



THIRD GRADE

# Discipleship Essentials Pathway





# **Discipleship Essentials Pathways**

NEW VISION

## DISCIPLESHIP ESSENTIALS PATHWAY

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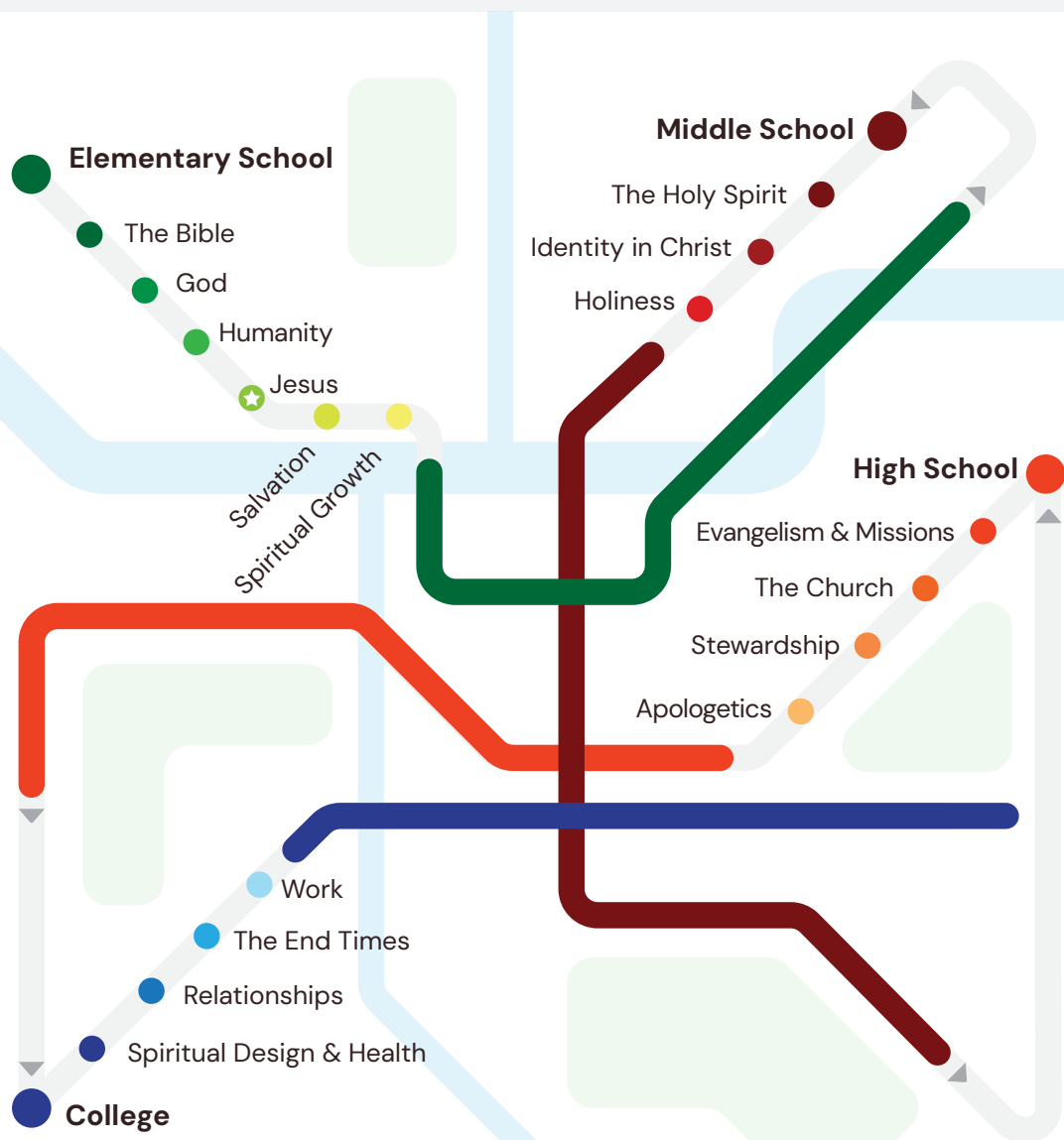
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Jesus Paid for Our Sins

# System Map

## LEGEND

- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- College



# Discipleship Essentials Pathway

## *Detailed Overview*

### Elementary Schoolers

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

### Middle Schoolers

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

### High Schoolers

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

### College Students

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



# Introduction

To be a follower of Jesus means that we are to lead others to follow Jesus, too. Contrary to the spirit of the famous “The Buck Stops Here” placard on President Harry S. Truman’s desk, Jesus’ desk placard might have said something like “You’re One Link in a Long Chain.” You don’t have to disciple anyone alone; you’re an essential part of the process. 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 4: Jesus and is designed to be used with third 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 devotional to your family. Discuss the standing discussion questions.

#### 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 third 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 includes a concluding next step, challenging thought, or reflection questions. If you choose, these are for you to use 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's calling to talk about God throughout the day in our homes. The goal is to help your child keep God at the top of the mind and deep down in the heart. Also, continue working on memorizing the memory verse and praying for the topic of the prayer prompt. Bedtime each day might be the ideal time for this.

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

### STEP ONE

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

### STEP TWO

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

### STEP THREE

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

### STEP FOUR

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

## The First Week of September

Once the calendar flips to September, it's time to move on to the next unit, repeating the process. Then, once July arrives, it will be time to get Module 5 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. Review together as needed, and turn your prayer prompts into a prayer list!

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.

## DISCIPLESHIP ESSENTIALS PATHWAY

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

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

If you already have a family devotions plan, or if you find one along the way, feel free to couple it with the *Pathway*. Do both on the same day or perhaps 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.*

### THIRD 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.

# Jesus, God With Us



## Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the eternal Son of God. Everything was created by Jesus and for Him. He is the exact image of God, and through Jesus, we can know what God is like. God sent Jesus, the sinless Savior, to save people from sin and death.



## Further Inspection

Jesus has always existed, just like God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus was a spiritual being from eternity past, until He came to earth and was born as a baby. When He was born, He remained fully God and became fully man. When he came to earth, He was named Jesus, also known as *Immanuel*, which means “God with us.” Jesus is alive today and reigning in Heaven, and He is still fully God and fully man.

## Bible Story

<sup>15</sup> The Son is the exact likeness of God, who can’t be seen. The Son is first, and he is over all creation. <sup>16</sup> 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. He created kings, powers, rulers and authorities. All things have been created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup> Before anything was created, he was already there. He holds everything together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, which is the church. He is the beginning. He is the first to be raised from the dead. That happened so that he would be far above everything. <sup>19</sup> God was pleased to have his whole nature living in Christ. <sup>20</sup> God was pleased to bring all things back to himself. That’s because of what Christ has done. These things include everything on earth and in heaven. God made peace through Christ’s blood, by his death on the cross.

— Colossians 1:15–20

## 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 received a picture of a friend or family member who lives far away? As you look at the photo, you see exactly what they look like. You see their smile, their eyes, and their nose. You may even be reminded of their kindness or love for you when you look at the picture.

