



Faithful to All His Promises Overview for Parents



The promises of God are precious. They give us hope when circumstances are difficult, comfort in sorrow, strength when we feel weak, and encouragement when our faith threatens to falter. They are precious and powerful, because behind these promises is the all-powerful, all-knowing, faithful, patient, gracious, unchanging, sovereign Ruler of the universe. God Almighty backs up every one of His promises. He is watching to see that His Word is performed (Jeremiah 1:12).

This year, your child will have the privilege of studying God's precious promises as presented in the curriculum, *Faithful to All His Promises*. Although many specific promises are taught, the greater aim is to lead children to trust in the promises of God. The battle in the Christian life is not just to know God's promises, but to *place confidence* in them.

To that end, we will be “simulating” a faith experience for your child, and modeling for your child the nature of a trustworthy promise giver. Each child has been promised an item decorated with the words, “God Always Keeps His Promises.” However, all of the children will not be receiving this promised item at the same time. Some will wait a few weeks, others a few months—just as we often have to wait a long time for the fulfillment of some of the promises of God. The order of distribution will be random, but those who wait longer

may need to be encouraged to keep trusting in the promise of their teacher. The point of this exercise is to keep trusting, even when it's hard, even when it takes a long time, and even when things don't appear fair.

These are the kinds of “real life” situations our children will face as they grow up—sometimes things are hard, difficult situations last a long time, and life does not seem fair. Our children will face many difficulties as they grow up. Some may even face tragedy and overwhelming problems of various kinds. What will carry them through these situations victoriously is an unshakable faith in the Almighty God who works all things for good for His children (Romans 8:32).

Faith grows by trusting in the promises of God in spite of seemingly impossible odds, and seeing God watch over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12). As children see a God who is not only almighty to see that His promises are fulfilled, but also faithful to His Word, they will learn that God is who He claims He is.

We pray that in the midst of difficulties, fears, and discomfort, you will lead your child to the promises of God and encourage your child to trust in the God who makes such promises. Our God is worthy to be trusted! May God bless you as you nurture the faith of your child.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. —Deuteronomy 6:4-7

How are the Growing in Faith Together Pages used?

Each week you will receive a Growing in Faith Together Page corresponding to the lesson. In addition to familiarizing you with the lesson content, this page can be used to help your child respond to the truth taught in class. Putting the living Word of God into practice in everyday life encourages your child to be a “doer” of the Word and not a “hearer” only, and shows God and His Word can be trusted.

Encourage your child to interact with truth and consider its implications in everyday life by talking about the simple discussion questions. Pray that truth and faith will dwell in your child’s heart. Work together on the weekly exercise to encourage response. Help your child memorize the weekly verse and hide God’s Word in his or her heart.

These pages need not be completed in a single sitting. Use the discussion questions as part of your everyday routine. Take the whole week to reinforce and apply the lesson your child learned in class.

Your serious and diligent treatment of these faith-nurturing opportunities will encourage your child to take God’s Word seriously and see God as part of all of life, not just the church experience. May God grant you the grace to walk in His ways as you encourage the faith of your child.

MAIN IDEAS, SCRIPTURE REFERENCES, AND LESSON SUMMARY

This information helps you understand what your child is learning and gives you the opportunity to ask God to make the truth relevant in your own life. The lesson summary ends with suggestions for prayer.

We look forward to partnering with you this year so the next generation may put their trust in God. If we may be of help to you in any way, just let us know.

MEMORY VERSE

We encourage you and your family to join your child in memorizing a Scripture passage each week. Memorizing Scripture is of vital importance in spiritual growth. When the Word is memorized, it is an ever-present counselor and an effective weapon against attacks of the enemy. If you help your child memorize verses at this age, he or she will have hundreds of verses learned by the end of adolescence, an amazing storehouse of truth to access throughout life! May God equip you to cultivate a lifelong habit of Bible memorization in your child.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

These exercises are designed to help you interact with your child about the truths learned in class and study them at a deeper level. Scripture texts and questions are provided to guide your discussion. When answers to these questions seem helpful, they are provided in [brackets] following the questions. Discussing spiritual truth with your young child will encourage an openness to discuss deep faith issues when he or she is older. It is our prayer that this exercise will help you develop a lifetime habit of talking openly with your child about spiritual matters.

ACTIVITY

Each lesson includes activities designed to help with retention and application of the truth learned in the lesson. Although teachers and parents cannot create saving faith in a child (this is the work of the Holy Spirit), we can challenge and encourage a child to rightly respond to biblical truth in his or her own life.



Scope and Sequence

Lesson 1: Promises

Memory Verse: Psalm 145:9

The Bible contains many promises; some are for all people and some are for particular people.

Lesson 2: Promises to Believers

Memory Verse: John 1:12

God has made promises that are only for His children.

Lesson 3: Promises to Unbelievers

Memory Verse: Psalm 1:6

God promises eternal punishment to unbelievers.

Lesson 4: God Always Keeps His Promises

Memory Verse: Numbers 23:19

God ALWAYS keeps His promises; God's character shows that He can be trusted to keep His promises.

Lesson 5: Conditional Promises

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 7:23

Some of God's promises make a requirement of the promise receiver for their fulfillment.

Lesson 6: Promise: Salvation for All Who Call

Memory Verse: Acts 2:21b

God will not turn away anyone who comes to Him.

Lesson 7: Promise: God Will Forgive You

Memory Verse: 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, God will forgive us.

Lesson 8: Promise: God Will Be With You

Memory Verse: Joshua 1:9

God promises to be with His children wherever they go.

Lesson 9: Promise: Nothing Can Separate You from God's Love

Memory Verses: Romans 8:38-39

God loves believers even when they sin; God will love His people forever because He is faithful.

Lesson 10: Promise: God Will Complete His Work in You

Memory Verse: Philippians 1:6b

God will complete His work in a believer's life, bringing him to maturity.

Lesson 11: Promise: You Will Bear Fruit

Memory Verse: John 15:5

God promises that His followers will bear fruit.

Lesson 12: Promise: God Hears Your Prayers

Memory Verse: Psalm 34:15

God hears the prayers of the righteous and always answers those prayers.

Lesson 13: Promise: The Lord Will Guide You

Memory Verses: Proverbs 3:5-6

God will guide His children; our greatest happiness comes from following God.

Lesson 14: Promise: God Will Provide for Your Needs

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:19

God will provide for all your needs.

Lesson 15: Promise: God Will Not Withhold Any Good Thing

Memory Verse: Psalm 84:11

God will not withhold anything from you that is good for you.

Lesson 16: Promise: God Will Fight for You

Memory Verse: Psalm 46:1

God is our helper; He will fight for us.

Lesson 17: Promise: God is Slow to Anger

Memory Verse: Psalm 86:15

God is slow to anger and patient with His children.

Lesson 18: Promise: God Will Give You Strength

Memory Verse: 2 Chronicles 16:9a

God will give strength to those who trust in Him.

Lesson 19: Promise: Though You Stumble, You Will Not Fall

Memory Verses: Psalm 37:23-24

God sustains the righteous, upholding them with His hand.

Lesson 20: Promise: God Will Discipline You

Memory Verses: Proverbs 3:11-12

God disciplines those He loves.

- Lesson 21: Promise: God Plans Good for You** *Memory Verse: Jeremiah 29:11*
 God's plans for you are to do you good.
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- Lesson 22: Promise: God Will Be With You in the Hard Times** *Memory Verse: Isaiah 43:2a*
 God allows His children to go through hard times because He loves them and wants their faith to grow.
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- Lesson 23: Promise: God Will Not Bring Any Unnecessary Suffering into Your Life** *Memory Verses: Lamentations 3:32-33*
 God does not delight in our difficulties; He brings only necessary suffering into our lives.
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- Lesson 24: Promise: If You Remain Steadfast Under Trial, You Will Be Rewarded** *Memory Verse: James 1:12*
 God will reward steadfast faith.
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- Lesson 25: Promise: The Lord Will Keep You from Harm** *Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:18*
 God is your protection from the assaults against your body, mind, and soul.
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- Lesson 26: Promise: God Will Deliver You from All Your Troubles** *Memory Verse: Psalm 34:17*
 God delivers the righteous from their troubles.
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- Lesson 27: Promise: Joy Comes with the Morning!** *Memory Verse: Psalm 30:5b*
 God will end suffering for the righteous.
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- Lesson 28: Promise: All Things Work Together for Good** *Memory Verse: Romans 8:28*
 God has a good purpose for everything in the life of a believer.
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- Lesson 29: Promise: God Will Not Forsake His People** *Memory Verse: Psalm 94:14*
 God will not forsake His people.
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- Lesson 30: Promise: God Will Not Forget His Promises** *Memory Verse: Jeremiah 1:12b*
 God will do what He has promised; He is at work, even when we don't see what He is doing.
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- Lesson 31: Look Up, Not Down** *Memory Verses: 2 Corinthians 4:17-18*
 God is always at work for the good of His children; we have the choice to question God's wisdom and goodness or to trust Him.
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- Lesson 32: God is Accomplishing His Purposes** *Memory Verse: Isaiah 14:24*
 God fulfills His purpose for your life as He works out His eternal purposes.
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- Lesson 33: God is Not Slow in Keeping His Promises** *Memory Verses: Psalm 27:13-14*
 God is not slow in keeping His promises; God's timing is right.
-
- Lesson 34: Faithful to All His Promises** *Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:8*
 God is faithful to all His promises.
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- Lesson 35: Trusting in the Promises** *Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:1*
 Obedience to God flows from faith in God.
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- Lesson 36: Failure to Trust in the Promises** *Memory Verse: Romans 14:23b*
 We act according to what we believe; doubting God's promises is wrong and brings consequences.
-
- Lesson 37: Fighting the Fight of Faith** *Memory Verses: Ephesians 6:10-11*
 The battle for faith must be fought in the Lord's strength.
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- Lesson 38: Standing on the Promises of God** *Memory Verse: Proverbs 30:5*
 God will protect His reputation as a promise-keeper.
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- Lesson 39: Trusting in the Promises Leads to Obedience** *Memory Verse: Romans 10:17*
 Faith is a gift from God.
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- Lesson 40: Promise: Eternal Life** *Memory Verses: John 14:2-3*
 Those who are trusting in Jesus will live forever in heaven with Him.



Promises

MAIN IDEAS

- **A promise is saying that you will or will not do something for sure.**
- **God's promises are like presents to us.**
- **Some promises are for everyone; others are for certain people.**
- **God promises to be good to all.**

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.—Psalm 145:9

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 9:12-16
- 2) Psalm 145:9



LESSON SUMMARY

It is astounding that God is good to *everyone*. Every single person is undeserving of the mercy of God, and yet, God extends His mercy to all. What a merciful and gracious God we have!

His goodness is shown in the hundreds of promises He makes to His people in the Bible—each one of them a promise to do good to us and to be the kind of God who is worthy of our admiration and praise. Each promise is like a present from God—some for everyone and others for His people alone. Each promise is certain, given by the One who has placed His rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise-keeping.

This week, praise God for His glorious promises and His sure character that seals them. Pray that your child would see God as good to all and His promises as undeserved presents.

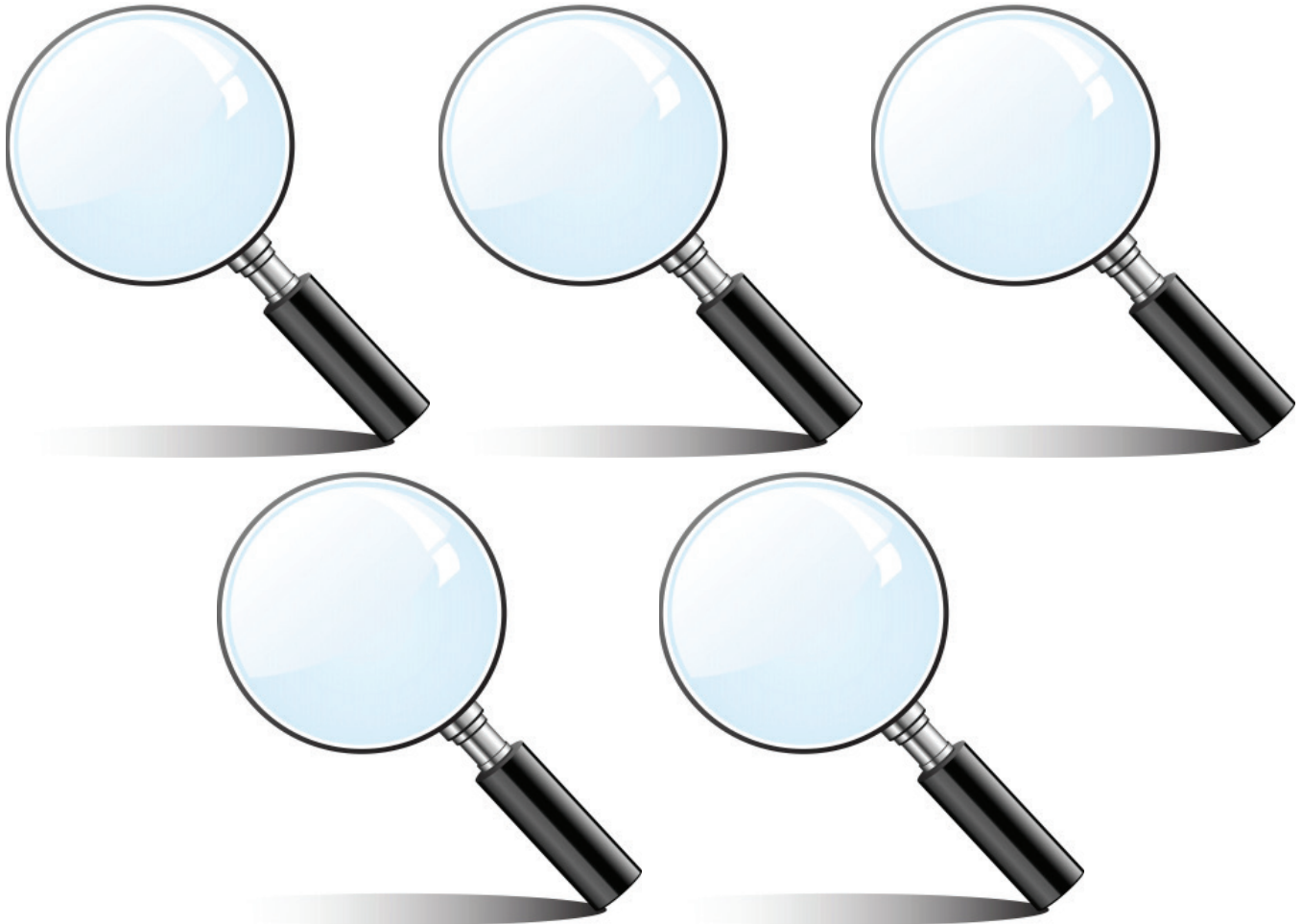
AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *What is a promise? What are some promises in the Bible? What do these promises tell you about God?*
- Tell your child about a promise of God that He has proven true in your life.

ACTIVITY

Psalm 145:9—The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Play “I Spy” this week. Look for examples of God’s goodness, and write those examples in each of the five magnifying glass shapes below.



Inside this box, record one promise you find in the Bible this week.

Magnifying glass image courtesy of Ammer at FreeDigitalPhotos.net.



Promises to Believers

MAIN IDEAS

- **God has made promises that are only for His children.**
- **Christians are offspring of Abraham by faith, and therefore heirs of the promises of God to Israel.**

MEMORY VERSE

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,—John 1:12

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 17:3-7
- 2) Joshua 1:9
- 3) Psalm 34:15, 17
- 4) Psalm 40:31
- 5) Psalm 91:14
- 6) Psalm 103:11
- 7) Isaiah 41:10
- 8) Isaiah 42:6
- 9) Isaiah 49:15
- 10) Jeremiah 32:40
- 11) John 1:12



LESSON SUMMARY

God made a wonderful promise to Abram—to be His God, to enter into everlasting covenant relationship with him, and to bless him...and his offspring throughout all generations! What an incredible promise of blessing to the covenant people this is! God will not turn away from them, but will strengthen and help them, take them by the hand and keep them, and never forget them.

We would despair if the only way to inherit this covenant relationship and the accompanying promises is only through bloodlines. We would be without hope. But thanks be to God! He invites us to participate in this covenant relationship and inherit the promises through adoption into His family through faith in Jesus! All who receive Jesus, who believe in His name, have the right to become the children of God! Those who are sons of Abraham by faith have an everlasting covenant with God and are inheritors of God's promises to His children. This is amazing grace!

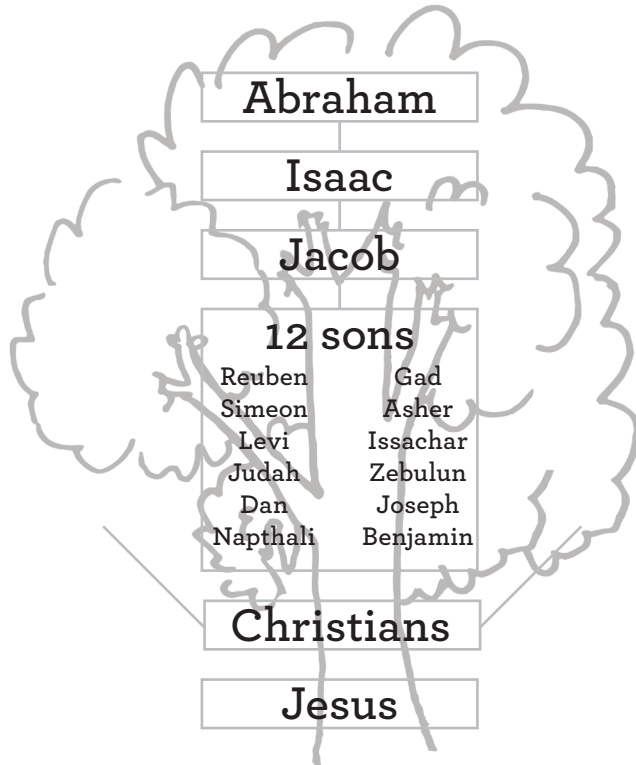
This week, thank God that He has made a way for us to be brought into the family of God through faith in Jesus Christ, receive God's blessing, and inherit His promises. Pray that your child would receive and believe in Jesus and become adopted into the family of God.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *How did Abram become a child of God? How can we become a part of the family of God? Why can't we earn it? [To earn it, we would have to be perfect.] Why can't we buy it? [To be a child of God is worth more than all the money in the world.] Why can't we force God to let us in? [We are very weak and small; God is very powerful and big.] What is adoption? What does it mean to be adopted into God's family?*
- *What does it mean to receive Jesus and to believe in His name? (For help in explaining this to your child, review the Ten Essential Gospel Truths, available for free download here: childrendesiringgod.org/documents/10_essential_truths.pdf.)*

ACTIVITY

Explain the Christian family tree to your mother or father.

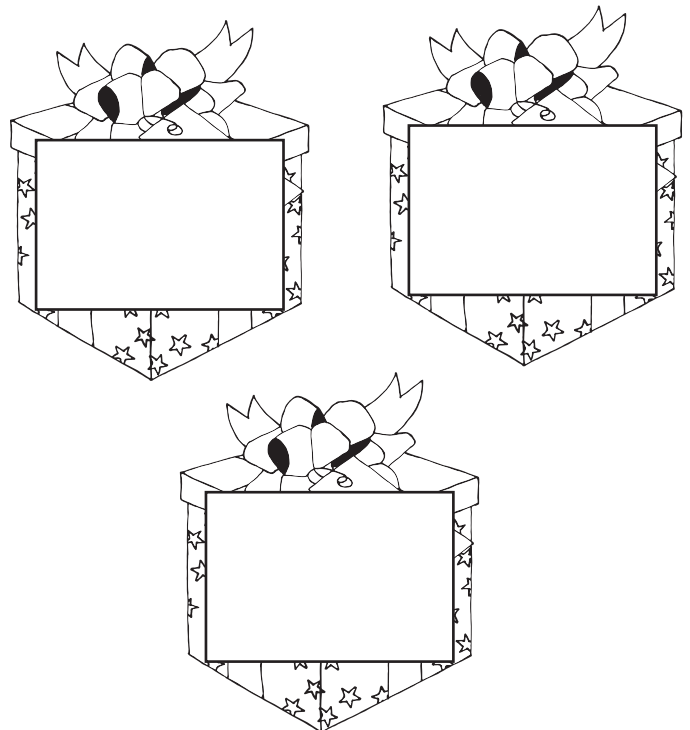


Draw your family tree in the space below, with help from your father or mother.

