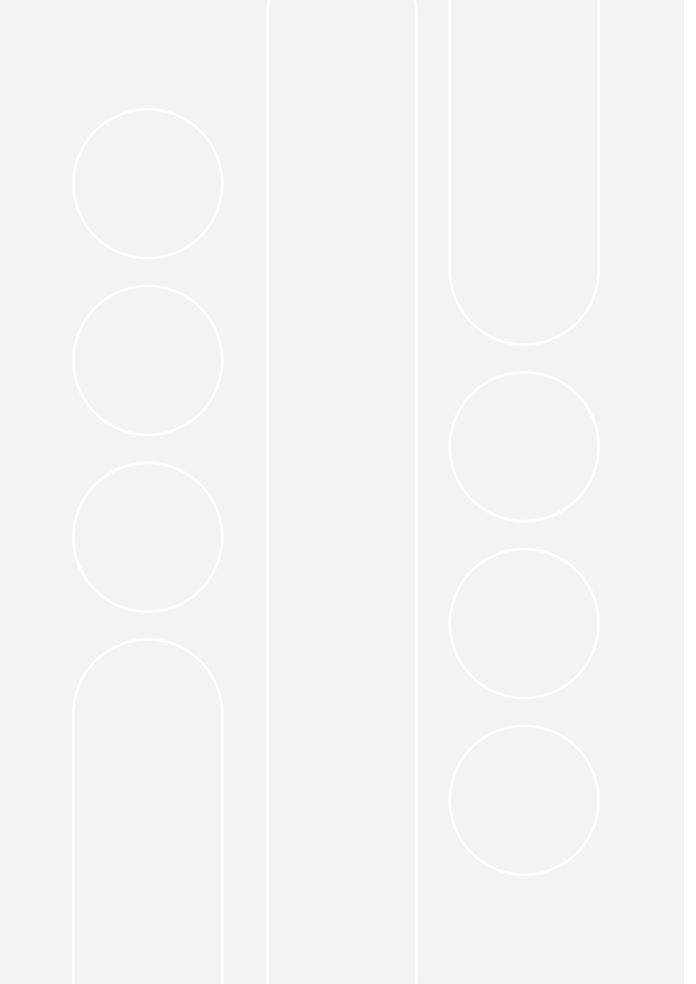


Discipleship Essentials Pathway



Discipleship Essentials Pathways

NEW VISION

DISCIPLESHIP ESSENTIALS PATHWAY

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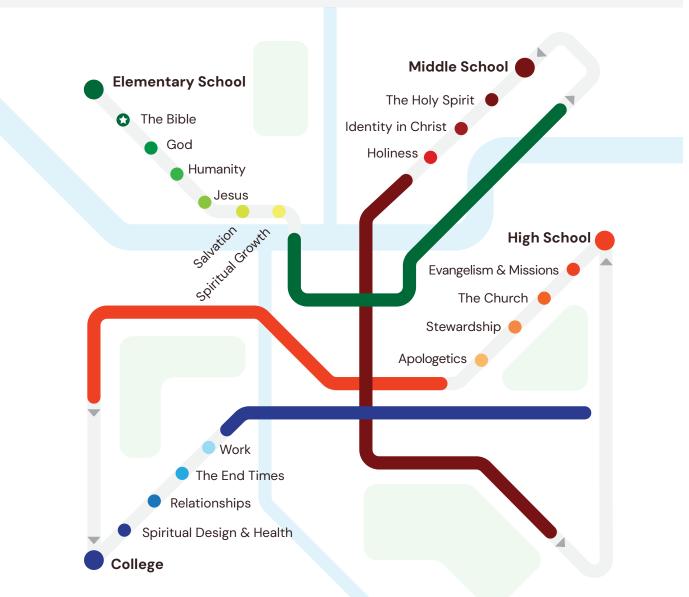
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System Map

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
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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 1: The Bible and is designed to be used with kindergartners. Modules 2–6 are to be used for first 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.

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STEP FOUR

Next, read the Bible story to your family either from the *Pathway* book or from a Bible. The NIrV 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 kindergartner 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 2 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 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 *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 02 03

Admit that you are a sinner in need of forgiveness.

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

KINDERGARTEN

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.

What is The Bible?



What is the Bible?

The Bible is a special book. It is filled with true stories about God and His people. The Bible helps us learn who God is and how we can know Him as our friend. Every word in the Bible is good, and helps us learn and know how to live.

Bible Story

- ¹ My son, accept my words. Store up my commands inside you.
- ² Let your ears listen to wisdom. Apply your heart to understanding.
- ³ Call out for the ability to be wise. Cry out for understanding.
- Look for it as you would look for silver.
 Search for it as you would search for hidden treasure.
- ⁵ Then you will understand how to have respect for the Lord. You will find out how to know God.
- ⁶ The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.
- Proverbs 2:1-6

Discussion Questions

- 1 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 a present you've been given that you like to play with. Did you know how it worked right away? Did you know everything it did when you first began playing with it?

One day, a little boy received a backyard playhouse for his birthday. He was super happy and couldn't wait to play in it! But when his dad opened the box and took out all the pieces, he got very confused. The dad didn't have any idea how to put the playhouse together. He didn't know how all the pieces fit together. Do you know what the dad needed? He needed instructions!

Toys come with instructions that can help us in several ways. They help us understand important information about the toy, how to use the toy correctly, and how to keep everyone safe while using the toy. In an even bigger way, instructions for our lives are very important, too, like when your family teaches you how to tie your shoes, tells you to look both ways before crossing the street, or reminds you to be kind to those around you.

The Bible is like instructions, but in an even more special way. The Bible is God's words that are given to us by God Himself. God—our Creator—wants us to learn all about Him and how much He loves us. He wants us to know who we are and why He made us. God wants to show us how to live and how to love the world He made for us. Without God's instructions, we would be confused, and we wouldn't know how to live in a way that is right and best. We need the Bible!

Every part of the Bible is good for us. When you need help reading or knowing what the Bible means, ask an adult for help. They want to help you learn! The Bible is very important because it guides us and helps us learn about God. God wants us to really know and love Him. Reading the Bible—our perfect instruction book—helps us each and every day.

WEEK ONE (



Memory Verse

Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me. — Psalm 119:105

Prayer

Ask God to help you follow His words and obey what He says.

WEEK TWO







Memory Verse

Every word of God is perfect. - Proverbs 30:5*

Prayer

Ask God to help you want to read His words.

