

**FAMILY  
DEVOTIONAL  
GUIDE**

**2024**



## A NOTE FROM FAMILY PASTOR **BRETT BRANDEWIE**

The greatest spiritual impact parents will have on their children is to lead them to become disciples of Jesus. What is a disciple? A disciple is one who is being transformed into Christlikeness so he or she thinks and acts like Christ. The most effective way we learn how to think and act like Christ is by reading and applying God's Word.

That is why we read a chapter of Scripture every day together as a church. Reading a chapter a day helps us take our time and focus on hearing what the Lord has to say to us through His Word. This year for our Daily Bible Reading plan, we will read a daily chapter from the New Testament during the week and then two chapters from the Psalms on the weekends.

To go along with our Daily Bible Reading plan, we encourage your family to engage in a weekly devotional time that focuses on a key passage from each week's daily readings. This devotional guide will help you facilitate a meaningful and fun time in God's Word with your family each week of the year. There are verses to read aloud and memorize, questions to answer together, prayer prompts, and activities to help everyone in the family apply the timeless truths of Scripture.

Our NextGen Team has personally written this devotional guide with your family in mind. We trust that this material will help your family read, learn, and apply the truth of Scripture together. We believe that God will speak to us through His Word, and we are excited for how the Lord will transform and bless our families and the entire church family in the days ahead. It is a privilege to partner with you and your family to help connect every generation to God, others, and service—especially the next generation!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Brandewie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brett Brandewie

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For God  
**LOVED**

the world in this way:

He gave His One

and **ONLY SON**,

so that everyone  
who believes

**IN HIM**

will not perish

but have eternal life.

**JOHN 3:16**

## WEEK 1: JOHN 3:16

What are you willing to give up to accomplish a goal? It probably depends on how important that goal is to you. If your goal is to run a marathon, you will give up time, food, and even money to accomplish the goal of completing that race. If your goal is to get married, you are willing to give up relationships with other people to only be with your husband or wife. We give worth to something by what we are willing to give up in its place. John 3:16 tells us that God gave “His one and only Son” to have a relationship with you and me. If we confess, repent (or turn) from our sinful ways, and believe that Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross is the only way to be saved, then we will gain eternal life with God in heaven.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Who is God’s only Son?

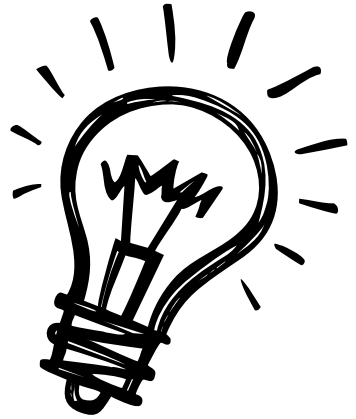
**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What is something you would give everything for? Who did God consider worth giving up His only Son for?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Memorize John 3:16 together! Use the following movements to make this easier.

- For God (point up high to God)
- so loved (crisscross their chests as a sign of love)
- the world (raise your hands above your head into a big “world”)
- that He gave (lower hands like you’re giving a gift)
- His one (hold up an index finger showing the number one)
- and only Son (put your arms out to the sides like making a big cross with your body)
- that whoever (fan your arms out to everyone)
- believes in Him (tap an index finger to the side of your brain)
- will not perish (shake an index finger back and forth)
- but have eternal life (crisscross your hands then open arms wide)

Pray that God will help your family to understand the gospel. Thank God for giving His Son for us. Parents pray specifically for your kids to come to know Jesus.

WHEN JESUS SPOKE  
AGAIN TO THE PEOPLE,  
HE SAID,



I AM THE LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD  
WHOEVER WALKS IN DARKNESS,  
BUT WILL FOLLOW ME  
AND WILL HAVE THE  
LIGHT OF LIFE.

JOHN  
8:12

## WEEK 2: JOHN 8:12

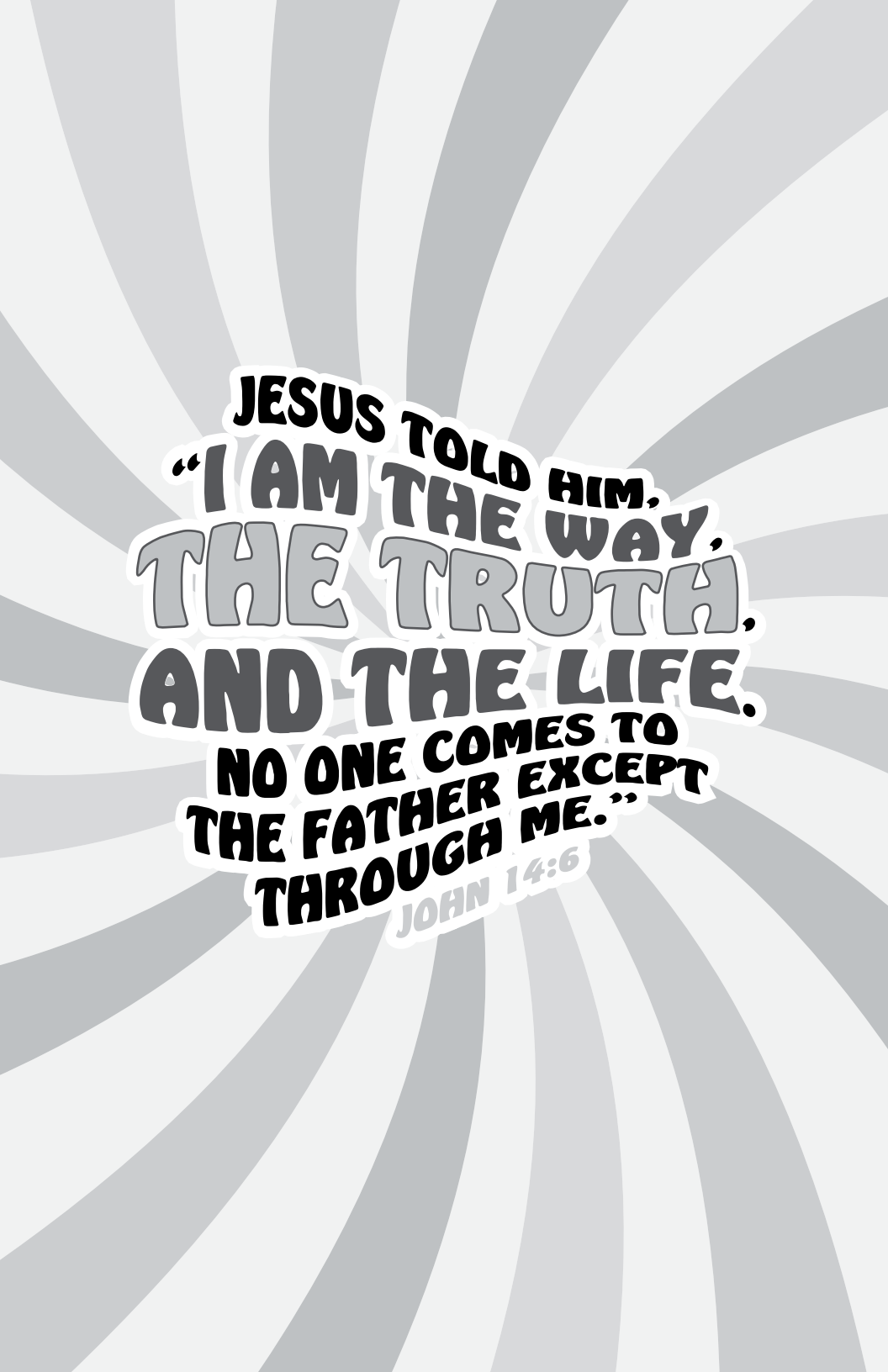
Have you ever taken a tour of a cave? On the tour, you either walk around with flashlights or lights on the ground guide your path. At some point, they might turn off every light around you until there is complete darkness. Standing in a place so dark can feel weird. You can't see your hand waving in front of your face! As soon as they turn the smallest light back on, it changes everything. You can see your hand in front of your face and everyone else around you. The light makes all the difference!

Jesus tells us that He is the light of the world, and whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness. If we choose not to follow Jesus, we will be walking around life like we are in a cave without any light on—lost, blind, and unable to see clearly. But if we follow Jesus throughout our lives—learning about Him and obeying what He says is right and true—then we will not have to walk blindly in the darkness. Instead, we can walk through our days with the Light that guides us and allows us to see!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Does being in the dark scare you sometimes? Today, we read about Jesus being the Light of the world. How can Jesus be the Light in your life?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Jesus can be the Light in our life when we choose to follow Him. Have you decided to make Jesus the Light of your life? Think about your school, your team, or any activity you are a part of. Do the people you are around need Jesus to be the Light of their life?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Find a room or closet in your house without windows and turn off all the lights. Experience the darkness together as a family. Then turn on one small light (maybe a phone flashlight) and notice how much difference one light makes! Take the moment as a family to discuss how Jesus can be the light in your life and make all the difference!



**JESUS TOLD HIM,  
"I AM THE WAY,  
THE TRUTH,  
AND THE LIFE.  
NO ONE COMES TO  
THE FATHER EXCEPT  
THROUGH ME."  
JOHN 14:6**



## WEEK 3: JOHN 14:6

Jesus told His disciples that He was going away to His Father's house in heaven and would prepare a place for them. He told them that they knew the way. Thomas responded that they didn't know where He was going. How could they know the way? (John 14:1-5) Jesus' reply is one of the strongest truths declared in the Bible. There is one way to have eternal life with God in heaven, and that is through Jesus.

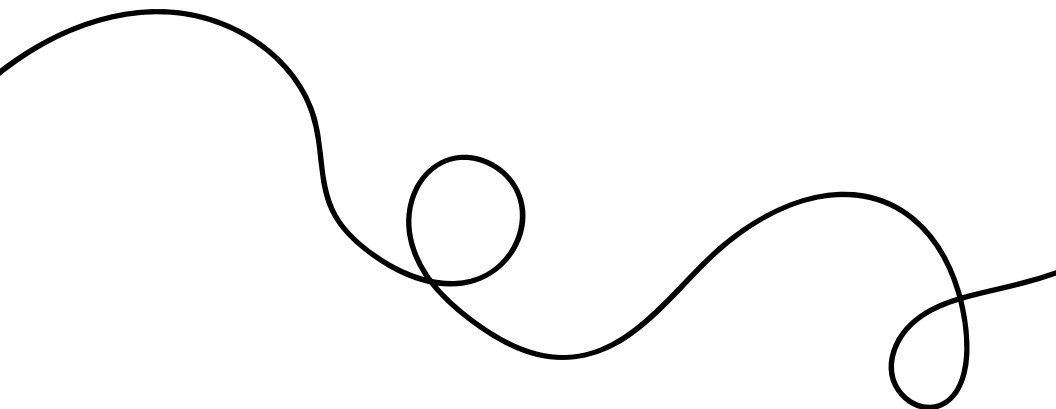
It seems like many people today want to do things their way and ignore God. We believe what we want to believe and call it truth. People want to believe that there are many truths and ways to God. Many believe that being a good person is enough to get to heaven one day. It sounds really nice, but Jesus said otherwise.

Jesus died on the cross for a purpose. He took our punishment for our sins by giving His life. If there were other ways to gain forgiveness and get to heaven, then Jesus wasted His life by suffering on the cross. Aren't you glad God provided a way for us to get forgiveness for our sins and be in heaven with Him one day?

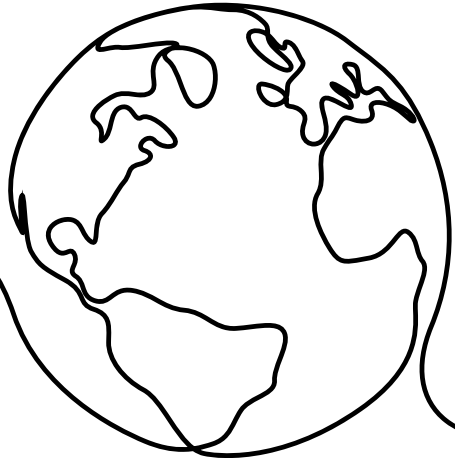
**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What would you say to a friend who said they were living a good life so they would go to heaven one day?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** We all appreciate gifts. Salvation through Jesus is the greatest gift of all. Why do you think it is hard to believe that Jesus is the only way to God and forgiveness?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Spend time as a family discussing the different beliefs people have about how to get to heaven. Name a few people you can pray for as a family who don't believe in Jesus. Pray that God would open a conversation for you to tell them about Jesus.



**BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER  
WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES ON YOU;  
AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES  
IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA  
AND SAMARIA, AND  
TO THE ENDS OF  
THE EARTH.  
ACTS 1:8**



## WEEK 4: ACTS 1:8

Does your family have a favorite sports team? If you do, who do you cheer for? When we cheer for a team, we wear clothes that show our fandom. We put stickers representing our team all over our cars. We even talk to others about our team. We can't help but tell the world who we are rooting for.

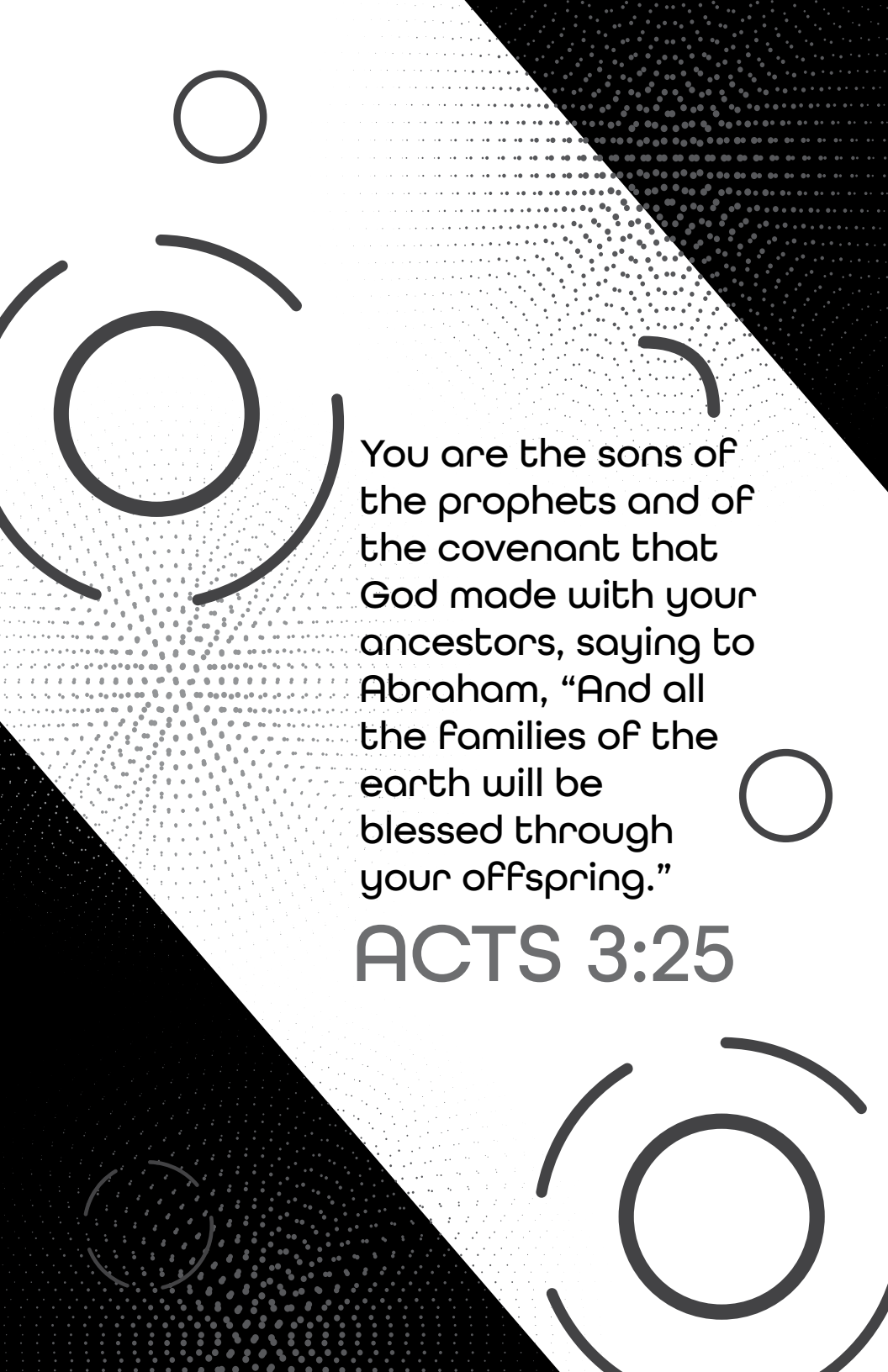
In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells the disciples they have something greater to share with the world. Jesus sent His disciples to share the gospel—the good news about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection—and invite others to follow Jesus. When we follow Jesus, we have something infinitely better than a sports team to talk about; we get to tell others the best news of all: that Jesus is Lord! We go and tell people everywhere this good news.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What is your favorite thing to talk about? Can Jesus be something you tell others about? Who can you tell?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What is your favorite thing about Jesus? How can you share that with others? Why should we tell people about Jesus?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** As a family or individually, think of a friend who doesn't know Jesus or doesn't come to church. Write those names down somewhere the family can see them and commit to praying for that person, sharing the gospel with them, or inviting them to church.

Pray for the people you wrote down. Pray that God would continue to bring people into our lives to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

The background features a diagonal split between a white upper-left and a black lower-right. A halftone dot pattern is centered on the diagonal. Several thick, dark gray circles and arcs are scattered across the white area, some overlapping the halftone pattern.

You are the sons of  
the prophets and of  
the covenant that  
God made with your  
ancestors, saying to  
Abraham, “And all  
the families of the  
earth will be  
blessed through  
your offspring.”

**ACTS 3:25**

## WEEK 5: ACTS 3:25

Has someone ever made you a promise they didn't keep? It can be frustrating when others don't follow through with their promises. When someone does do what they promised, it builds trust, and you have confidence in them in the future.

When we think about God, we can be confident that He always keeps His promises. In Acts 3:25, the Apostle Peter shares with people at the temple in Jerusalem how God had kept His covenant promise to Abraham to bless all people through his children (Genesis 12:3, 22:18, and 26:4).

How did God keep His promise? By sending His son, Jesus, to be our substitute and pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus was from the family of Abraham (Galatians 3:29) and was the promised blessing to the entire world. All who will repent of their sin and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God are promised to experience this eternal blessing of salvation. Thank God that He always keeps His promises!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What does it mean to make a promise to someone? What kind of promises does God make to us?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** How does God still fulfill His promises today? What does it mean that He will bless all the world through the family of Abraham?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Together, look up promises that God makes us in His Word. Write down or color several on index cards or paper. Put them in key places in your home so you can see them in the coming days and rejoice that God keeps His promises!

Spend a moment thanking God that He keeps His promises and asking Him to help you always have confidence that you can trust Him in every circumstance.

**HERE**

**I**

**AM.**

**LORD**

## WEEK 6: ACTS 9:1-31

Whatever Saul did, he did with all his heart. He was a well-educated Jew who strongly believed in what he had been taught. It's sad that he was working so hard in the name of God but was actually working against God. God stopped Saul and spoke to him through a blinding light that gave him the ability to see the truth he was fighting so hard against. After Saul became a Christian, he worked just as hard, if not harder, to share the good news of Jesus with everyone. Many didn't trust him because he had changed his mind and message. Others hated him and tried to have him killed. Saul didn't care. Nothing would stop him from speaking the truth of Jesus to those who had lost their way like he had.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Would you have fewer friends if you talked about Jesus more? What is more important: having a lot of friends or sharing who Jesus is with others?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Do you believe that no one is too bad to have their life changed through Christ? God got Saul's attention. What are some ways God may use to get the attention of people today?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Spend time sharing how you became a Christian and some things God did that helped you know you needed Him.

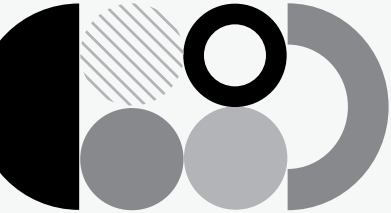
Pray, asking God to give you the strength to be as bold as Saul to share Christ with others.



**After these things I will return  
and rebuild David's fallen tent.  
I will rebuild its ruins  
and set it up again,  
so the rest of humanity  
may seek the Lord—  
even all the Gentiles  
who are called by My name,  
declares the Lord who does these  
things, known from long ago.**



# **ACTS 15:16-18**





## WEEK 7: ACTS 15:16-18

Don't you love it when a plan comes together? Have you ever helped your parents plan a trip or a fun day together, and you could do anything you planned? Isn't it fun when our plans happen just like we want?

God had a plan from before time began that He would rescue everyone from the penalty of their sin, no matter the color of their skin, their nationality, gender, or how rich or poor they were. That plan came together once and for all in God's one and only Son, Jesus Christ. He is the Savior of the whole world. He offers salvation to all people of all places, to any who would repent of their sin and confess that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior.

In Acts 15, Jesus' brother James reminds the early church that God's plan for saving us from sin was for everyone! That's good news for you, me, our neighbors, and all nations. God's plans always come together.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** If you plan your entire day tomorrow, where would you start, and what would you want to do? What would have to happen for all those plans to work? Sometimes our plans work, and sometimes they don't, but God's plans always work together. That's good news for us!

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What are some plans you have for your future? What would have to happen for all those plans to come together? Sometimes our plans come together, and sometimes they don't, but God's plans always come together for our good and His glory.

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Make some plans together for a fun day with your family and have everyone contribute to making your plans. When the day comes to carry out what you planned together, take a moment to thank God that He accomplishes all His plans.

Take time as a family to praise God that He offers salvation to everyone through Christ. Pray for the salvation of someone you know doesn't follow Jesus.

MAY THESE WORDS OF  
MY MOUTH AND THIS  
MEDITATION OF MY  
HEART BE PLEASING IN  
YOUR SIGHT, LORD, MY  
ROCK AND MY  
REDEEMER.

PSALM 19:14

## WEEK 8: PSALM 19:14

Telling stories is an important part of our culture. Many families gather during holidays and reflect on previous years through stories, many of which will make us laugh. Everyone in the world has a “story” to tell—stories of incredible achievements and difficult challenges. In Psalm 19, David explains that creation and believers have a witness, or “story” of the goodness and glory of God. As David explains the characteristics of God that are observed through creation, there is a challenge for those who believe in Christ. Not only do we see God’s goodness, but we should actively share God’s goodness with the world around us. Verse 14 gives clear instructions for us. Read verse 14 together out loud.

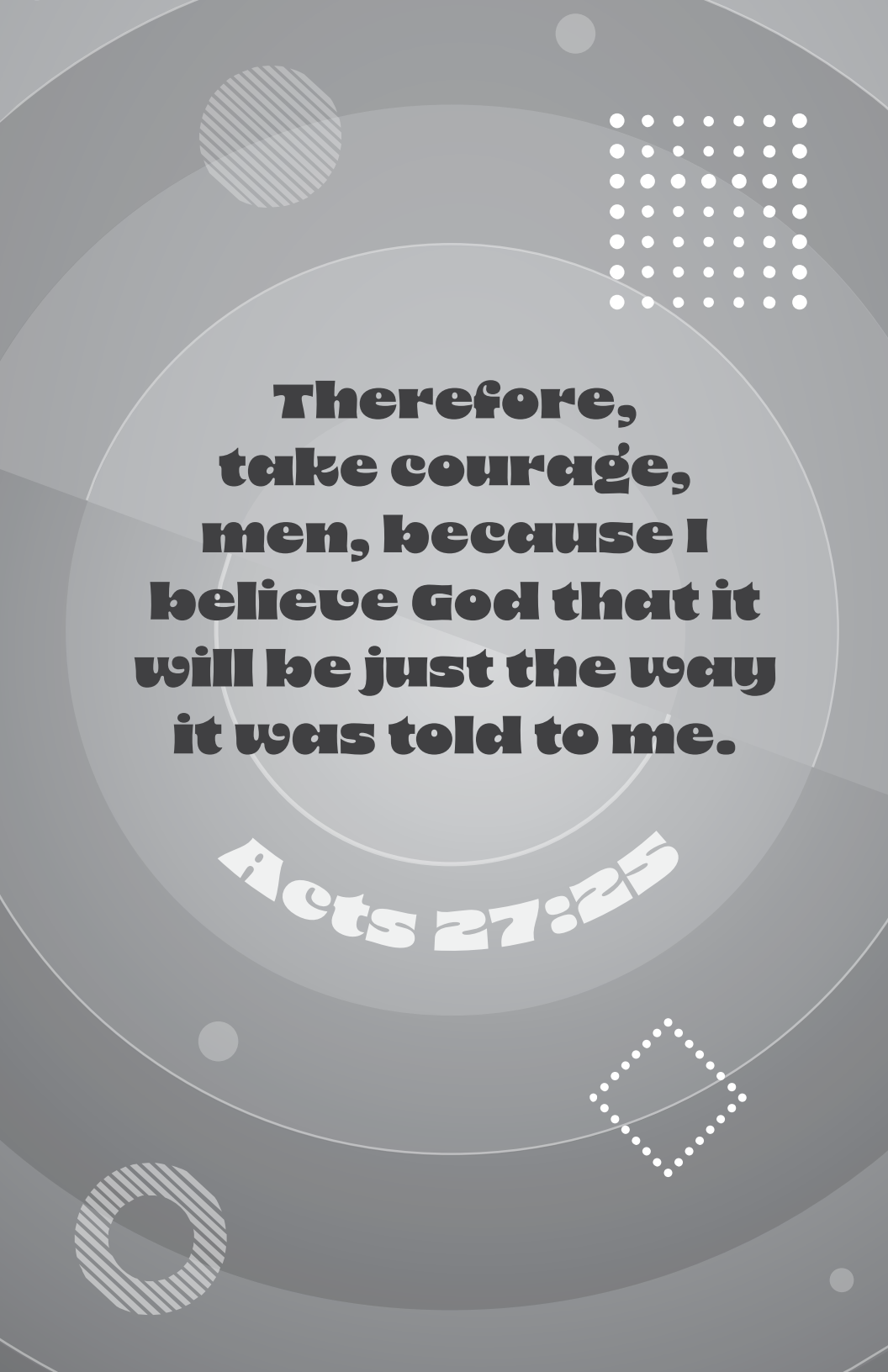
As we prioritize and look for opportunities to share the goodness of God, we first need to watch our words. Our words should build up and encourage, giving hope to the world. We should also examine our hearts. When you are doing something for others, ask yourself, “Is your heart pursuing God by what I say and in my attitude?”