Color the border of this verse as you think about what it means.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. —John 1:12

God has made many promises to His children. When you read your Bible this week, look for three of these promises. Write a verse reference and a promise inside each present.





Promises to Unbelievers

MAIN IDEAS

- **God's kindness to unbelievers does not last forever.**
- **God has made a promise of eternal punishment in hell for unbelievers.**
- **Hell is a place of great pain and suffering.**

MEMORY VERSE

...for the LORD
knows the way of the
righteous, but the
way of the wicked will
perish,—Psalm 1:6

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 1:5-6
- 2) Psalm 145:9
- 3) Matthew 5:45b
- 4) Matthew 25:31-34, 41



LESSON SUMMARY

God is good to all, causing the sun to shine and the rain to fall on the just and the unjust. This is a remarkable statement of the character of God, who is good even to His enemies. Yet God's kindness to unrepentant sinners does not last forever. There will come a time of reckoning and the unjust will suffer eternal pain and torment.

Jesus Himself will do a great sorting at the end of the age, separating His sheep from the unbelieving goats. His judgment will be final and His punishment eternal. There is no passage from hell to heaven, which are separated by a great chasm.

This lesson is a sobering lesson, and yet is so crucial for children to understand so that they would consider their eternal state. May your child fall upon the mercy of God and trust Jesus for salvation.

Pray that your child would have the right measure of sober reflection on this lesson. Ask God to lead your child to salvation or to confirm his or her salvation.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *Do you think that heaven and hell are real places? What is heaven like? What is hell like? Do you think God will keep His promise to punish unbelievers? Why?*
- *When Jesus separates people at the judgment, what two groups will He separate them into? How does a person become a Christian? In what group do you think Jesus would put you? Why? [Children may naturally assume that they are saved. Challenge your child to pray and ask God to show your child his or her true condition before Him.]*

ACTIVITY

Ask your mother or father to help you understand these words: "righteous," "wicked," and "perish." Draw pictures in the boxes below that show the promise to believers to go to heaven, and the promise to unbelievers that they will die and suffer forever.

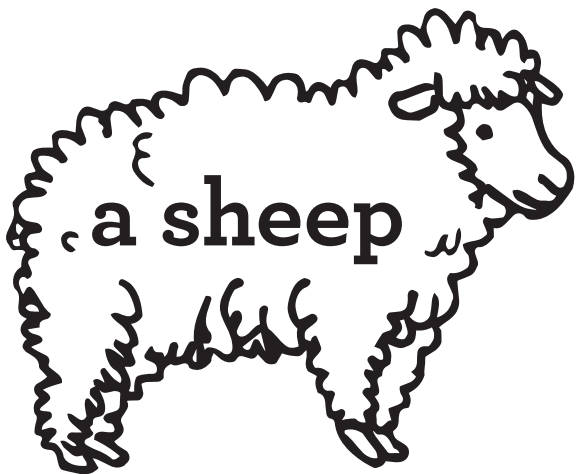
Psalm 1:6

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous

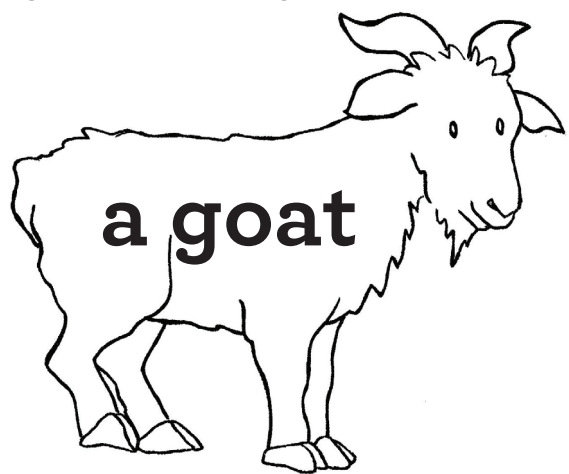
but the way of the wicked will perish.

.....

Ask Jesus to show you if you are



or





God Always Keeps His Promises

MAIN IDEAS

- **God's character shows that He can be trusted to keep His promises.**
- **God always keeps His promises.**

MEMORY VERSE

God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

—Numbers 23:19

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Numbers 23:19
- 2) Job 42:2a
- 3) Psalm 147:5
- 4) Isaiah 49:15b-16a
- 5) Jeremiah 1:12b



LESSON SUMMARY

Although we try to keep our promises, sometimes we just can't. Unforeseen things come up, our abilities are less than we anticipated, and we are limited in many ways. But God has no limitations, no hidden agendas, and no needs. He is completely free to keep His promises. All of His wonderful attributes commend Him as a promise-keeping God. His promises are reliable because His character is reliable. What wonderful assurance there is for us that we can confidently count on His promises!

Thank God for His perfect character, which backs up every one of His promises. Pray that your child will see that God is trustworthy and His promises are sure.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Discuss with your child a time when you were unable to keep your promise to him or her. *Why was this? How does our ability compare with God's ability to keep His promises?*
- *What do you know about God that shows that you can trust Him to keep His promises? [Hint: See the memory verse.] What is a promise from God that you can rely on this week? Let's thank God that we can trust His promises.*

ACTIVITY

Match each word that describes God to the correct meaning of the word.¹

God is...

Almighty	God is kind to undeserving sinners.
Sovereign	God always wins.
Self-Sufficient	God causes everything to work out perfectly.
Attentive	God is everywhere at the same time.
Faithful	God gives of Himself for the joy of others.
Omnipresent	God never changes.
Love	God constantly sees, hears, and acts in the world.
Good	God knows everything.
Unchanging	God is right in everything He thinks and does.
Omniscient	God understands our weakness and is slow to punish us.
Righteous	God always does what He says He will do.
Patient	God is all-powerful.
Merciful	God is more than enough.
Victorious	God doesn't need anything.
Bountiful	God has the right, wisdom, and power to do everything He pleases.
Wise	God is good in everything He is and does.

so God ALWAYS keeps His promises.

Write the word “always” as many times as you can below to remind you that God always keeps His promises.

1. Words and definitions taken from: Nelson, Jill. *The ABCs of God*. (Minneapolis, Minn.: Children Desiring God, 1998)



Conditional Promises

MAIN IDEAS

- **Some promises have a condition that must be met for the promise to be fulfilled.**
- **God always keeps His part of a conditional promise when the condition is kept.**

MEMORY VERSE

“But this command I gave them: ‘Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’”—Jeremiah 7:23

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Joshua 1:8
- 2) 2 Chronicles 7:14
- 3) Isaiah 26:3
- 4) Jeremiah 7:23
- 5) Matthew 6:14
- 6) Matthew 10:32
- 7) 1 John 1:9



LESSON SUMMARY

God is faithful to all His promises...but we are not always faithful. Some of God’s promises of blessing are accompanied by conditions that must be met in order for the promise to be fulfilled. God’s promises are completely trustworthy, but sometimes we fail to keep the condition and the promise is not fulfilled because of our disobedience.

This is what happened to Israel. While Joshua led Israel, Israel walked in God’s ways and received great blessings, defeating her enemies in battle and possessing their land. But after Joshua died, each man “did what was right in his own eyes” and Israel walked in disobedience, worshipping other gods, and breaking God’s commands. When this happened, God’s promise of success ended because His conditions were not met.

Yet, God was still faithful to Israel, repeating His promise to bless Israel even as long as almost 800 years later.

Jeremiah 7:23—“But this command I gave them: ‘Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’”

How gracious and good God is. He is eager to bless His people if they would just walk in his ways.

Thank God for His promise of blessing to His people and His faithfulness to His promises. Ask Him to give you an obedient heart. Pray that your child will see the benefit of obeying God and have a desire to walk in His ways.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Ask your child to explain a “conditional promise” to you. *What is an example of a conditional promise a parent might make? What is an example of a conditional promise in the Bible? If a conditional promise from the Bible is not kept, who breaks the promise? What do we know about God that shows that He will always keep His promise if the condition is kept?*

- *What commands or conditions are given in Jeremiah 7:23? What promises of blessing are in this verse? Did Israel keep the condition of the promise after Joshua died? In what ways did Israel disobey God? In what ways do you disobey God? What makes it hard for you to obey God and others? (Pray with your child, asking God to give him or her a heart that loves the ways of God and wants to obey Him.)*

ACTIVITY

Write about at least one time that you were obedient this week and the blessing that came from obedience. Ask mom or dad to help you with this.

Obedience brings blessing.

Obedience	Blessing

Pray this prayer this week:

***Dear God, help me to love Your ways
and give me a heart that wants to obey You.***



Promise: Salvation for All Who Call

MAIN IDEAS

- **Only God can give the gift of salvation.**
- **Everyone who calls on the name of Jesus will be saved; Jesus will not turn anyone away who comes to Him.**
- **Salvation is a gift.**

MEMORY VERSE

... everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
—Acts 2:21b

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 23:39-43
- 2) John 6:37
- 3) Acts 2:21
- 4) Acts 4:12
- 5) Ephesians 2:8-9



LESSON SUMMARY

How often we fail to be astounded by the gift of salvation. If we have lived with this truth for any length of time, it is easy to take it for granted. Yet, it should fill us with awe, gratitude, and praise that God accepts everyone who calls on His name! This profound truth should humble us. Who are we to receive this most precious gift?

Everything we have ever done is washed away at the cross! Every sin—every wrong heart attitude, every unholy thought, every sinful action—gone, covered by the blood of Jesus to *anyone* who calls on the name of the Lord. God's grace to sinners saves us *from* His anger at sin and punishment for sin, and saves us *for* eternal life with Him in heaven!

All of this is found in Jesus and in Jesus alone who will never cast out any sincere seeker. May you rejoice in this amazing grace today and be astounded by God's gift of salvation to all who call on Him.

Pray that God will fill your heart with the great news of the Gospel. Pray that your child will catch a glimpse of the amazing grace of God that would offer the gift of salvation to anyone who calls on His name.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Discuss with your child why man wants to be in control of his own salvation—to earn it or bargain for it. *What position does it put us in to simply call on Jesus for salvation? What must our heart attitude be? What must we recognize about ourselves? Why is this hard for us? How can we get this heart attitude?*
- Share with your child your testimony of coming to Jesus.

ACTIVITY

With your family, make a list of people you can pray would call on the name of the Lord for salvation. Ask God for an idea of something you can do to share with one of them the good news that God welcomes anyone who calls on Him.

Name	What I Can Do to Share the Gospel



Promise: God Will Forgive You

MAIN IDEAS

- **If we confess our sins, God will forgive us.**
- **When God forgives sins, He blots them out forever—He does not hold our sins against us.**

MEMORY VERSE

*If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just
to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from
all unrighteousness.*
—1 John 1:9

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Isaiah 43:25
- 2) Romans 3:23
- 3) John 8:1-11
- 4) 1 John 1:9



LESSON SUMMARY

Amazing...it's a word we use too glibly to describe things that really aren't amazing. But grace...that is amazing...and sweet. *Amazing grace how sweet the sound.* It is when we realize that we are wretches that we realize how very amazing God's grace is. His grace forgives the unforgiveable, the despicable, the rebellious, the apathetic attitudes of our hearts, the actions we perform, and the words we fling out. We can't change our attitudes, pay for our actions, or take back our words. But worse than that, we can't erase the offense of our sin against our Holy God.

This is where grace comes in...

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins (Isaiah 43:25).

Forgiveness full and free coming from God our Father; cleansing complete and refreshing from Jesus our Savior...eagerly. This is amazing. Like the woman caught in adultery, Jesus says to every sincere confessor, "Neither do I condemn you" (John 8:11). God's promise to forgive repentant sinners is precious. And grace is...*amazing*.

This week, thank God for His forgiveness, full and free. Ask Him to reveal any unconfessed sin and to give you a repentant heart. Pray that your child will get a sense that he or she, too, is a "wretch" and in need of God's forgiveness. Ask God to give him or her a humble and repentant heart.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Make sure your child understands these words in the context of the lesson:

- **Grace**—God’s kindness to undeserving sinners
- **Confess**—to agree with God about your sin; admit your sin
- **Forgiveness**—blotting out your sin and not remembering it or holding it against you; removing the punishment for your sin
- **Repentance**—turning away from sin

Share with your son/daughter an experience of confessing sin and the result of your confession.

- *Is there any sin you need to confess to God?*

ACTIVITY

Explain the words of the hymn *Amazing Grace* to your mother or father. You might want to tell them about John Newton, too. Then sing the hymn together or listen to a recording of it.

Amazing Grace

**Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me...
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now, I see.**

Read the story of the Prodigal Son together (Luke 15:11-32). Where do you see amazing grace and forgiveness in this story?



Promise: God Will Be With You

MAIN IDEAS

- **The fact that God is everywhere all the time is a comforting thought to those who know God, and it is a scary thought for those who do not.**
- **God promises to be with His children wherever they go.**

MEMORY VERSE

*“Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*

—Joshua 1:9

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Joshua 1:5, 9
- 2) Jeremiah 23:24
- 3) Psalm 139:1-18



LESSON SUMMARY

God fills heaven and earth, so just as it is foolish to think that you can get away from the air in a room, so it is foolish to think that you can get away from God. For those who do not know God, this can be a scary thought. God sees every thought, every intention of the heart, and every deed. For those whose sins are not covered by the blood of Jesus, to be in the constant presence of God is not comforting.

But to those of us who know God, who have a deep and abiding friendship with Him, it is a source of continual comfort that no matter where we are, at any time of day, we have the assurance that God is with us. He will not leave us or forsake us. No matter where we go, He is there with us.

God is not just standing idly by, but is actively engaged in helping His children. If you are His child, you can count on His continual, attentive presence with you...

As you face your week, the fears or worries it may hold, is it a source of comfort that the God of the universe is with you? If you are a child of God, take comfort that you are not alone. God's mighty hand is with you, His loving heart guides you, and His watchful eye is ever watching over you.

Thank God for His continual presence with you. Pray that your child will have a strong awareness of whether the thought of God's presence with him or her brings him or her comfort or concern. Pray that your son or daughter will depend on Him this week.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Discuss with your child why it can be either a frightening or a comforting thought to know that God is everywhere all the time. Why is His presence a comfort to His people?
- Talk about your child's fears or concerns. *How can the awareness of God's presence with His children bring comfort in those situations?* Tell your child about a time when it brought you comfort to know that God is with you.

ACTIVITY

This week, find one story in the Bible that shows that not only is God with His people, but He helps His people. Remember that the promise that God will be with His children is also a promise to help them. God is good and helps everyone in some ways, but He especially helps His children.

Draw two pictures—one of how God helped someone in the Bible, and one of how He helped you this week. Explain both pictures to your mother or father.



How God Helped Someone in the Bible

How God Helped Me



Promise: Nothing Can Separate You from God's Love

MAIN IDEAS

- **Nothing can separate believers from the love of God.**
- **Even though a believer's sin does not separate him from God's love, his sin grieves God.**

MEMORY VERSES

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
—Romans 8:38-39

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 22:54-62
- 2) John 21:1-19
- 3) Romans 8:35, 37-39



LESSON SUMMARY

In the face of first century persecution, Paul's words that nothing can separate a follower of Christ from the love of God were very comforting. Not tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword, death, life, angels, rulers, past things, present things, powers, height, depth...nothing in all creation can diminish the love that God has for His children. These were Paul's words from a Roman prison...and Peter's experience after denying Jesus three times.

On the beach after the resurrection, Peter was not banished from the friendship of the risen Christ. He was welcomed, forgiven, restored and even entrusted with the ministry of reconciling sinners to Christ. What a gracious and merciful God we have!

Peter's denial was not a temporary lapse of memory or an impulsive response, but a steadfast, repeated denial that he was a follower of Christ. Yet at the gaze of Jesus, Peter saw the sinfulness of his heart, the grief his sin caused, and the anguish of his Lord...and wept bitterly over his sin.

What a wonderful legacy is given to those who trust in Christ. Like Peter's sin, the sins of His children grieve the heart of God. Yet He never leaves or forsakes His children but surrounds them with steadfast love. Nothing—not even failure or sin—can separate those who are in Christ Jesus from the love of God.

This amazing love motivates the true Christian to keep from sin, and to repent quickly of the grief caused by his sin...and to rejoice that nothing can separate those who trust in Christ from the love of God.

This week, thank God that nothing in all creation can separate God's children from the love of God. Examine your heart and turn from anything that would grieve your Savior. Pray that your child would desire to be included in those who can never be separated from the love of God in Christ.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- What does “nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” mean? Who is this promise for? Talk about the two very different situations that this promise encompasses. What does it look like for the believer in daily life that nothing can separate him from the love of God? What does it look like for the unbeliever that he is continually separated from the love of God?
- What does “loyalty” mean? Was Peter loyal to Jesus? Explain. Was Jesus loyal to Peter? Would you rather be friends with a loyal person or a disloyal person? Talk about some real-life situations and what a loyal friend would do in them, and what a disloyal friend would do in them. What kind of friend is God to His children? Why is that so important?

ACTIVITY

Read the verse and color the picture. This week, look for two ways that God shows His steadfast love to His children. Write them on the lines below.

*As for man,
his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower
of the field;
for the wind passes over
it, and it is gone,
and its place
knows it no more.
—Psalm 103:15-16*



*But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to
everlasting on those who fear Him,
and His righteousness to children’s children,
to those who keep His covenant
and remember to do His commandments
—Psalm 103:15-18*



Promise: God Will Complete His Work in You

MAIN IDEAS

- **God promises to complete His work in the lives of His children to make them more like Jesus.**
- **God will not give up on His children or forsake them.**

MEMORY VERSE

...he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
—Philippians 1:6b

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 22:31-32
- 2) Acts 3:1-4:22
- 3) Philippians 1:6b
- 4) 1 John 3:2



LESSON SUMMARY

Do you ever feel discouraged at how far you are from having the character of Christ? God's Word gives us tremendous words of hope in the promise of Philippians 1:6. God began a good work in every Christian...and He will finish it! He Himself is conforming His children to the image of His Son. This is not dependent on our self-effort, but is the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit. This is good news!

In the last lesson, we saw Peter's failure to stand with Jesus in denying Him three times...and Jesus' forgiveness and faithfulness to Peter. In this lesson we see a different Peter—the Peter after the Holy Spirit descended upon him and filled him at Pentecost. This was part of God's completing work in Peter. The Holy Spirit transformed him from a weak, fearful, disloyal disciple to a strong, bold, loyal defender of the faith! This time Peter is not cowering in fear afraid to acknowledge his friendship with Jesus. He is boldly preaching after being thrown into prison and being threatened with suffering if he continued.

What is the secret to Peter's transformation? Satan wanted to sift Peter, but Jesus had prayed for him. And God answered, sending the Holy Spirit to empower Peter, the other disciples...and all believers. This is the same Holy Spirit who dwells in the soul of every Christian. God's promise stands true. He will complete His work in every Christian of transforming us into the image of His Son!

This week, thank God that He is faithful and will finish the work He has begun in your life. If your child is not saved, ask Him to begin that work in your child. Pray that your child would desire the kind of God-transforming work seen in the life of Peter.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Talk about the phrase, "He who began a good work in you." *What good work is Paul referring to? Do you think God has begun that work in you? Why or why not?* [You may need to help your child understand there is evidence of saving faith in the life of a true follower of Christ—e.g., a present trust in Jesus, desire to read the Word, obedience to God's commands, fruits of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22-23, desire for fellowship, openness to spiritual conversation.] *Are these evidences in your life?*
- *What completing work of God would you like to see in your life? How would you like to grow to be more like Christ?* (Your child should have identified an area and recorded it in the Student Workbook during class. You may want to ask about that during this discussion.) *What would this look like in everyday life? What can you do to cooperate (work with) the Holy Spirit in His work in you?*

ACTIVITY

With mom or dad, read about Peter and John's bold witness in Acts 4:1-22. Explain how God changed Peter. Then complete the crossword puzzle. Remember that God is finishing His work in the hearts of His children. Pray for God to work in your heart.