WEEK THREE







Memory Verse

They [God's words] are more priceless than gold. They have greater value than huge amounts of pure gold. — Psalm 19:10*

Prayer

Ask God to help you love His words.

WEEK FOUR









Memory Verse

The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth. - Proverbs 2:6

Prayer

Ask God to help you remember His words when you need them.



Reflection Questions

01 What is your favorite Bible story?

02 What instructions can you think of that come from the Bible?

03 What have you learned about God from the Bible?



Who Wrote the Bible?



Who wrote the Bible?

People wrote the Bible, but God helped them know what to write. The people wrote what God wanted them to. The Bible is from God.

Further Inspection

The Bible is a special book that came from God. There are sixty-six smaller books in the Bible. Many different people wrote these books a long time ago. Even though many people wrote the words in the books of the Bible, God is the main author. An *author* is the writer of a book. How could God be the author if many different people had written the books? It's because God guided them as they wrote. Each person wrote in their own way, and their message was what God wanted people to know.

Bible Story

¹⁴ But I want you to continue to follow what you have learned and are sure about. You know the people you learned it from.

¹⁵ You have known the Holy Scriptures ever since you were a little child. They are able to teach you how to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶ God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right.

¹⁷ By using Scripture, the servant of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.

- 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Discussion Questions

- 1 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- **Q2** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- ①3 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

When a child is learning to write their name, a teacher, parent, or family member might help by holding their hand. The adult shows them how to hold a pencil, crayon, or marker. Then, the parent gently moves their hand to write the letters of their name. This helps the child learn the shapes and movements of each letter. The child is writing their name, but the parent is there to help make sure it is written the right way.

This is a picture of how God guided the people He used to write the Bible. God spoke to them and guided them on what to write. Every word in the Bible is from God. God also allowed each author to write based on how they saw things and with their own personality. For example, two people seeing the same elephant might describe it differently. One person might describe the elephant's four strong legs, and the other might focus on the big swinging trunk! Neither one is wrong or better. People just might see and focus on certain things. The Bible's writers wrote what stood out to them, but God still led them to write exactly what He wanted to tell us.

Most importantly, like a parent teaching a child to write, God made sure that every word of the Bible is correct and true. Every word of the Bible is from God. In 2 Timothy, Paul says that Scripture—another word for the Bible—comes from God. God's power, through the Holy Spirit, led certain people to write the words of the Bible. This is why we can always trust the Bible; its truths are timeless and without end. Just as God is perfect in every way, so are His words.

WEEK ONE (







God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. - 2 Timothy 3:16*

Prayer

Thank God for giving us His words.

WEEK TWO







Memory Verse

Prophecy never came simply because a prophet wanted it to. Instead, the Holy Spirit guided the prophets as they spoke.

- 2 Peter 1:21*

Prayer

Thank God for using human writers to give us His words.

WEEK THREE







Memory Verse

We don't use words taught to us by people. We use words taught to us by the Holy Spirit.

- 1 Corinthians 2:13*

Prayer

Ask God to help you learn His words.

WEEK FOUR









Memory Verse

Then the Lord said to Moses. "Write down the words I have spoken. I have made a covenant with you and with Israel in keeping with those words." - Exodus 34:27

Prayer

Ask God to help you remember His words when you need them.



Reflection Questions

()1 Who are some authors of books of the Bible that you know of?

02 How do you think the people felt when God used them to write some of the Bible?

Notes:

What Is the Bible About?



What is the Bible about?

The Bible tells one amazing story of God's great rescue plan to save people from <u>sin</u> through Jesus.



Definition

Sin: doing what God tells us not to do; not doing what God tells us to do; disobeying God.

In the Old Testament, we learn about how people continually turned away from God and sinned. They needed God to rescue them from their sin! In the New Testament, we meet the Savior—Jesus Christ—who came to bring forgiveness, life, and love to our broken world.

Bible Story

- ³¹ "The days are coming," announces the Lord. "I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel. I will also make it with the people of Judah.
- ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their people of long ago. That was when I took them by the hand. I led them out of Egypt. But they broke my covenant. They did it even though I was like a husband to them," announces the Lord.
- ³³ "This is the covenant I will make with Israel after that time," announces the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds. I will write it on their hearts.

 I will be their God. And they will be my people."
- Jeremiah 31:31-33

Discussion Questions

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

Devotion

Imagine being lost in a maze. It can be frustrating and hopeless because you don't know the way out. That's how life was before Jesus came-it was like being lost with no rescue in sight. The Bible tells us one big story, starting with the Old Testament, which shows us how people chose their own way instead of following God's way. God's people, the Israelites, kept getting into trouble. God was their leader, but they decided to do what they wanted instead of following Him. They were lost because their sin separated them from God—a big problem they couldn't fix. But God had a rescue plan.

In the book of Jeremiah, God told the Israelites what He wanted them to know. God talked to a <u>prophet</u> named Jeremiah, who shared God's message with the people. God told them they had not kept their promise and didn't listen or follow Him.

Because of this, they were far away

from God. But even though they kept disobeying, God made a new promise to help them. He promised to save them. He was going to send His Son, not just to help them be better, but to be perfect in their place.

The New Testament tells us about God making good on this promise and the moment that changed everything: Jesus coming to save us! Jesus didn't just teach us how to live; He was punished for our sins and made a way for us to be with God forever. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6). He is the light that leads us out of the darkness of sin and into the hope of life with God!

The Bible shows God's love for us from the beginning to the end.
The Old Testament reminds us of our need for a Savior, and the New Testament reveals God's ultimate gift—Jesus Christ, our Savior.



Definition

Prophet: A human messenger who received a message from God and then delivered it to God's people. A prophet was kind of like a spiritual mailman!

WEEK ONE



Memory Verse

The Lord had said to Abram..."I will make you into a great nation. And I will bless you. I will make your name great. You will be a blessing to others." - Genesis 12:1-2*

Prayer

Thank God for blessing you and ask Him to help you bless others.

WEEK TWO









Memory Verse

The Scriptures you study are a witness about me. - John 5:39*

Prayer

Ask God to help you understand the Bible's big story and how it points to Jesus.

WEEK THREE







Memory Verse

I will forgive their evil ways. I will not remember their sins anymore. - Jeremiah 31:34*

Prayer

Thank God for Jesus coming to forgive sin.

WEEK FOUR









Memory Verse

Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures. He began with Moses and all the Prophets. — Luke 24:27

Prayer

Pray that your friends and family who don't know Jesus will hear about Him and believe in Him.