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What does it look like to love God with our actions? Do you ever have a bad attitude about doing the right thing?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Have you ever done something nice to serve or promote yourself? What is the right attitude to have that is honoring to God?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Take turns telling stories to one another about something kind that someone else has done for you. What did you like about what they did? Share ideas about kind things you can do for others that point them to Christ.

As a family, pray together and thank God for His ultimate kindness of sending Jesus to die on the cross to save us. Ask God to help us in the words that we say, that we would be encouraging to one another, and we would do kind things to promote God’s kingdom, not ourselves.



**Therefore,  
take courage,  
men, because I  
believe God that it  
will be just the way  
it was told to me.**

**Acts 27:25**

## WEEK 9: ACTS 27:1-44

God helped Paul tell others about Jesus. Paul was determined to get the good news about Jesus to the ends of the earth, but there was a problem. Paul had been arrested for preaching the gospel, so he couldn't go where he wanted to. God knew though, and God led Paul's captors to take him to Rome, which was the center of their world back then, so that Paul would be able to tell more people that Jesus is Lord.

Paul was on a boat with other prisoners to travel to Rome, but then a massive storm came and caused them to shipwreck. God protected Paul and everyone on board, and because God provided for them in this time of need, it gave Paul a great opportunity to share the gospel with others. Eventually, Paul would make it to Rome, and he would lead many in this influential city to follow Jesus. God helped Paul tell others about Jesus and God helps us do the same today!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What is something hard you think God can help you with? God can help you with anything!

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What are some challenging things you've experienced in life? How has God helped you in those times? How can these hard times help you tell others about Jesus?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** As you read the entire story in Acts 27, try to act it out together. This story is an incredible account of God's provision for Paul and how He helped him continue sharing the gospel with the world.

Pray together, thanking God that He is strong enough and big enough to help us when we face hardships and challenges. Then, ask that God would use those in our lives to help us share with others God's goodness.

**FOR I AM  
NOT ASHAMED  
OF THE GOSPEL  
BECAUSE IT IS THE POWER OF GOD  
THAT BRINGS SALVATION  
TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES:  
FIRST TO THE JEW, THEN TO THE GENTILE.**

**ROMANS 1:16**

## WEEK 10: ROMANS 1:16

There are several reasons that people love the fall. There's cooler weather, pumpkin spice lattes, and most importantly, there is college football. Fans from colleges across the nation enter the season believing their school will begin down the road to a National Championship. With that belief comes pride and confidence, but as the season progresses, inevitably teams suffer a loss or two—or three—and fans' confidence and pride in their school of choice is turned to shame and defeat.

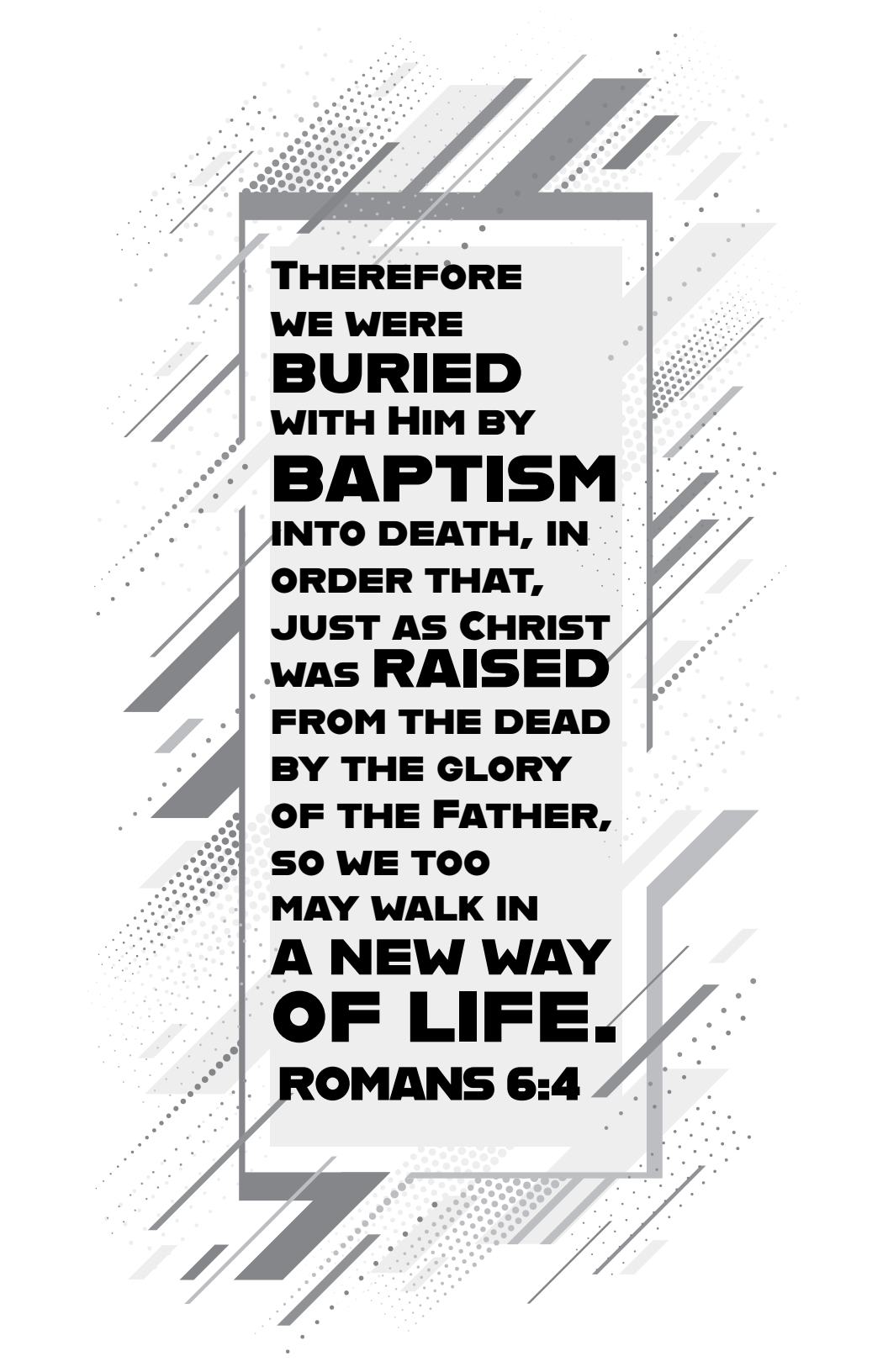
How awesome would it be to never be ashamed of your school? For your school to never lose? We find a picture of what this might look like in Romans 1:16. Paul tells us he is “unashamed of the gospel.” Why is he unashamed? Because Jesus is undefeated and His victory on the cross provides salvation from sin and death.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** How do you feel when you lose a game? What does it mean to be unashamed?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** How does being on a winning team increase our confidence? Does knowing Jesus already won help your faith in him? Why does belief bring confidence?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Spend some time coming up with creative ways to share the gospel with people around you. As a family, pick one of those ways and do it this week.

Thank God for His victory on the cross. Pray that God would help us to live unashamed to follow Jesus.



**THEREFORE  
WE WERE  
BURIED  
WITH HIM BY  
BAPTISM  
INTO DEATH, IN  
ORDER THAT,  
JUST AS CHRIST  
WAS RAISED  
FROM THE DEAD  
BY THE GLORY  
OF THE FATHER,  
SO WE TOO  
MAY WALK IN  
A NEW WAY  
OF LIFE.  
ROMANS 6:4**



## **WEEK 11: ROMANS 6:1-4**

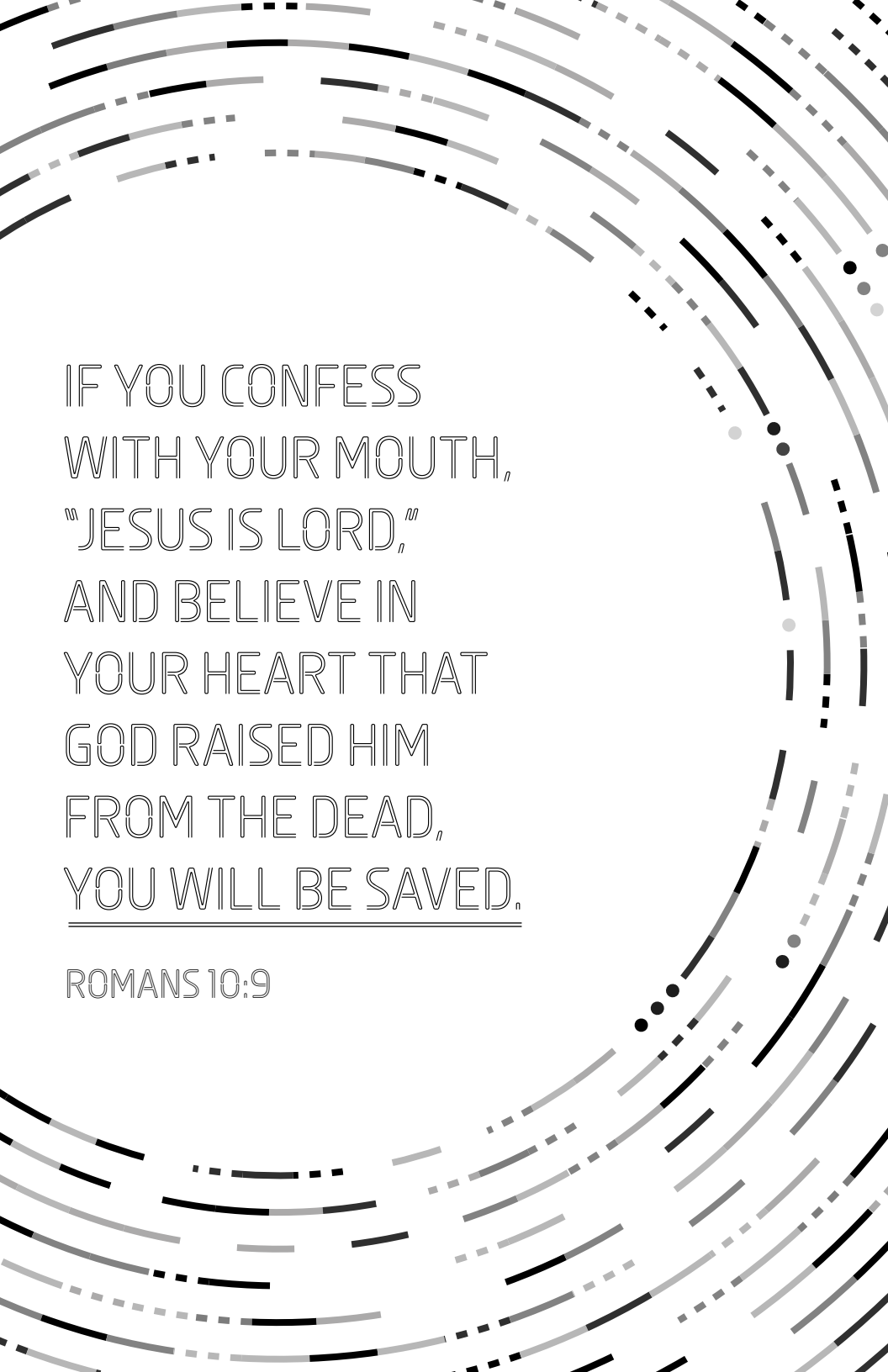
Baptism is an important part of being a Christian. Baptism is a public sign where followers of Christ declare that their hearts have changed, and they believe that Jesus is their Lord and Savior. In Romans 6, Paul uses baptism as a picture of how Christians should live their life. Many times, even after we follow Christ, it can be very challenging to resist sin. Paul encourages the Church to view sin as a burial. We put to death our old ways because our new life is in Christ! With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can resist sin and live a life that is pleasing to God.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Why do we do bad things even when we know it's wrong? How can we do the right things?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** How is baptism a picture of our relationship with sin? What are some things we need to stop doing to further pursue our relationship with Christ?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** This week as a family, plant a seed into a pot with soil. Water it and watch as the plant grows. This might be a long-term activity! Throughout this process, check back on the plant together as a reminder that we must bury sin in our lives to see the growth that God provides.