In a similar way, Jesus is the perfect image of God. In Colossians 1:15, the Bible tells us that Jesus is “the image of the invisible God.” Jesus doesn’t show us God in a physical way because God is Spirit. But rather, Jesus helps us see what God is like. This means that when we look to Jesus in the Bible—how He loved, helped people, and forgave—we see exactly what God is like. And get this: Jesus is more than just a “picture” of God—Jesus *is* God!

Jesus, the Son of God, has always existed, but through God’s plan to save sinners, Jesus came to earth and was born as a baby. That means Jesus is both fully God and fully man. He’s not some of both; He’s *all* of both. Jesus showed He is God through His teachings, miracles, power, and authority to forgive sins. He showed He is a man through

the way He became tired, hungry, thirsty, and through His death. Jesus knows what it’s like to be sad, happy, excited, and hurt. But unlike us, Jesus never sinned. He is perfect, and He always obeyed God the Father.

Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth to die for our sins. Because Jesus is the only man who never sinned, only He could be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. God requires a perfect payment for sin, and Jesus came to be that perfect payment. Only faith in Jesus saves us from sin and brings us back to God.

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

In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
— John 1:1

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you remember that Jesus is fully God and He has always existed.

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

But then the chosen time came. God sent his Son. A woman gave birth to him. He was born under the authority of the law.  
— Galatians 4:4

**Prayer**

Thank God for Jesus, who humbled Himself and came to earth to save us from sin.

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

God's whole nature is living in Christ in human form.  
— Colossians 2:9

**Prayer**

Praise God for showing us what He is like through Jesus.

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

So he had to be made like people, fully human in every way. Then he could serve God as a kind and faithful high priest. And then he could pay for the sins of the people by dying for them. — Hebrews 2:17

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you understand more about Jesus.



## Challenging Thought

Jesus is 100% God and 100% man! This is a very important truth, but it is hard for us to understand.

To help, fold a piece of paper longways (like a hotdog)! On the left side, write "God," and on the right side, write "Man." Now, brainstorm as many ways you can think of that we see Jesus as God. Write them on the left side. Now, do the same on the right side for how we can see that Jesus is human.

Notes:

AUGUST

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# God is Three-in-One



## Why is God called the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

God is one God who exists as three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This nature of God is called the *Trinity*. Each Person is fully God, and each Person relates to one another in perfect love and unity.



## Bible Story

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> 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

## 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

Some topics are hard to understand, like how the human brain works or how big the universe is. We simply don't know everything there is to know about these topics. Can you think of something that's still difficult for you to understand?

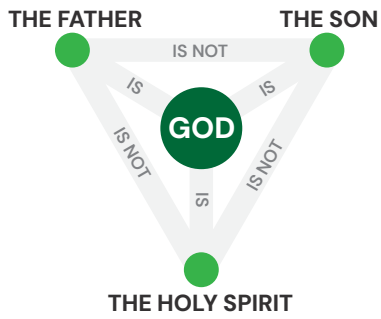
The nature of God's three Persons is called the *Trinity*, and it is also hard to understand. The Trinity means that God is one God who exists as three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It's not three different Gods – God is One. It's not like each person is partly God, and they have to be added together to be fully God. The Father is fully God, and so is the Son, and so is the Holy Spirit. Even if we don't completely understand God as the Trinity, we still seek to know what the Bible tells us about God.

While the Bible never uses the word *Trinity*, it does reveal God as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We see Jesus, God's Son, say this in Matthew 28. As Jesus told His disciples to make more disciples, He told them to baptize these new disciples in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Even

in Genesis, God referred to Himself as "us" when He said, "Let us make human beings so that they are like us" (Genesis 1:26). All three Persons of the Trinity were present at creation, forming people in God's image.

So, what can we know about the Trinity? First, God is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is not three Gods. Second, each Person of the Trinity is completely God. The Father is God (1 Corinthians 8:6). The Son is God (John 1:1). The Spirit is God (1 Corinthians 3:16). Third, each Person of the Trinity is distinct from each other (Luke 3:22). The Father is not the Son or the Spirit. The Son is not the Father or the Spirit. The Spirit is not the Father or the Son.

The Bible also teaches us that each Person of the Trinity is at work in the lives of people to save them from sin and death. The Father sent the Son into the world to save sinners. The Son came to earth, died on the cross for sin, and rose again. The Spirit was sent by the Father and the Son to give new life and live inside those who trust in Jesus.



Learning about the Trinity may make your brain hurt a bit, but it is an important truth that God wants us to know! In His perfect wisdom, God has shown us who He is so that we can be encouraged – and in His perfect power and love, God the Father, Jesus the Son, and Holy Spirit each help us every single day.

**WEEK ONE**



**Memory Verse**

May the grace shown by the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. May the love that God has given us be with you. And may the sharing of life brought about by the Holy Spirit be with you all. — 2 Corinthians 13:14

**Prayer**

Praise God for how each Person of the Trinity loves you and works in your life.

**WEEK TWO**



**Memory Verse**

Jesus was coming up out of the water. Just then he saw heaven being torn open. Jesus saw the Holy Spirit coming down on him like a dove. A voice spoke to him from heaven. It said, "You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you." — Mark 1:10–11

**Prayer**

Thank God for revealing Himself to us as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**WEEK THREE**



**Memory Verse**

You have been chosen in keeping with what God the Father had planned. That happened through the Spirit's work to make you pure and holy. God chose you so that you might obey Jesus Christ. — 1 Peter 1:2

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you trust in Him, even when it's hard to understand everything about Him fully.

**WEEK FOUR**



**Memory Verse**

Israel, listen to me. The Lord is our God. The Lord is the one and only God. — Deuteronomy 6:4

**Prayer**

Ask God to remind you of the truths you have learned about Him.



## Reflection Questions

**01** What are some things in the Bible that are hard for you to understand?

**02** How does it make you feel not to understand some things about God?

**03** Can you think of anything good about us not having God all figured out?

# The Need for Jesus



## Why do we need Jesus?

We need Jesus because He is the Savior who God provided to rescue us from sin and death. Only Jesus can save us from sin and death and make us right with God. When we trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven, God sees us as perfectly righteous, and the Holy Spirit gives us new life.



## Definition

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

## Bible Story

<sup>4</sup> But the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared.

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

<sup>6</sup> God poured out the Spirit on us freely. That's because of what Jesus Christ our Savior has done.

<sup>7</sup> His grace made us right with God. So now we have received the hope of eternal life as God's children.

— Titus 3:4–7

## 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

You probably don't live in a castle, but if you have ever seen one, you know they are a magnificent sight! A lot of ancient castles had very large moats—or wide ditches—around them. The moat protected the castle from attack by keeping enemies from being able to get into it. But if people were friends of the king, a drawbridge would be let down, and they could freely enter the castle. The drawbridge provided the only way in.

Our sin is like the moat around the castle; it separates us from God—our Creator and King. Because of sin, we are God's enemies. We need to be made right with Him and have our sins forgiven. However, there is nothing we can do to be made right with Him. We have no power to wash away our sin, and we can't do enough good deeds for God to approve us. We need someone to lower the drawbridge and let us in!