Word Bank:
 Arrested, Boldness,
 Cannot, Crippled, Holy
 Spirit, Jesus, Salvation,
 Speak, Teaching, Work

Across

2. He who began a good _____ in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6b).

3. The religious leaders were upset because of the _____ of Peter and John (Acts 4:2).

4. _____ is only found in Jesus (Acts 4:12)

5. By whose name was the man healed? (Acts 4:10)

8. Peter's and John's response: "We _____ but speak of what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20)

9. What was wrong with the man who was healed? (Acts 4:9)

10. What the religious leaders did to Peter and John: _____ them. (Acts 4:3)

Down

1. The leaders were astonished when they saw the _____ of Peter and John. (Acts 4:13)

6. The leaders warned Peter and John not to _____ or teach at all in the name of Jesus (verse 18).

7. Who filled Peter and gave him the courage to speak boldly? (Acts 4:8; answer is 2 words)

Answers: Across (2) work; (3) teaching; (4) salvation; (5) Jesus; (8) cannot; (9) crippled; (10) arrested. Down (1) boldness; (6) speak; (7) Holy Spirit.



Promise: You Will Bear Fruit

MAIN IDEAS

- **God promises that His followers will bear fruit.**
- **Fruit in the life of a Christian comes from abiding in Jesus.**

MEMORY VERSE

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.—John 15:5

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 5:16b
- 2) John 15:5
- 3) Acts 9:36
- 4) Acts 10:38
- 5) Galatians 5:22-23



LESSON SUMMARY

How often we try to live the Christian life on our own. Yet Jesus reminds us that He is the Vine and we are just the branches. In the face of our sense of self-sufficient pride, He reminds us that “apart from Me you can do nothing.” This is a much needed reminder of our dependency on Jesus. Yes, it humbles us...but it should also give us hope. Our fruit is produced by Jesus Himself. He sustains, empowers, encourages, and equips us! This is good news! Abiding in the Vine causes fruit to grow!

The fruit produced by abiding in Jesus is both the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23)—and the fruit of good works. The Holy Spirit produces true good works in the Christian, not the self-serving, selfish good works that call attention to ourselves and serve our interests, but the true good works that “give glory to our Father who is in heaven.” True good works are those done by God’s people, with God’s heart, for God’s glory. This is why they can only be done through the work of the Holy Spirit by abiding in Jesus.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

This week, ask God to give you a humble heart of dependency on Jesus and then to provide opportunities for your light to shine before others. Pray that your child will understand what true good works are so that he or she is confronted with the reality of the need to be connected to the True Vine.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

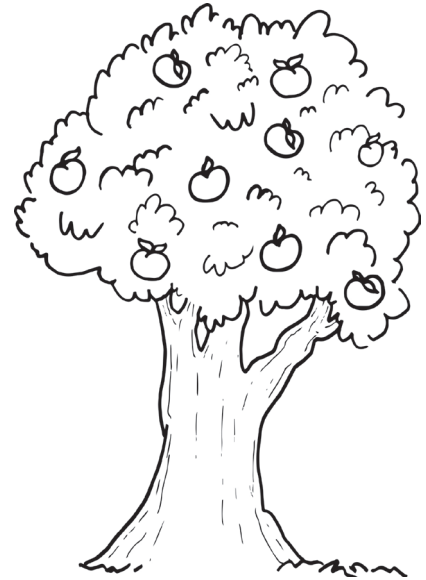
- *What does it mean that Jesus is the Vine and Christians are the branches? What does it mean to “abide” in the Vine? [Help your child to see that abiding in Jesus means depending on Him, trusting in Him.] What are some ways you can trust in Jesus this week?*
- *How can good deeds be done with the wrong attitude? How can they be self-serving? Talk about what a true good work is—one that is done by God’s people, with God’s heart, and for God’s glory. Give your child an example of when you did a good deed with the wrong heart or for your own glory, and an example of when you did a true good deed.*

ACTIVITY

Color the tree diagram and explain it to your mother or father.

John 15:5—*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

The trunk of the tree is _____ The branches are _____



The fruits of the Spirit are:

__ove __oy __eace
 __atience __indness __oodness
 __aithfulness __entleness __elf-__ontrol

Explain the fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23 to your mother or father.

Explain what a true good deed is to your mother or father.

*A true good deed is done:
 by God's people,
 with God's heart,
 for God's glory.*

On the line below, write one fruit of the Spirit or one good work you would like Jesus to work in you this week. Can you do this apart from Jesus?

Optional: What is one good deed your family can do this week? Pray that your good deed will show others the greatness of God.



Promise: God Hears Your Prayers

MAIN IDEAS:

- God hears the prayers of His children and always answers.
- God answers “Yes,” “No,” or “Wait” to the prayers of His children.

MEMORY VERSE

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.
—Psalm 34:15

SCRIPTURE

- 1) 1 Kings 18:20-39
- 2) Psalm 34:15



LESSON SUMMARY

The story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal is a favorite because it shows God’s power and reveals His superiority over anyone or anything that would claim His throne. It also shows His attentiveness to the call of His children. As Elijah heckles the prophets about the inattentiveness of Baal, we are reminded that God is always attentive to the call of His children. His promise to answer prayer is a great and glorious promise. He hears us when we pray! Every time!

Psalm 34:15—The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

It is the great privilege of Christians to bring every need to God, with the reassurance that He hears and answers that prayer. But prayer is more than just asking for God’s blessing; it is also praising Him, thanking Him, and confessing our sins. How important it is to remember all these aspects of prayer as we fellowship with our God.

Though God does not always answer the way we want Him to, He does always answer our prayers. His answer is always right—whether it be “Yes,” “No,” or “Wait,” as God always acts for the good of His children.

This week, thank God for His attentiveness to His children and His promise to answer every prayer. Ask Him for the faith to believe that “No,” and “Wait” answers are good answers. Pray that God would work in the heart of your child to believe that He is the one True God who always answers prayer and whose answers are always right.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Ask your child to recount the story of Elijah and the Prophets of Baal. *Why did Elijah have this contest? (See 1 Kings 18:21.) What does it mean that the people of Israel were “limping between two different opinions”? How does this story show that the God of Israel is the one True God? Would you like to have been there to see this actually happen? Do you sometimes “limp between*

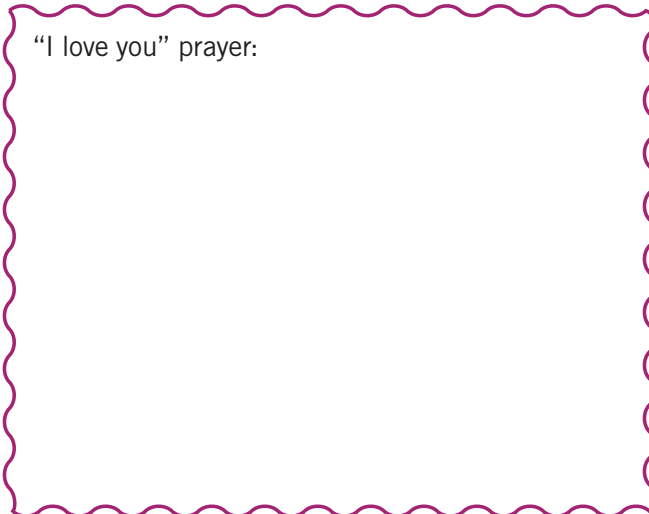
two different opinions”? (Talk with your child about the difference between following God full-heartedly and half-heartedly.)

- Share with your child a “Yes,” a “No,” and a “Wait” answer to prayer in your life. *How do you see now that these answers were best?*

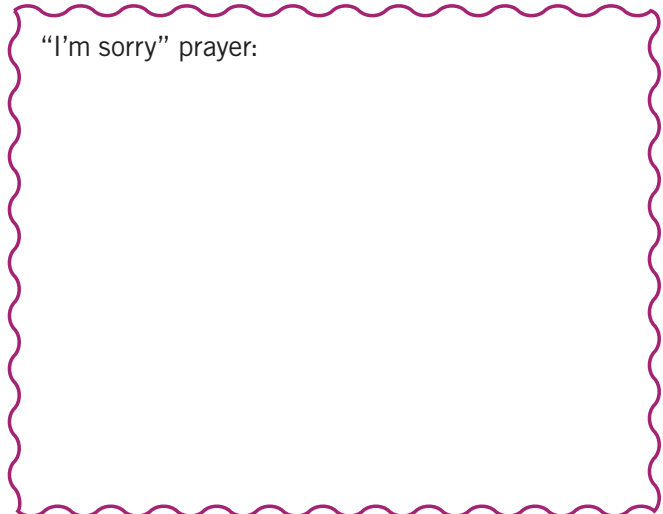
ACTIVITY

Write 4 of your prayers this week in the boxes below.

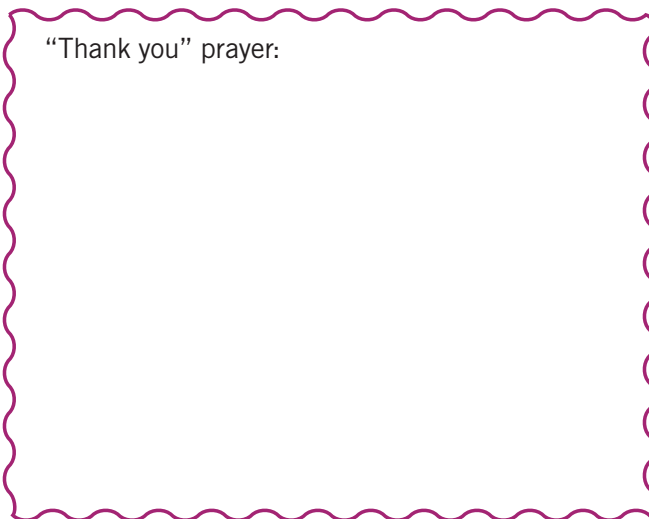
“I love you” prayer:



“I’m sorry” prayer:



“Thank you” prayer:

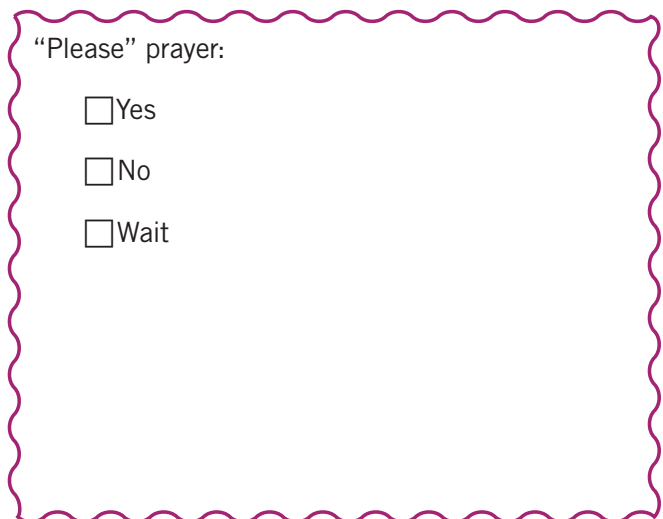


“Please” prayer:

Yes

No

Wait



At the end of the week, check if the “Please” prayer was answered with a “Yes,” “No,” or “Wait” answer. Ask God to give you the faith to believe that His answers are always right.



Promise: The Lord Will Guide You

MAIN IDEAS

- **God will guide you to know what is right.**
- **God keeps His promise to guide His children, but sometimes His children forget to consult Him or ignore His guidance.**
- **Acknowledging God in all our ways and doing things God's way bring the greatest happiness.**

MEMORY VERSES

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
—Proverbs 3:5-6

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 32:8-9
- 2) Proverbs 3:5-6



LESSON SUMMARY

God has promised to guide His children. He instructs us through His Word and the godly counsel of others, as well as watches over us with His “eye upon” us, ready to shepherd us back to His paths. We are confronted in His Word with multiple examples of those who received God’s counsel, walked in His ways and experienced His blessing; as well as those who resisted God’s counsel, walked in their own ways, and received His discipline. He leaves no doubt in His Word that following His ways is the path to blessing and joy.

It takes humility to trust in the Lord and not to lean on our own understanding, to continually acknowledge that we need His help and guidance. The human heart is prone to self-reliance, arrogance, and rebellion. We like our children have the choice each day of either doing things “God’s way” or “my way.” We have the choice of being gently led by the Lord as we consistently seek His counsel, or being curbed with His discipline as a stubborn horse or mule is curbed with a bit and bridle.

This week ask yourself if you are continually seeking the Lord’s counsel, if you are truly trusting His wisdom and His heart for you, and if you are resisting Him in any way. Rejoice in God’s sure promise that He will make straight your paths as you lean in dependence upon Him.

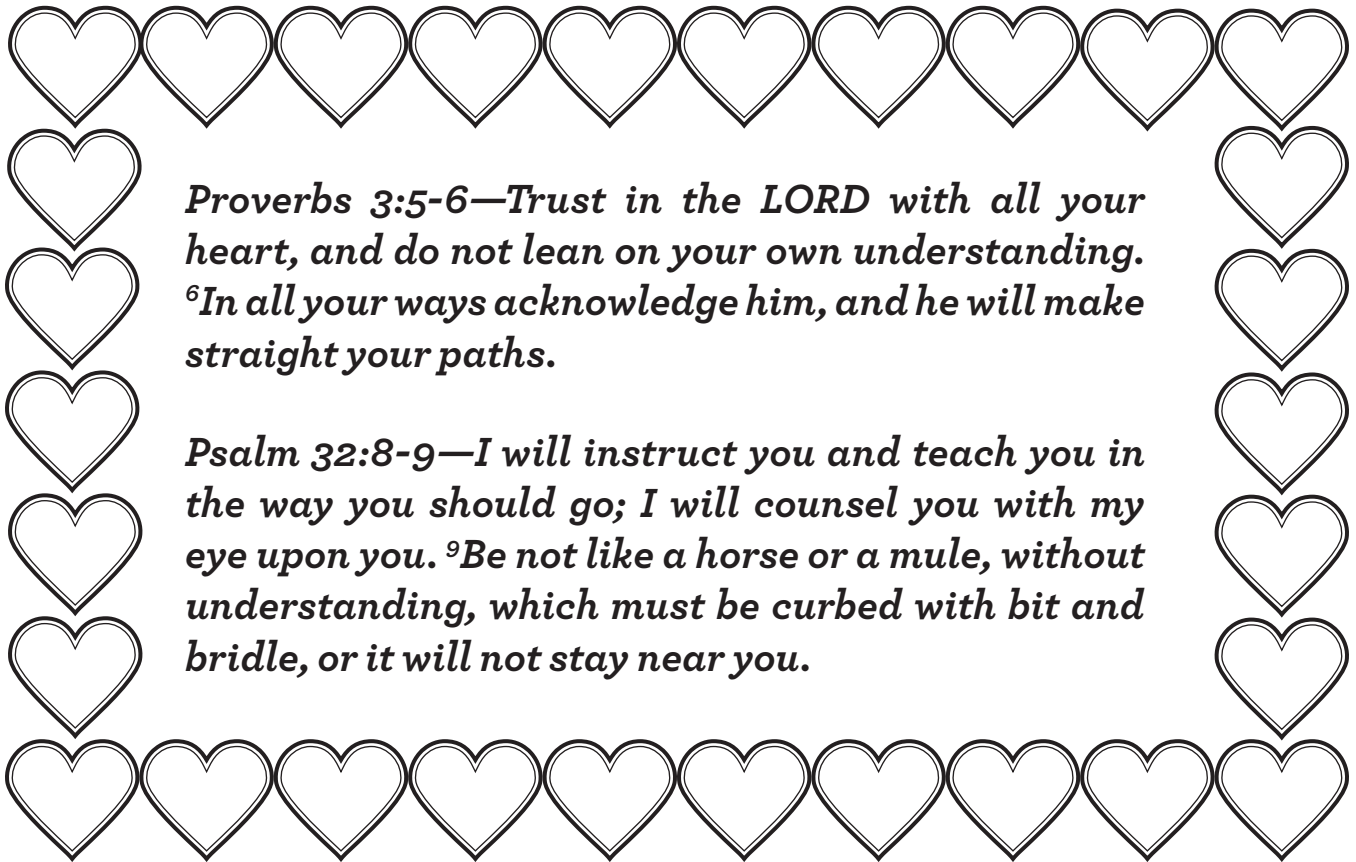
Pray for a humble dependence on God this week and for a submissive heart before Him. Ask the Lord to grant your child the wisdom to see the benefit of walking in God’s ways and the folly of following his or her own way.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Talk with your child about some biblical examples of people who walked in God’s ways and those who stubbornly resisted Him and walked in their own ways. *What was the outcome? Why is it foolish to insist on your own way? Why are God’s ways so much better than our own?*
- *What does it mean to acknowledge God in all your ways? How can you do this today or this week? How can you tell if you are trusting in the Lord or stubbornly resisting Him? (Share a personal experience of knowing what God wanted you to do in a situation and your response. What was the outcome? Share with your child what you learned from this.)*

ACTIVITY

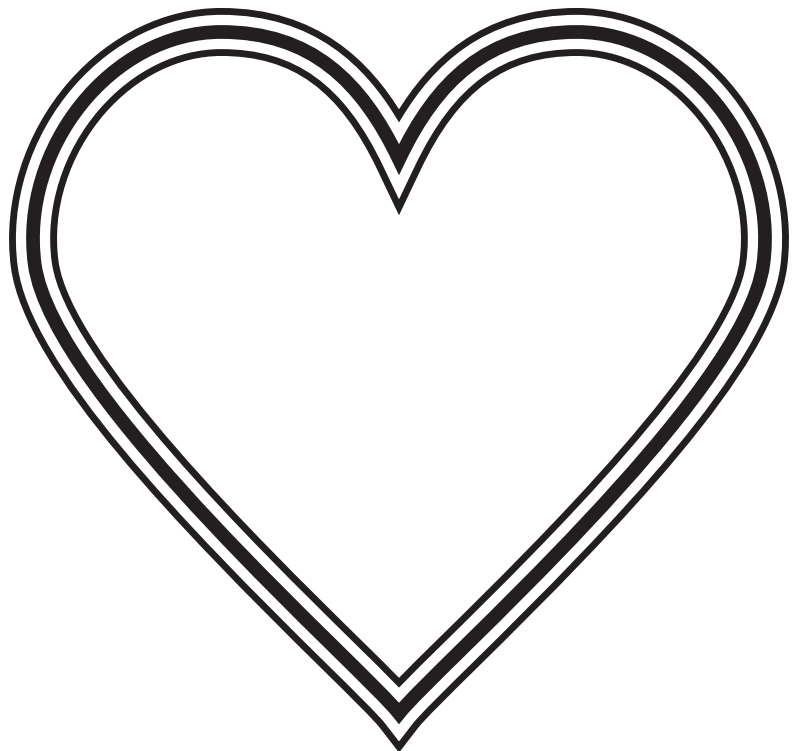
Explain these verses to your mom or dad. Then color the border.



Proverbs 3:5-6—Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Psalms 32:8-9—I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

In the heart,
write a prayer
to God asking
Him to help
you trust in
Him with all
your heart.





Promise: God Will Provide for Your Needs

MAIN IDEAS

- **God will provide for all the needs of His children.**
- **Don't worry about your needs; rather, trust God to care for you.**
- **Seek God and His kingdom rather than possessions.**

MEMORY VERSE

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
—Philippians 4:19

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Matthew 6:25-34
- 2) Philippians 4:19



LESSON SUMMARY

What needs do you have this week? Do you have the assurance that *God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus*? This is the unshakable promise of God to all those who are trusting in Jesus.

How easy it is for us to forget the promise of God to care for His children. Yet, He gives us daily reminders of His constant care—birds that neither sow nor reap and yet are fed; flowers that don't spin or toil, and yet are beautifully clothed. God sends these reminders as reassurances that He cares for even the most insignificant. How much more is His care for His children?

Jesus' reminder to us in the Sermon on the Mount is to concern ourselves with seeking His kingdom—striving to grow spiritually; to seek God, and to be a blessing to others. Then God's sure promise will be ours. He will supply every need of ours.

This is the promise of our faithful God to all those who trust in Jesus. Why do we worry when He possesses the goodness, power and wisdom to fulfill this promise and all others? Surely we can stand firm on His unshakable promise to care for us!