As a family thank God for the Holy Spirit that convicts us of our sins and helps in resisting sin. Ask God to help you during times when you feel weak. Pray that God would help your family to work together to live lives that please Him.

The background features a series of concentric circles and dashed lines in various shades of gray, creating a dynamic, geometric pattern. The lines vary in thickness and style, some being solid and others dashed, and they are arranged in a way that suggests movement and depth.

IF YOU CONFESS  
WITH YOUR MOUTH,  
"JESUS IS LORD,"  
AND BELIEVE IN  
YOUR HEART THAT  
GOD RAISED HIM  
FROM THE DEAD,  
YOU WILL BE SAVED.

ROMANS 10:9

## **WEEK 12: ROMANS 10:9-15**

In Romans 10: 9-13, Paul shares the good news that anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! Becoming a Christian is not a long list of tasks to complete before Jesus will save you. The Bible says that all you need to do is confess with your mouth, say that Jesus is Lord, and believe that God raised him from the dead, and you will be saved! This is the best news of all! In Romans 14-15, Paul reminds us to share this good news with everyone. How will people know about the love of Jesus unless we tell them?

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Sin is anything we do that disobeys God. Have you ever sinned? Talk with your family about what sin is and how it makes us feel when we sin. (Don't forget the good news: Jesus will forgive us of our sins if we believe in Him!)

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Who is Jesus to you? Have you asked Him to be your savior? What does it mean to admit, believe, and confess? If you are already a Christian, who have you told?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Talk about ways to share Jesus with others.

Thank God that he sent Jesus to save you from your sins and loves us so much that whoever believes in him will be saved.

**May the God  
who gives endurance  
and encouragement  
give you the same attitude  
of mind toward each other  
that Christ Jesus had  
so that with one mind  
and one voice  
you may glorify  
the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Romans 15:5-6**

## WEEK 13: ROMANS 15:5-6

Have you ever watched a sports team play a game that just went horribly wrong? Watching games like this are not the most fun to see! We want our team to do well, but when a team cannot get along, it impacts how they play the game!

At the beginning of Romans 15, Paul instructs the churches in Rome to build each other up and strengthen one another. This way of living is possible because Jesus has lived out for us. Paul told the church to live in harmony as one. He told us to live this way so that we may glorify God and be united with one another.

When the Church lives in harmony with one another, they will agree with what God says is true and right. They are going to live it out. They will care for one another, encourage people when things are hard, and point them back to who God is and what He says is true! If a sports team gets along with one another, it will make difference in how they play the game. If we get along with the other Christians in our life and live in harmony with one another, our lives will be better for it and other people will notice.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** God asks us to be kind to those around us. Is this sometimes hard to do? Why? How can you encourage one of your friends at school, church, or on your team?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** God calls us to love other Christians and treat one another with kindness. Is that sometimes hard to do with your friends at church? Why do you think it is important to love those around us?

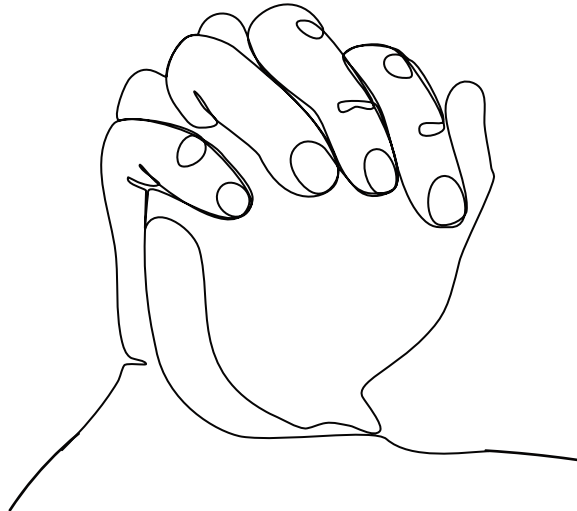
**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Is there someone in your life who could use some encouragement as they walk through a difficult season? As a family, take some time to pray for this person and think about how you can encourage them. Make a card, bring them a meal, or send them a video telling them how much they mean to you and reminding them how much God loves them. Take some time as a family to model how the church can be united with one another.

Therefore, you should pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,  
Your name be honored as holy.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13



## WEEK 14: MATTHEW 6:9-13

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus taught His followers about prayer and how to pray. Sometimes, we may get stuck and feel like we don't know how to pray to God. How amazing is it that Jesus understands and teaches us how to pray? The prayer that Jesus prayed focuses on three main parts: praising God, asking God for what we need, and finally, asking God to forgive us of our sins. God loves us so much and wants us to talk to him daily. The Lord's Prayer is an excellent example of how to do just that.

An easy way to remember to pray as Jesus taught is to use the word P.R.A.Y. as a guide.

**P – Praise God** – Begin by thanking God for who He is and all His wonderful deeds.

**R – Repent** – Next, ask God to forgive your sins.

**A – Ask** – This is where you ask God for what you need.

**Y – Yield** – Finish your prayer by sitting still and being quiet with God.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What can we pray for? When can we pray?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What can we learn about prayer from Jesus' example? Why is it important to praise God in our prayers and not only ask God for things we need?

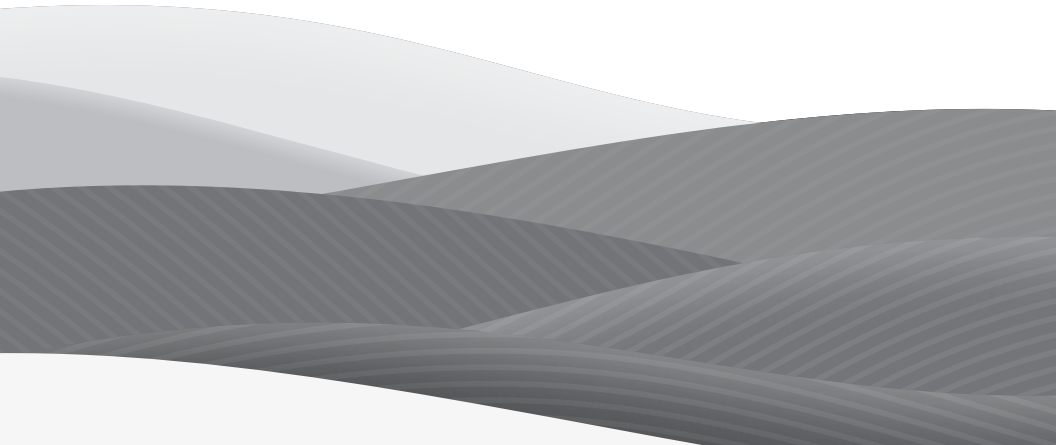
**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Use the Lord's Prayer as a guide to pray as a family.

Thank God for hearing your prayers and wanting to have a relationship with you.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE TREASURE,  
BURIED IN A FIELD, THAT A MAN FOUND AND  
REBURIED. THEN IN HIS JOY HE GOES AND SELLS  
EVERYTHING HE HAS AND BUYS THAT FIELD.

AGAIN, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A  
MERCHANT IN SEARCH OF FINE PEARLS. WHEN  
HE FOUND ONE PRICELESS PEARL, HE WENT AND  
SOLD EVERYTHING HE HAD, AND BOUGHT IT.

**MATTHEW 13:44-46**





## WEEK 15: MATTHEW 13:44-46

What is your greatest possession? What do you own that you treasure the most? In Matthew 13, we see two parables—short stories—that explain an important truth that we need to be reminded of all the time: knowing and following Jesus is greater than anything this world has to offer.

In these two little stories, the man who found the buried treasure and the merchant who found the pearl sold all they had to get the greatest treasure—Jesus. These two men in the stories are a picture of how we respond to the invitation to follow Jesus. We give up everything to have the one thing that matters most—Jesus. Jesus should be what we treasure the most in life.

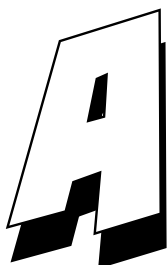
**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What is the most important item in the room? How much do you think it costs? How much more valuable is Jesus to us?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What would it be like to sell everything you own? There will be things we need to “sell” or give up to follow Jesus because He wants to be more important to us than anything else. What are some things you might have to give up to follow Him?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Create a treasure hunt for a beloved item in your home. Be creative in where you hide it and make it fun for everyone to participate. Once the treasure is found, remind everyone of how much more we treasure Jesus.

As a family, pray and thank God that Jesus is our greatest treasure.

# ***Becoming a Christian is as easy as A.B.C.!***

A large, bold, black-outlined letter 'A' with a white fill and a thick black shadow, positioned to the left of the first section.

## ***ADMIT to God that you are a sinner.***

Sin means choosing your way instead of God's way. Jesus paid for our sins, taking our punishment by dying on the cross.

Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

A large, bold, black-outlined letter 'B' with a white fill and a thick black shadow, positioned to the left of the second section.

## ***BELIEVE that Jesus is God's son.***

Believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and that He rose from the dead and lives today.

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

A large, bold, black-outlined letter 'C' with a white fill and a thick black shadow, positioned to the left of the third section.

## ***CONFESS your faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.***

Confess that you want Jesus to be your Lord for the rest of your life. When you confess, you are saying that you will put God first in your life, obey God's Word—the Bible—and ask God to help you make the right choices.

Romans 10:13: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

## WEEK 16: MATTHEW 16:13-20

What do others think about you? What does it mean to have a reputation? What kind of reputation do you think that you have?

Jesus asks His disciples what they've heard others say about Him. This isn't because He is afraid people don't like Him, but because He wants to teach them the truth about who He is. Jesus asks His disciples, "But you, who do you say that I am?" Peter says that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.

Do you believe that about Jesus? We will all have to decide what we believe about Jesus. Will you believe that He is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God as Peter did, or will you deny that truth? Who do you say that Jesus is?

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** If you described Jesus to someone else, how would you describe Him?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Who do you say Jesus is? What do you believe about Jesus?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Write down the name of everyone in your immediate family. Then, help each other come up with the best 5 characteristics about one another and list those down. Take a moment to speak the truth over one another.

Pray together, thanking God that Jesus is our Messiah!

**BUT JESUS LOOKED AT THEM AND SAID,  
"WITH MEN THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT**

**WITH**

**GOD**

**ALL**

**THINGS**

**ARE**

**POSSIBLE."**

**MATTHEW 19:26**

## WEEK 17: MATTHEW 19:16-30

This rich young man had everything he thought was important: great wealth! As he heard the teachings of Jesus, he realized he needed one more thing—eternal life in heaven. This man thought he was a good person because he obeyed the commandments. But when Jesus added that the man would need to sell everything he had and give the money to the poor, he was sad and walked away. The man kept his riches but gave up the greatest treasure of all: eternal life through a relationship with Jesus. Verse 30 reminds us that many who are the richest here on earth will be poor spiritually. On the other hand, those with very little wealth will be first in God's Kingdom if they have a personal relationship with Jesus.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Do you think having a lot of money and nice things is wrong? What could make it wrong?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Was Jesus saying we must get rid of our money to follow Him? What was He saying? Is Jesus at the top of your priority list?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Share with your family some things people value more than anything. List some things we can do to stay spiritually rich. As a family, decide on something you can do together to bless others less fortunate than you.

Thank God for all the material things He has blessed your family with. Ask Him to help you keep Him first in your lives.

Well Done  
Good  
and Faithful  
Servant

Matthew 25:21

## WEEK 18: MATTHEW 25:14-30

We learned earlier that Jesus often told short stories we call parables that shared a truth He wanted His followers to understand. In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus tells a story about a man and his servants. He is going on a trip and gives each servant a massive sum of money—called talents in this story. In today’s world, a talent would be around \$500,000, so think of how much money each would have been given. It’s a lot!