Because God loves us, He provided Jesus to be our Savior. Like the drawbridge, Jesus is the only way to be made right with God. Only Jesus lived a perfect life. Only Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin. Only

Jesus defeated death when He rose from the dead. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, He made the way for our sins to be forgiven. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives our sin and makes us right with God. Through Jesus, our Savior, we have the way to God!

Anyone who trusts in Jesus receives new life through the Holy Spirit. Christians have the hope of living with God forever. Because of Jesus, we can freely come to God and know we will find grace, mercy, and forgiveness.



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

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." — John 14:6

**Prayer**

Praise God for His love and kindness in providing Jesus as our Savior.

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

God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him. — John 3:17

**Prayer**

Thank God for making the way for us to be made right with Him through faith in Jesus.

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

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

**Prayer**

Thank God for giving us the opportunity to believe in Jesus and be saved.

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

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, "Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world!"  
— John 1:29

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you tell someone that Jesus is the Savior we all need.



## Reflection Questions

**01** What effect did sin have on your relationship with God?

**02** What prompted God to provide Jesus for us?

**03** What did Jesus do to take care of sin?

**04** How can we be forgiven of our sin?

Notes:

OCTOBER



# Old Testament Shadows and Prophecies



## Is Jesus in the Old Testament?

He is! Although Jesus hadn't yet been born, we see Him in the Old Testament through people, events, and objects that point to who Jesus is and how He saves people. We also see Jesus in the Old Testament through prophecies that foretold details about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Finally, we see Jesus' presence in the Old Testament as the second Person of the Trinity.

## Bible Story

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to them, “How foolish you are! How long it takes you to believe all that the prophets said!

<sup>26</sup> Didn’t the Messiah have to suffer these things and then receive his glory?”

<sup>27</sup> Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures. He began with Moses and all the Prophets.

— Luke 24:25–27

## 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 made shadow puppets of animals using your hands and a flashlight? What a fun thing to do in the dark! The shadow puppets aren't actual animals, but when you make them well, you can tell what animals they represent. Like puppet shadows pointing to animal images, the Old Testament gives us shadows that point to God's Son, Jesus. While Jesus was on earth, He shared how the Old Testament is about Him. He told the Pharisees how Moses wrote about Him (John 5:39). Then, after Jesus rose from the dead, He explained to His disciples what was said about Him in the Old Testament (Luke 24:27).

So how does the Old Testament reveal Jesus? First, we can see Jesus through certain people. The lives of people in the Old Testament point to Jesus and help us see what Jesus is like or how He would come to save people from sin. For example, in Genesis, Joseph gives us a picture of how Jesus forgives those who sin against Him—just like Joseph forgave his brothers. Other people like Adam, Moses, and King David also point us to Jesus through their character, kingship, or leadership.

Second, we can see Jesus in specific events and objects. Remember how God parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape the Egyptians? God made a way to save His people, just like Jesus is the only way to be saved. Or how about Noah's ark? The ark was a way for Noah and his family to escape God's judgment for sin, as faith in Jesus rescues us from God's judgment for our sin.

Finally, we also see Jesus in specific promises and prophecies. God promised Abraham that He would bless the whole world through his family (Genesis 12:1–3). Jesus was the fulfillment of that promise. Many of the Old Testament writers also shared how God was sending a Messiah, or Savior, into the world to die on the cross and save people from their sins. We also see times when Jesus, the second Person of the Trinity, seemed to appear to certain people (for example, in Genesis 32, Jacob may have wrestled with the Son of God, and in Daniel 3, when a fourth person appeared in the fiery furnace).

And there are many more examples of the Savior, Jesus, peeking at us through the truth of God's word, even before He came to earth. While Jesus wasn't born until after the

Old Testament was written, He is on every page of the Bible. The whole Bible tells one big story: how Jesus is the promised Savior, who God sent to rescue people from their sins.

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

Do you believe Moses? Then you should believe me. He wrote about me. — John 5:46

**Prayer**

Praise God for revealing Jesus to us in the Old Testament so we can see His promise to save us from sin.

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

Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one whom Moses wrote about in the Law. The prophets also wrote about him. He is Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." — John 1:45

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you see Jesus in the Old Testament and to help others see Him too.

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

Jesus said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you. Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms must come true." — Luke 24:44

**Prayer**

Thank God that every single part of the Bible is about Jesus, and it's all true.

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

All the prophets tell about him. They say that all who believe in him have their sins forgiven through his name. — Acts 10:43

**Prayer**

Ask God to give you the courage to share the good news of Jesus with others so they can be saved from their sins.



## Next Steps

Time to find some shadows that point to Jesus! Look for a list of Old Testament prophecies about Jesus, in a study Bible or online.

Read about any you aren't familiar with. Then, rank the top ten prophecies that you find most impressive. How do these prophecies make you feel? Why do you think God gave us so many of them in the Bible? Why is it important that God keeps His promises?



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# The Birth of Jesus



## Why is Jesus' birth so important?

The birth of Jesus is important because it fulfilled God's promise to send the Savior into the world. While Jesus has always existed as the second Person of the Trinity, He became a human, born to a young woman named Mary and without a human father, to fulfill God's plan to save sinners.

## Bible Story

<sup>11</sup> “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said,

<sup>14</sup> “May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!  
And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!”

<sup>15</sup> The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem. Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger.

— Luke 2:11–16

## Discussion Questions

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

## Devotion

Have you ever been to a birthday party? It's a time when you celebrate someone being born. Whether they turned 3 or 33, a birthday is fun to celebrate because you look back on the day you were born and look forward to another year with your family and friends. You might even get some cake and presents too! It's special that, even if you don't have a party, everyone has a birthday to look forward to, because every single person who has ever lived on the earth was born. It's a very important day for them and the people around them.

Jesus has a birthday, and it is the most important birthday of all. It's so important that most people celebrate it on Christmas, even if they don't know why it's such a big deal. Yet, when Jesus came to earth, there wasn't a huge celebration. There wasn't even room in Bethlehem for Him to be born in a comfy inn. He was born in a most unexpected place—where animals were kept. Instead of a royal crib, Jesus was laid in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. Jesus, the King of kings, was born to poor parents, and His first visitors were simple shepherds who heard the good news from angels.

Jesus is the King who has always existed. He is God, but He became human and was born as a baby, sent by God to save people from their sins. Though He could have come in power and riches, He came humbly, showing that His kingdom is about serving others through love and self-sacrifice. Jesus, the greatest King of all, was born in a lowly way to show that everyone is invited to come to Him by faith. Like the shepherds who were welcomed to worship the newborn Jesus, we are invited to worship Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

When the angels announced the good news of Jesus' birth, they told the shepherds how Jesus was the Messiah. This means that Jesus is the promised Savior! God said He would send Jesus into the world, and He did. Throughout the Old Testament, God made promise after promise, telling His people that the Messiah would rescue people from their sins and bring them into His kingdom. And that's what happens when we trust in Jesus—we are saved from our sins and invited to be a part of God's kingdom.