Reflection Questions

01 How does the Old Testament help us see our need for Jesus?

02 Why is Jesus's arrival in the New Testament important?

03 How can you share the story of Jesus with others this week?

Notes:

The Bible Shows Us How to Live



What does the Bible do for us?

The Bible helps us know what God says is right and wrong and shows us how we should live. Reading and thinking about the Bible helps us understand how to live in a way that honors God and others.

Bible Story

¹⁰⁵ Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me.

- Psalm 119:105

Discussion Questions

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

Devotion

Do you like the dark? Many people don't. When we're in the dark, we can't see very well. That means we don't know what is around us. And the unknown can cause us to be unsure or afraid. However, the dark loses its power when we turn on a light. While the dark usually isn't much fun, playing in the dark with a flashlight can be a blast! A flashlight turns the unknown into the known. It helps us see and understand what is around us.

The Bible is like a flashlight for our lives, helping us see the right path to take. In the book of Psalms, the writer tells us that the Bible is like a lamp that shows the way in the middle of the darkness. It helps us know so much more than we would without it. We learn many things: that God created us and everything around us (Genesis 1-2), that God loves us (1 John 4), and that God wants to be with us always (Genesis 17). We learn right from wrong through God's rules (like the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20). We also learn that if we choose to do things that God doesn't want us to do, it makes God sad.

Most importantly, the Bible teaches us how we can accept God's gift of love and rescue through Jesus (Romans 10:9–10). Without God and His Word, we would be in the dark—there would be so much we would not know! So what do we do? Just like in the dark, we go where the light shows us is safe and good. We need to let the Bible show us the way to live. We can do that by reading it, trusting it, and obeying what it says. God gave us His word, the Bible, to guide us so we can follow Him!

WEEK ONE (







Memory Verse

I will guide you and teach you the way you should go. I will give you good advice and watch over you with love. - Psalm 32:8

Prayer

Ask God to help you follow His words.

WEEK TWO







Memory Verse

You will hear your Teacher's voice behind you...It will say, Here is the path I want you to take. So walk on it. - Isaiah 30:21*

Prayer

Thank God for providing Jesus to be our light and guide us.

WEEK THREE







Memory Verse

He [Jesus] said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life." - John 8:12*

Prayer

Thank God for Jesus coming to forgive sin.

WEEK FOUR









Memory Verse

So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. — Matthew 7:24

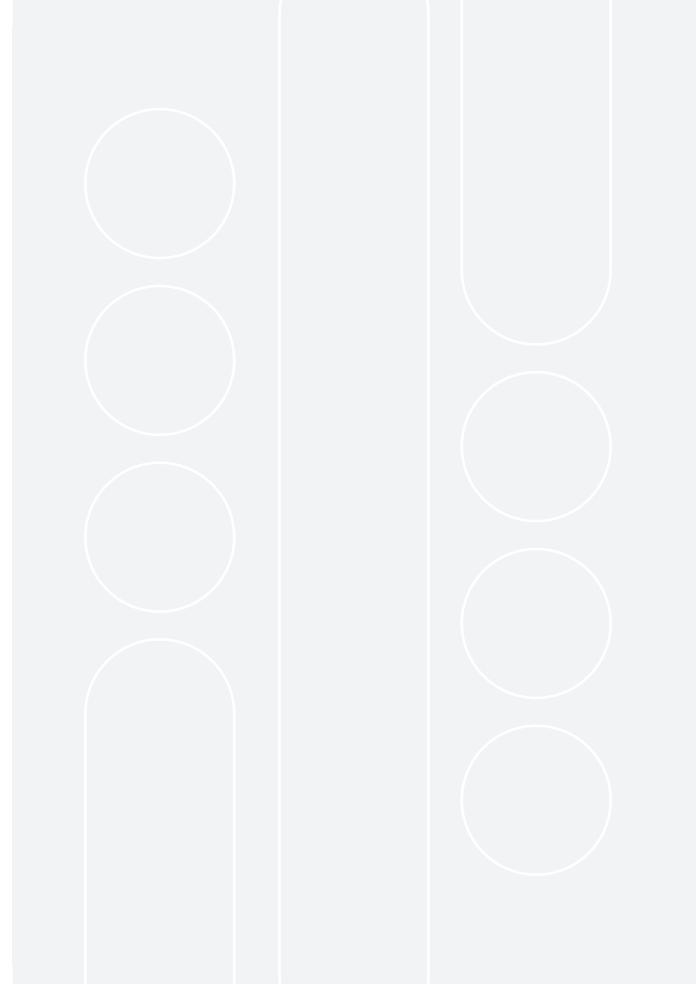
Prayer

Ask God to help you do what His words tell us to do.

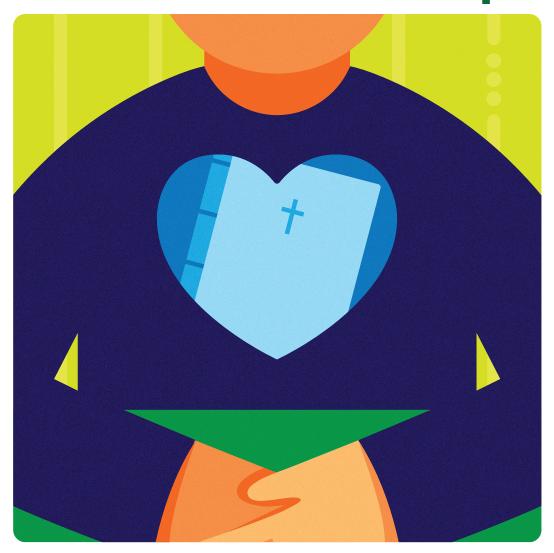
Next Steps

Tonight, go into a dark room. Make sure you stay together to be safe! Notice how it is hard to see without light. Then, turn on a flashlight and follow where it leads; notice how you can find your way around because of the light guiding you. The Bible is like a light that shows us how to live! What helpful instructions from the Bible can you remember?

Notes:



The Bible Gives Us Hope



How does the Bible give us hope?

The Bible gives us <u>hope</u> because it tells us about Jesus. God promises that Jesus will one day make everything perfect again, just the way it was meant to be. Through the Bible, we can see that God always keeps His promises and always provides for His people exactly what they need.



Definition

Hope: In the Bible, hope is when we can know something for sure. It's knowing that God will do what He has said. Hope is the belief that good is coming.