This week, commit yourself to seeking God's kingdom and rest in His sure promise to provide for you. Pray that your child will have a greater desire to seek God, rather than the things of this world.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *What kinds of things do you worry about? How does God's promise to provide for His children deal with this worry? Why is worrying a lack of trust in God? What needs does your family have today? Remind your child of God's care for your family in the past. Commit your needs to the Lord together with your child.*
- *When the Bible says that God provides for the needs of His children, does that mean that a Christian will get everything he wants? [Help children to see that God gives His children all things that are good for them. Selfish desires are not good for us and He will not provide everything we think we need. He knows our true needs.] What is the difference between needs and wants? What kinds of things does God want us to want?*

ACTIVITY

Read Matthew 6:25-34 with mom or dad. Talk with mom or dad about what this verse means:

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.—Matthew 6:33

With mom or dad, think of some things you can do this week to seek God’s kingdom. Ask mom or dad to write some of these ideas below. This week, try to do at least one of them.

Optional: See how many different kinds of flowers you can find this week. They can be either real flowers or pictures in books. Draw a picture of one interesting flower you saw to remind you that since God cares even for flowers, He will care for His children.



God often provides for His children through others. What needs do you see around you? What can your family do to be “God’s hands and feet” this week?



Promise: God Will Not Withhold Any Good Thing

MAIN IDEAS

- **God will not withhold anything from His children that is good for them.**
- **God is generous.**
- **If God withholds something good from a Christian, it is because it is not good for him.**

MEMORY VERSE

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.—Psalm 84:11

SCRIPTURE

- 1) 1 Samuel 1
- 2) Psalm 34:10
- 3) Psalm 84:11
- 4) Romans 8:32



LESSON SUMMARY

It is true that we want what we want...and when we don't get it, we aren't always very happy about it. This may be a fairly common experience in your home with a young child. But this response is not limited to children. We, too, often question when things don't go our way.

But for the Christian, God has promised:

Psalm 84:11—For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

That is a very comprehensive promise—in fact it couldn't be more comprehensive! *No good thing*—not even one! So we can have the assurance that anything God withholds is not good for us. God is so very generous that He has given His very own precious Son. Any other thing would be a lesser thing to give. He is so very wise that He knows what is good for us, and He loves us enough not to give us something that isn't good for us. Why should we not trust such a good and wise Father?

Romans 8:32—He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Thank God this week for His unending generosity. Thank Him for not sparing His own Son. Ask Him for the faith to believe that He will not withhold any good thing from you and the conviction to trust Him when He does withhold something. Pray that your child will see God as immensely generous.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *What does “generous” mean? What in the Bible and in the world shows you that God is generous? Read Romans 8:32 together. Why is God able to graciously give us all things? [Help your child understand that sacrificing the greatest treasure makes it easy to sacrifice something lesser.]*

- *What does the word “withhold” mean? Is God withholding something that you have prayed for? What is your response to God’s withholding? Why might God be withholding what you are praying for? Do we always understand what is good for us? Why? (Share with your child an experience of when God withheld something from you. What is your perspective on it now?)*

ACTIVITY

Psalm 84:11—For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

With your mom or dad, answer these questions: What does the sun do? What does a shield do? How is God a sun and a shield to His children?

Draw a picture below of a sun and a shield to remind yourself that God cares for and protects His children. He is always good to them.



Promise: God Will Fight for You

MAIN IDEAS

- **God promises to fight for His children.**
- **God acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.**

MEMORY VERSE

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
—Psalm 46:1

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Judges 6:1-7
- 2) 2 Kings 6:15-18
- 3) Psalm 46:1
- 4) Isaiah 64:4
- 5) Hebrews 13:6



LESSON SUMMARY

What battles are you facing today? What fears do you have? What worries plague you? What threatens your faith? God's promise is that He will fight for you!

Psalm 46:1—God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

A present help means He is always there for us. He is our refuge, our place of safety, and our strength in our weakness. What a wonderful promise it is for the children of God that He will fight for us!

His unseen army surrounds us daily. If He would open our eyes to see His power and protection, we would face our daily battles with confidence. Like Gideon, we would stand in amazement at His deliverance from all our troubles. It doesn't matter that we feel like an army of 300 against thousands—God is on our side!

Isaiah 64:4—From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.

Rejoice in this promise this week and confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13:16).

Pray for a heart of faith and confidence in God's strength and His care for you. Thank Him that He is a present help and that He acts on behalf of His children. Pray that your child will trust in God as his or her refuge and strength and fight the enemy of his or her soul.

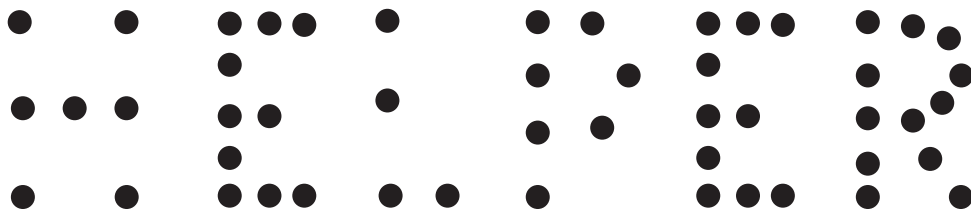
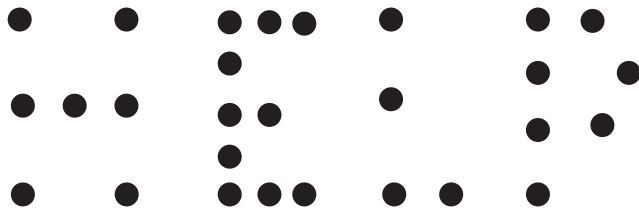
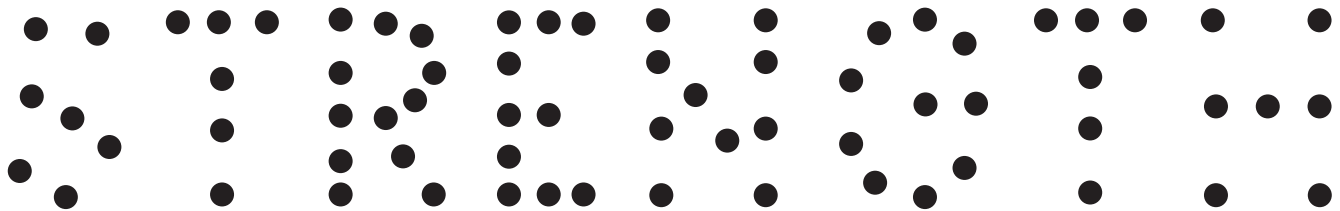
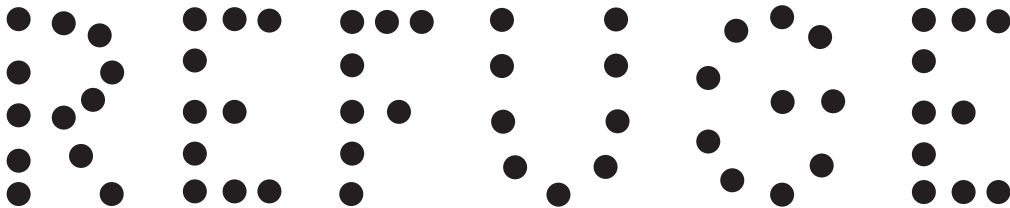
AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Ask your child to tell you the story of the chariots of fire around Elisha (2 Kings 6:8-18), or the story of Israel's defeat of the Midianites (Judges 6:1-6; 7). *How does this story show that God is big and strong? How does it show that God fights for His children?*

- *Why do you need God to fight for you? How can God be your Helper? (Talk with your child about the simple daily battles that God helps us with and also the bigger battle for faith.)*

ACTIVITY

Connect the dots to find four words that show who God is to give you confidence in Him. Explain to mom or dad why these words can help you to trust in God.





Promise: God is Slow to Anger

MAIN IDEAS

- **God has compassion on us, remembering that we are dust.**
- **God is slow to anger and patient with His children.**

MEMORY VERSE

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

—Psalm 86:15

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 3-4:17
- 2) Numbers 14:18
- 3) Psalm 86:15
- 4) Psalm 103:8-10, 13-14
- 5) Mark 15:16-37
- 6) Luke 23:26-46



LESSON SUMMARY

Our weaknesses are obvious to us. We have fears, worries, limitations, and sinful responses, and these often are the occasion for other people to get angry or lose patience with us. But God's response is so different than our sinful human response. He responds with patience and is slow to anger. He doesn't vent in frustration, but responds with steadfast love. He remembers that we are "dust."

Though God would be justified to repay us according to our sin, He doesn't! His heart is always to forgive, restore, strengthen and help. What an amazing God of steadfast love we have!

Through the example of God's patience with Moses, who was filled with fear at the thought of confronting Pharaoh and responded with great reluctance, we can see the patient, compassionate grace that God extends to His children. Jesus' example of love and forgiveness to those who crucified Him is a window into the heart of God.

We need not cower before God in our weakness, but rather rejoice that He knows that we are weak and loves us in spite of it. He is eager to help, support, encourage, and strengthen us, not to condemn us. Each day we should be amazed at the patience of God. How different our lives would be if God were not slow to anger. This is undeserved grace. What a precious promise to His children is God's promise to be slow to anger.

This week, thank God for His patience with you. Ask Him to help you as you confront your weaknesses this week. Pray that your child will see the patient, compassionate heart of God.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

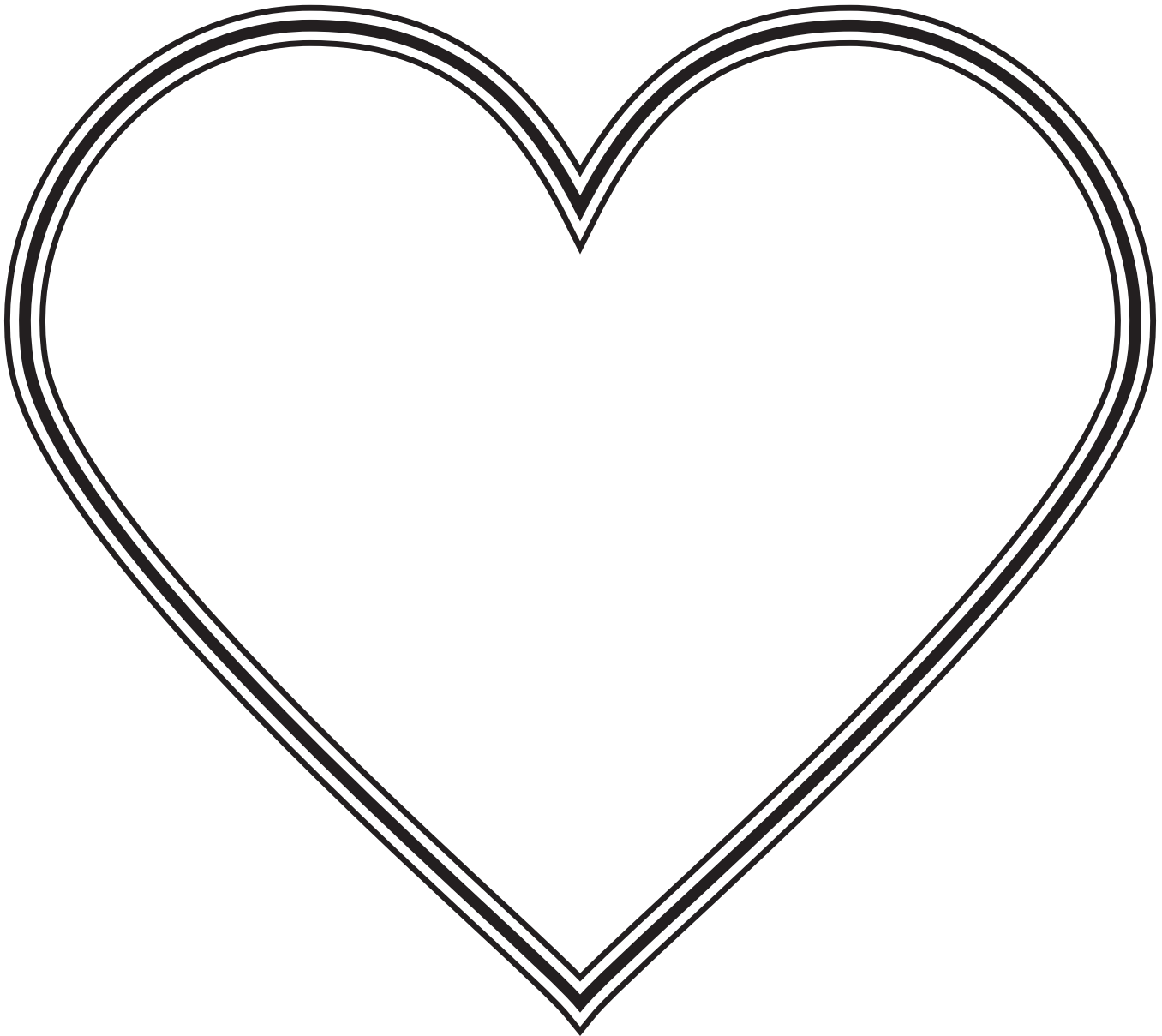
- *Why do people get angry with us?* [Help your child see that our sin or our weaknesses are often the occasion for an angry response. Acknowledge that others' weaknesses and sins often reveal the sin in our own hearts. Sometimes we get angry because we are impatient, frustrated, annoyed, etc.] *Why is God so different—why doesn't He struggle with anger, but is slow to anger?* [Help your child to see that God doesn't have any sin—nothing limits or frustrates Him. His anger is always a reflection of His just punishment of sin. God is patient with us and delays judgment, giving us a chance to repent. See 2 Peter 3:9.] *Why is it good that God is slow to anger? What would it be like if God were not slow to anger?*

- *What are some of the weaknesses that you struggle with? How do these weaknesses show you that you need God? How can you bring these weaknesses to God?* [Help your child see that God is eager to help His children with their weaknesses. Give them an example of how to pray asking God to help them in their weakness.] Pray with your child about his need for God. Give your child an example of how you have brought your weaknesses or sin to God. *How has God been slow to anger with you?*

ACTIVITY

Psalm 86:15—But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

God treats us better than we deserve—every day. This week, look for ways that God treats you better than you deserve. Write about one of those ways inside the big heart below. Ask mom or dad to help you.





Promise: God Will Give You Strength

MAIN IDEA

- **God will give strength to those who trust in Him.**

MEMORY VERSE

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.

—2 Chronicles 16:9a

SCRIPTURE

- 1) 2 Chronicles 16:9a
- 2) Isaiah 40:28-31
- 3) Philippians 4:13
- 4) Hebrews 13:6



LESSON SUMMARY

What a wonderful thought it is that God's eyes run to and fro throughout the earth for the purpose of giving strong support to His children. Because we feel our weaknesses so acutely, the thought that God is actively pursuing our good, eager to strengthen us, is amazing. This should give us the confidence to face our fears, worries, and troubles. We have the almighty God, our Father, looking out for us, eager to help us, and willing to give His strong support to us.

Like plaster of paris powder gains strength as it is united to water, so we gain strength when we are united to Christ. Alone, we are pretty frail, but with Him, we are strong. May your child learn to depend on God so that he or she too can "mount up with wings like eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

Pray that you will walk in dependency on God this week. Ask Him to help your child to feel his or her weakness and believe that His strength can be his or hers.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *What kinds of things are hard for you? Read Isaiah 40:28 together: "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable."*
- *Isn't it amazing that God "does not faint or grow weary"? How is it different to depend on someone who does not faint or grow weary, versus someone who is maybe just a little stronger than you are? What does, "His understanding is unsearchable" mean? What is the difference between depending on someone who is strong but doesn't really understand that you aren't so strong, and someone who is strong and really understands your weakness? How will that person treat you differently? What is the difference between a person who is concerned about himself and someone who is eager to help you?*
- *Read 2 Chronicles 16:9a together—"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. What picture does this give you of God?"*


- *We all have weaknesses. We all have our fears and anxieties. Yet God is eager to help His children by giving them strong support.* Share with your child this week some of the ways in which you feel weak, and how depending on God gives you strength. Give a specific example of a time when you depended on God and He gave you strength. Explore with your child an area in which he or she is weak and walk him or her very specifically through how he or she can depend on God.

ACTIVITY

Read together Isaiah 40:28-31.

Isaiah 40:28-31—Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Watch a video about eagles together, or do some reading about eagles. Why does the Bible say that with God's help, those who trust in Him will "mount up with wings like eagles"? Ask mom or dad to help you write your thoughts in the box below.





Promise: Though You Stumble, You Will Not Fall

MAIN IDEAS

- **Though the righteous may fall, they will not be cast headlong.**
- **God sustains the righteous, upholding them with His hand.**

MEMORY VERSES

The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; ²⁴though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.—Psalm 37:23-24

SCRIPTURE

- 1) 2 Samuel 11:1-12:13
- 2) 2 Samuel 11:27b
- 3) 2 Samuel 12:7-8
- 4) 1 Kings 11:4
- 5) 1 Kings 14:8
- 6) Psalm 37:23-24
- 7) Acts 13:22



LESSON SUMMARY

It is a frightening thing to realize the hold that sin can have on the heart and the mind. Every true Christian battles sin daily. With God's help there is victory. But there are times when even sincere Christians fall. What keeps us from continuing down the path of destruction? God's promise that "though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand." God has pledged to rescue His children from a path of continual unrepentant sin. What a joy and great relief it is to know that our steps are established by the Lord and that He upholds us.

Pondering the life of David should keep us from smug pride though. Here was a man who *followed God with all his heart, whose heart was wholly devoted to God, a man after God's own heart.* And yet his life was stained by horrific sin—adultery and murder. What would our response to David have been? Amazing grace flowed from the heart of his God! God sent Nathan to rebuke him and rescue him from continuing on a path of destruction that would lead to rejecting God and eternal torment.

Surely God is a covenant-keeping God who honors every one of His promises, including His promise to rescue us when we fall so that we will not be cast headlong. Though sin leaves its nasty scars, and the consequences of sin are never worth the fleeting pleasure of sin, God's rescuing grace pulls us back to Him and away from our sin. What a gift is repentance that keeps us from walking away from our God.

This week, examine your heart. Is there any momentary sin there that you need to repent of? Thank God for His promise to uphold you and rescue you from your own heart. Pray that your child will be sobered by sin, rejoice in God's rescue, and ponder his or her spiritual standing before God.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Psalm 37:23-24. *What is the difference between "falling" and being "cast headlong"?* [Help your child to understand that "falling" is a temporary bout with sin that we repent of. Being "cast headlong" is continuing in sin and turning your back on God. When we fall, we turn away from God, but when we are cast headlong, our continual sin and turning from God is the occasion for God casting us away, and there is no return.] *How do you treat sin in your life? Is there true repentance or just a temporary change in behavior?* [Instruct your child that true repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for the offense our sin is to God and a change of heart that desires to turn from sin and to God. Sorrow for sin is different than sorrow about the punishment or consequences.]
- *How does God rescue us?* [Help your child to see the blessing of God in bringing people to rebuke us, His Word to convict, consequences that make us see the folly of sin, and the Holy Spirit to change our hearts.] *How long will God rescue us?* [Explain to your child that God's common grace on man rescues us in many ways, but if we continually ignore His warnings, continually go our own way, and are not grateful for the rescue, it may be a sign that we are not saved. God's preserving grace is not endless. There will come a time for those who continually reject God that He will reject them.] *How can we help one another when we sin?*

ACTIVITY

Fill in the words of this verse:

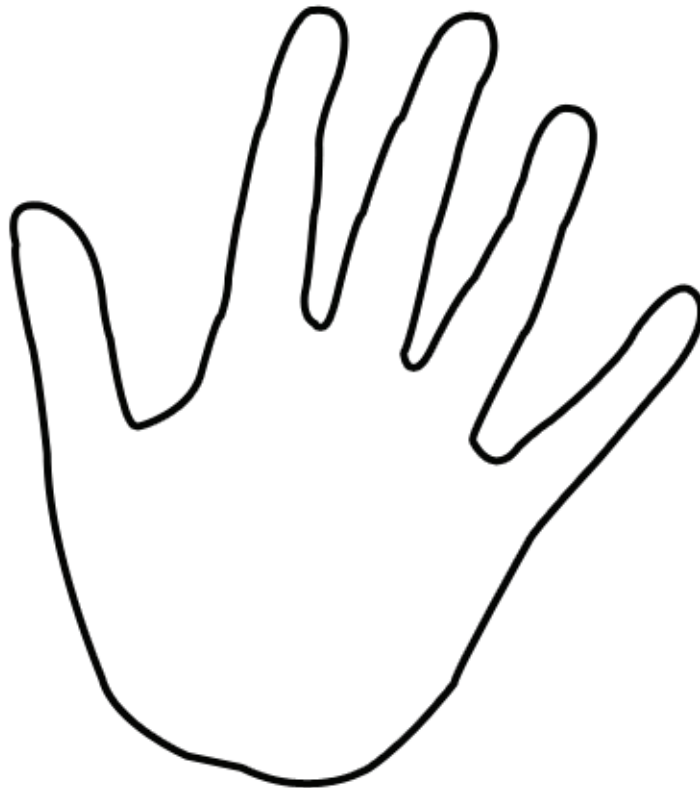
Psalm 37:23-24—The  *of a man are established by*

the LORD, when he  *in his way;*

²⁴*though he*  *he shall not be cast headlong,*

for the LORD upholds his  *.*

Inside the outline of the hand below, write about one way that God upheld you this week. How did he keep you from falling or help you when you fell? How did you respond?