Jesus' birth is so important! He is God's special gift to the world. Jesus came to show us how much God loves us. His birth is part of the most

wonderful story ever—the story of God's plan to rescue sinners so we can live with Him forever.

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

"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."  
— Matthew 1:21

**Prayer**

Praise God for keeping His promise to send Jesus, the Savior, into the world.

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

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. — Luke 2:11

**Prayer**

Thank God for Jesus, who came into the world to save people from sin.

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

The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.  
— Isaiah 7:14

**Prayer**

Thank God for drawing us to Himself, saving us, and always being with us.

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

The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. And the Word was full of grace and truth. — John 1:14

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you live in ways that reflect Jesus' humility as you serve others.



## Challenging Thought

Read the lyrics of several Christmas carols, such as “Silent Night,” “O Holy Night,” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful.” See how many connections to the Bible’s story about Jesus’ birth you can find. Then, sing some of your favorites.

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# Jesus' Earthly Ministry



## What was Jesus' earthly ministry?

In his earthly ministry, Jesus traveled from town to town, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. He taught people about God and demonstrated God's power and love through healings and other miracles. He invited people to follow Him as His disciples, teaching them how to live in a way that brings honor and glory to God.





## Definition

**Ministry:** a time or place of service. Specifically for God and His people.

## Bible Story

<sup>16</sup> Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. On the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue as he usually did. He stood up to read.

<sup>17</sup> And the scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. Jesus unrolled it and found the right place. There it is written,

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me.

He has anointed me

to announce the good news to poor people.

He has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners.

He has sent me so that the blind will see again.

He wants me to set free those who are treated badly.

<sup>19</sup> And he has sent me to announce the year when he will set his people free."

<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus rolled up the scroll. He gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were staring at him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, "Today this passage of Scripture is coming true as you listen."

— Luke 4:16–21

## 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

Imagine hearing about a doctor who could heal any sickness, a teacher who could answer any question, or a friend who truly cared for anyone they met. Now imagine them all in one. That's what it was like to see Jesus during His time on earth. This time is referred to as Jesus' earthly ministry, a period of a little more than three years from His baptism through His resurrection.

In Luke 4, Jesus explained the reason He came to earth. Jesus reminded the people how the prophet Isaiah had written long ago about a special person who God would one day send. This person would bring good news about God's incredible love, give hope to those in need, and set people free from sin. After reading what Isaiah had written, Jesus announced something amazing: He was the one Isaiah had written about! He was the Savior God had promised.

Jesus' earthly ministry began when He was about thirty years old. For the next three years, He traveled from town to town, teaching people about God's Kingdom. He healed the sick, performed incredible miracles, and showed God's unconditional love to everyone He met. Every word and every action proved that Jesus wasn't

just a good teacher or a really kind man. He was the Son of God sent to earth.

But Jesus didn't do this work alone. Early in His ministry, He chose twelve men, called the apostles, to follow Him closely. He spent time teaching and preparing them to carry on His mission after He returned to heaven. These men became leaders of the church, spreading the message of Jesus to the world.

While Jesus performed many amazing miracles like calming storms, feeding thousands, and healing diseases, His ministry wasn't just about these physical feats. It was also about spiritual healing. Jesus taught people to believe in Him and to repent, meaning to turn away from their sins. He spoke of God's love and forgiveness for all people, showing that salvation is available to anyone who trusts in Jesus as Savior and Lord. Ultimately, Jesus' ministry pointed to His greatest mission. Jesus came to earth to be the perfect sacrifice, giving His life on the cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins and have a forever relationship with God. Through Jesus, we see who God is, how much He loves us, and how deeply He cares for His people.

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

Jesus went all over Galilee. There he taught in the synagogues. He preached the good news of God's kingdom. He healed every illness and sickness the people had.

— Matthew 4:23

**Prayer**

Thank God that He cared about all of us—spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental.

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

The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them.

— Luke 19:10

**Prayer**

Thank God that Jesus' primary ministry was to be the sacrifice for our sins.

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

When Jesus came ashore, he saw a large crowd. He felt deep concern for them. He healed their sick people. — Matthew 14:14

**Prayer**

Ask Jesus to help you follow His example by loving others the way He loves them.

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

Jesus answered, "Don't you know me, Philip? I have been among you such a long time! Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. So how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" — John 14:9

**Prayer**

Pray for others to know the hope and healing that only Jesus can bring.



## Further Inspection

Jesus' *earthly ministry* refers to His time on earth, specifically a little over three years covered in the Gospels. Through His words and actions, Jesus revealed who God is and what His kingdom is like. Everything Jesus did during His ministry was part of God's perfect plan to rescue the world, proving that He is truly the Son of God and the Savior God promised to send.



## Next Steps

Grab a sheet of paper. Make a list of as many of Jesus' miracles, healings, and other things that He did during His earthly ministry. Which ones stand out to you the most? Why? What can you learn about God from them?

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# Jesus the Teacher



## **What did Jesus teach about when He was on earth?**

While He was on earth, Jesus taught about who God is and what God's Kingdom is like. Jesus taught with wisdom, compassion, and authority. He used stories called parables, real-life examples, and thoughtful questions to help people understand God's truth.



## Definition

**Parables:** Short made-up stories that Jesus used to help explain his main teachings. Parables are found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, but not in John. Jesus told most of His parables to explain something about God's kingdom.

## Bible Story

<sup>28</sup> Jesus finished saying all these things. The crowds were amazed at his teaching.

<sup>29</sup> That's because he taught like one who had authority. He did not speak like their teachers of the law.

— Matthew 7:28–29

## 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

Take a moment and think back to a teacher who had a big effect on your life. Maybe this was a teacher at school or church. It may have even been someone who taught you something new, or something unexpected in a place you never would have imagined. Learning can be exciting and fun, especially when you have a great teacher to help you understand.

During His ministry on earth, Jesus spent much of His time teaching. He traveled around for about three years teaching people about the Kingdom of God. Jesus taught people how to love God and how to love one another. Jesus taught in a way no one had ever seen, heard, or experienced. He taught with authority and yet with compassion and clarity. He used stories called parables to help His audience understand. He would use examples of sheep and fishing because these are the things the people around Him knew well. Jesus knew exactly what to say, how to say it, and when to say it.

Jesus taught many things, but the greatest message He ever taught was about God's love. Jesus explained that God created each person for a purpose: to know Him and live in a forever relationship with Him. Jesus didn't just teach people how to love God and how to love one another; He lived it.

Jesus teaches us too, whenever we read His words and obey them. When we listen to Jesus and do what He says, His teachings change our lives for the better. All of Jesus' teachings are important, and the greatest lesson that Jesus ever lived out was when He died on the cross to make a way to rescue us from our sins. That was Jesus teaching us about His love!



## WEEK ONE

## Memory Verse

The people were amazed at his teaching. He taught them like one who had authority. He did not speak like their teachers of the law.  
— Mark 1:22

## Prayer

Thank Jesus for being the perfect teacher who shows us who God is.

## WEEK TWO

## Memory Verse

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' You are right. That is what I am."  
— John 13:13

## Prayer

Praise Jesus for teaching us how to love God and love others.