Bible Story

⁴ Everything written in the past was written to teach us. The <u>Scriptures</u> give us strength to go on. They encourage us and give us hope.

- Romans 15:4



Definition

Scriptures: This is another word for the Bible. The Bible calls itself "the Holy Scriptures" or "God's Word."

Discussion Questions

- 1 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- **Q2** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- ①3 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

Have you ever made a wish list where you write down the things that you want to get as gifts? It's when you think hard about what you really want, write it down on a sheet of paper (or a phone), and then give it to a loved one. When you write your wishes, you hope to get those things on your list. Then, you wait to see if you get what you wanted. The excitement is amazing—but you aren't sure if you'll get exactly what you asked for.

The Bible talks a lot about hope, but it means something different than just wishing for the perfect gift, not even knowing if you'll get it. When the Bible talks about hope, it means that something will happen. If God says something will take place, we don't have to wish for it to happen; we can be sure and trust that it will happen. This is really exciting because God has promised us many awesome things in the Bible!

The Bible teaches us that we can always believe and trust that something good is coming, thanks to Jesus. He promises to give us what we need (Matthew 6:31–32) and to always be with us (Matthew 28:20).

When we feel sad, He is close to us (Psalm 34:18). The most incredible promise is that He will one day make everything perfect again (Revelation 21:4-5). Even when things don't go our way, we can trust that something good is coming. We just have to be patient and wait for God's promise to take place. Sometimes, it takes a while, but God hasn't forgotten about us. Even right now, Jesus is working on good things for us. So, when you feel sad or upset, remember that you can have hope in God and what He says in the Bible. Jesus loves you, is still working, and promises good things for you. You don't have to wonder if it will happen; because of Jesus, you can expect it!

WEEK ONE





Memory Verse

And hope will never bring us shame. That's because God's love has been poured into our hearts.

- Romans 5:5*

Prayer

Thank God for the hope He gives us in Jesus Christ.

WEEK TWO







Memory Verse

[Jesus] Christ is in you. He is your hope of glory. — Colossians 1:27*

Prayer

Ask God to help you always find hope and confidence in Jesus.

WEEK THREE () (







Memory Verse

The three most important things to have are faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love.

- 1 Corinthians 13:13

Prayer

Ask God to use the hope that you have in Jesus to produce more love for Him and others.

WEEK FOUR









Memory Verse

I say to myself, "The Lord is everything I will ever need. So I will put my hope in him."

- Lamentations 3:24

Prayer

Ask God to help you desire Him more than anything else.



Reflection Questions

01 What does the Bible mean when it talks about hope?

02 What are some things in your life that you can know will happen?

03 How does it make you feel knowing that God keeps His promises?

Notes:

The Reliability of the Bible



Does the Bible have any mistakes?

No, the Bible does not have mistakes. God guided the people who wrote the Bible. God is perfect and does not make mistakes. We can misunderstand what it says, but we can trust that the Bible is right about everything God wants us to know.



Definition

Reliability: the quality of being trustworthy.

The Bible is reliable, meaning we can trust it because it has no mistakes. We can trust what it says; The Bible is God's words.

Bible Story

³⁰ God's way is perfect.

The Lord's word doesn't have any flaws.

- Psalm 18:30

Discussion Questions

- 1 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 makes mistakes because we are people. We don't like messing up, but it happens all the time. Sometimes, we trip, spill our drinks, or say the wrong thing. That's just life! But God is different—He never makes mistakes. Everything He says and does is always right and good.

Some people wonder if the Bible is true because it was written by many different people and has been around for so long. But here's the important thing to remember: God is the true author of the Bible. And because God is perfect, that means He didn't make any mistakes in the Bible!

Think about it this way: If you were making a birthday card for someone special, wouldn't you try to do your best on it? You would make sure your name was spelled correctly and that you used just the right amount of stickers. And you would want to make sure your message was just right before giving it to them. God gave us the Bible to tell us who He is, how much He loves us, and how we should live—it's a very important message. And that's why God made sure the Bible is exactly what He

wanted to say. God gave us a perfect gift!

There is no one else like God. He is the only perfect One. Because God doesn't make mistakes, He made sure that His message to us was written correctly. His love and power have kept the Bible safe and true for many, many years. From the time of the original writing until now, the Bible is exactly what God wanted to say. We can always trust the Bible—it is God's perfect Word!

WEEK ONE (







Memory Verse

God's way is perfect. The Lord's word doesn't have any flaws.

- Psalm 18:30

Prayer

Thank God for giving us a perfect Bible that we can trust.

WEEK TWO







Memory Verse

Heaven and earth will pass away. But my words will never pass away.

- Matthew 24:35

Prayer

Ask God to help you trust His words more than anything else.

WEEK THREE







Memory Verse

All your words are true. All your laws are right. They last forever.

- Psalm 119:160

Prayer

Ask God to help you follow His words.

WEEK FOUR







Memory Verse

The law of the Lord is perfect. It gives us new strength. The laws of the Lord can be trusted.

Psalm 19:7

Prayer

Ask God to help you find strength and courage in His words.



Reflection Questions

01 What's the last mistake you made?

02 How does it make you feel knowing that God doesn't make mistakes?

03 How glad are you that God gave us a perfect Bible to know Him and know how to live?



The Structure of the Bible



What are the Old Testament and New Testament?

The Bible is one big book made up of sixty-six little books. It has two main parts: the Old <u>Testament</u> and the New Testament. The Old Testament has thirty-nine books. It tells us true stories about God's creation, His people, and His promise to one day rescue them from their sin problem. The New Testament has twenty-seven books. It shows us how God kept His promise to rescue us. It tells us stories about who Jesus is and how to follow Him.

Definition

Testament: This is another word for *covenant*, which means a promise or agreement. The Old Testament is about God's promises before Jesus, and the New Testament tells about His promises that were fulfilled through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Further Inspection

The Bible has many kinds of stories, and all of them are true. It has history, rules, poems, messages from God about the future, letters, and lessons. It tells us one big, true, wonderful story about how God loves and wants to save us through Jesus. All of the Bible fits together and is helpful for us.

