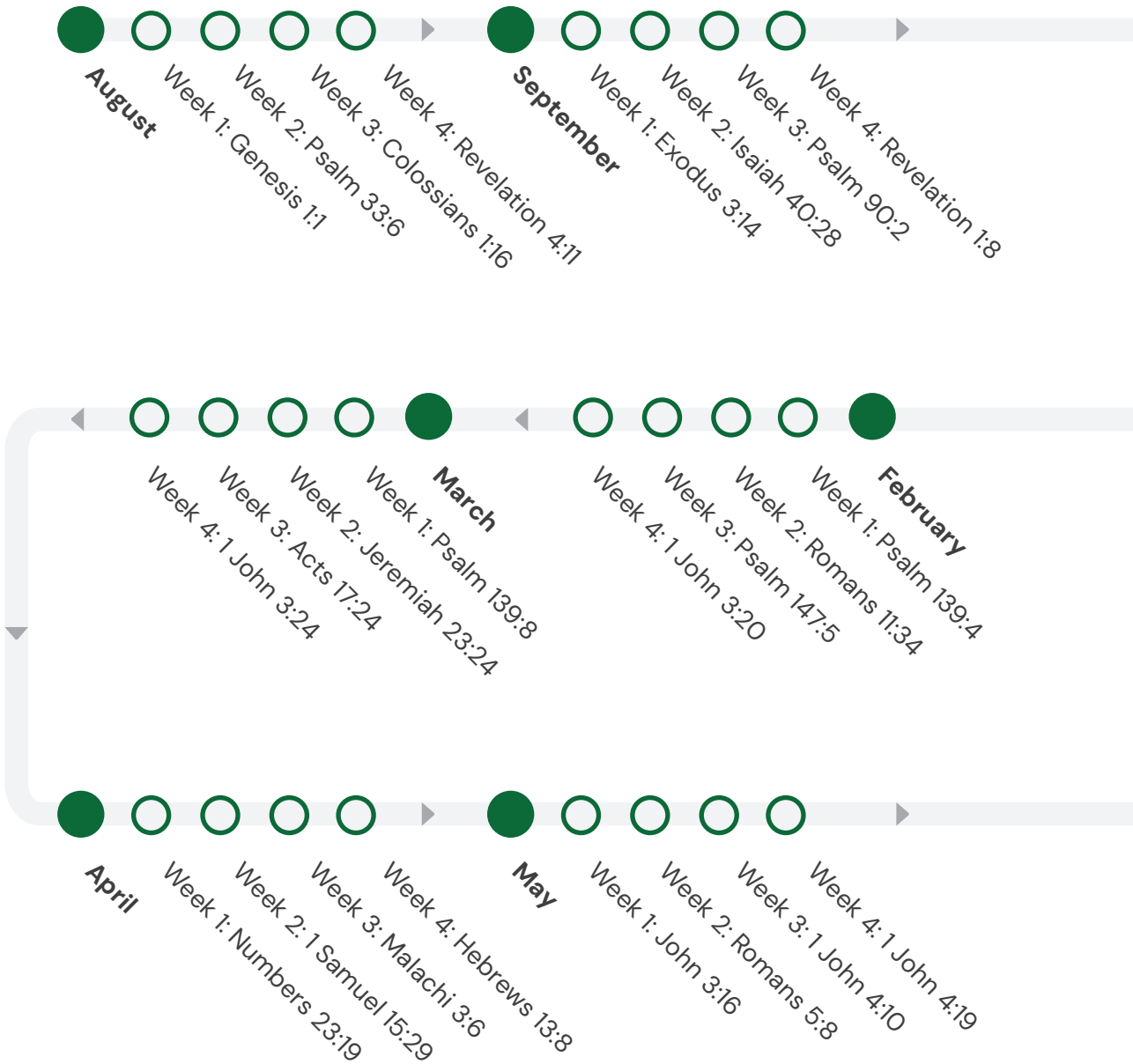
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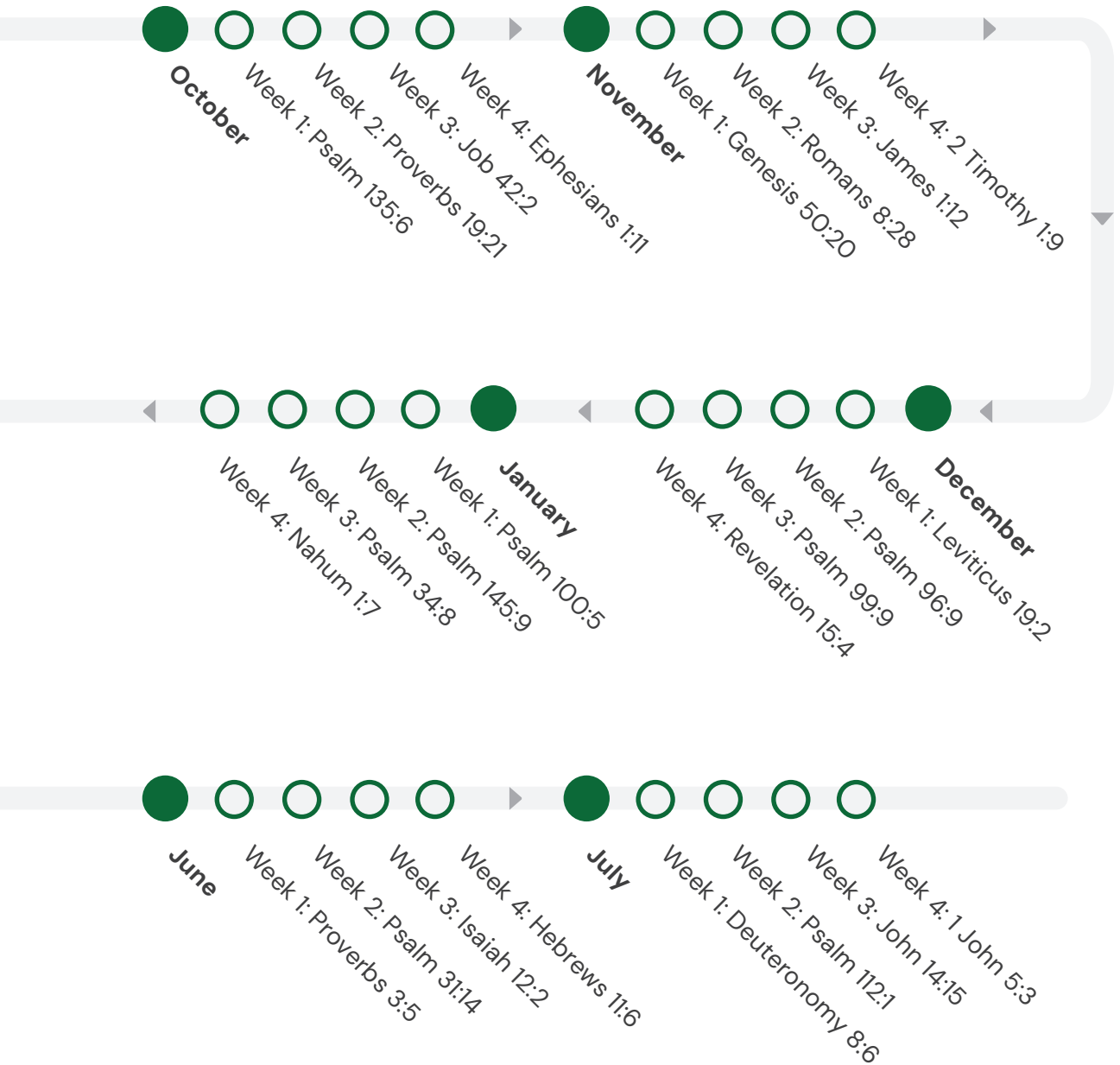
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Memory Verse Tracking Log



FIRST GRADE





NEW VISION