## WEEK THREE

## Memory Verse

"Become my servants and learn from me. I am gentle and free of pride. You will find rest for your souls." — Matthew 11:29

## Prayer

Ask God to help you understand Jesus' teachings and to have the strength to live them out each day.

## WEEK FOUR

## Memory Verse

Jesus answered, "What I teach is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me." — John 7:16

## Prayer

Pray for guidance to seek God first and trust His Word in every decision.



## Challenging Thought

Look up a few of Jesus' teachings. What does Jesus want us to learn from them? What does He want us to do? Brainstorm ways that you can live out His teachings in the days ahead.

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FEBRUARY



# Jesus, the Humble Servant



## **Why was Jesus called a servant?**

Jesus came to earth to serve others, not to be served. Even though Jesus is the Son of God, He humbled Himself, coming to the earth He created to care for people and meet their needs. Jesus showed His love ultimately by giving His life to save us from sin.

## Bible Story

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes. Then he returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them.

<sup>13</sup> “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord.’ You are right. That is what I am.

<sup>14</sup> I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another’s feet.

<sup>15</sup> I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you.

<sup>16</sup> What I’m about to tell you is true. A slave is not more important than his master. And a messenger is not more important than the one who sends him.

<sup>17</sup> Now you know these things. So you will be blessed if you do them.”

— John 13:12–17

## Discussion Questions

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

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

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

## Devotion

Think about the last time someone helped you. Maybe you dropped your books in the hallway at school, and someone stopped to help you pick them up. Maybe someone held the door open for you or took time out of their day to encourage you when you were struggling. Acts of service show love and kindness toward others. Jesus perfectly demonstrated what it means to be a servant by the way He served others.

John 13 tells the true story of Jesus washing His disciples' feet. This task was usually done by the lowest of servants. In those days, people traveled in sandals or perhaps walked with bare feet, meaning their feet were often filthy. Washing someone's feet was anything but pleasant. Yet, Jesus, the Son of God and King of the universe, took on that lowly role to show His followers how to truly love and care for one another.

In this we see that Jesus didn't just teach about serving; He lived it. He healed the sick, He fed the hungry, and He welcomed those who the rest of the world rejected. But Jesus' greatest act of service was giving His life on the cross to pay the punishment for

sin. He came not to be served, but to serve and give His life as the price for setting people free (Mark 10:45).

When Jesus finished washing the disciples' feet, He told them to go out and do the same. Jesus calls His followers to serve as He did. You might not wash feet, but you should be a servant and put others people first! When we help others, give to those in need, show kindness, and put others before ourselves, we reflect His love. True greatness in God's kingdom isn't about power or recognition; rather, it's about humility and service. Following Jesus means living with a servant's heart, just as He did. When we serve others, we point them to Jesus and show them His love in action.

## WEEK ONE

## Memory Verse

"Even the Son of Man did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others. He came to give his life as the price for setting many people free." — Mark 10:45

## Prayer

Praise Jesus for His humility and His perfect example of putting others before ourselves.

## WEEK TWO

## Memory Verse

Instead, he made himself nothing. He did this by taking on the nature of a servant. He was made just like human beings. — Philippians 2:7

## Prayer

Thank God for sending Jesus to teach us how to serve others and for giving His life for our salvation.

## WEEK THREE

## Memory Verse

Jesus sat down and called for the 12 disciples to come to him. Then he said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servant of everyone." — Mark 9:35

## Prayer

Ask God to keep you from selfishness or pride that keeps you from serving others with joy.

## WEEK FOUR

## Memory Verse

"I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet." — John 13:14

## Prayer

Ask God to help you serve others humbly like Jesus has served us.



## Next Steps

Think of ways you can be a servant like Jesus wherever you go. How can you serve others at home? At school? In the neighborhood? On the ballfield or in the gym? See how many ways you can think of, and then create or go to your family calendar. Add some times and ways to serve on your calendar. Try to do as many of them as possible. Include some ways you can serve together as a family!

MARCH



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# Jesus, the Perfect King



## How is Jesus the perfect King?

Because He was part of King David's family line, Jesus was the true human king of God's people. But He was not a king like other human kings. Jesus is the perfect King because He rules perfectly. Unlike earthly kings who make mistakes, Jesus is the King of kings—He knows everything, He never fails, and His decisions are always perfect. Jesus reigns over the universe, and His kingdom will last forever.

## Bible Story

<sup>6</sup> A child will be born to us.

A son will be given to us.

He will rule over us.

And he will be called

Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.

He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever  
and Prince Who Brings Peace.

<sup>7</sup> There will be no limit to how great his authority is.

The peace he brings will never end.

He will rule on David's throne  
and over his kingdom.

He will make the kingdom strong and secure.

His rule will be based on what is fair and right.

It will last forever.

The Lord's great love will make sure that happens.  
He rules over all.

— Isaiah 9:6–7

## 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

What comes to mind when you think of a king? Maybe you picture a man wearing a golden crown and a purple robe sitting on a throne in a grand castle. Earthly kings like that may have power and riches, but no king is perfect. That is, except one: Jesus. Jesus' kingdom is not built on earthly wealth but on love, peace, and righteousness. And the best part? He invites us to be a part of it!

Jesus is the perfect King because He is good, just, and loving. Unlike human rulers who make mistakes, Jesus never fails. He knows everything, always does what is right, and cares for His people perfectly. When Jesus is your King, you can trust He will always lead you in the right direction.

In John 10:11, Jesus calls Himself the "good shepherd." A shepherd cares for his sheep, protects them, and leads them to safety. That's exactly what Jesus does for us.

Revelation 19:16 describes Jesus as the "Greatest King of All and the Most Powerful Lord of All." This means that no ruler, no power, and no authority is greater than Jesus. Earthly kings may come and go, but Jesus' kingdom

will last forever. He is just and reigns with love and fairness; one day, He will return to make everything right.

The amazing thing about Jesus is that, even though He is the greatest King, He came to serve instead of being served (Mark 10:45). He humbled Himself, lived among us, and gave His life so we could be a part of His kingdom.

When we follow Jesus, we choose to make Him our King. That means we trust Him, obey Him, and let Him lead our lives. And when we do, we experience the joy and peace that only His perfect kingdom can bring.

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

Then I heard the noise of a huge crowd. It sounded like the roar of rushing waters and like loud thunder. The people were shouting, "Hallelujah! Our Lord God is the King who rules over all." — Revelation 19:6

**Prayer**

Thank You, Jesus, for being the perfect King who loves us perfectly.

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

Then Jesus came to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."  
— Matthew 28:18

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you trust Jesus and follow His ways daily.

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

A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace. — Isaiah 9:6

**Prayer**

Pray for someone you know who needs to know about King Jesus.

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

"The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."  
— Luke 1:33

**Prayer**

Thank God for inviting you into His kingdom and ask Him how you can be a good servant in it.



## Further Inspection

Jesus was a descendant of King David, so He fulfills God's promise that a ruler from David's line would reign forever (2 Samuel 7:12–13, Luke 1:32–33). But unlike earthly kings who fall short, Jesus rules with perfect justice, wisdom, and love. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus is called the "King of kings" and He will rule over a kingdom that lasts forever.