Bible Story

- ¹ Blessed is the person who obeys the law of the Lord. They don't follow the advice of evil people. They don't make a habit of doing what sinners do. They don't join those who make fun of the Lord and his law.
- ² Instead, the law of the Lord gives them joy. They think about his law day and night.
- ³ That kind of person is like a tree that is planted near a stream of water. It always bears its fruit at the right time. Its leaves don't dry up. Everything godly people do turns out well.
- Psalm 1:1-3

Discussion Questions

- 1 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- **Q2** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- ①3 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

Do you enjoy putting puzzles together? When you open a new puzzle, the pieces are all mixed up together. Each piece is a different shape, color, and size. At first, it may not be clear how they all fit together, but each piece works with the others to make one big beautiful picture.

That's like the Bible! Each book in the Bible is special by itself. Some are long and some are short. Some talk about things that happened a long time ago, and some talk about things that haven't happened yet. Even though each book is different, they are all made to fit together to show us one big picture: that God created us, He loves us, and He wants to have a forever relationship with us through Jesus.

The Old Testament has books about creation, how God led His people, called the Israelites, and the promises He made to them. The Old Testament includes the Books of Law or Rules (like Genesis and Exodus), History (like Kings and Chronicles), Poetry (like Psalms and Proverbs), and Prophecy (stories about what was going to happen, like Isaiah and Jeremiah).

These Old Testament books all point to Jesus, even though He hadn't come yet!

The New Testament starts with the story of Jesus in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Each Gospel was the story of Jesus' time on earth, written by a different person. Next is the Acts of the Apostles, which tells how Jesus' first followers started the church, and then there are real Letters from Christians to other believers (like Romans and Corinthians) that teach us how to follow Jesus and obey Him. The last book, Revelation, gives us a peek at God's amazing plan for the future!

Even though the Bible was written by over forty different people kings, fishermen, prophets, and even a doctor—it all tells one big story because God inspired it. The Bible isn't just an old book. It is still powerful and guides us every day!







Memory Verse

Everything written in the past was written to teach us. The Scriptures give us strength to go on. They encourage us and give us hope.

- Romans 15:4

Prayer

Thank God for giving us the Bible to give us strength and hope.

WEEK TWO







Memory Verse

Suppose someone takes away any words from this book of prophecy. Then God will take away from that person the blessings told about in this book. - Revelation 22:18-19*

Prayer

Ask God for help to understand His Word and see how it all fits together.

WEEK THREE









Memory Verse

Do not think I have come to get rid of what is written in the Law or in the Prophets. I have not come to do this. Instead, I have come to fulfill what is written.

- Matthew 5:17

Prayer

Thank God that all of His words matter and are helpful to us.

WEEK FOUR







Memory Verse

In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you. This is what is written in the Law and in the Prophets.

- Matthew 7:12

Prayer

Ask God to help you do what the Bible tells us to do.



Definition

Prophecy: Messages from God about things that would happen in the future.

Gospel: The good news of Jesus Christ: He came to save us from sin and bring us to God!

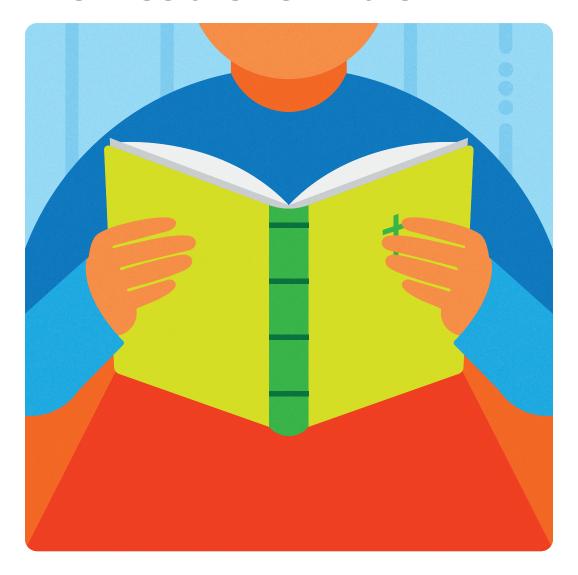


Next Steps

Look up a song to learn the books of the Bible online or on a music service. Commit to practice learning the books of the Bible together as you learn more about the Bible.



We Read the Bible



Why should we read the Bible?

We read the Bible because it teaches us who God is, how much He loves us, and how He wants us to live. The Bible is like a wonderful letter from God to us, full of wisdom and truth.

Further Inspection

This doesn't just mean reading the Bible on our own. We can also listen to our parents, teachers, pastors, and friends read the Bible to us. We can *look* by following along in the Bible and seeing the words for ourselves. We can *think* by asking our family, "What is God teaching us?" and "How does this help me love Jesus more?" We can *pray* after reading the Bible and ask God to help us understand and obey what He has told us through the Bible. We can *do* what the Bible tells us to do.

Bible Story

- ¹The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. There the devil tempted him.
- ² After 40 days and 40 nights of going without eating, Jesus was hungry.
- ³ The tempter came to him. He said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."
- ⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
- ⁵ Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city. He had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. It is written, 'The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you. They will lift you up in their hands. Then you won't trip over a stone.'"
- ⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'"
- ⁸ Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
- ⁹ "If you bow down and worship me," he said, "I will give you all this."

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Get away from me, Satan! It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left Jesus. Angels came and took care of him.

Matthew 4:1–11

Discussion Questions

- 1 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- **Q2** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- ①3 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

Have you ever been asked a really hard question and didn't know how to answer it? One day, Jesus faced a very hard situation. God allowed Jesus to be tempted by the devil in the desert. Jesus was hungry because He had not eaten for forty days. In the moments when Jesus felt weak, He remembered God's truth to be strong. One thing God wants us to see in this true story is how we should use God's Word to help us in difficult times, too. Jesus said that we don't just need food to keep us strong; we also need God's Word. Like food helps us grow,

the Bible helps our hearts and minds grow closer to God.

Jesus wants us to read the Bible every day because it helps us follow Him. There is an old song that says, "Read your Bible and pray every day, and you'll grow, grow, grow!" When we read the Bible and talk to God, we grow in our relationship with Him. God also let Jesus be tempted because we are tempted too. The devil wants us to do things that God doesn't want us to do. In those times, the Bible gives us strength. Jesus used God's Word to fight off

the desire to disobey God. We need to do the same thing—but that only happens when we know what God says and then do what He says.
Reading the Bible is the first step.

We have to understand what God says to do it, and then we can <u>obey!</u>
When we focus on God and His Word,
He helps us grow in love and <u>wisdom</u>.

WEEK ONE

Memory Verse

When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you. — Psalm 56:3

Prayer

Thank God for loving us and giving us good reason to trust in Him.