Promise: God Will Discipline You

MAIN IDEAS

- **God disciplines those He loves, for our good.**
- **We should be grateful for God's loving discipline.**
- **God's discipline is merciful.**

MEMORY VERSES

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof,¹² for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.
—Proverbs 3:11-12

SCRIPTURE

- 1) 1 Chronicles 21:13
- 2) Proverbs 3:11-12
- 3) Proverbs 4:25-27
- 4) Hosea 6:1
- 5) Jonah 1:3-3
- 6) Hebrews 12:11



LESSON SUMMARY

God's ways are good and right and bring great blessing to those who walk in them. It is the desire of God's heart to bring the greatest blessing into the lives of His children. So when we swerve to the right or the left, He disciplines us to keep us walking in His good ways.

Just as good fathers discipline their children for their children's good, so God disciplines His children for the same reason. All of His discipline comes from a heart of love. He disciplines to cause repentance, to turn His children back to Him—never for revenge, but only in love. Though His discipline can be painful, He never disciplines more than is necessary, and His discipline is permeated with mercy. This is why Hosea declares:

Hosea 6:1—Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

What a wonderful promise it is that God will discipline us. He will not let us rebelliously make a destruction of our lives, but will correct us in love. This is a blessing for which we should be extremely grateful. We need discipline because our hearts are prone to wander. But like a good shepherd, God our Shepherd lovingly disciplines us, bringing our hearts back to loving what is good and right. Is it no wonder then that Proverbs tells us:

Proverbs 3:11-12—My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof,¹² for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

How often do we see discipline as a gift? How often do we thank God for it? May you center your heart on the goodness of God, the blessing of discipline, and the delight in walking in His ways.

Pray that you will have the correct attitude toward God's discipline and that you will quickly repent when disciplined. Thank God for His shepherd heart that lovingly keeps us from straying too far from Him. Ask Him to help your child see that discipline is good and comes from love. Pray that He will give him or her a desire to walk in God's ways and center his or her heart on Him.

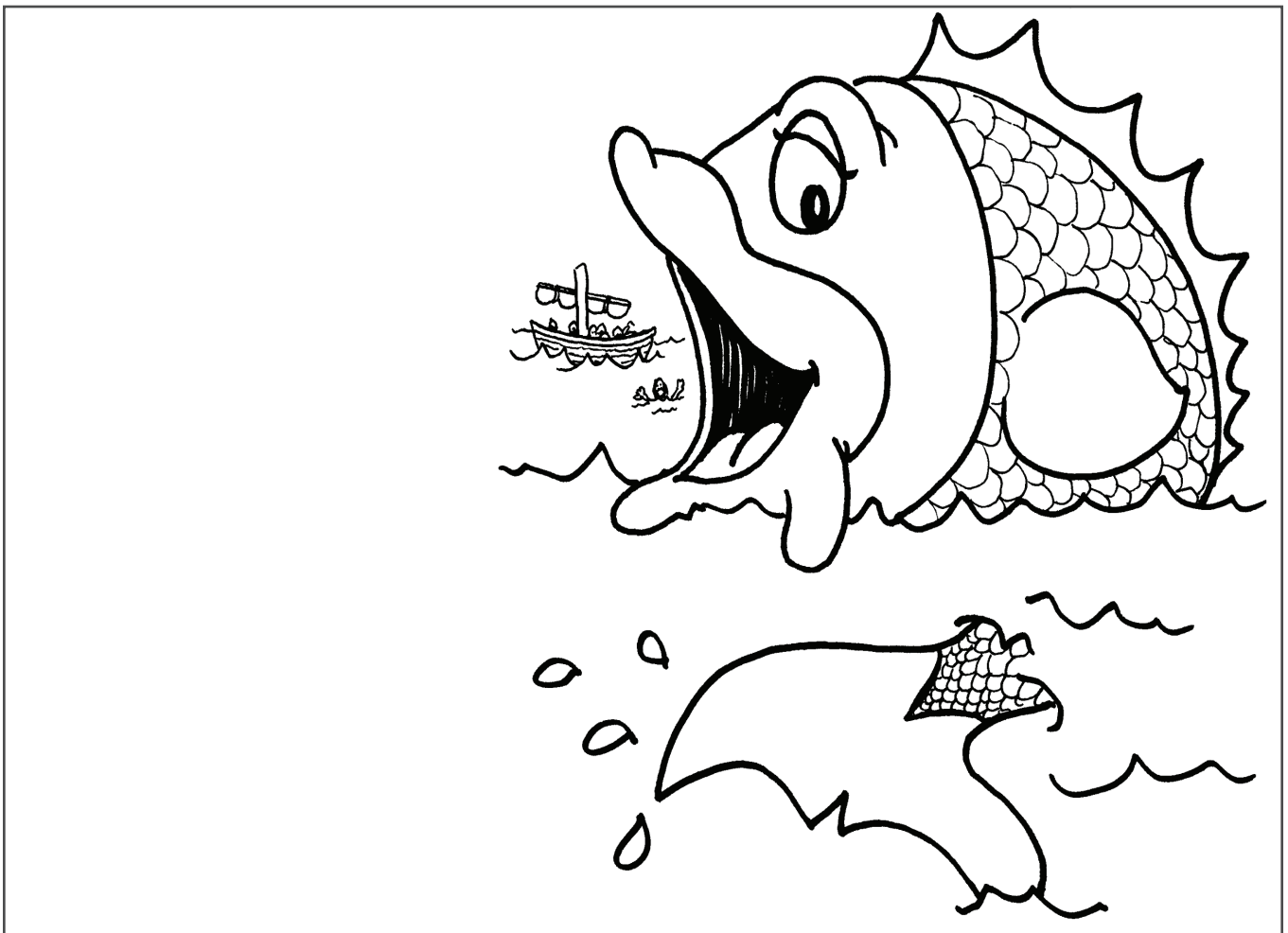
AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *Why do you think that I discipline you? Can you give an example of a time when I disciplined you for your good? Why do you need discipline? Do only children need discipline? Why do we all need discipline?* [Help your child to understand that the human heart is sinful and prone to love what is wrong and to wander away from the ways of God.] *Do I ever discipline you with the wrong heart attitude?* (Ask your child's forgiveness for sometimes disciplining in anger or frustration rather than in love—though love is the underlying motive.) *Does God ever discipline with the wrong motive? Why not?*
- Read Proverbs 3:11-12. *What should our attitude be toward discipline? Is this our attitude? What attitude do we sometimes have? Why? Let's ask Jesus to give us a better attitude toward discipline.*

ACTIVITY

Proverbs 3:11-12—My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, ¹²for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Ask mom or dad to help you write a prayer below, thanking God for discipline, and asking Him to help you to be grateful for discipline. Color the picture to remind you of Jonah's story.





Promise: God Plans Good for You

MAIN IDEAS

- **God's plans for His children are for good.**
- **God brings new mercies to us every day.**

MEMORY VERSE

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
—Jeremiah 29:11
(ESV, 2003)

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 2-12
(Moses' story)
- 2) Deuteronomy 34:10-12
- 3) Jeremiah 29:11
- 4) Lamentations 3:22-23
- 5) James 1:17



LESSON SUMMARY

In the ups and downs of life, it is good to keep in perspective that God plans good for His children. He has a hopeful future for each of us, and His plans are for “wholeness and not evil.” To know that God is committed to our good should be a fear and worry eraser. We have the assurance that He has good in store for us.

Yet how easy it is to get into a complaining mode and to miss the mercies that are new every morning. Discontentedness is part of our fallen nature. But as new creatures in Christ, we can live with a thankful heart, knowing that not only are there new mercies every day, but there is also a long-term good that God has in His plans for us. Hold on to this hope this week as navigate the ups and downs that this week holds.

Pray that God will give you a thankful heart and repent of any ingratitude or complaining spirit. Ask God to give your child eyes to see the goodness He lavishes on him or her each day and to desire the good plan He has for His children.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *Is there a difference between what is easy for you and what is good for you? Give me an example of each. Do God's plans for good for His children mean “easy” for them? Why is it more loving to do what is good for people than what is easy for people? [Help your children to see that making things easy for someone does not help him become strong or capable, and therefore is not good for him. It does not build important character qualities like perseverance, hopefulness, creativity, or courage.]*
- *God not only plans good for a lifetime for His children, but He also brings new mercies every morning. What are some mercies God gave us today? Did we remember to thank God for His goodness to us? What did you complain about today? It is easier to have a complaining heart, but it is better to have a grateful heart. What can we do to encourage each other to have a grateful heart?*

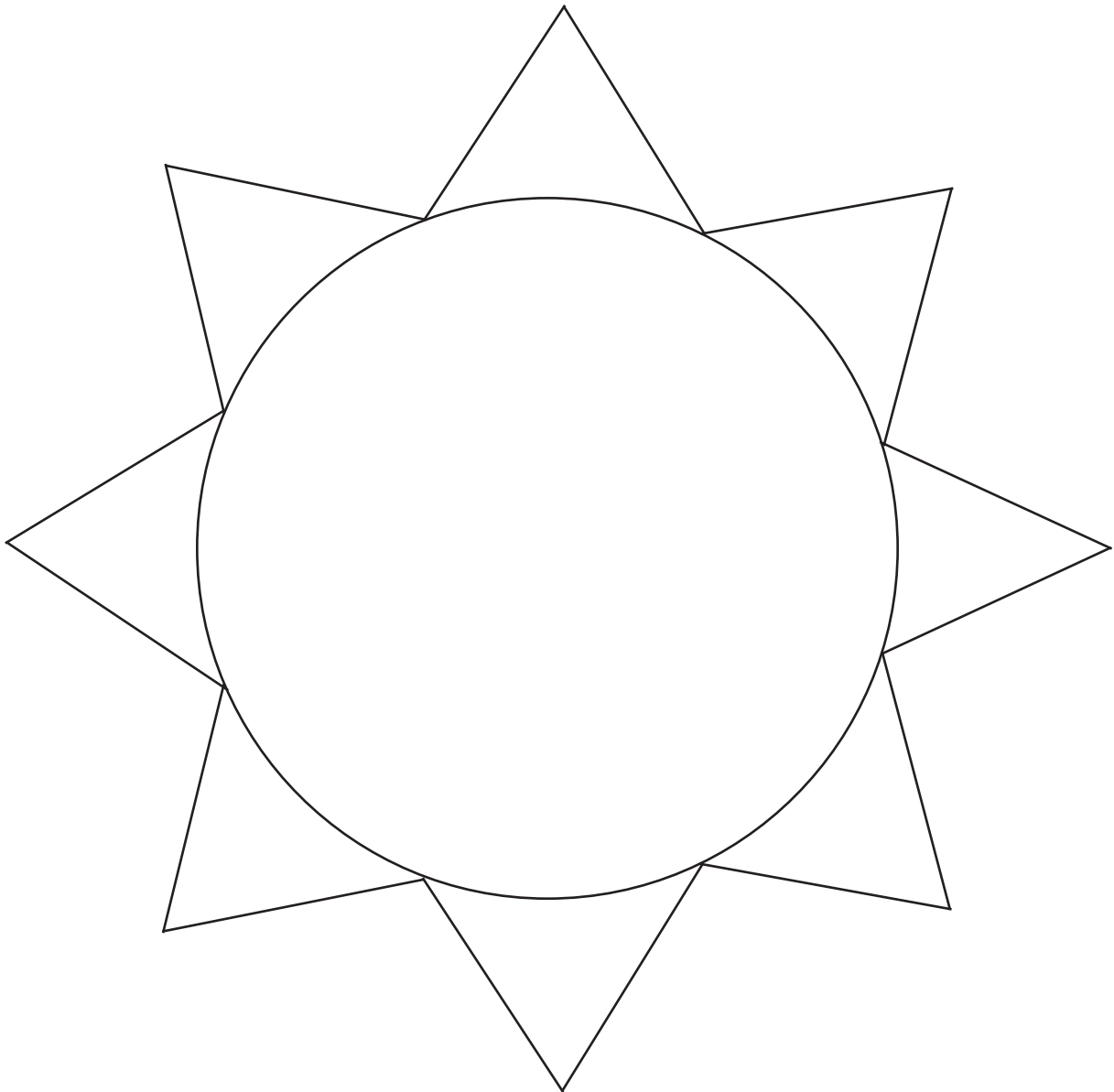
ACTIVITY

Explain the verses below to mom or dad.

Lamentations 3:22-23—The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

James 1:17—Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Every morning God brings new mercies into your life. This week, fill the sun with the “good and perfect gifts” things that God gives you this week.



Optional Family Fun Activity: Watch Walt Disney’s *Pollyanna* movie, starring Hayley Mills. Talk about biblical truths displayed in the movie.



Promise: God Will Be With You in the Hard Times

MAIN IDEAS

- **Christians will have troubles, but God promises to be with them in the hard times.**
- **God allows His children to go through hard times because He loves them and wants their faith to grow.**

MEMORY VERSE

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;...—Isaiah 43:2a

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Isaiah 43:2a
- 2) Psalm 34:19
- 3) Psalm 46:1-3
- 4) Acts 7: 54-60



LESSON SUMMARY

We are no strangers to troubles. They come in all sizes, shapes, and levels of intensity. This is a fact of life, and Christians are not shielded from difficulty. On the contrary, the Bible says that *many are the afflictions of the righteous* (Psalm 34:19a). We will *pass through waters*—many waters of hardship and suffering.

God allows His children to go through difficulty in order to build their faith—to make their confidence in Him and His promises strong; to learn lessons they need to learn; and to build the character of Christ in them. Though this is not easy, it is good for us and part of God’s promise to do good for us.

But along with the waters of hardship and the many afflictions, God makes a wonderful, comforting promise...*I will be with you*. Just as God was with Stephen when he was being stoned, giving him courage, strength, and peace, so He is with us in affliction. God’s deliverance is not always a change in our circumstances, but His presence in the midst of difficulty, giving us all we need to endure trials victoriously.

May you find the sweet presence of God to be comforting in your difficulties and trials through life as you press on toward the reward of enjoying Him forever in heaven.

Pray this week that you will sense the presence and help of God throughout your day, and that He will give you a right perspective of suffering. Ask Him to help your child to see that the trials of the Christian life are minor compared to the joy of heaven.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Share with your child some of the hard times in your life and what you learned from them. How were they good for you, and how did they help your faith to grow? What helped you to go through the difficulties? Be sensitive to any difficulties your child is going through, and encourage him or her to bring his or her cares to the Lord.
- Read Psalm 34:19 together. *Does the promise that God will deliver the righteous out of all their afflictions mean that God will change the circumstances to be good? What does it mean?* [Help your child to see that deliverance comes in different ways. Sometimes it is a change in circumstances. Sometimes it is a change in our attitude toward the situation,

or strength or encouragement that God gives us in the situation, the companionship of another in it, or the presence of God helping us to persevere in it.] *Why is God's promise of being with us in hard times such a precious promise?* [Help your child to see the character of God and His active presence with His children— helping, encouraging, blessing.]

ACTIVITY

Read Isaiah 43:1-3a with mom or dad. Why is God knowing His children by name so comforting? What does that show you about God?

Your family probably knows another family going through a hard time right now. How can you help that family? What practical thing could your family do? Pray about it together, and then do what God puts on your heart to do. Write what you did in the box below. Then decorate the frame/draw a frame around the verse.

Isaiah 43:2a—When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;...



Promise: God Will Not Bring Any Unnecessary Suffering into Your Life

MAIN IDEAS

- **God does not delight in the difficulties of His children; He brings only necessary suffering into our lives.**
- **God uses difficulties to teach His children to trust in Him.**

MEMORY VERSES

but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;³³ for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men.

—Lamentations 3:32-33

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Daniel 4
- 2) Lamentations 3:32-33
- 3) John 11:1-44
- 4) 2 Corinthians 1:8-9



LESSON SUMMARY

Lazarus was a close friend of Jesus, as were his two sisters, Mary and Martha. Yet when Lazarus was dying and the sisters sent for Jesus, the Good Physician delayed two days in coming—until Lazarus was dead. The scene that greeted Jesus was one of mourning, for by that time Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. *Why didn't Jesus come sooner? Why didn't He heal Lazarus?*

It was because Jesus had a better plan. The suffering He caused was necessary to the faith of those who would see Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead and believe as they beheld the glory of God. Surely a few days of grieving were worth an eternity of joy for those who believed.

God causes suffering—but only the suffering necessary to do what is best for His children. He loves us enough to weep with us as we go through trials...and enough to allow the trial to do its good work in us and for us. Far from oblivious or calloused to our pain, God understands the pain of His children. He is full of compassion and, in His abundance of steadfast love, He does not willingly afflict or grieve us.

Yet He knows that suffering is a necessary teacher for our stubborn and blind souls. This is why He humbled proud King Nebuchadnezzar after warning him to repent. Only after losing his faculties, behaving like a wild animal, did Nebuchadnezzar repent and acknowledge God's greatness. The resulting praise is a testimony to the value of suffering and the compassionate reason our loving God causes affliction. May we in our hardest moments affirm that God weeps with us and does not willingly afflict or grieve us. We have a compassionate Father whose steadfast love is abundant.

What difficulties do you struggle with? Can you thank God for them, recognizing that only necessary suffering comes to you? Thank God for His abundant love and compassion for you. Pray that your child will understand that God grieves over the suffering of man and yet loves man enough to cause necessary suffering for our good.

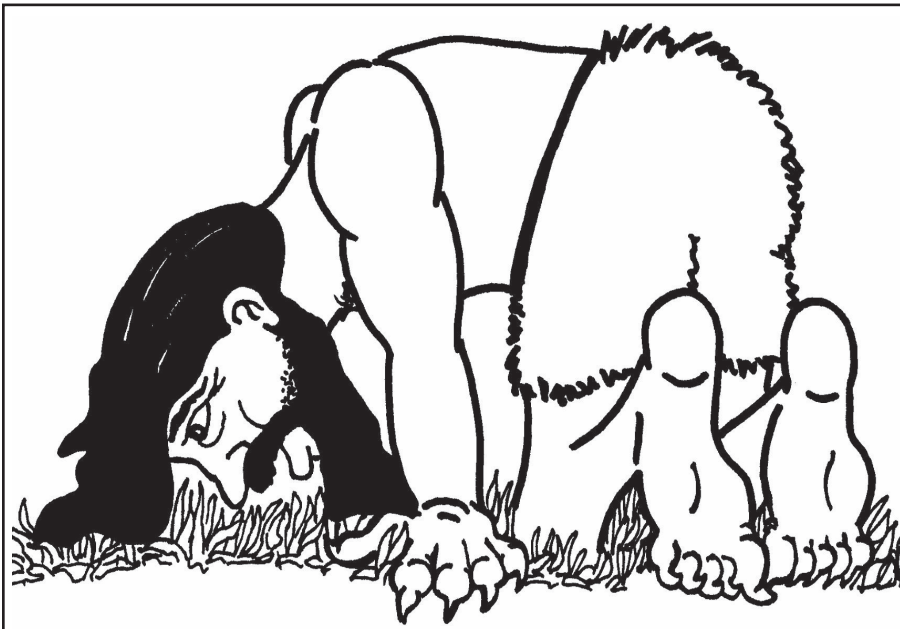
AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Lamentations 3:32-33 with your child, making sure your child understands the vocabulary. *How can a person love someone and yet cause him pain? Can you think of a time when I caused you pain because I love you? What good result came from that pain, or what good reason did I have for causing the pain? Is God more loving than I am? Why is it a loving thing for God to cause suffering and pain? How much pain will God bring into your life?* [Help your child understand that God is a loving Father and He takes no pleasure in the sufferings of His children. He will only bring that which is necessary to do good in us and for us.]