## Reflection Questions

- 01** What are some decisions that you need to trust Jesus, your perfect King, with?

- 02** How can you obey Jesus, your perfect King, more?

- 03** How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus, your perfect King, watches over you, protects you, and loves you no matter what?

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# Jesus, the Perfect Priest



## How is Jesus the perfect priest?

Jesus is the perfect priest because He stands between people and God, bringing us together. Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, and He continually prays for us. Unlike earthly priests, Jesus is without sin, and His work is complete and eternal.





## Definition

**Priest:** a special person who represented the people in front of God.

In the Old Testament, a priest was a person who served God at the Tabernacle and later the Temple. The priest's job was to stand between God and people. The priest performed the sacrifices, prayed for the people, and was the only one allowed into the Holy Place.

## Bible Story

<sup>14</sup> We have a great high priest. He has gone up into heaven. He is Jesus the Son of God. So let us hold firmly to what we say we believe.

<sup>15</sup> We have a high priest who can feel it when we are weak and hurting. We have a high priest who has been tempted in every way, just as we are. But he did not sin.

<sup>16</sup> So let us boldly approach God's throne of grace. Then we will receive mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it.

— Hebrews 4:14–16

## Discussion Questions

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

## Devotion

Have you ever needed someone to help you fix a problem? Maybe you needed a parent or teacher to help you understand something hard or a friend to help you when you were stuck. Everyone needs help sometimes. Jesus is like that for us when it comes to our relationship with God—only so much better!

In the Old Testament, priests had a special job. They would represent the people before God. They would offer sacrifices for sins and pray on the people's behalf. But there was a problem: priests were human, and they sinned too. Because of this, they had to offer sacrifices for their own sins before they could help others. Their work was never finished because everyone, including them, kept sinning.

But Jesus is different. He is the perfect priest because He is without sin. He didn't need to offer sacrifices for Himself. Instead, He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for us!

Because of who Jesus is and what He has done, we no longer have to talk to God through priests. We can have access to the throne of God ourselves. We can pray, talk to

God, and approach Him confidently anytime we want. We don't have to wait for anyone or ask anyone to do it for us. The veil that stood between God and His people has been torn down.

Hebrews 4 reminds us that Jesus also understands us completely. He knows what it's like to be tempted because He lived as a human. But the difference is that Jesus never sinned. That's why we can trust Him to help us when we are weak and hurting.

And guess what? Jesus is still our perfect priest right now. Jesus sits in heaven next to God and talks to God for us. He tells God that everyone who believes in Him already has their sins paid for because of His death. What an encouragement! When we think about Jesus as our perfect priest, we can be filled with gratitude and hope. He has done everything necessary to make us right with God; all we have to do is choose to trust in Him and put our faith in what He has already done.

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

There is only one God. And there is only one go-between for God and human beings. He is the man Christ Jesus. — 1 Timothy 2:5

**Prayer**

Praise Jesus for being the perfect priest who made a way for us to have access to God.

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

He did not enter by spilling the blood of goats and calves. He entered the Most Holy Room by spilling his own blood. He did it once and for all time. In this way, he paid the price to set us free from sin forever. — Hebrews 9:12

**Prayer**

Thank Jesus for offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin.

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

But Jesus lives forever. So he always holds the office of priest. People now come to God through him. And he is able to save them completely and for all time. Jesus lives forever. He prays for them. — Hebrews 7:24–25

**Prayer**

Thank God for saving you completely through Jesus and for giving you full and unlimited access to Him.

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

My dear children, I'm writing this to you so that you will not sin. But suppose someone does sin. Then we have a friend who speaks to the Father for us. He is Jesus Christ, the Blameless One. — 1 John 2:1

**Prayer**

Pray for others to understand the love and mercy Jesus offers as the perfect priest.



## Reflection Questions

**01** How is Jesus your perfect priest when it comes to your sin?

**02** How is Jesus your perfect priest when it comes to your prayers?

**03** How is Jesus your perfect priest when you are hurting, alone, or need something?

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# Jesus, the Perfect Sacrifice



## **How could Jesus be our sacrifice?**

Jesus was born to be the perfect sacrifice for sins. Jesus obeyed all God's commands perfectly. He never once failed or sinned. Jesus chose to die so that we wouldn't have to die. This was God's loving plan to save people from sin and death. When we trust in Jesus, we are forgiven, restored to a right relationship with God, and given eternal life.



## Further Inspection

In the Old Testament, God established a sacrificial system in which the Israelites had to offer sacrifices for their sins. These sacrifices—often lambs, goats, or bulls—were offered at the altar of the Tabernacle or temple. The shedding of blood was necessary for forgiveness, pointing to the seriousness of sin. But these sacrifices were never enough to take away sin completely. They were a temporary solution, foreshadowing the ultimate sacrifice that was to come—Jesus.

## Bible Story

<sup>22</sup> In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be made “clean” with blood. Without the spilling of blood, no one can be forgiven.

— Hebrews 9:22

## 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

In the famous poet O. Henry's heartwarming story "The Gift of the Magi," a young married couple, Jim and Della, love each other very much. Della decides to sell her beautiful hair to buy a special chain for Jim's favorite thing, his watch. However, at the same time, Jim sells his watch to get Della a nice set of combs for her hair. The couple love each other so much that they are willing to give up their favorite things for one another. Even though their gift-giving didn't work out, they realized their love was the most important thing they had—and it reminds us that true love often means making sacrifices for the people we care about. It means giving up something for the good of someone else.

Have you ever given up something important for someone else? Maybe you shared your favorite snack with a friend or let someone else go first in a game. Did you know that we need a sacrifice because of sin? Since the Fall in the Garden of Eden, sin has separated people from God. When Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to cover the shame of their sin with fig leaves, but that wasn't enough. Instead, God, in His love, made clothes

for them from animal skins, requiring the first sacrifice to cover their sin. This first sacrifice pointed to the greatest sacrifice of all that would come: Jesus.

Throughout the Old Testament, sacrifices were a reminder that sin has a cost. But no sacrifice was ever perfect enough to take away sin completely. That's why Jesus came. As the Son of God, Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life and then willingly gave Himself up to die in our place. He sacrificed His life in our place.

Jesus didn't have to die—He chose to die. John 15:13 says, "No one has greater love than the one who gives their life for their friends." Jesus showed the greatest love by laying down His life for us. He paid the punishment we deserved so we can be forgiven of sin and have eternal life.

Romans 5:8 tells us: "But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus didn't wait for us to be good or worthy enough; He sacrificed Himself when we were not good and unworthy because He loves us unconditionally.



Jesus' death wasn't the end of the story. Jesus rose from the grave, defeating sin and death forever. Because of His sacrifice, we no longer have to be separated from God. We

are invited into God's forever family, fully forgiven and deeply loved, all because of Jesus and His perfect sacrifice.

**WEEK ONE**



**Memory Verse**

No one has greater love than the one who gives their life for their friends. — John 15:13

**Prayer**

Thank Jesus for His great love for you, which led to His great sacrifice on the cross.