WEEK TWO

Memory Verse

I haven't disobeyed his commands. I've treasured his words more than my daily bread. — Job 23:12

Prayer

Ask God to help you love reading His Word every day.

WEEK THREE

Memory Verse

Put on the helmet of salvation. And take the sword of the Holy Spirit. The sword is God's word.

- Ephesians 6:17

Prayer

Pray for those people who don't have the Bible in their language, that God would provide it to them soon.

WEEK FOUR

Memory Verse

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

- Matthew 4:4

Prayer

Ask God to help you to live the way the Bible teaches us to live.



Definition

Obey: to listen to God and do what He says.

Wisdom: to learn what is right and best and to follow God's way.



Next Steps

Plan a time to read the Bible together each day this week. You can read a children's Bible, listen to a Bible app, or watch a sermon or biblical podcast online. Whichever way you read the Bible is up to you! Then, discuss these questions:

01 W	/hy is	it impo	rtant to	read	the	Bible?
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102 How does reading the Bible help us follow Jesus?

13 How can you share what you learn from the Bible?



We Trust the Bible



What does it mean to trust the Bible?

Trusting the Bible means reading it, believing it, and then doing what it says. God wants us to trust the Bible and believe what He says is best. We can trust God's words even when we don't completely understand or agree with them.

Bible Story

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

Do not depend on your own understanding.

⁶ In all your ways obey him.

Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.

- Proverbs 3:5-6

Discussion Questions

- 1 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- **Q2** 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

Does anyone ever tell you what to do? Maybe your parents, family members, or teachers? Of course, they do! Especially our parents or our families! Grown-ups often give instructions to kids because they want to teach you what is best and how to be safe. They want to help you make good choices. Sometimes, it can be tough to listen and follow what adults say. But kids need to trust their guardians. This means we should listen to what our parents and families say and believe what they say is best. Instead of making choices based on what we want, we need to trust the loving wisdom of the adults in our lives.

Did you know that adults have rules to follow, too? That's right! Each person has a set of rules, called laws, that they should obey. Laws help keep everyone safe; they protect all those who are under them. Laws, rules, and instructions—it's important that we trust and listen to them.

Now, what does it mean to trust the Bible? Think about it this way: when you sit in a chair, do you first check all the parts to see if they're tight? Do you look at what the chair is made of? Do you test it with something else to see if it can hold your weight? Of course not! You believe it will hold you, and so you just sit down. That's what it means to trust! You trust that the chair will do what it's supposed to do—to hold you up.

In the same way, we should trust the Bible. We need to believe it will do what it was meant to do. God gave us the Bible to help us learn who He is and how we should live. Our job is to trust what He says. Sometimes, you may not completely understand why adults give instructions. But if they are your family or your teachers, you can believe they love you and want what's best for you. God loves you more than you could ever imagine and wants wonderful things for you. We can trust Him and His words: the Bible.

WEEK ONE (







Memory Verse

The grass dries up. The flowers fall to the ground. But what our God says will stand forever.

- Isaiah 40:8

Prayer

Ask God to help you trust His Word and believe what He says.

WEEK TWO







Memory Verse

All his rules can be trusted. They will stand firm for ever and ever. They were given by the Lord. He is faithful and honest.

- Psalm 111:7-8*

Prayer

Thank God for being faithful and honest and ask for His help to trust Him.

WEEK THREE







Memory Verse

May my tongue sing about your word, because all your commands are right. — Psalm 119:172

Prayer

Ask God to help you love reading His Word so much that it makes you praise Him.

WEEK FOUR









Memory Verse

Trust in him at all times, you people. Tell him all your troubles. God is our place of safety.

Psalm 62:8

Prayer

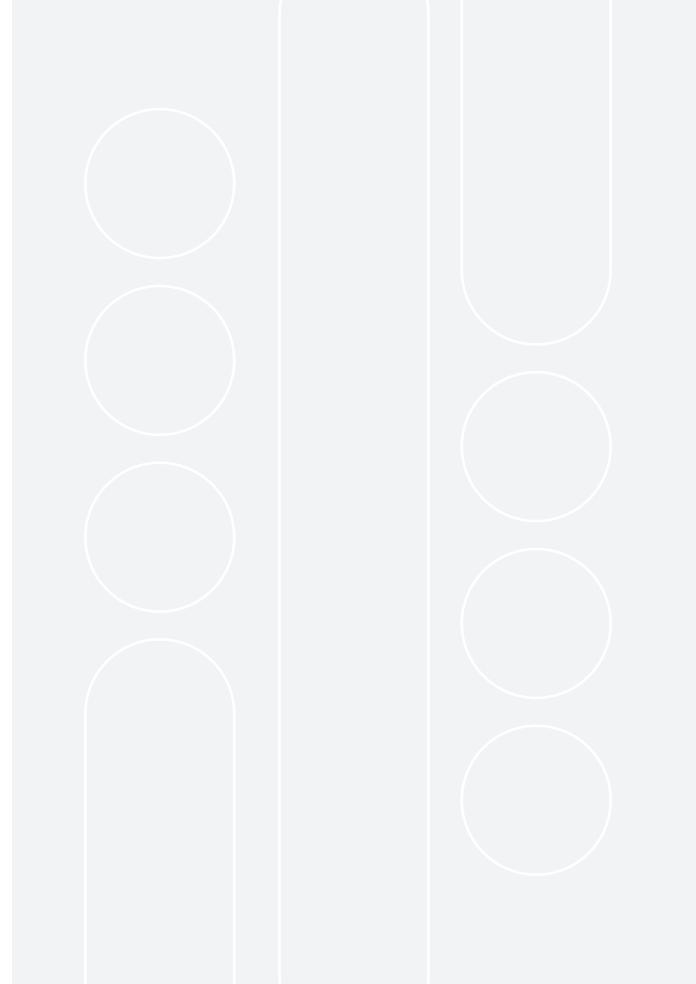
Tell God what is hard for you to trust and do, and ask for His help.