- Ask your child to tell you the story of Nebuchadnezzar from Daniel 4. *Where is God's compassion for Nebuchadnezzar in this story?* (You may want to remind your child that God warned Nebuchadnezzar punishment was coming and gave Nebuchadnezzar a year to repent. He restored Nebuchadnezzar's mind, taught him humility, and gave him faith.) *Was the suffering Nebuchadnezzar went through worth the good that came from it? Just like Nebuchadnezzar, we can learn our lessons the hard way because we are proud and stubborn...or we can learn them the easy way. How can we fight stubbornness and pride in our lives?*

ACTIVITY

Read the verses in the boxes. In the first box, color the picture of Nebuchadnezzar in his suffering. In the second box, draw a picture of Nebuchadnezzar praising God. He should look very happy in this picture.



*Lamentations
3:32-33—...but,
though he cause
grief, he will
have compassion
according to the
abundance of his
steadfast love;
33for he does not
willingly afflict or
grieve the children
of men.*

*Daniel 4:37—Now
I, Nebuchadnezzar,
praise and extol
and honor the King
of heaven, for all
his works are right
and his ways are
just; and those who
walk in pride he is
able to humble.*



Promise: If You Remain Steadfast Under Trial, You Will Be Rewarded

MAIN IDEAS

- **Looking to the reward helps us to remain steadfast in trial.**
- **God promises eternal life to those who love Him and remain steadfast in faith.**
- **God gives His children strength in weakness when they depend on Him.**

MEMORY VERSE

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.—James 1:12

SCRIPTURE

- 1) 2 Corinthians 11:24-28
- 2) 2 Corinthians 11:32-33
- 3) 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- 4) James 1:12



LESSON SUMMARY

We all have problems—some big and some little. But each one can either be a threat to our faith, or an opportunity to build spiritual muscle. Rather than entertain the lies of the enemy and doubt God's goodness, God has given us an incentive to remain steadfast. Looking to the promised reward of eternal life—focusing on the future blessing rather than the present circumstances—can provide the determination to remain steadfast. The trials we face here are so insignificant compared to the glory to come! Stand stubbornly unmovable in the face of difficulties because the crown of life is our promised reward!

Just as Paul did not have the strength to endure suffering alone, neither do we. Our weakness is very real. But God doesn't ask us to stand alone. He offers His strength in our weakness. The grace He provides when we are tempted to give up and give in to discouragement or unbelief will keep us standing firm. He is our sufficiency when we depend on Him.

Pray that God will give you a "heavenly perspective" in the face of difficulties this week, a joy in anticipating the promised reward, and His strength in your weakness. Ask God to give your child an understanding of his or her weakness and need for Him. Pray that your son or daughter would have a holy imagination that would draw his or her heart to desire a heavenly inheritance.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Share with your son or daughter about a time when you faced difficulty and how God gave you strength to remain steadfast in faith. *What is hard for you? How does Satan want you to think about that?* [Help your child to see the lies that Satan wants us to believe about God, our situation, and ourselves.] *What does God want you to think about that? How can you fight the fight of faith to believe in God's wisdom and His goodness?*

1. Lewis, C.S. *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1965), 1-2.

- *What do you imagine that heaven is like? What will be different about heaven than about being here on earth? What do you think it will be like to be with God? What would you like to talk to Him about? Why is it important to fight for faith? What is worth more than the reward of eternal life in heaven?*

ACTIVITY

Read the memory verse and explain it to your mom or dad. Then color the letters of the verse. Keep working at your coloring and don't give up! Maybe mom or dad will give you a reward for finishing 😊

James 1:12—Blessed
is the man who
remains steadfast
under trial, for when
he has stood the test
he will receive the
crown of life, which
God has promised to
those who love him.



Promise: The Lord Will Keep You from Harm

MAIN IDEAS

- **God will keep His children from ultimate harm to their souls; He will guard the faith of His children.**
- **God gives us the shield of faith to protect us against the flaming darts of Satan.**

MEMORY VERSE

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.—2 Timothy 4:18

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Daniel 3:14-15, 17
- 2) Ephesians 6:16
- 3) Timothy 4:18
- 4) James 1:12



LESSON SUMMARY

Promises like *the Lord will keep you from harm* are sometimes hard to understand in the context of real life. Does it mean that no harm will ever come to a Christian? Christians won't suffer hurt or sickness or persecution? Though we understand that this is not what this promise means, it may be harder for your child to understand this.

Because this is a lesson that flows into the next as the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego unfolds, full understanding of this truth is not given in this lesson. But the reassurance you can give your child is that God has promised to protect the faith of His children, and no ultimate harm will come to their souls. He has given His children the shield of faith to protect them against the fiery darts of the evil one.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood firm in face of the threats to bodily harm, because their confidence in God was strong. Their faith was solid, and they responded with bold confidence in the power and goodness of God. We, too, can have that same confidence in the face of harm and boldly assert:

2 Timothy 4:18—The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pray this week that you will recognize the fiery darts of the evil one, and boldly and confidently take up the shield of faith. Ask God to give your son or daughter confidence in His power and goodness.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *What does “rescue” mean? What does “harm” mean? In what ways has God kept you from harm today? Does this mean nothing bad or hurtful will ever happen to you? Did hurtful things happen to Paul in the Bible? How did God “keep him from harm”? [Help your child understand that though Paul suffered, God protected him from harm to*

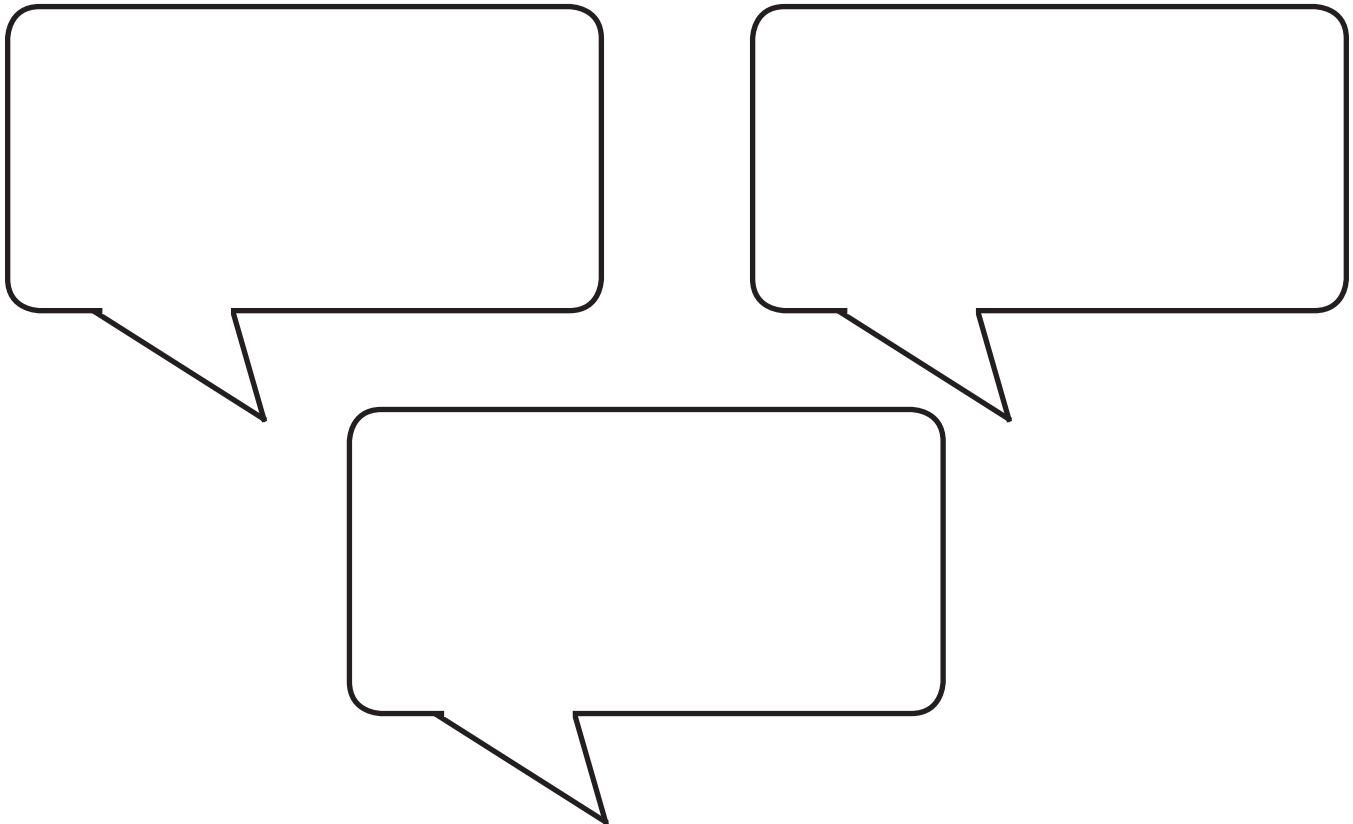
his soul. God protected his faith. In all the hard things that Paul suffered, he kept believing in God and trusting His promises.]

- Ask your child to explain the illustration with the umbrella and the wadded paper balls. *How was the umbrella like a shield? How are God's promises like a shield to us? What do those promises protect, and how do they keep true Christians from harm?* Help your child to identify some of the fiery darts that Satan brings against him or her and your family. See Ephesians 6:16. Then talk about how to fight for faith using the promises of God.

ACTIVITY

Read Psalm 121 with mom or dad. What does this Psalm say about the Lord's protection?

2 Timothy 4:18 ends with praise to God, who rescues His children from every evil deed and safely brings them to heaven. With mom's or dad's help, write some praises to God in the bubbles below.



2 Timothy 4:18—The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.



Promise: God Will Deliver You from All Your Troubles

MAIN IDEAS

- God answers His children's prayers for help.
- God delivers the righteous from their troubles.

MEMORY VERSE

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.—Psalm 34:17

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 34:17
- 2) Daniel 3:17-30



LESSON SUMMARY

Surely the story of God's rescue of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace is one of the most reassuring stories of God's care for His children in the Old Testament. We would love for God to rescue us from every one of our troubles in such a decisive and dramatic manner.

But God reserves the right to deliver His children from their troubles in His own way and His own time. Sometimes He does perform a dramatic rescue. Sometimes He delivers us by giving us the grace to endure the trouble. And sometimes He delivers us when He brings us to heaven. Whatever His deliverance looks like, it is the result of His faithfulness to keep His promise to deliver His children from trouble when they call to Him for help.

Let us rejoice in the greatest deliverance He has given His children—the deliverance from their greatest problem—the problem of sin and separation from Him. Regardless of what trouble Christians encounter on earth, our souls are secure in eternity. This truly is the greatest deliverance.

As we face trouble in this life, let us take hold of God's sure promise to deliver His children from trouble and walk with faith and trust in His promise and the means by which He keeps it.

This week, pray and ask the Lord to give you faith and confidence in His promise to deliver you from trouble. Cry to Him for deliverance from any trouble your family is facing. Pray that God will deliver your child from his or her greatest problem—the problem of sin and separation from Him.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- What does "deliver" mean? What are the different ways God delivers His children from troubles? [Make sure your child understands that deliverance can be removal of the problem, grace to endure the problem, or deliverance in heaven.] Why can God use whatever kind of deliverance He wants in answer to the prayer of His children?

- *What kinds of trouble is your family facing? Cry to the Lord with your child for His deliverance from your troubles. Share with your child a testimony of God’s deliverance in your life.*

ACTIVITY

Read Psalm 34 with your mom or dad. Does God promise that His children will not have troubles? What does He promise?

The words to the memory verse, Psalm 34:17, are shown below in random order. Number them according to their correct order. The first two words are numbered for you already:

Word #		Word #	
	RIGHTEOUS		TROUBLES
	THE	2	THE
	THEM	1	WHEN
	OF		OUT
	HEARS		DELIVERS
	THEIR		HELP
	ALL		AND
	CRY		LORD
	FOR		



Promise: Joy Comes with the Morning

MAIN IDEA

- **God will end suffering for the righteous and turn it to joy.**

MEMORY VERSE

...Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.—Psalm 30:5b

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 30:5b, 11
- 2) Psalm 42:11
- 3) John 16:20-22



LESSON SUMMARY

Sorrow is a very real and all too common experience in this broken world. The Bible makes no claim that Christians will not weep. We see it all through the Bible as God's people experience being sinned against, and as their own sins cause sorrow. But the story of every true believer has a good end—joy comes with the morning.

Just as the sorrow of the disciples at the death of Jesus turned to joy at His resurrection, so someday Jesus will bury our sorrow and resurrect joy for us. In the middle of the sorrow, we don't see the end, but we must remember that the story isn't over yet. There is a happy ending for every believer.

Psalm 30:5b—...Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Sometimes the night is long...but the morning always comes for God's children. During the night, we are called to fight for joy by remembering God's promises, trusting His wisdom and goodness, and recognizing that we are in the middle of the story and God promises a good ending. Weeping is real. But it is only for the night. Remember that the story isn't over yet. If you are a Christian, joy comes with the morning!

Ask God to give you a "looking to the end" perspective on difficulties in your life. Pray for the faith to believe in His goodness and wisdom in the middle of things, and to fill your heart with the reassurance that joy comes with the morning. Pray that your son or daughter will see that God's plans and ways are both wise and good, that sorrow is necessary, and that, for the Christian, sorrow gives way to joy.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Share with your child a sorrow in your life that has given way to joy. Tell your child how God was faithful in the midst of the sorrow, and how you fought the fight for joy. Talk about things that are hard for your child or cause sorrow. *What could God's purposes in the sorrow be? Why might the sorrow be necessary? What joy may come in the morning?*

- Ask your child to tell you about a story in the Bible where sorrow gave way to joy (e.g., Joseph’s trials and reunion; Jesus’ death and resurrection; Hannah’s childlessness and the birth of Samuel; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s persecution turned to promotion; the death of Lazarus and the raising of him, etc.) *What does this tell you about God’s goodness and wisdom? What does this tell you about trusting God?*

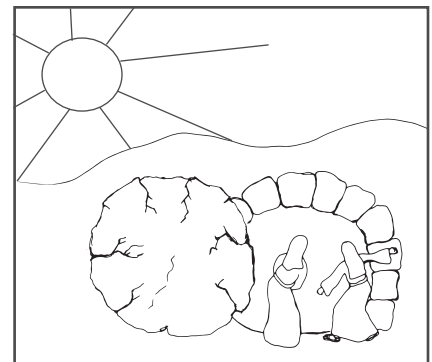
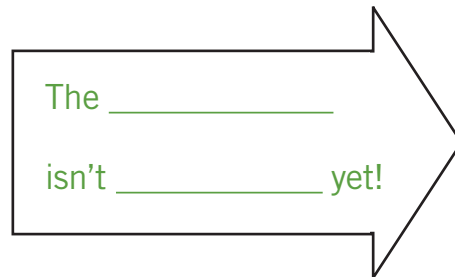
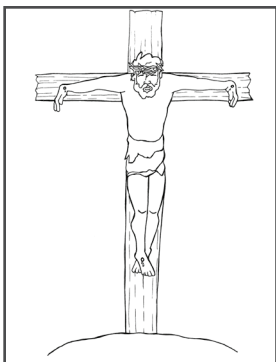
ACTIVITY

Read Psalm 30:11, Psalm 42:11, and Psalm 30:5b. Fill in the blanks showing what God did or will do. The beginning of the story is written for you. Fill in the end of the story. Then fill in the blanks at the bottom.

Mourning → _____

Turmoil → _____

Weeping → _____



The story still isn't over. Someday Jesus will return for His people and bring them to heaven where there will be everlasting joy. Will you be someone that Jesus returns for?



Promise: All Things Work Together for Good

MAIN IDEAS

- **God plans good for His children.**
- **Everything that happens to a believer is for his good.**

MEMORY VERSE

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

—Romans 8:28

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Ruth
- 2) 2 Kings 5:1-15
- 3) Isaiah 46:9b-11
- 4) Romans 8:28



LESSON SUMMARY

One of the most reassuring promises in the Bible for the believer is Romans 8:28—that all things work together for our good. Every single thing. Since everything is under God’s control, nothing can happen to us that is not ordered by God and is not for our good.

Though we would like all things that happen to us to be pleasant, the reality is that we often need the hard things in life. “Good” does not necessarily mean “pleasant.” Good means *good for us*—to conform us to the image of His Son.¹ God is more interested in our character than our comfort. The greatest good He can do for His children is to make them strong in faith. So the hard things work to build strong faith in believers...and are good for us.

Just as Naaman’s leprosy was good for him and led him to faith in the one true God, so God uses the circumstances in our lives to bless us. We have a faithful God who knows the means to build our faith and character, and who will never break His promise to order all things in our lives for the good of His children. Praise Him for His goodness and His faithfulness!

This week, thank God for His sovereign control in your life and the reassuring promise that for the Christian, all things work for good. Pray that your child will understand God’s goodness, and desire to be a child of God.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *What things are under God’s control? Can anything happen to us that is not under God’s control? (See Isaiah 46:9b-11.) Why is that very good news?*
- *What does “good” mean in Romans 8:28—“all things work together for good”? Who is this promise for? Does this mean Christians will never have problems or difficulties? Why? Share with your child about how God worked something for good in your life. Help your child think of something that has worked for good in his or her life.*

1. Romans 8:29 defines the “good” of Romans 8:28.

ACTIVITY

Explain to mom or dad how leprosy worked for good in Naaman's life (2 Kings 5:1-15).

With mom or dad's help, write Romans 8:28 in your own words below, and then decorate the frame.

A large rectangular frame with decorative, rounded corners. Inside this frame is a smaller, nested rectangular frame with stepped corners, resembling a picture mat. The space between the frames is intended for writing and decorating.



Promise: God Will Not Forsake His People

MAIN IDEA

- **God will not forsake His people whom He loves with an everlasting love.**

MEMORY VERSE

For the LORD will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage;—Psalm 94:14

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Isaiah 49:14-16
- 2) Isaiah 54:10
- 3) Psalm 94:14
- 4) Hosea



LESSON SUMMARY

How quickly we get tired of things and throw them away or get rid of them. This same attitude sometimes carries over into our relationships with people. When an acquaintance annoys or frustrates us, we often look for friendship in other places. We are quick to move on to other people who will be less bothersome, more encouraging, or more fun.

God is not like us. He loves His children with an everlasting love and promises to never forsake us—even though we do not deserve His faithful love. He is faithful in spite of our failings, never breaking His covenant of love. He has given us a beautiful picture of His covenant love in the life of Hosea, the prophet. Hosea forgave His unfaithful wife, Gomer, reclaiming her from slavery, not to be his slave but to reinstate her as his wife.

How can anyone read the story of Hosea without marveling at the faithful love of this loyal husband and true follower of God? Yet Hosea was just a mere reflection, a shadow, of the kind of husband God is to His people. We, the bride of Christ, are loved with an everlasting love, and God will never break covenant with us. How amazing is it to be loved with such unending love—to know that we will never be forsaken? Truly, we have a great heritage as the people of God.

Thank God this week for His everlasting love. Confess your unfaithfulness to Him, and ask Him to make you a pure, spotless bride. Pray that your child will long to be a child of God, and a recipient of not only His precious promises, but of His everlasting, covenant love.