**WEEK TWO**



**Memory Verse**

We know what love is because Jesus Christ gave his life for us. So we should give our lives for our brothers and sisters. — 1 John 3:16

**Prayer**

Ask God to help you love others and be willing to sacrifice for them.

**WEEK THREE**



**Memory Verse**

Lead a life of love, just as Christ did. He loved us. He gave himself up for us. He was a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God. — Ephesians 5:2

**Prayer**

Pray for someone who might need a sacrifice of love from you today.

**WEEK FOUR**



**Memory Verse**

He gave his life to pay for our sins. But he not only paid for our sins. He also paid for the sins of the whole world. — 1 John 2:2

**Prayer**

Ask God to give you the opportunity to tell someone about Jesus' payment for the sins of the world.



## Reflection Questions

**01** In your own words, how would you explain the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament?

**02** How does Jesus' choosing to die reveal His love?

**03** If Jesus is the perfect sacrifice, how much of your sin does that mean He paid for when He died on the cross?

Notes:

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# Jesus Paid for Our Sins



## What happened when Jesus died on the cross?

Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth, lived a perfect life, and willingly gave Himself as the sacrifice for our sins. But Jesus' death was not the end—after being buried in a tomb, Jesus rose again on the third day, conquering sin and death. Now, everyone who trusts in Jesus can be saved and have a relationship with God.



## Definition

**Sacrifice:** the death of an animal or person offered to God as payment for the penalty for sin. Though He was sinless, Jesus paid the punishment we deserved for our sin by dying on the cross.

## Bible Story

<sup>32</sup> On their way out of the city, they met a man from Cyrene. His name was Simon. They forced him to carry the cross. <sup>33</sup> They came to a place called Golgotha. The word Golgotha means the Place of the Skull. <sup>34</sup> There they mixed wine with bitter spices and gave it to Jesus to drink. After tasting it, he refused to drink it. <sup>35</sup> When they had nailed him to the cross, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. <sup>36</sup> They sat down and kept watch over him there. <sup>37</sup> Above his head they placed the written charge against him. It read, This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

<sup>38</sup> Two rebels against Rome were crucified with him. One was on his right and one was on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by shouted at Jesus and made fun of him. They shook their heads <sup>40</sup> and said, "So you are going to destroy the temple and build it again in three days? Then save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders made fun of him. <sup>42</sup> "He saved others," they said. "But he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross! Then we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him. He's the one who said, 'I am the Son of God.'" <sup>44</sup> In the same way the rebels who were being crucified with Jesus also made fun of him.

<sup>45</sup> From noon until three o'clock, the whole land was covered with darkness. <sup>46</sup> About three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice. He said, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" This means "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"

<sup>47</sup> Some of those standing there heard Jesus cry out. They said, “He’s calling for Elijah.” <sup>48</sup> Right away one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar and put it on a stick. He offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup> The rest said, “Leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

<sup>50</sup> After Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, he died.

<sup>51</sup> At that moment the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook. The rocks split. <sup>52</sup> Tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. <sup>53</sup> They came out of the tombs. After Jesus was raised from the dead, they went into the holy city. There they appeared to many people.

<sup>54</sup> The Roman commander and those guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened. They were terrified. They exclaimed, “He was surely the Son of God!”

<sup>55</sup> Not very far away, many women were watching. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to take care of his needs. <sup>56</sup> Mary Magdalene was among them. Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, was also there. So was the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

— Matthew 27:32–56

## 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 a cross? Maybe it was on a church building, in a picture, or as a piece of jewelry. The cross is one of the most special symbols in the world, but it's more than just a decoration. It represents the greatest act of love ever.

Before Jesus came, sin separated people from God. Sin is like a giant wall between God and us, making it impossible for us to be with Him. But Jesus came to tear down that wall by taking our sins upon Himself. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the punishment we deserved. Jesus died for us and in our place.

1 Peter 2:24 says, "He himself carried our sins' in his body on the cross. He did it so that we would die as sins are concerned. Then we would lead godly lives." When Jesus died, he took the sins of the world on Himself and paid the penalty. For generations, people in the Old Testament performed animal sacrifices again and again to pay for their sin. But now, no more sacrifices were needed—Jesus was the perfect sacrifice, once and for all. He became a sacrifice for us!

The moment Jesus died, something amazing happened—the curtain in the temple, which separated people from God's presence in the most holy place, was torn in two

(Matthew 27:51). This showed that Jesus had made the one and only way for us to come to God freely. We didn't have to be separated anymore. Jesus really changed everything!

The cross wasn't just a place of suffering; it was a place of victory: Jesus' story didn't end with His death. On the third day, He rose from the grave, proving that He has defeated sin and death forever. Because of what Jesus did, we don't have to be separated from God. When we trust in Jesus, we are forgiven, loved, and promised eternal life with God.

Every time you see a cross, remember what it truly means: Jesus loves you, Jesus died for you, and Jesus made a way for you to be with God forever.

## WEEK ONE

## Memory Verse

Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith. He paid no attention to the shame of the cross. He suffered there because of the joy he was looking forward to. Then he sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

— Hebrews 12:2

## Prayer

Thank Jesus for enduring the cross with joy for God's glory and our salvation.

## WEEK TWO

## Memory Verse

He wiped out what the law said that we owed. The law stood against us. It judged us. But he has taken it away and nailed it to the cross. — Colossians 2:14

## Prayer

Thank Jesus for nailing death and all your sins to the cross.

## WEEK THREE

## Memory Verse

The message of the cross seems foolish to those who are lost and dying. But it is God's power to us who are being saved.

— 1 Corinthians 1:18

## Prayer

Pray for someone who needs to know about the power and hope of the cross.

## WEEK FOUR

## Memory Verse

God was pleased to bring all things back to himself. That's because of what Christ has done. These things include everything on earth and in heaven. God made peace through Christ's blood, by his death on the cross. — Colossians 1:20

## Prayer

Ask God to help you rest in peace and comfort, knowing that Jesus has paid for your sins on the cross.