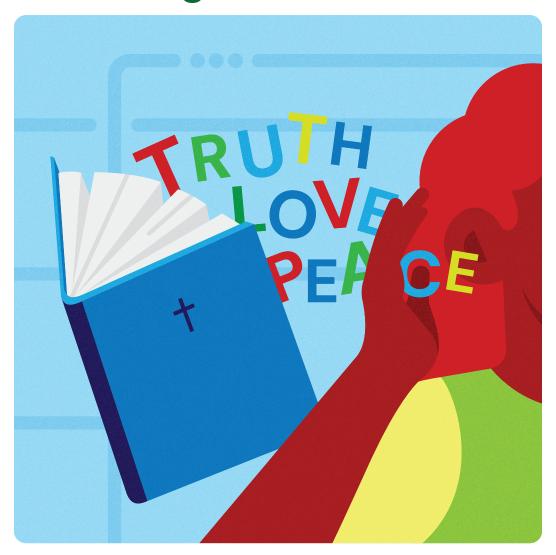
Challenging Thought

We should trust the Bible more than anything else, even if we don't totally understand it. Which of God's words or rules do you struggle to trust? Pray that God would help you trust Him more in that area.

Notes:



We Obey the Bible



Why do we obey the Bible?

We <u>obey</u> the Bible because it is God's Word and instruction to us. God's instruction shows us what is best. When we obey the Bible, we are obeying God.



Definition

Obey: To listen to God and do what He says. We obey the Bible by doing what it tells us to and by not doing what it tells us we shouldn't do.

Bible Story

¹Love the Lord your God. Do what he requires. Always obey his rules, laws and commands.

- Deuteronomy 11:1

Discussion Questions

- 1 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- **Q2** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- ①3 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

Have you ever played the game "Red Light, Green Light?" Imagine you are on the playground playing that game with your friends. When the person in charge says, "green light!" you run as fast as you can toward them. But when the person says, "red light!" you freeze immediately! What happens if you move when the "red light" is up? Well, the result is something that no one wants. You must start over—or even worse, you might be out!

When playing a game like "Red Light, Green Light," the aim of the game is to follow the directions of the person in charge. If you don't, there are consequences—you don't want this to happen because it puts you farther away from winning the game. To win, you have to *obey* the person in charge. The only way you can win the game is to follow the rules.

God's rules are written in the Bible. He tells us what is right and wrong; He tells us what is good and bad. Our life is best when we follow the rules He has given us. When we do not follow God's rules, there are often consequences. Sometimes, the consequences come from your parents—like when you get sent to

your room. Sometimes, they come from a situation—like when you lie, and then it can be harder for people to believe you in the future. However the consequences come, God wants us to learn to trust Him and obey what He tells us in the Bible. Every one of God's rules is for our good, and He wants us to believe that. And every time we obey, we get something even better than winning a game. We grow in our relationship with God—and God is so pleased with our obedience. God loves when we obey Him (1 Samuel 15:22).

WEEK ONE







Memory Verse

You have made yourselves pure by obeying the truth. So you have an honest and true love for each other.

- 1 Peter 1:22*

Prayer

Ask God to help you obey His words with honesty and love.

WEEK TWO







Memory Verse

Now obey me completely. Keep my covenant. If you do, then out of all the nations you will be my special treasure. - Exodus 19:5*

Prayer

Ask God to help you obey all His words, even the ones that are harder to do.

WEEK THREE







Memory Verse

There is only one who is good. If you want to enter the kingdom, obey the commandments.

Matthew 19:17*

Prayer

Thank God for being good and for giving us good commandments to follow.

WEEK FOUR







Memory Verse

He [Jesus] replied, "Instead, blessed are those who hear God's word and obey it." — Luke 11:28

Prayer

Thank God for the people He has given you to teach you God's words and rules.



Next Steps

Play a game of "Red Light, Green Light" as a family. If needed, play a walking-only version indoors. Discuss the importance of following the rules.

After the game, discuss these questions over a treat:

- 1 In the game, what happens when you don't listen to instructions?
- 02 In life, what happens when you don't listen to your parent's instructions?
- 03 What happens when we don't listen to God's instruction?
- **14** Why does God give us rules?
- **05** How does God know what is best?

Notes:

We Value the Bible



Why do we value the Bible?

We value the Bible because it is God's wonderful gift to us. We should value the Bible because it is God's perfect and unchanging Word, showing us His wisdom, love, and guidance. While people's wisdom can change, God's truth remains forever.

Bible Story

- ⁸ The grass dries up. The flowers fall to the ground. But what our God says will stand forever.
- Isaiah 40:8

Discussion Questions

- 1 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- **Q2** What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?
- ①3 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

Imagine you open your fridge to grab a glass of milk. But when you open the milk carton, a yucky smell comes out. You sniff the milk, and instead of smelling sweet, fresh milk, it smells like rotten eggs! Someone checks the date on the carton, and oops—the milk is expired! Would you still pour a glass and drink it? No way!

No matter how good it might have been before, once it's outdated, milk is bad. Milk doesn't last forever. The same goes for a lot of what we learn from people. Many people want to share wisdom—the ability to make the right choices. But just like milk, the wisdom of people has an expiration date too. What seems "right" or "smart" today can change tomorrow. For example, not too long ago, people thought the earth was the center of the universe! But we know the world and the other planets in our solar system revolve around the sun. And sometimes, what seems right is wrong. For example, we should always listen to our parents and guardians, but sometimes our friends may not know what's best for us. They might say something is true when it really isn't.

But God's wisdom is different. It never goes bad! His teachings are always true, always important, and always good. That's what the prophet Isaiah meant in Isaiah 40:8 when he said God's words stand forever. This is why the Bible is so special and why we should treasure it. It is the words of our Creator. Jesus taught us that building our lives on what people think is like building a house on sand. Sand shifts and changes. A house built like that will come tumbling down! But God's wisdom is always good and strong. We need to always go to Him! If we want to know something, we should see what the Bible says. We need to read it, listen carefully, and then do it. When we love and trust the Bible, our lives are built on a solid rock that never moves.

WEEK ONE (







Memory Verse

It is better to go to the Lord for safety than to trust in mere human beings. — Psalm 118:8*

Prayer

Ask God to help you trust Him more than anyone or anything else.

WEEK TWO







Memory Verse

The words of the Lord are perfect... They are like gold made pure seven times over. - Psalm 12:6*

Prayer

Ask God to help you love the Bible more than anything else that you own.

WEEK THREE







Memory Verse

The foolish things of God are wiser than human wisdom. The weakness of God is stronger than human strength. — 1 Corinthians 1:25

Prayer

Thank God for being completely wise, even when it's hard to understand His ways.

WEEK FOUR







Memory Verse

If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. — James 1:5*

Prayer

Ask God for wisdom so you can make wise choices.