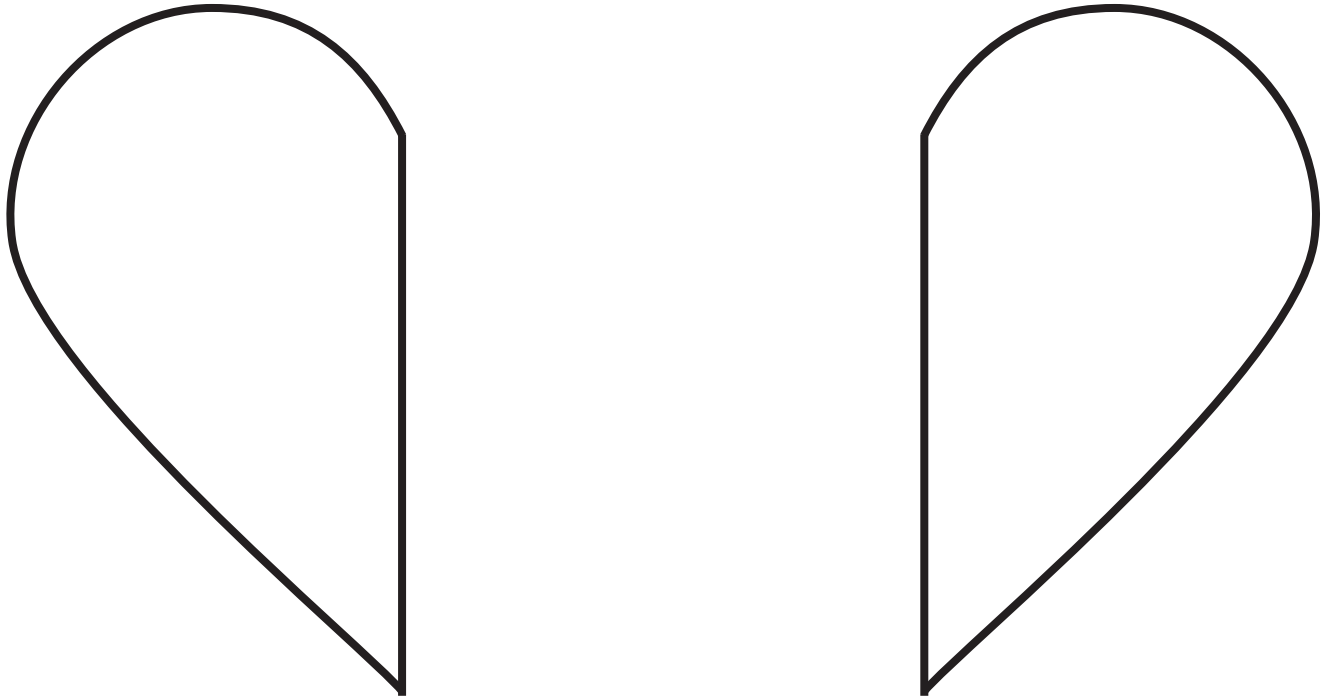
AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *What does, “God will not forsake His people” mean? What does this show you about what God is like? [Help your child to think of all the qualities that make God faithful—patient, unselfish, loyal, forgiving, loving.] Give some examples of these qualities in God that you see in the Bible or in the world today. Why is it important to know that someone will always be faithful to you?*

- *Hosea was a good example of faithfulness. In what ways are you faithful? Why are people sometimes not faithful to other people? Why does God not have any of these problems?*

ACTIVITY

The two heart halves below are not joined together. Label one: GOD. Label the other with your name. Every person is a sinner, and sinful people cannot be joined to God. How can sinners become part of the family of God?



With mom or dad, read Romans 3:23-24. What does this say about you? What does it say about God's answer to man's sin problem?

Draw a cross joining the two hearts together. Only through the blood of Jesus, through His payment for sin on the cross, can sinners be joined to God and be His people.

Psalm 94:14—For the LORD will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage.



Promise: God Will Not Forget His Promises

MAIN IDEAS

- **God never forgets His promises and is watching over His Word to perform it.**
- **God is at work, even when we don't see what He is doing.**

MEMORY VERSE

“...I am watching over my word to perform it.”—Jeremiah 1:12b

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 37:19-20
- 2) Genesis 37, 39-45 (portions)
- 3) Isaiah 40:8
- 4) Jeremiah 1:12b



LESSON SUMMARY

How often we misjudge God simply because we are not aware of what He is doing. God is always at work; He is watching over His Word to perform it. And yet His work is often hidden to us. This is where faith comes in. Will we trust Him even when things look wrong, or when it looks like He is not at work?

This is the situation that Joseph was in. He had been given two prophetic dreams by God, and yet he found himself at the bottom of a pit. Where was God? Where was the fulfillment of His plan, purposes, and promise? Joseph had two choices at that point. He could look down at himself and his situation, and swim in a sea of self-pity, or he could look up to God in wonder and amazement at what He might be doing.

We have these same two choices every day. Will we look at our circumstances, difficulties, and unfulfilled dreams, and feel that God has cheated us? Or will we, with the shield of faith, stand firm trusting the almighty, sovereign, good God and Father of His children? This is the battle facing every Christian. May you walk in victory as you lead your child to see that he or she can put his or her confidence in God.

Pray this week that you will have a heart of faith that looks up at the goodness and sovereignty God and faces each day free from complaining, worry, and self-pity. Ask God to open your child's eyes and heart to see and trust that he or she can put confidence in Him.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *Why are the works of God often hidden from us?* [Help your child see that our understanding is limited, but God sees the beginning and the end of all things. Help your child see that God sometimes does not give us understanding of what He is doing, because He wants us to trust Him.] *How do we know God is at work even when we don't know what He is doing? How do we know that we can trust God?*
- Share with your child about a time when God was working for your good, but you did not see His good hand in things until the end of the matter. Talk with your child about how you battle for faith when you are not sure what God is doing. Help your child to see some of the promises God has kept in your family.

ACTIVITY

Read Genesis 37 with your mom or dad. Then circle the correct answers to the questions below and fill in the blanks of the sentence in the box on the right.

1. How old was Joseph? 7 17 77

2. Why did Jacob love Joseph more than his other sons?

Joseph was the oldest son.

Joseph was the smartest son.

Joseph was born when Jacob was an old man.

3. Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?

Because Jacob loved Joseph the most.

Because Joseph took their things.

Because Joseph was a whiney little brother.

4. What did the dreams God gave Joseph show?

One day Joseph would have a lot of wheat.

Joseph would grow up to be an astronomer (someone who studies the stars).

One day Joseph would rule over his brothers.

5. When Joseph's brothers saw him coming to check on them, they decided to:

Throw a party for him.

Kill him.

Leave him with the flocks so they could do something more fun.

6. What did Reuben convince the brothers to do?

Tie Joseph to a tree. Put him in jail. Throw him in a pit.

7. What did the brothers do with Joseph in the end?

Sell him as a slave. Send him to their uncle's house. Send him home.

8. What did the brothers tell Jacob happened to Joseph?

He ran away. He drowned in a river. A wild animal ate him up.

9. Where was God when Joseph's brothers threw him in the pit and then sold him?

Sleeping.

Not paying attention.

With Joseph, working out His good plan for his life and keeping His promises.

God will n_____

f_____

His p_____.



Look Up, Not Down

MAIN IDEAS

- **God is always at work for the good of His children, keeping His promises and fulfilling His plans.**
- **We can look down at our situation and complain, questioning God's wisdom and goodness, or we can look up to who God is and trust His wisdom and goodness.**

MEMORY VERSES

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.
—2 Corinthians 4:17-18

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 37, 39-45 (portions)
- 2) Genesis 39:2-4, 20-23
- 3) Psalm 94:14
- 4) Isaiah 43:2a
- 5) 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

LESSON SUMMARY

As we progress through the history of Joseph's life, we see a series of setbacks. Though he is a slave, God places him in a position of overseeing his master's household...until he is falsely accused and imprisoned. In prison, he is eventually given responsibility again as an overseer and sees hope in the release of Pharaoh's cupbearer, who can plead his innocence to Pharaoh. But he sits in prison two more years, having been forgotten by the cupbearer.

But he hadn't been forgotten by God...and neither are we when we go through setbacks and disappointed hopes. God is still on the throne, orchestrating His perfect plan for His children. He promises that the "light and momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory." The Bible instructs us then to look to the unseen things—the eternal things of spiritual battles being fought and won in our own hearts, and in the world around us.

May you, with joyful hope and anticipation of unseen eternal things, look up with confidence in the wisdom and love of your heavenly Father as you navigate the setbacks and even the ordinary challenges of your daily life. He is still on the throne keeping His promises!

Pray that God will give you eyes to perceive the unseen battles around you and the faith to trust Him. Ask Him to help your child see the spiritual battle for his or her soul and place confidence in God.

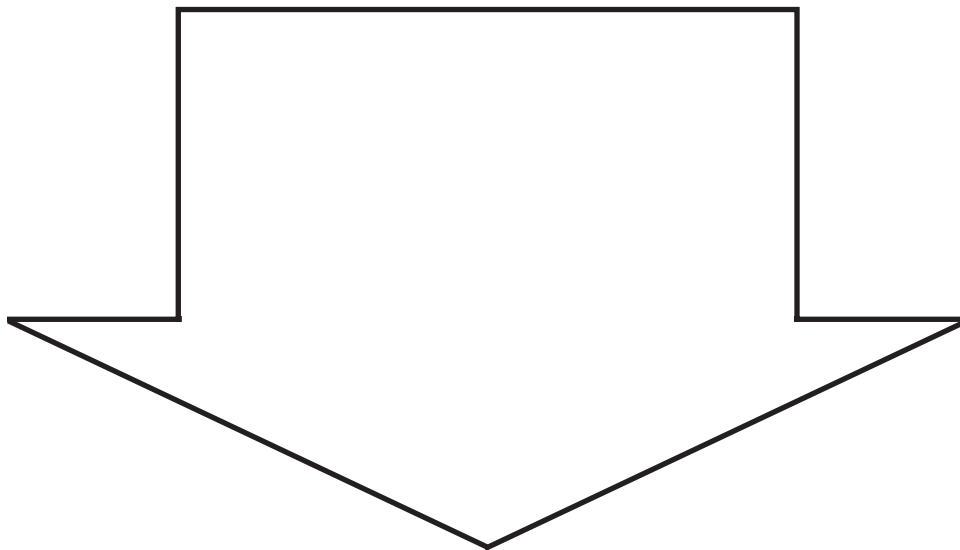
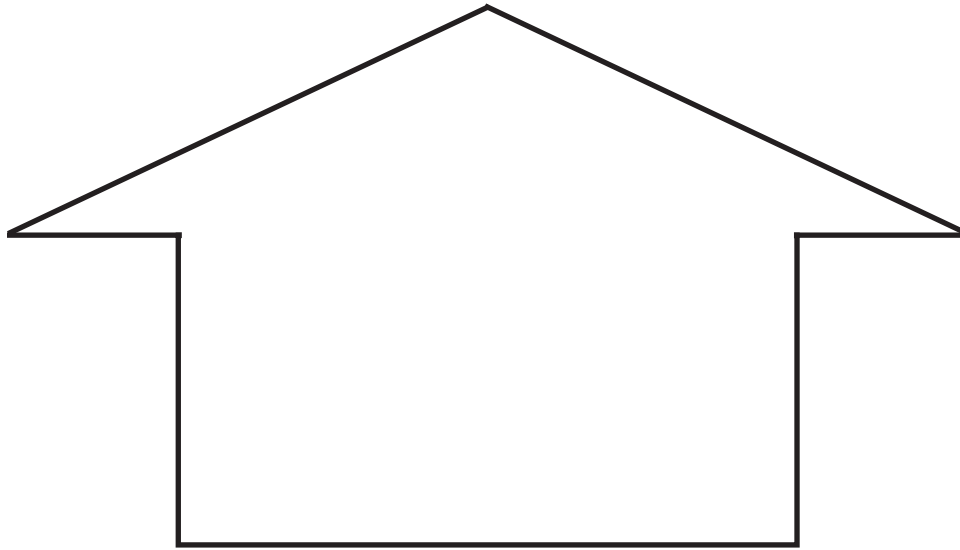
AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Ask your child to tell you about the difficulties in Joseph's life. *What two choices did Joseph have?* [To look down at circumstances and complain, or to look up and trust God.] *Do we have these two choices?* Help your child look at a situation in his or her life this week and how he or she responded to it. Talk through what a "looking down" response is, and what a "looking up" response is. *How can we help each other fight for a "looking up" response?*

- Read through 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 with your child. Make sure he or she understands the vocabulary in the verse. *What are the “unseen things” this verse is talking about?* (Talk about the spiritual battles that are fought in the heart.) *How can we “get more faith”?* Pray with your child that God will increase your faith.

ACTIVITY

Look for times of “looking up” and “looking down” this week. In the up arrow, write one time when God helped you to look up. In the down arrow, write one time when you looked down. With mom or dad’s help, write one verse that you can remember that can help you to look up.





God is Accomplishing His Purposes

MAIN IDEAS

- God has a plan for each person and works to fulfill it.
- God always accomplishes His plans and works out His eternal purposes.
- God always keeps His promises.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand."—Isaiah 14:24

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 41:51, 52
- 2) Genesis 41-45 (portions)
- 3) Genesis 45:5-8
- 4) Genesis 50:20
- 5) Isaiah 14:24
- 6) Psalm 34:17
- 7) Romans 8:28



LESSON SUMMARY

We left Joseph in prison, yet on the threshold of seeing the amazing purposes of God unfold in his life. God, in His astounding providence, purposed for Joseph to save His children from famine, preserving their lives and thus fulfilling God's promise to make of Abraham a great nation. All the events of Joseph's life fit together to move him toward this great purpose. From our perspective of seeing the whole story, we marvel at God's wisdom and goodness.

Yet, what must have it have been like for Joseph serving in Potiphar's house and sitting in prison? His dreams were given to him as a young boy. At 17, he was sold into slavery. At 30, he became the overseer of Egypt, and he was almost 40 when he saw the dream fulfilled. What must that 23-year wait have been like for Joseph? Was it faith-filled, or did he question God's purposes and promises?

Surely we have some hints in his declarations to his brothers that Joseph was keenly aware of God's purpose in his suffering. God had sent him to "preserve a remnant to keep alive for you many survivors." He understood that his brothers were not in charge, but God sovereignly reigns—"So it was not you who sent me here, but God...As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive..." What a biblical perspective he had on the work of God in his life. Surely he would affirm the truth of Romans 8:28, that "all things work together for good" for the people of God. Oh that we might also look beyond our microscopic view of ourselves to the great and glorious purposes of God!

Pray that God would give you a confidence in His purposes in your life and that you would rest in His wisdom and goodness. Ask Him to give your child a desire to be a part of His kingdom purposes and to glorify Him in his or her life.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Ask your child to explain to you how Joseph came to be in charge in Egypt. *What was God's purpose in making Joseph in charge? Do God's plans always work out? Why?*

- *What does the life of Joseph show you about God? [Help your child to see that God is sovereign, faithful, all-powerful, good, etc.] Is it hard to believe these things about God sometimes? Why? When is it hard? Are they true, even when it is hard to believe them?*

ACTIVITY

Below is a word search of key words in Joseph’s life. Find the words that are in the word box in the puzzle. The words either go up and down or across. Then explain to mom or dad how each of these words is part of Joseph’s life and God’s purposes.

Word Bank: Coat, Dreams, Pit, Egypt, Brothers, Slave, Prison, Overseer, Pharaoh, Famine

P	U	D	Z	R	D	X	E	I	S	C	L	A	S	T
H	M	S	B	S	J	M	D	G	A	D	Y	L	O	E
A	S	X	N	F	A	M	I	N	E	C	U	P	O	G
R	O	V	E	R	S	E	E	R	F	M	W	R	A	Y
A	S	Z	J	P	C	Z	O	S	Y	P	M	I	S	P
O	O	M	X	D	J	B	N	R	T	I	Y	S	S	T
H	R	I	O	O	S	D	S	Q	E	T	Q	O	Q	R
B	F	T	B	Q	L	Z	K	H	V	Z	U	N	B	Z
K	I	D	R	W	A	R	Z	J	F	E	X	R	Z	E
Z	Z	R	O	W	V	J	J	B	C	S	O	P	G	U
Y	U	E	T	P	E	R	O	T	C	O	A	T	Q	X
W	P	A	H	J	C	E	L	M	A	R	J	X	U	L
E	Y	M	E	F	F	T	A	C	M	J	O	G	Y	R
M	N	S	R	F	B	R	G	A	Q	N	D	A	R	A
R	R	K	S	Q	W	L	X	A	L	M	G	X	I	A

Genesis 50:20—As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.



God is Not Slow in Keeping His Promises

MAIN IDEAS

- **God is not slow in keeping His promises.**
- **Waiting in faith is trusting in God's goodness and wisdom.**

MEMORY VERSES

*I believe that I shall
look upon the goodness
of the LORD in the
land of the living!
¹⁴Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your
heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!
—Psalm 27:13-14*

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 27:1-45
- 2) Psalm 27:13-14
- 3) 2 Peter 3:9



LESSON SUMMARY

Waiting is always hard. It is hard when you are a little child waiting to open your Christmas presents...and it is hard when you are an adult waiting for God to fulfill His promise in your life. Yet God's people have often had to wait for God to act. Abraham waited for the promised heir, David waited to become king of Israel, Israel waited for the Messiah, and we are still waiting for the return of Jesus.

Sometimes it seems to us that God is slow...very slow to keep His promises. But the Bible tells us that He isn't slow. He has good reasons for delaying, and His timing is perfect. He knows things we are not aware of, and He has purposes far greater than our own.

As the people of God, we are called to wait in faith—trusting in God's goodness and wisdom, trusting that He will act at the right time, trusting that all things work for our good and His glory. May we not fall into the trap that Jacob fell into and take things into our own hands, but may we wait patiently and with confidence for the Lord.

This week, place in the Lord's hands anything that you are anxious about. Ask Him to give you a heart of trust in the right timing of His actions on your behalf. Pray that you will wait in faith to see the fulfillment of His promises. Pray that your child will see the patience of God in delaying Christ's return and seriously consider his or her spiritual state.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *Is it hard for you to wait to open your Christmas presents? Why? Why do I make you wait until the right time to open presents? Is it good for you to wait? Why? How is this like waiting for God to keep His promises? [Help children to see that there is a right time for God to act, and it is good to wait patiently for Him.]*
- *What are some good reasons why God makes us wait? What does it mean to wait in faith? How can we encourage each other to trust God more?*

ACTIVITY

With the help of mom or dad, answer the questions below about Psalm 27:13-14. Then decorate the gift to help you remember that God's promises are gifts that are worth the wait.

Psalm 27:13-14—I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! ¹⁴Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

What does David believe?

When does he believe he will see God's goodness?

What commands does David (God) give us?





Faithful to All His Promises

MAIN IDEA

- **God is faithful to all His promises**

MEMORY VERSE

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.
—Isaiah 40:8

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 12:2
- 2) Genesis 15:5-6
- 3) Genesis 17:9
- 4) Genesis 21:1-3, 5-7
- 5) Joshua 23:14
- 6) Psalm 145:13b (NIV, 1984)
- 7) Isaiah 40:8



LESSON SUMMARY

Can you imagine living in a world where nothing is impossible? That is God's world! Nothing is impossible to Him. This amazing truth is displayed throughout the Bible in the mighty acts of God.

One of these wonderful, mighty acts is when God gave a 100-year-old man and a 90-year-old woman a baby. Why did He do it? To show His power and to keep His promise. God's promise to make of Abraham a great nation started with the miracle birth of a baby boy, and 700 years later, Joshua reminded the offspring of Abraham that God had not failed in any of His promises to them! This is amazing. God is faithful to His all promises. His Words stand forever.