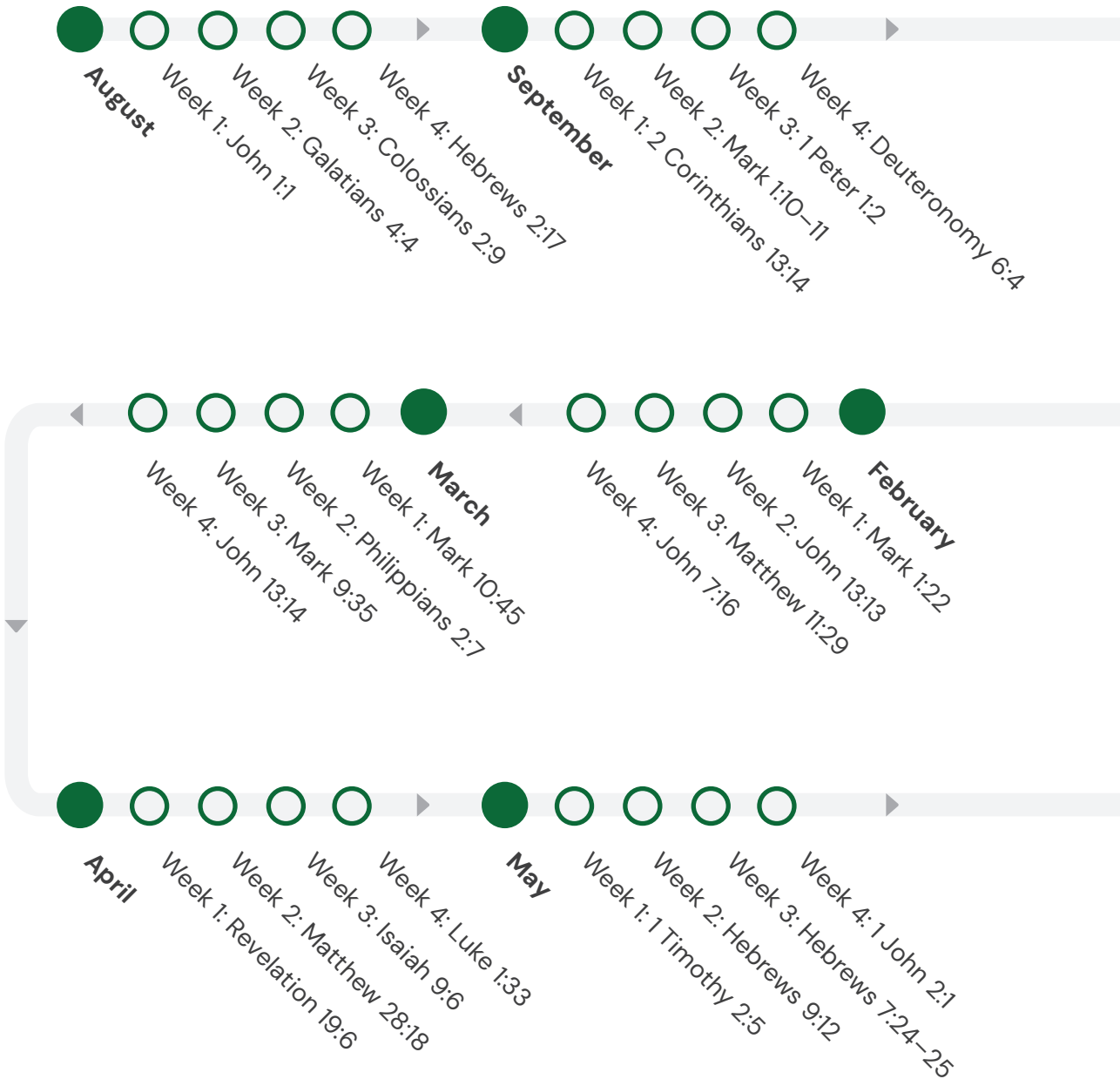
## Reflection Questions

**01** Why do you think Jesus had to be a human to pay for sin?

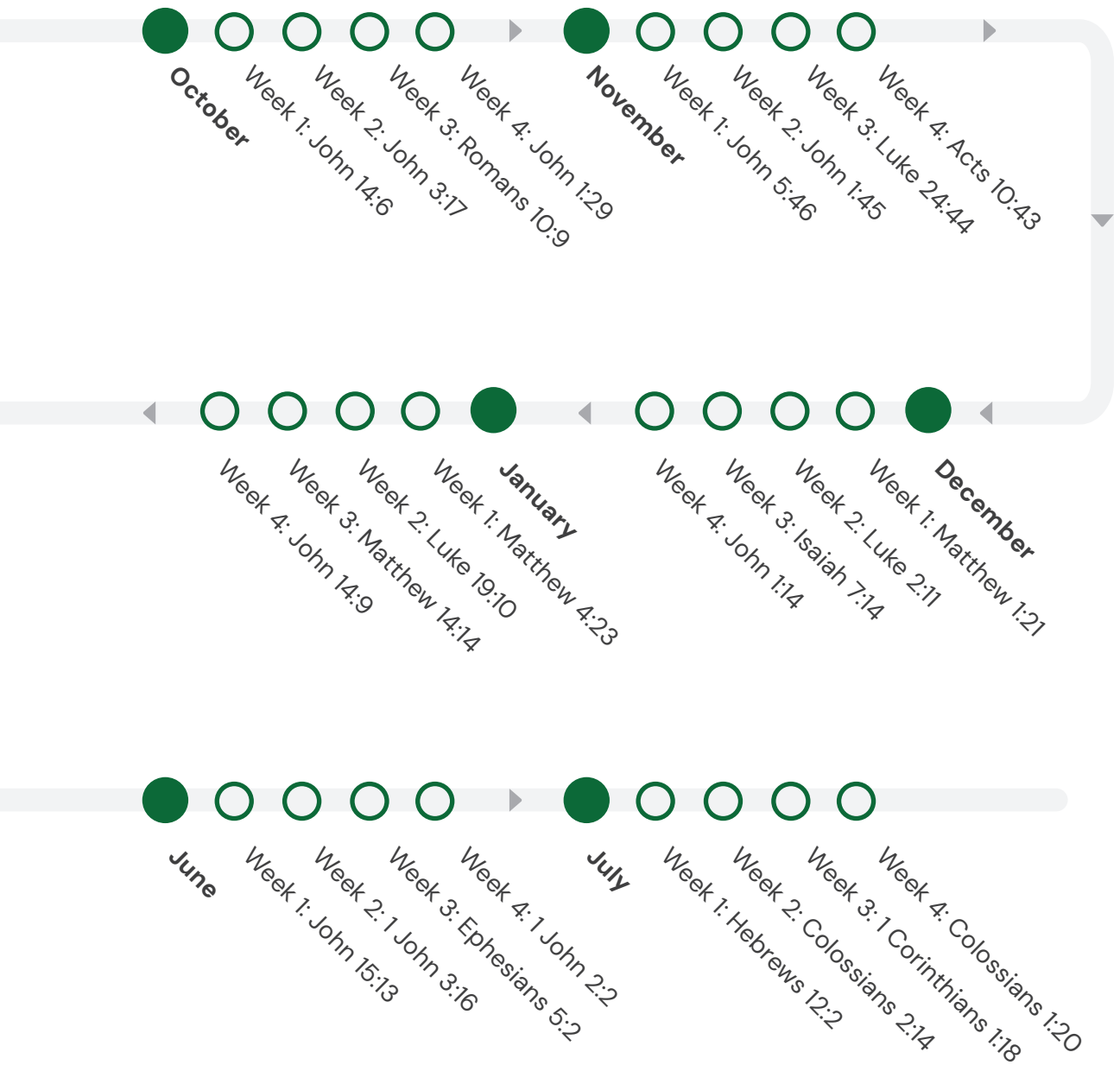
**02** Why do you think Jesus had to be perfect to pay for sin?

**03** Why do you think it was important that Jesus didn't stay dead, but rather He rose again?

# Memory Verse Tracking Log



## THIRD GRADE









**NEW VISION**