Reflection Questions

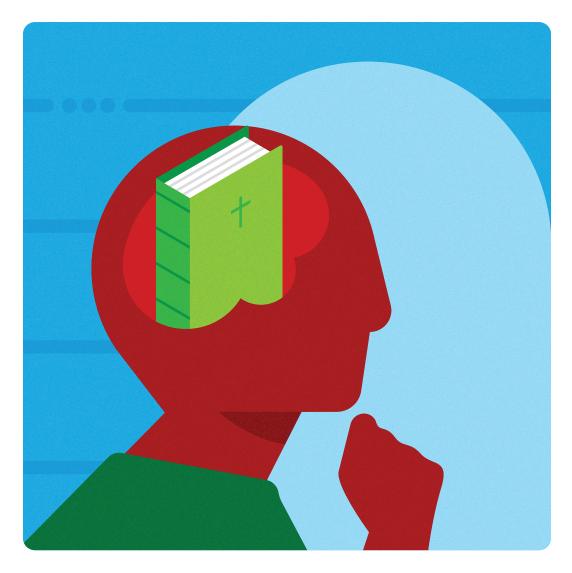
1 How much have you changed in the last couple of years? What changes are you looking forward to?

02 Why is the Bible so valuable to us?

03 What is the best wisdom you know from the Bible?

Notes:

We Memorize the Bible



How can we learn more of the Bible?

One way is to memorize it. When we *memorize* what the Bible says, it is always with us! And because God's Word is always with us, we will be able to know and live out what it says.

Bible Story

¹My son, obey my words. Store up my commands inside you.

²Obey my commands and you will live. Guard my teachings as you would guard your own eyes.

³ Tie them on your fingers. Write them on the tablet of your heart.

- Proverbs 7:1-3

Discussion Questions

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

Devotion

What are some important things that your parents or guardians have told you? Are there ones that you think about a lot? Are there ones that are easier for you to remember? For example, how about "look both ways before crossing the street?" You probably remember this when you get close to a road or walk on the sidewalk. Or, what about, "don't forget to brush your teeth before bed." These instructions are really important and especially important to remember at the right time!

The Bible is full of God's instructions and wisdom that He wants us to know, remember, and follow. It's amazing how God's words can help us every day! But they only help if we can remember them when we need to. That's why God wants us to learn and think about as many of His words as we can. This is why we are memorizing Bible verses each week.

In Proverbs 2, Solomon tells us we should write God's words on our hearts. No, that doesn't mean we should take out a marker and write on our skin. To write something on our hearts is another way of saying that we should remember something so

well that it becomes a part of the way we live. Did you know that in Jesus' time, Jewish kids learned a lot of Scripture by heart?

It's still important for us to memorize parts of the Bible today. We need to remember what it says when we need help making choices, feel lost or sad, or want to help other people. Memorizing Scripture strengthens our minds. It puts God's own words deep within our hearts and helps us please God by living the way He wants us to. His Spirit helps us remember them when we need them most, like when we encourage a friend or tell others about God.

When we memorize God's Word, it's like thinking deeply about what God says. There are many ways to memorize—like repeating a verse over and over, drawing the verse out, playing memory games, or putting verses to music. Sometimes, memorizing something can still be hard. But don't give up! The important thing is to keep God's words in our hearts and minds as best as we can. Even if memorizing the Bible can be tough, getting to know God and His Word definitely makes it worth it!

WEEK ONE () (







Memory Verse

I have hidden your word in my heart so that I won't sin against you. — Psalm 119:11

Prayer

Ask God to help you remember His words, especially when you're about to make wrong choices.

WEEK TWO









Memory Verse

God's law is in their hearts. Their feet do not slip. - Psalm 37:31

Prayer

Ask God to help you memorize His words.

WEEK THREE









Memory Verse

Let the message about Christ live among you like a rich treasure.

- Colossians 3:16*

Prayer

Thank God that His words are a wonderful treasure He has given us.

WEEK FOUR







Memory Verse

The commandments I give you today must be in your hearts.

- Deuteronomy 6:6

Prayer

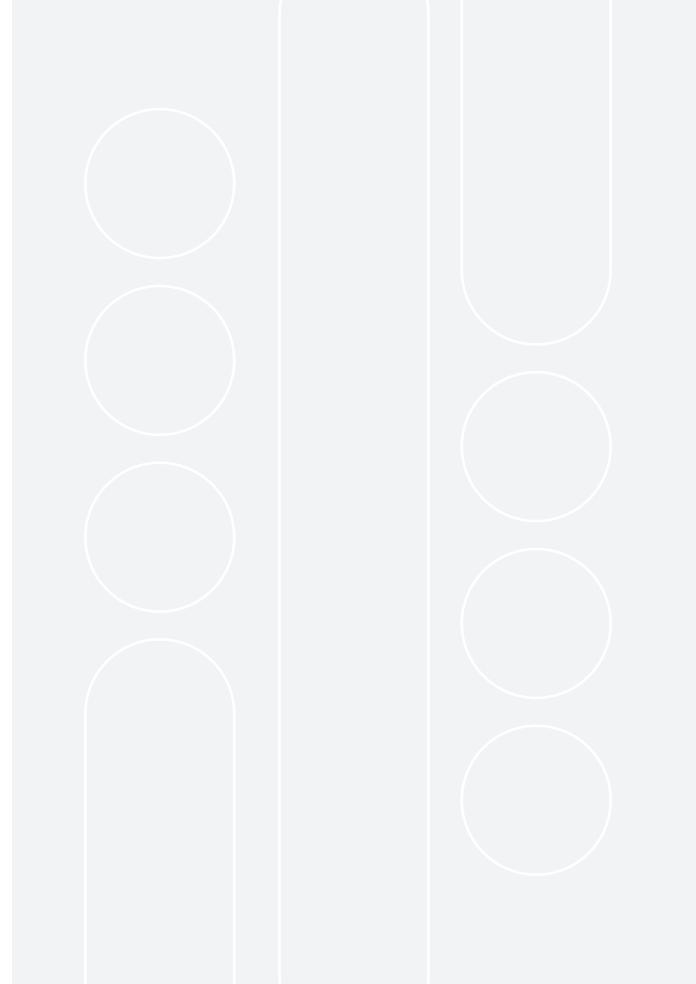
Ask God to help you love His words that you memorize.



Next Steps

Make memory verse flashcards for the memory verses in this book and make it a practice to review them as you continue to the next book.

Notes:



Memory Verse Tracking Log