While the master was away, a couple of servants did the risky option and invested their talents, doubling what they had. A third servant assumed the worst of his master and hid the money he was given to ensure he couldn’t lose it. When the master returned, he rewarded those who took the risk and doubled his money and punished the servant who didn’t do anything with the money.

This incredible story shows us that obedience to the Lord requires risk. There is a cost to following Jesus. Pastor and author John Piper says, “The Christian life is a call to risk. You either live with risk or waste your life.” That risk is worth it!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** When you do the right thing, what happens? When you do the wrong thing, what happens? When you do the right thing, sometimes it’s not what you want to do. But obedience to God means we do what’s right anyway. Parents, help your children see that obedience has a cost, but it’s worth it.

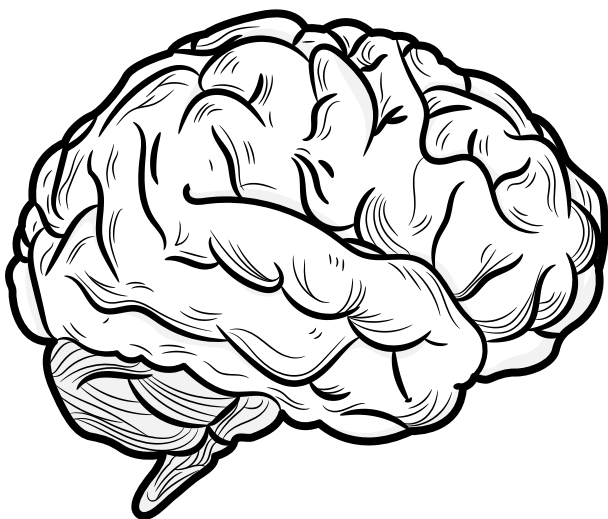
**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What are some risks you may have to take to follow Jesus in obedience? Has doing the right thing ever cost you something? Parents, help your children see that there is a cost to following Jesus.

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Play a card or board game together that requires some risk to win the game. How is risk a part of living in obedience to God?

Pray that God would remind you every day that although there is risk and cost involved in following Jesus, it is always worth it.

For who has known the Lord's  
mind, that he may instruct Him?

**BUT WE**  
1 corinthians  
**— 2:16** **have the**  
**mind**  
**of**  
**CHRIST.**





## WEEK 19: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:16

Who is the smartest person you know? Now, who do you think is the smartest person in the entire world? No matter who that is, they are not smarter than God! Nobody knows more than God, nobody is wiser than God, and nobody can instruct God.

Even though nobody is wiser than God, when you surrender your life to Jesus and follow Him as Lord and Savior, you receive the mind of Christ. This means you begin to see things the way Christ sees them. As we grow in our relationship with Christ, we want to think more like Jesus does about ourselves, others, and the world. We will never be smarter than God, but we've been given the mind of Christ. Let's live like it!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What does it mean to be wise? How is God wise? How can we be wise?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What does it mean to have the mind of Christ? How do you know if you have the mind of Christ?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Take some time and color in the brain! Come up with some ideas of how Scripture says that Jesus sees you and others. Write those around the brain. Ask God to help you think about yourself and others the way that Jesus does.

Ask God to give you the mind of Christ!

**So whether you eat or drink  
or whatever  
you do,  
do it all for  
the glory of God.**

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

## WEEK 20: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

Paul's letter to the church in Corinth was written to help them live in a way that honors Christ, while surrounded by an evil, pagan society that didn't worship God. His final advice, at the end of the 10th chapter, was simple: In all that you do, do it for the glory of God—to praise and give honor to God. As a family, read 1 Corinthians 10:31 together.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** How can you show love for God (honor) today?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Write the scripture verse, 1 Corinthians 10:31, on a small card and post it somewhere you will see it, each day (bathroom mirror, bedside table, etc.). Reminding ourselves of Scripture will help us implement what God has called us to do and help us memorize Scripture (Psalm 119:11).

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Think about an activity each member does during the week (play a ball game, do a chore, finish homework, work at a job, etc.). Talk about ways you can “glorify God” in each scenario.

As a family, pray together and thank God for the ability to show our love for Him by what we do. Thank the Lord for families that love and care for one another.

**Love** is **love** 

**patient, love**

is **kind.** 

**Love does not envy,**

**is not boastful, is not conceited,**

**does not act improperly, is not selfish,**

**is not provoked, and does not keep a record of wrongs.**

**Love finds no joy in unrighteousness**

**but rejoices in the truth.**

**It bears all things, believes all things,**

**hopes all things, endures all things.**

**Love never ends.** 

 **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** 

## WEEK 21: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8A

All around us, we see messages that we should love one another. Loving others makes us feel good and is the right way to treat people, but what does it actually mean to love people? Culture may tell us loving people looks one way, but in 1 Corinthians 13, we see exactly what it means to love!

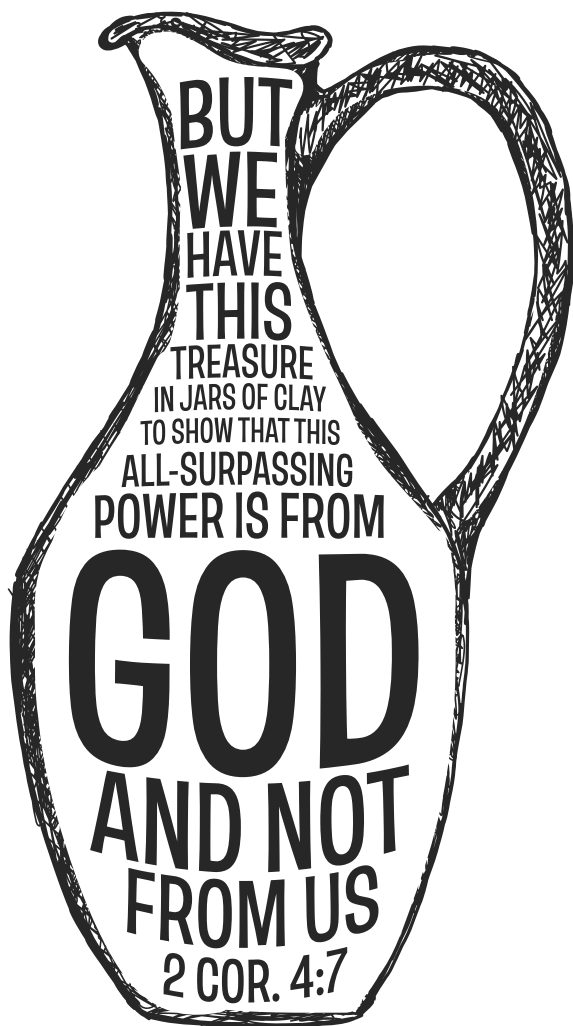
Did you know that 1 John 4:8 says, "God is love?" If God is love, then that means 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 lists the characteristics of God. We see that God is patient and kind and does not envy or boast. God is not arrogant or rude, self-seeking, or irritable, and He does not keep a record of wrongs. God rejoices in the truth! If these characteristics are true of God, then that means they should be true of us, too! When we live the way 1 Corinthians 13 tells us to, we live out the true way to love one another.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What makes you feel the most loved by your family? How can you love your family today? Do you know that God loves you? He created you (Psalm 139:13-14), and He died on the cross for you (John 3:16). How does knowing God loves you make you feel?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Is it easy to live out these characteristics of love to those around you? What makes it hard? How can you be supported and encouraged to love others the way God loves you?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Open your Bible and turn to 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. Take a moment as a family to read these verses aloud. As you read them, insert your name wherever you see the word "love." For example: "Susie is patient, Susie is kind. Susie does not envy, etc."

While this can be convicting, pray that God would open your eyes to see how you can grow in your faith and love those around you as God loves us!



**BUT  
WE  
HAVE  
THIS**

**TREASURE  
IN JARS OF CLAY  
TO SHOW THAT THIS  
ALL-SURPASSING  
POWER IS FROM**

**GOD**

**AND NOT  
FROM US**

**2 COR. 4:7**

## WEEK 22: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-18

In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul shares the importance of the Good News that we are called to share. He paints a word picture of how as believers we are like clay jars. With clay pottery comes wear and tear that will affect its ability to work correctly in the future. Paul reminds us that we may encounter difficulties that create wear and tear in our lives. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 together.

We, as sinful beings, are unqualified to carry the treasure of Jesus' salvation. Despite all our problems God still uses us. Our lives, like cracked jars, are being made new day by day. The hard things we encounter every day are producing in us a faith that is more valuable than gold. Think of ways God can use you despite your cracks and flaws to bring His treasure to the world around us.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Do you ever make a mistake or mess up? Does God still love us even when we mess up?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Does God only use perfect people? Who are some people in the Bible God used even though they weren't perfect? Why does God use us even though we are broken from our sins?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** As a family buy a clay jar and take turns painting different sections. Explain that while this clay jar might one day break, God uses our lives despite our mistakes and the challenges we overcome.

As a family pray thanking God for the ways that He continues to use each of us despite our sins and sins that are committed against us. Ask for renewed strength each day through various challenges and that through those God can use that as a testimony to point others to Jesus. Thank God for the treasure that He has given us.

Therefore,  
if anyone is in  
**Christ, he is**  
a new creation;  
old things have  
passed away,  
and look,  
**new things**  
**have come.**

2 Corinthians 5:17



## WEEK 23: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Our verse this week, 2 Corinthians 5:17, is pointing back to verses 14 & 15 in the same chapter. Because of His love, Christ died for us, and those who trust in Him are made new (and have died to our old selves)! We are not who we once were, but God is making us more and more like Christ every day. Our 'new self' should reflect Jesus to others.

As a family, read 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 together.

### **YOUNGER & OLDER KIDS:**

Discuss how Jesus calls us to act in each of the following situations.

- Arguing with a sibling over using the TV or game system
- Complaining when asked to do a chore or job in the family
- Putting off doing homework until the last minute
- Saying unkind things about someone at school

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Find something in the house that has been replaced with something new. Talk about the difference between the old version and the new version. Which works better? Changing the way we live to a life that honors Christ is a way to show that we are "new."

As a family, pray together and ask God to help you live a life that shows your love for Christ. Thank the Lord for helping us change our lives to a new life that shows others that we love and follow Christ.

**BUT HE SAID TO ME,  
"MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR  
YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE  
PERFECT IN WEAKNESS."  
THEREFORE I WILL BOAST ALL THE  
MORE GLADLY ABOUT MY  
WEAKNESSES, SO THAT CHRIST'S  
POWER MAY REST ON ME. THAT IS  
WHY, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, I  
DELIGHT IN WEAKNESSES, IN  
INSULTS, IN HARDSHIPS, IN  
PERSECUTIONS, IN DIFFICULTIES.  
FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM  
STRONG.**

**2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10**

## WEEK 24: 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

Throughout Scripture, we see God use people even when they have a weakness. Moses was not a great speaker, Abraham was old, Jeremiah was young, Jonah was afraid and ran from God, and Peter denied Christ three times. Yet God used each of these people in big ways to declare the truth of who God is to people who need Him.

In 2 Corinthians 12, we see Paul tell us that he, too, had a weakness. While he did not tell us what his weakness was, we do know he had one. Paul wanted God to remove this weakness from his life, but that wasn't what God had planned. God was going to use Paul despite his weakness! We are often told to be strong and be the best in order to be successful. So how could God use us if we are weak? God is greater than our weakness and He gives us grace. When we turn to God and allow Him to be what strengthens us, He will keep us going and use us in ways we never could alone.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Can you think of a time you could not do something on your own and needed help? What was that like? Sometimes we need other people to help us. God wants to help you, too! How can you ask God to help you?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Describe a moment when you could not do something and needed someone's help. Did you ask for that help? Why or why not? How can you look to God to be your strength?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Find a heavy object from around the house. Using your discretion, have your child attempt to lift the item by themselves. Once it is acknowledged that the item cannot be lifted by itself, come together as a family to lift it together. Sometimes we need to pray and ask God to help us walk through moments in our life with Him rather than trying to do it by ourselves.

**THEREFORE  
ENCOURAGE  
ONE ANOTHER  
AND BUILD  
EACH OTHER UP  
AS YOU ARE ALREADY DOING.**

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:11**

## WEEK 25: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Have you ever heard someone say, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me?” As popular as that saying may be, it does not ring true for many (if any) people! Words are powerful, and they can be hurtful. When someone says something hurtful to us, it can stick with us for days or even years. Sometimes we take what they say to heart and believe it, even if it is not true.