Thank God for His faithfulness and pray that your child will grasp the reality and the significance of God's faithfulness.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

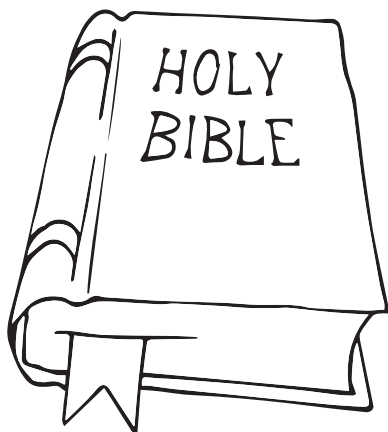
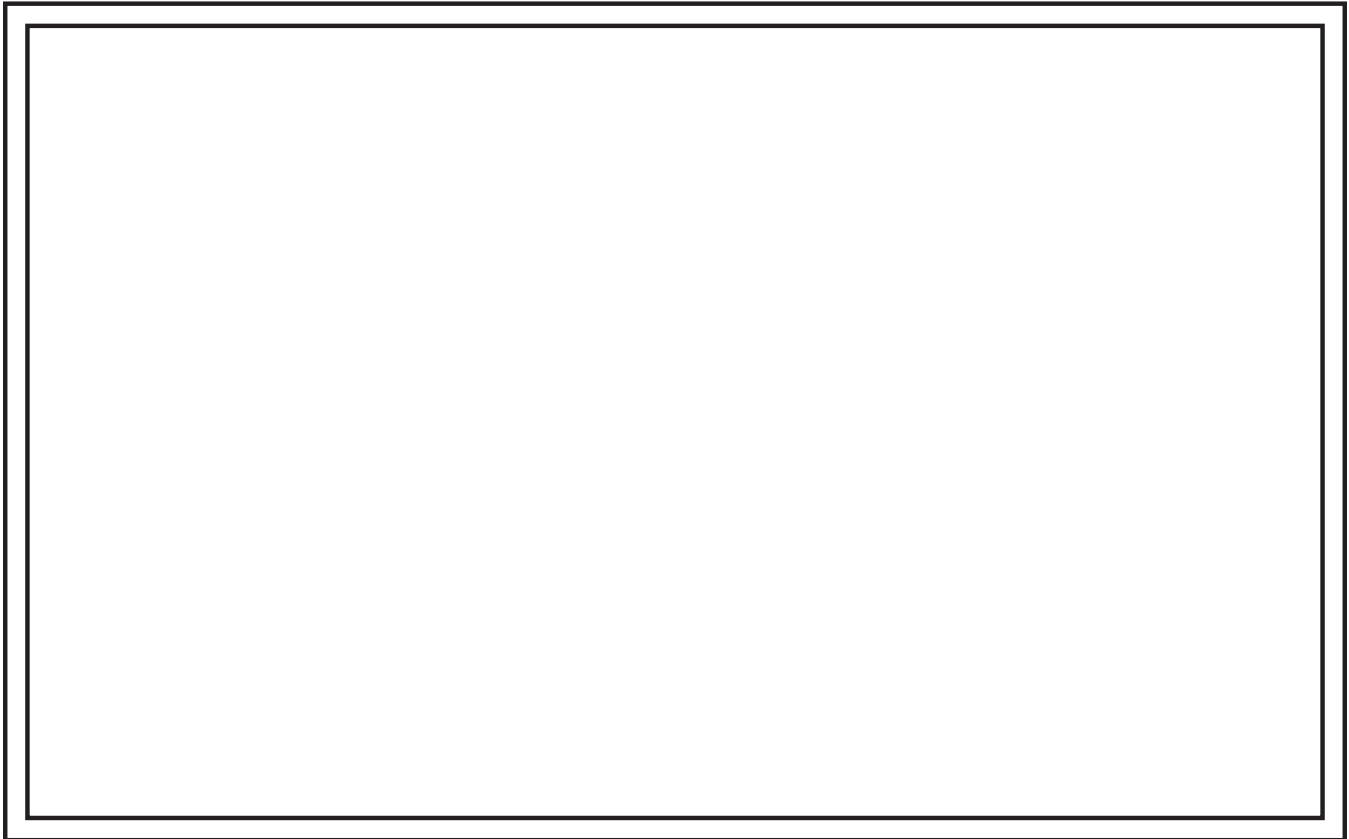
- *What does "faithful to all His promises" mean?* Share with your child a time when you saw God be faithful to His promise in your own life.
- *Why is it so important that we can count on what God has said?* Think with your child of what it would be like if God did not keep His Word. Imagine a few scenarios, and then reassure your child that God is a promise-keeping God who never fails to keep His promise. Thank God together for His faithfulness.

ACTIVITY

Look through a photo album of your family with your child. Talk about various situations in which God proved His faithfulness as you look at the pictures.

Psalm 145:13b—The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. (NIV, 1984)

In the photo frame below, draw a picture of or write about a time in your family when God showed His faithfulness.



*The grass withers,
the flower fades,
but the word of our
God will stand forever.
—Isaiah 40:8*



Trusting in the Promises

MAIN IDEAS

- **Obedience to God comes from trusting in God.**
- **Faith is believing in God and His promises, even though we can't see the outcome.**

MEMORY VERSE

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.—Hebrews 11:1

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 17:7
- 2) Hebrews 11:1, 8, 11
- 3) Hebrews 11:17-19



LESSON SUMMARY

Abraham had great challenges to his faith. Though God had given him the promise to make of him a great nation, God did not give him an heir until he was 100 years old. Then, when the evidence that the promise would be fulfilled could be easily seen, God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, the heir to the promise. Once again, Abraham's faith was put to the test.

Would he trust God? Would he step out in obedience without seeing the end result? Hebrews shows us the great faith that Abraham had, "He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead..." (Hebrews 11:19). Surely a faith like that must come from a lifetime of stepping out in faith and obedience...and seeing God to be faithful.

If we want the kind of faith that Abraham had, we too must be willing to step out in faith and obedience and see God work for us. Human nature tends to "play it safe." We like to "have all our ducks in a row." But the life of faith compels us to trust God without seeing the end result...to step out and see that He is who He says He is and He is faithful to all His promises.

Hebrews 11:1—Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Pray this week that God will increase your faith. Ask Him to give you an obedient heart that flows from trust in Him. Pray that your son or daughter will see God as trustworthy and desire to grow in faith in Him.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Talk to your son or daughter about the ways in which he or she shows faith in you as a parent. Then talk about your limitations and why you will sometimes fail as a parent. *Why is faith in God a more reliable faith?* [Help your child to see that God has no limitations, no sin, and no wrong motives, so He is completely trustworthy.]

- *How can you grow in faith in God?* [Explain to your child that faith in God is a gift from God, but God does use means to increase our faith such as His Word and the encouragement of Christians.] *Why does our faith grow when we act on God's Word?* [Help your child to see that when we obey God's Word, we see that He is faithful to His Word. Our faith grows as we see His faithfulness.]

ACTIVITY

With mom or dad, read Hebrews 11:6. Ask mom or dad to help you understand this verse. Then in the first box, write down two ways in which God showed you this week that He is real. Then in the second box, write down two things you did this week to seek God.

Hebrews 11:6—And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

GOD EXISTS

SEEKING HIM



Failure to Trust in the Promises

MAIN IDEAS

- **Our actions come from what we believe.**
- **Doubting God's promises is wrong and brings consequences.**
- **God is faithful.**

MEMORY VERSE

... For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.—Romans 14:23b

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 6:13-14
- 2) Psalm 36:5
- 3) Luke 1:13-15a, 18-20
- 4) Romans 14:23b



LESSON SUMMARY

God is completely trustworthy and His promises are sure, and yet we sometimes doubt His promises. The way we act in response to His promises shows whether we truly believe God's promises. We can respond with faith that results in positive action, or we can respond in unbelief that results in consequences.

These two responses are demonstrated in the lives of Noah and Zechariah. Noah heard the word of the Lord and started building an ark—putting his faith into action. Zechariah received the angel's message about God's promised son to him and Elizabeth, and questioned it. The result of his unbelief is that he was mute until John the Baptist was born. How do you most often respond to the promises God has made in His Word? Are you like Noah or like Zechariah?

May the Lord bless you with Noah-like faith that overflows in acting upon His Word that in turn overflows in your testimony to your child.

Pray that God would increase your faith, and that your child will see in you a heart that trusts God and actions of obedience that please Him.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

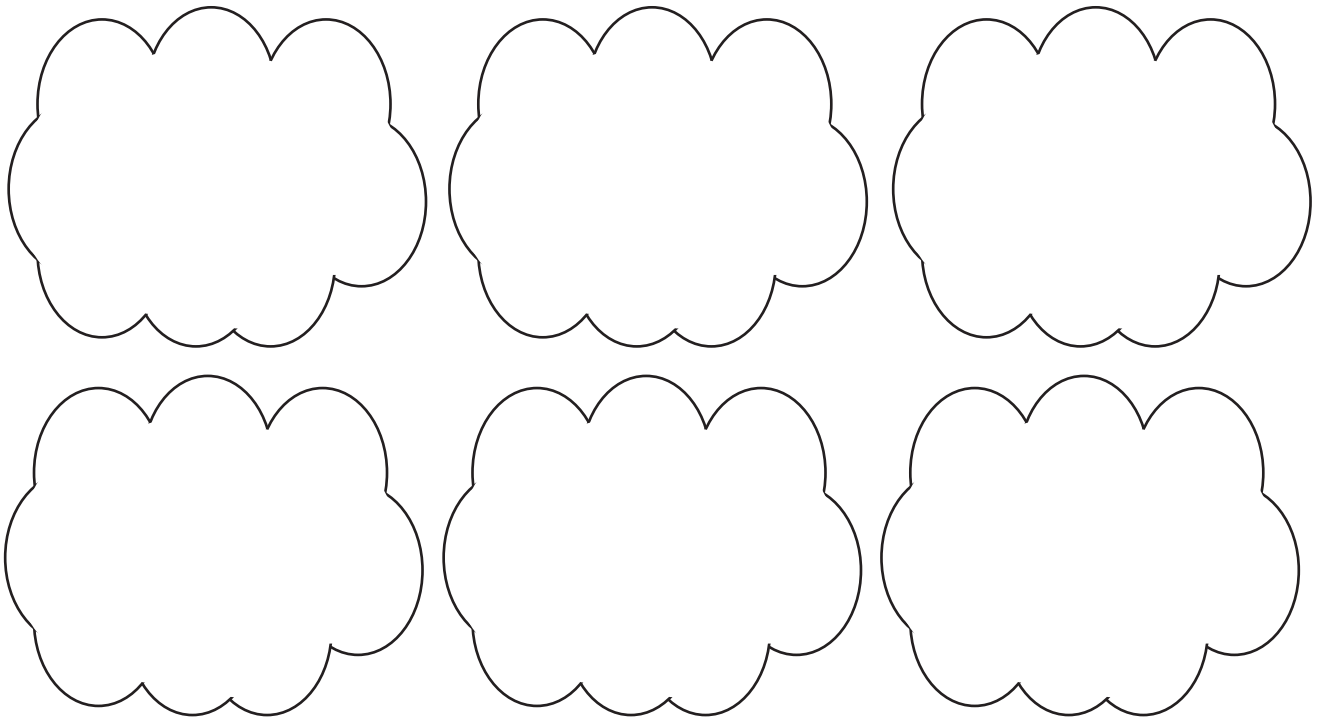
- *How did Zechariah respond to God's promise? How can you tell if you are not believing God's promises? [Choose two or three promises and talk through what unbelief in that promise would lead you to say and do.]*
- *How did Noah show that he believed what God said He would do? How do we show that we trust God's promises? [With the same promises as above, talk about what it would look like to trust in those promises.]*

ACTIVITY

Do some “cloud watching.” Lie on your back and look up into the sky. Try to imagine how far away the clouds are...and how high heaven is above you. Then think about how great God’s love is for His children that it “extends to the heavens.” What does it mean that God’s faithfulness extends to the clouds?

Psalm 36:5—Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

In each of the clouds, write a way that you saw God’s love or faithfulness this week.

**TO THINK ABOUT**

If God is so faithful and loving, why do we fail to trust His promises sometimes? (Talk your answer over with your mother or father.)



Fighting the Fight of Faith

MAIN IDEAS

- **We are all in a spiritual battle.**
- **Satan fights against the faith of believers and tries to discourage them from believing the promises of God.**
- **The battle for faith must be fought in the Lord's strength and with spiritual armor.**

MEMORY VERSES

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.
11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*
—Ephesians 6:10-11

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 77:1-4, 7-8, 11
- 2) Psalm 94:14
- 3) Ephesians 6:10-11



LESSON SUMMARY

We are all in a spiritual battle—a battle for faith. This is a battle only God can win. He will strengthen the Christian in the battle against the enemy of his soul, and only He can give an unbeliever saving faith and defeat Satan's grip on his soul.

Listening to feelings and entertaining the doubts that Satan throws in his fiery darts causes a lot of problems for Christians. But God has given spiritual weapons to fight spiritual battles. Christian faith is not a feeling—it is founded on real, solid truth. God's truth defeats the enemy of our souls. The Word of God is a powerful weapon against the lies of Satan and our lying emotions. The Holy Spirit fights for us, and God Himself will be our strength if we confess our need of Him. We do not fight our battles alone!

God has also given other Christians to strengthen us in battle—reminding us of the promises of God, strengthening us with the Word, holding us up in prayer. But we must not be passive in this battle, battered about by doubt, fear, and worry. We must be aggressive; soldiers don't sit passively on the sidelines. Like Asaph, we must recall the mighty deeds of the Lord—both from the Bible and in our own lives. God is a mighty God who does not lose battles. Run to Him as you face the battles in your life.

Pray that God will strengthen you for the battles you face. Ask Him to make you aggressive in the fight of faith and disciplined in it. Pray that your child will understand that there is a battle for his or her soul and only God can win that battle.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- *We are all in a battle. What is that battle? Is it a real battle? What does it mean to "fight"? [Make sure your child understands that it takes effort to fight; it is not passive.] What are some things that Christians can do to fight the lies of the enemy, doubts, fears, and temptations? [Discuss fighting with the Word of God, remembering the promises, encouraging each other, remembering the faithfulness of God, praying for each other, and asking God for strength.] Tell your child about a spiritual battle the Lord helped you to win.*
- Talk with your child about his or her spiritual condition. Don't assume that the battle for his soul has been won. Explain that faith is a gift from God. Look at Ephesians 2:8-9 together, and pray for your son or daughter.

ACTIVITY

Below are some promises of God that we have learned this year. They are good weapons to fight against the lies of Satan. Fill in the missing words with words from the word bank.

Word Bank: hears, forsake, stand, refuge, hope, good, forgive, goodness, support, joy

1 John 1:9—If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to _____ us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 46:1—God is our _____ and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Chronicles 16:9a—For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong _____ to those whose heart is blameless toward him.

Jeremiah 29:11—For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a _____.

Psalm 34:17—When the righteous cry for help, the LORD _____ and delivers them out of all their troubles.

Psalm 30:5b—Weeping may tarry for the night, but _____ comes with the morning.

Romans 8:28—And we know that for those who love God all things work together for _____, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Psalm 94:14—For the LORD will not _____ his people; he will not abandon his heritage.

Psalm 27:13-14—I believe that I shall look upon the _____ of the LORD in the land of the living! ¹⁴Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Isaiah 40:8—The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will _____ forever.



Standing on the Promises

MAIN IDEAS

- **A person who believes in the promises of God will act in a way that shows he believes in God's promises.**
- **God will protect His reputation as a Promise-Keeper.**

MEMORY VERSE

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
—Proverbs 30:5

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Numbers 13:26-14:25 (portions)
- 2) Numbers 13:27-28a
- 3) Numbers 13:30-31
- 4) Numbers 14:2-4, 8-9
- 5) Numbers 14:11, 24
- 6) Proverbs 30:5



LESSON SUMMARY

Do you ever put yourself in the place of the 12 spies? We can criticize Israel for not obeying God, and yet, we are sometimes overcome with fear choosing to look at the giants in our lives rather than standing on the promises of God. We really don't know if we would have stood with the confidence of Joshua and Caleb, or cowered in fear and unbelief like the other spies.

What we do know from our vantage point is that the unbelief of Israel resulted in the consequence of wandering in the desert for 40 years, and that no spy who brought back a bad report entered the Promised Land. This should sober us. How much blessing from God do we miss out on because we do not stand in confidence on His Word? God's Word is unchanging, unshakable, and completely reliable because it is a reflection of His very nature. Oh that we would in great confidence base our actions on the firm conviction that:

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. (Proverbs 30:5)

This week, pray that God would give you the courage to stand on His Word. Pray that your child is convinced that the Bible is true and that he or she can put full confidence in God.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Ask your child to tell you the story of the report of the 12 spies (Numbers 13:26-14:25). *What were Joshua and Caleb believing? What were the other 10 spies believing? How did what they believed affect how they acted? What was the consequence of unbelief?*
- *What were some promises the spies and the people of Israel should have remembered? What does it mean to "stand on the promises" of God? How could they have stood on God's promises? What would they have done?*

ACTIVITY

Talk with mom or dad about something that you are afraid of or worry about. What is a promise that you can stand on this week? Write the promise in the box and color/decorate the border. Ask God to show you that His promise is true for His children.

A large rectangular box with a smaller rectangular box inside, both with decorative corner tabs, intended for writing a promise.



Trusting in the Promises Leads to Obedience

MAIN IDEAS

- **Trusting in the promises leads to obedience.**
- **Faith is a gift from God.**

MEMORY VERSE

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.—Romans 10:17

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 84:11
- 2) Psalm 106:19-22, 24-25
- 3) Luke 5:1-7
- 4) Luke 22:42
- 5) Romans 8:28
- 6) Romans 10:17



LESSON SUMMARY

“But at your word I will let down the nets...” (Luke 5:5b). This is more than a simple acquiescence to a desire that Jesus expressed. It is an expression of understanding that Jesus is the Master (Luke 5:5a), and a confidence in His word. It is an expression of obedience that comes from trust. And it is an example to us of how we should respond to the commands of God. “At your word I will...”

Obedience is the natural outflow of faith. We see it in the life of Jesus who went to the cross because He trusted His Father and obeyed His will. We don’t see it in the people of Israel, who forgot their Savior, murmured in their tents, built an idol, and did not obey the Lord. Every day we have the choice of acting in unbelief, murmuring, and disobeying, or acting in belief, “At your word I will...”

May Luke 5:5b be the refrain on our lips and in our hearts, the result of God’s gracious gift of faith.

Romans 10:17—So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Pray that God would increase your faith this week, and that you would have a heart of trust that leads to obedience. Ask God to give your child faith and the desire to read His Word.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read Luke 5:1-7. *Do you think Simon, James, and John felt like fishing again? Why did they? What was the result of their obedience? What did they understand about Jesus after the nets were filled? How does our obedience to God make our faith grow?* [Help your child to see that when we trust God’s Word and obey Him, we see He is who He promises to be and our faith grows.]
- *What does Romans 10:17 say about faith? Share with your child about a Bible verse or story that has strengthened your faith. Talk about your own habit of Bible reading and how to consistently stay in the Word.*

ACTIVITY

Would you like to ask God to strengthen your faith? One way God strengthens our faith is through His Word. Do you read the Bible every day? Each day you read your Bible this week, write down one of the verses you read. Share the verses with your mom or dad.

Sunday _____
_____Monday _____
_____Tuesday _____
_____Wednesday _____
_____Thursday _____
_____Friday _____
_____Saturday _____



Promise: Eternal Life

MAIN IDEAS

- **Those who are trusting in Jesus will live forever in heaven with Him.**
- **Believers should be looking forward to heaven, where all the promises of God find fulfillment.**
- **Christians are aliens and exiles in this world; heaven is their real home.**

MEMORY VERSES

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
—John 14:2-3

SCRIPTURE

- 1) John 14:2-3, 6
- 2) Hebrews 11:13-16
- 3) 2 Peter 3:13



LESSON SUMMARY

For Christians, this world is not our home. We are strangers here “...waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells,” according to God’s promise (2 Peter 3:13). There is a reason we do not fit in, in this world—it is not home to us. We will be at home where righteousness reigns, the brokenness of this world has disappeared, and our King will reign.

Though Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven, someday He will come back to bring us home. When He does, the Father will welcome each one of us with great joy for He is not ashamed to be called our God. What a great day that will be!

As we look forward to heaven, let us remember that trusting in the promises leads to obedience, which leads to great reward. That great reward is eternal life in heaven, the inheritance of every Christian.

Pray that you will live with the constant understanding that heaven is the real home of every Christian. Thank God for His promise of eternal life. Pray that your child will inherit the promise of eternal life and that God will be his or her God.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Imagine with your child what it would be like in a place with no death or mourning, no crying or pain, no tears, no night, nothing impure, where there is no sun or moon because the light there is the glory of God, and where God dwells with man. This is the description the Bible gives of heaven. Imagine what it will be like to be in heaven. *Why does Hebrews call it “a better country”?*
- *The Bible calls Christians “strangers” and “exiles” on earth. What does this mean? What does it mean for a Christian to just be passing by here on earth? In what ways will Christians be different from others? How will you live as a stranger or exile here?*

ACTIVITY

There is only one way to heaven. Jesus told us that way in John 14:6. Read this verse.

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

Talk to mom or dad about what this verse means. Then with mom's or dad's help, write a prayer asking God to help you believe this verse.