As Christians, we see over and over in Scripture that we are to encourage one another. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 is one of those places! Paul tells the Thessalonians to encourage one another. Why? Because Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that we may live different lives than the world. When we encourage others, we build them up instead of tearing them down. We bring hope and light into a world or situation that needs to see who Jesus is. If we use our words to encourage other people, it will look different than the world and will show our faith to those around us!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Have you ever been in a bad mood, but someone said something nice to you that cheered you up? What did they tell you? Who can you say something encouraging to?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Have you ever been mad at someone, but then they said something nice to you? How did that make you feel? How did you respond? Do your words encourage others and point them to Christ?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Sit down as a family and take time to encourage one another. You can do this activity with paper and a pen or verbally without materials. Take turns and allow every member of your family to say something encouraging to everyone in the room.

**IN THOSE DAYS JESUS CAME FROM  
NAZARETH IN GALILEE AND WAS BAPTIZED  
IN THE JORDAN BY JOHN. AS SOON AS HE  
CAME UP OUT OF THE WATER, HE SAW THE  
HEAVENS BEING TORN OPEN AND THE  
SPIRIT DESCENDING TO HIM LIKE A DOVE.  
AND A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN:**

**YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON;  
I TAKE DELIGHT IN YOU!**

**MARK 1:9-11**

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## WEEK 26: MARK 1:9-11

In Mark 1:9-11, we read that John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Baptism is very important to Jesus. He proves that by being baptized. God was so pleased to see Jesus baptized that the Bible says the Spirit of God came down from heaven like a dove, and a voice said, "You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased." Baptism is not what makes you a Christian, but it is a picture to everyone else of what God has done in your life. After you become a Christian, you can get baptized. Through baptism, you show the world that you are a child of God!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Have you ever seen someone get baptized? Discuss as a family how you become a Christian and how you can be baptized after that. Take time to answer any questions your young children have about baptism and what happens when you are baptized.

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Why do you think Jesus got baptized? Discuss as a family how Jesus came to save us and be a model for how we obey God.

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Actions reflect our obedience! Play a game of Simon Says, practicing obedience. Have your children follow silly instructions to the letter, but also serious or important options, too. Talk about how baptism is an important sign of obedience to God when we become Christians.

Pray to thank God for the gift of baptism to show that we belong to Christ. Also, thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins so we can be with him forever.

# **MARK 8:34-37**

**SUMMONING THE CROWD ALONG WITH HIS DISCIPLES, HE SAID TO THEM, "IF ANYONE WANTS TO BE MY FOLLOWER, HE MUST DENY HIMSELF, TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME. FOR WHOEVER WANTS TO SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT, BUT WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE BECAUSE OF ME AND THE GOSPEL WILL SAVE IT. FOR WHAT DOES IT BENEFIT A MAN TO GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD YET LOSE HIS LIFE? WHAT CAN A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS LIFE?"**





## **WEEK 27: MARK 8:34-37**

If you could have anything and everything you wanted, what all would you ask for? Do you think if you had all these things that you would be happy for all eternity? Why or why not?

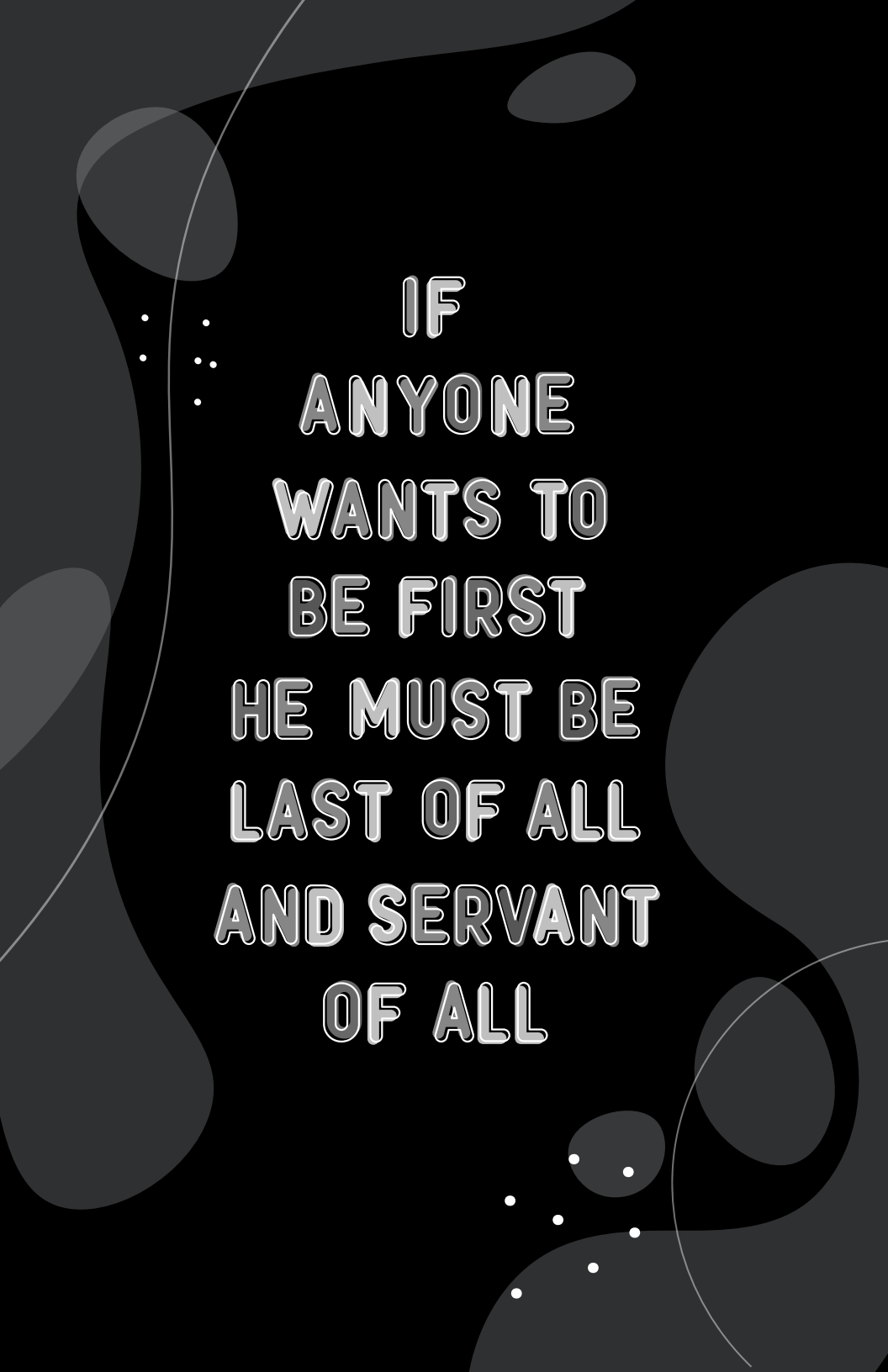
At the end of Mark 8, Jesus teaches that following Him isn't easy, but it is eternally worth it! It requires sacrifice and you may not get everything you want. But when we follow Jesus, we'll get everything we'll ever need for eternity. Jesus asks, "For what does it benefit someone to gain the whole world yet lose his life?" What are you willing to give up to follow Jesus?

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What does it mean to follow Jesus? What does that look like for you?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What is easy about following Jesus for you? What is hard about following Jesus for you? How can we help each other give up our selfish desires and follow Jesus every day?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Play a game of Follow the Leader around your home. Explain how important it is when we follow Jesus, we shouldn't be selfish or do our own thing, but we should do exactly what is He asks of us.

Ask God to help you give up selfish desires to follow Jesus. It's not easy, but it's worth it!

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IF  
ANYONE  
WANTS TO  
BE FIRST  
HE MUST BE  
LAST OF ALL  
AND SERVANT  
OF ALL

## WEEK 28: MARK 9:33-37

GOAT—The Greatest of All Time. What a title! We see this title given to people in sports and across all different areas of life. If we're honest, we all want to be the greatest at something.

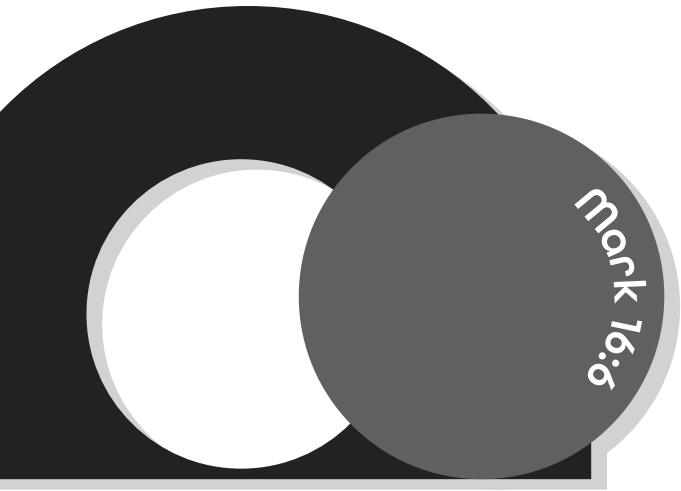
Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God is not about being the greatest or best. It's about having the heart of a servant. Jesus constantly reminded His disciples that their role as followers of Jesus was to tell the world that Jesus was the greatest, not them. The same goes for you and me today. Because Jesus is the greatest, we'll never be too good to serve someone else and ultimately serve Jesus with our lives.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What are some things that make Jesus truly great?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Name some of the GOAT athletes or celebrities. What makes them great? Now, think about Christ. What makes Him the greatest? Why is that important to remember?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Come up with a "Greatest List" for your home (i.e., Greatest Cook, Greatest Cleaner, Greatest Helper, Greatest Clothes Folder, etc.). Assign everyone in the house the title of something they are the best at. Now, above the title, write down the words of Jesus from Mark 9:35, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be last and servant of all." Use this as a reminder of our role as servants of Christ, who is ultimately the greatest.

Pray together and ask God to help you desire to serve Him and others above trying to make a name for yourself.



He is  
**RISEN.**

He is  
not here.

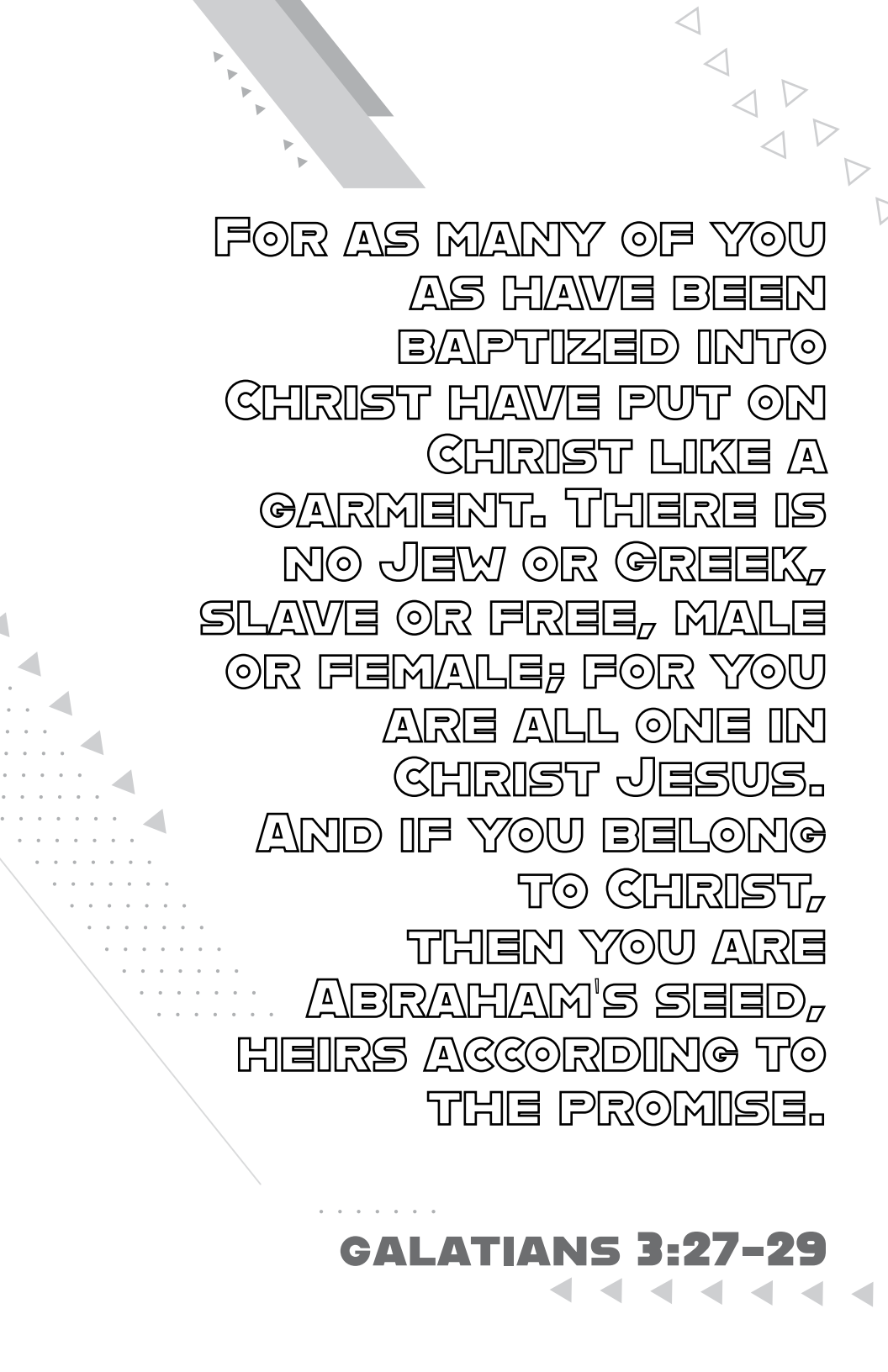
## WEEK 29: MARK 16:1-7

Have you ever felt sad because you lost something or someone you loved? I can imagine that Jesus' friends felt the same way after he was crucified on the cross. In Mark 16:1-7 we see two of his dear friends going to the tomb to pour spices on his body. Pouring spices and perfume was a tradition from that time. They knew a very large stone was blocking the entrance and were wondering how they would move it. But the stone was gone when they arrived, and Jesus was not there! Instead, they saw a man in a white robe. He told them the good news that Jesus had risen from the dead! He also told them to tell his disciples and Peter the good news. What started as a very sad day turned into a great day of celebration! Jesus is no longer dead; he is alive!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Why did Jesus die on the cross? Discuss how Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins as a family. Talk about the good news that Jesus rose from the grave.

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** In the tomb, the man in the white robe told the ladies to go and tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus was alive. The Bible says that we should also tell others about Jesus. Discuss ways to share how Jesus died on the cross for our sins but is now alive with others.

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Thank Jesus for what he did on the cross for our sins. Ask him to help us be able to tell others about the good news of Jesus.



FOR AS MANY OF YOU  
AS HAVE BEEN  
BAPTIZED INTO  
CHRIST HAVE PUT ON  
CHRIST LIKE A  
GARMENT. THERE IS  
NO JEW OR GREEK,  
SLAVE OR FREE, MALE  
OR FEMALE; FOR YOU  
ARE ALL ONE IN  
CHRIST JESUS.  
AND IF YOU BELONG  
TO CHRIST,  
THEN YOU ARE  
ABRAHAM'S SEED,  
HEIRS ACCORDING TO  
THE PROMISE.

.....  
**GALATIANS 3:27-29**

## WEEK 30: GALATIANS 3:27-29

Do you have a favorite shirt? Every once in a while, you might be out in public and see someone with the same shirt on as you! You might feel an instant connection even if you are a total strangers.

Read Galatians 3:27-29 together.

As Christians, we 'put on' Christ as something we reflect to the rest of the world. We have so much in common with other Christians all over the world because of our relationship with Jesus. God uses all of us, no matter our age, race or gender, to show His power and love for the world. We should let our relationship with Christ be a bond deeper than other interests because who we are is wrapped up in God's design for our lives.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** How can we show Jesus every day? What are things that you have in common with other people?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** How is Christ like our outer clothing? What does it look like for the Church to look like a family despite differences? Do Christians have things in common with one another?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** This week, as a family, tie-dye t-shirts together. See if you can make similar patterns even if using different colors. Even through our differences, we have similarities with other believers that bond us together, just like the patterns on your shirts.

Thank God for the new identity we have in him. Pray for unity as a family and for unity within the global church. Pray for opportunities to show love to other people. Ask God for help putting aside our sinful desires as we take on our new identity in Christ.

Therefore, be imitators  
**of God,**

as dearly loved children.

And **walk in love**, as  
the Messiah also loved us  
and gave Himself for us, a  
sacrificial and fragrant  
offering to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2



## WEEK 31: EPHESIANS 5:1-2

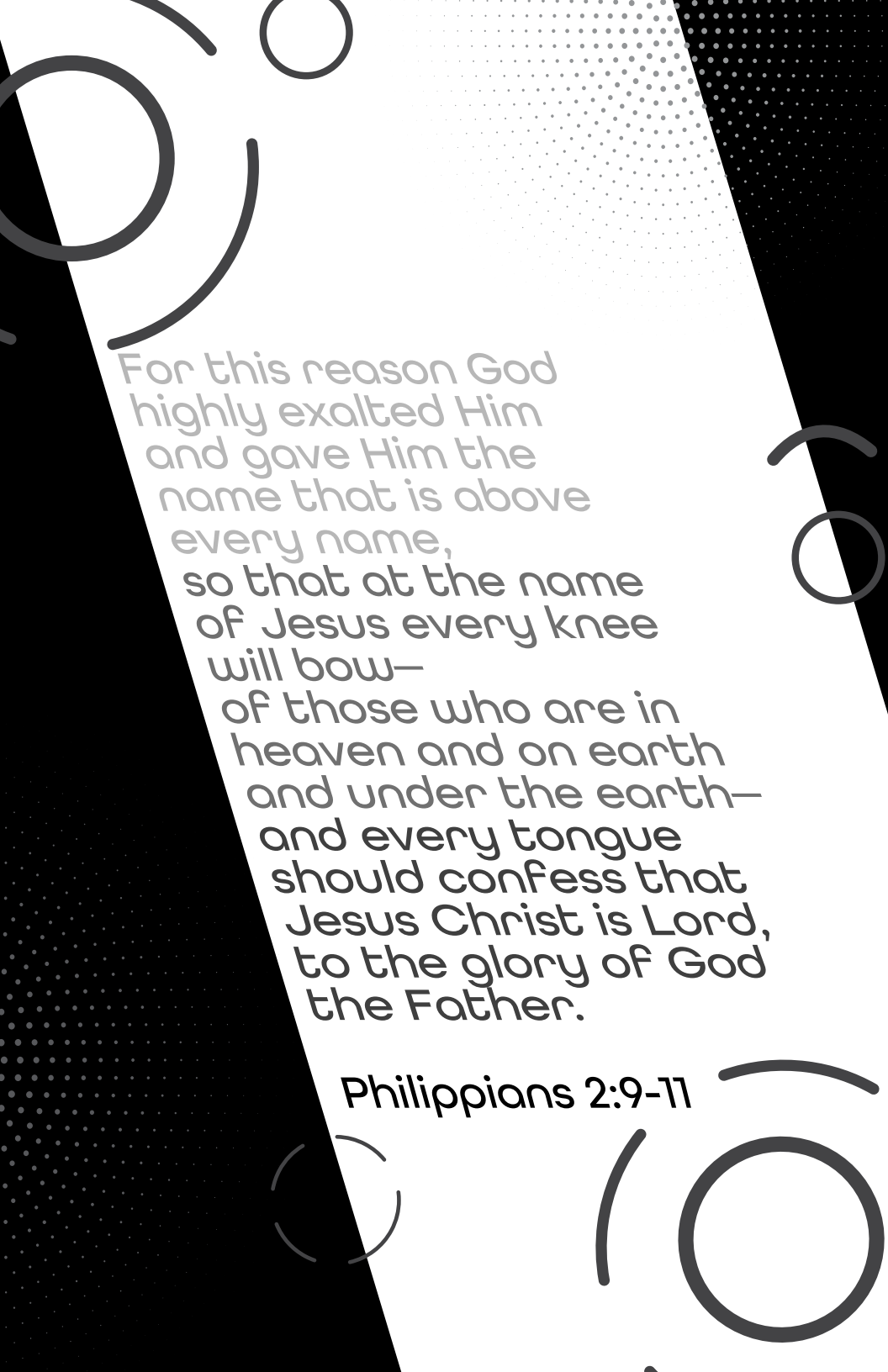
Do you like to do things the same way your mom or dad do? Maybe you push a stroller around just like your mom does. Maybe you like to wear a hat just like your dad's. Maybe you laugh the same way mom or dad does. Many times, we imitate our parents!

Just like kids imitate their parents, God tells us to imitate Him! How do we do that? Ephesians 5:1-2 tells us to walk in love just like Christ loved us. We know from scripture that Jesus loved those around Him. He prayed for people, He listened to people, He spoke truth to people, and He cared for people who were different than Him. Jesus also loved you in the biggest way He ever could. He died on the cross not for Himself but for your sins. He gives us the greatest example of love! Just like Jesus loved you by giving His life for you, you can love others by imitating how He lived His life on this earth.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What's something that you do just like your mom or dad? How can you be like Jesus today?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Do you ever imitate someone in your life? (A parent, teacher, friend, etc.) Why do you like to imitate them? Do you need to rethink who you are imitating? How can you imitate Jesus to those around you?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Play a game of Mirror as a family. Stand in front of each other and mirror the other person's movements. Use this activity to remind your kids that we should imitate Jesus. Talk to them about the importance of making sure we are imitating Jesus and not people who do not live as Christ did.



For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth— and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

## WEEK 32: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

As followers of Christ, we have a responsibility to live our lives a certain way. We need to stand out differently than most people. Jesus is who we should model our lives after. We should work hard to train ourselves to think like Jesus.

What was Jesus like? He was loving, gentle, humble, obedient to God, and loved serving others instead of being served. Jesus is the King of Kings, God's one and only Son who could have lived His earthly life with the authority of a heavenly King, but instead chose to live a simple life focused on others.

Before we act or speak, we should ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" Whether or not we live for Him or even believe in Him, we will all one day bow down and worship Him. Let's choose to bow our lives before God daily. Let's live in a way that others see Jesus in us!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** How can you be like Jesus? What are some things you can do to put others first?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Does the way you live look like others, or do you stand out from the rest? If we stand out because of Jesus, is that a bad thing?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** As a family, talk about some challenges you might face if you choose to live a life modeled after Jesus.

Pray together, asking God to remind you before you act or speak to do so in a way that honors Him. Ask God for wisdom to make good choices.



THEREFORE, AS YOU  
HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST  
JESUS THE LORD, WALK  
IN HIM, ROOTED AND  
BUILT UP IN HIM AND  
ESTABLISHED IN THE  
FAITH, JUST AS YOU  
WERE TAUGHT,  
OVERFLOWING  
WITH GRATITUDE.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

## **WEEK 33: COLOSSIANS 2:6-7**

When you look at a tree, its appearance and condition reflect what you can't see underground. The root system of a tree is very important. Good soil with proper water and nutrients results in a beautiful, strong, and healthy tree. The opposite is also true. A tree with a poor root system will likely wither and die or be blown over by the wind. A tree is a great picture of our lives as Christians.

We should feed ourselves spiritually with healthy things that allow us to grow strong in Christ. Time spent with God in Bible study, prayer, and worship are good spiritual nutrients for us. What people observe in our lives will reflect what is in our hearts. When we put God first and serve others, people can see the love of Christ in us.

Let's have a plan to grow deep spiritual roots that will make us strong in our faith and help us weather the storms of life.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be? Based on how you live your life for God, would that tree look strong and healthy or not?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Why is it so hard to consistently spend time with God in Bible study, prayer, and worship?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Take some time to research different kinds of trees. Trees use many ways to support themselves. How do these trees stay strong when storms come? Talk about ways you can support each other, like these trees, to be spiritually strong.

Thank God for all His blessings, especially the gift of Jesus. Ask God to help you do better in spending time with Him.

**Little children, we  
must not love with  
word or speech,  
but with truth and  
action. 1 John 3:18**



## WEEK 34: 1 JOHN 3:18

Has someone you loved ever done something incredible for you? Maybe it was a special gift or trip. Maybe they made you breakfast in bed or spent extra time playing a game with you. Maybe they told you how proud they were of you. Did you feel extra loved when that happened?

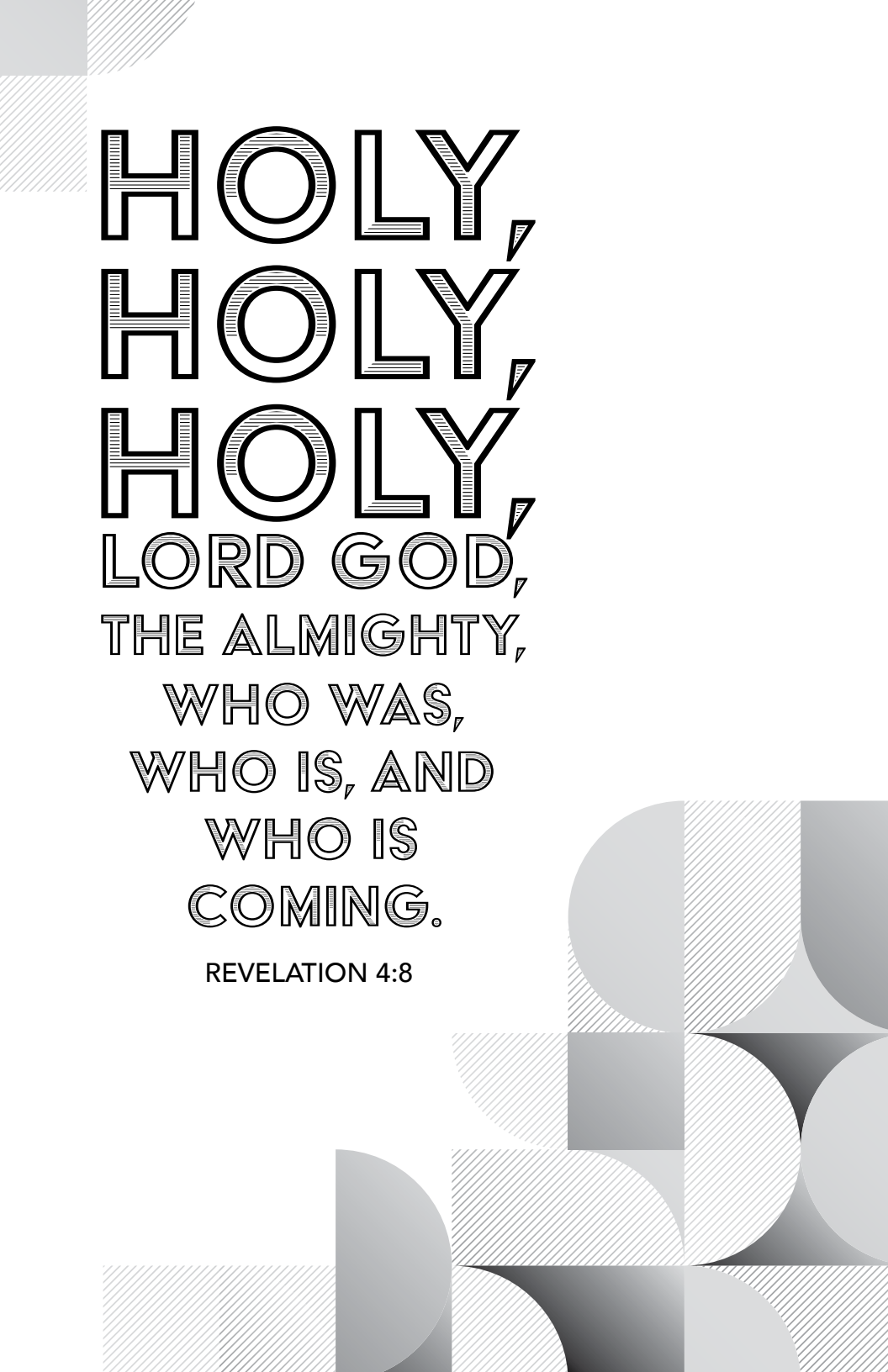
How do you know that someone loves you? Is it by what they say, what they do, or both? Did you know that you can say that you love someone without really meaning it? 1 John 3:18 says that it is by our actions that we show that we love someone. So how do we show people that we love them? By how we treat them. How do we show people the love of Jesus? The same way. We can say that we love someone all we want, but they will really begin to believe it when we show it in our actions.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** How can you show your love for your family members? What is something you can do this week to show someone you love them?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What is more convincing to you that someone loves you? Their words or their actions? Why is it important we show love in our actions and not just in our words?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Take some time to look at Love Languages as a family. See if you can figure out what each family member's love language is. Talk together about ways you can love each family member in their special way, and then try to do one for each member this week.

Thank God for His deep and abounding love that He showed to us on the cross. Pray that you can show the love of Jesus through your actions.



HOLY,  
HOLY,  
HOLY,  
LORD GOD,  
THE ALMIGHTY,  
WHO WAS,  
WHO IS, AND  
WHO IS  
COMING.

REVELATION 4:8



## WEEK 35: REVELATION 4

When a king is coronated—meaning he is crowned as king and given the official title—there is a huge celebration, and his entire kingdom participates in some way. People come to pay their respect to the new king and honor him. In Revelation 4, we see that Jesus is King! Around the throne room of Heaven, Jesus is celebrated, honored, and praised. Jesus isn't a king of a little earthly kingdom or country, but He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the one, true King, and all of Heaven recognizes that He alone is worthy of all glory, honor, and praise.

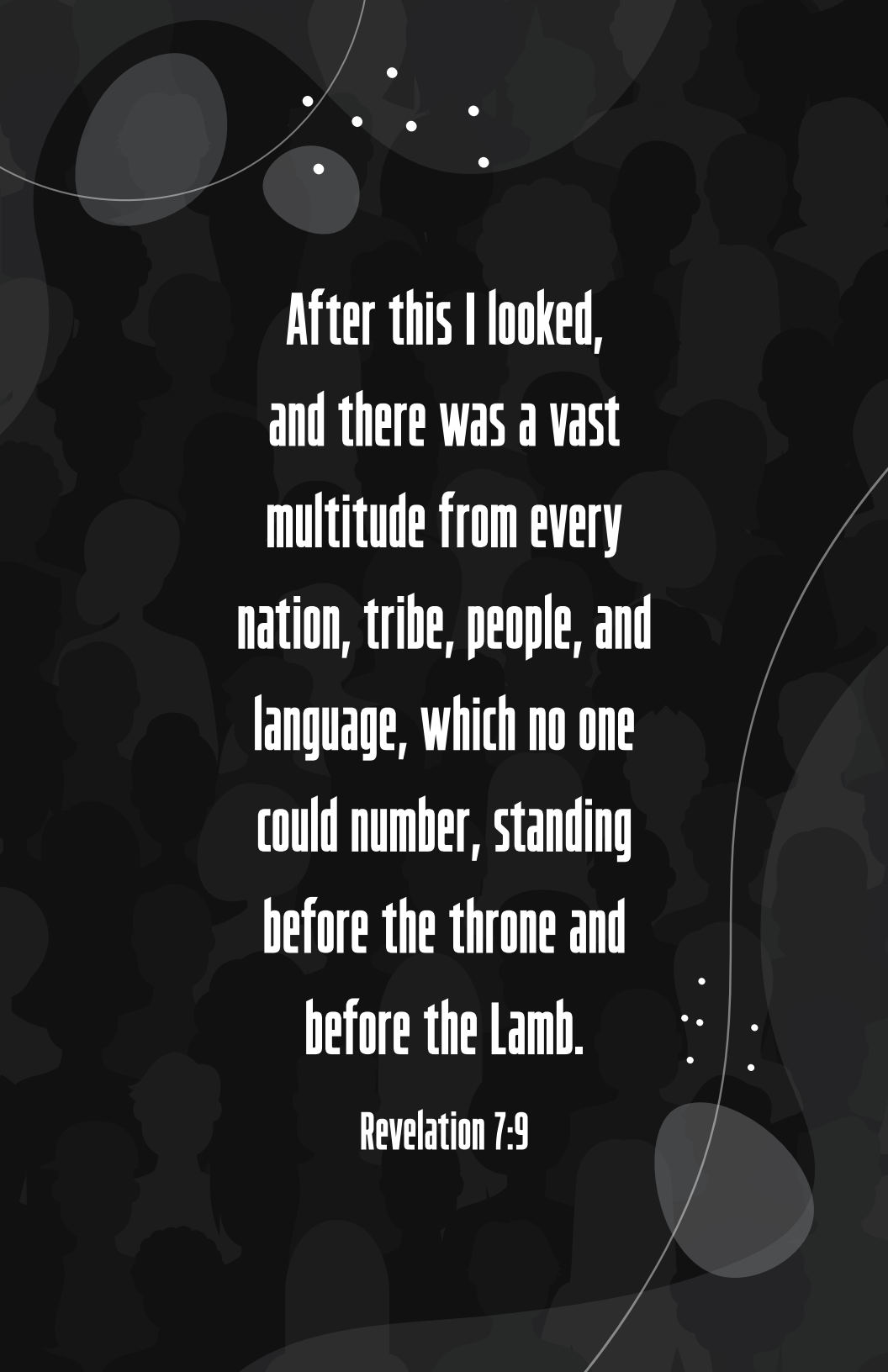
For everyone who follows Jesus, this is good news! Why? Because it means we serve the King who is on the throne of Heaven who has all power and is in control of everything. That gives us great comfort as we live our everyday lives. We serve the one, true King!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What is a King in charge of? What does a King do? What is King Jesus in charge of, and what does King Jesus do?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** How does knowing Jesus is in charge of everything give you the confidence to live for Him as your King? How can you show Jesus honor as the King of Kings?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Make some homemade crowns out of paper. In Revelation 4:9-11, we see the 24 elders laying their crowns down at the feet of Jesus as a sign that they serve the one true King. So, once you make your crowns, take a moment together to lay them down and pray together, telling Jesus that you live for Him, King Jesus.

Praise King Jesus together. Sing a song, make a shout of praise, do something to signify together that Jesus is King of Kings and that you live for Him.



**After this I looked,  
and there was a vast  
multitude from every  
nation, tribe, people, and  
language, which no one  
could number, standing  
before the throne and  
before the Lamb.**

**Revelation 7:9**

## WEEK 36: REVELATION 7:9-10

There are currently over 8 billion people and over 12,000 different people groups representing all people on earth. Each people group shares a common language and culture and has their own unique identity. In Revelation 7, we see a vision of the throne room of Heaven. Every nation, tribe, and language—people groups—are represented in Heaven praising Jesus and declaring that He alone is Savior and Lord!

Wow! Think of how incredible it is that the gospel is for everyone. We see a promise from God Himself and a vision that one day every people group will be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Until that day, we have a mission. That mission is to go to all places and all peoples and tell them the good news we see in Revelation 7:10—Jesus is Savior and Lord!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What does it mean that Jesus saves? What does He save us from? What does it mean that Jesus is Lord?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Why do you think prayer for unreached people around the world is important?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Go to [peoplegroups.org](http://peoplegroups.org) and find out about people groups around the world who haven't heard the gospel. These are called unreached and unengaged people groups. Then, find a specific unreached people group and commit to praying for them together as a family, so that this group would come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Pray together as a family for people groups all over the world that have yet to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Fear God**  
and give Him glory,  
because the hour of  
His judgment has come.  
**Worship the Maker**  
of heaven and earth,  
the sea and springs of water.  
REVELATION 14:7



## WEEK 37: REVELATION 14:6-7

When you think of the word “fear,” you often think about being afraid. When you see verses talking about fearing the Lord, it means something a little different. In the most basic sense, it means that we know God is God and that we are not. It’s an important way to think about God—He is God, and we are not.

In fact, King Solomon said that the beginning of wisdom is fearing the Lord. It’s wise for us to have a correct understanding of who God is. He is in control of all things, and we are not; He is all-powerful, and we are not; He alone offers salvation, and we cannot. When we acknowledge these things and our lives reflect it, we begin to fear God and live for His glory.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** How would you describe God? How are you and God different? Why is that important to remember?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** How are you and God different? Why is that important to remember? How does it bring you comfort to know that God is God, and you are not?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Look up some weird fears (i.e., phobophobia: the fear of being afraid, chrysophobia: the fear of the color orange, etc.). Thank God that you don’t have to be afraid of anything if you have a healthy fear of the Lord because He is in total control.

Ask God to help you remember daily the truth that He is God and is in control. Pray that this truth would help us be unafraid.

**THE LORD REIGNS!**  
**HE IS ROBED IN MAJESTY;**  
**THE LORD IS ROBED,**  
**ENVELOPED IN STRENGTH.**  
**THE WORLD IS FIRMLY**  
**ESTABLISHED;**  
**IT CANNOT BE SHAKEN.**  
**YOUR THRONE HAS BEEN**  
**ESTABLISHED**  
**FROM THE BEGINNING;**  
**YOU ARE FROM**  
**ETERNITY.**

**PSALM 93:1-2**

## **WEEK 38: PSALM 93:1-2**

A couple of years ago, the Queen of England, Elizabeth II died after 70 years of being Queen. While her reign was long and prolific, it came to an end. All earthly kingdoms come to an end. The message of Psalm 93 is simple, God's kingdom reigns forever. His kingdom is stronger and greater than any earthly kingdom.

Psalm 93:1 speaks of this mighty King who is majestic, strong, and established. His kingdom cannot be shaken. That doesn't sound like any earthly kingdom I know! Many nations have constant threats to their own security, but not God's kingdom. It was established before any kingdom and will go on into eternity. Give thanks to the Lord today that His kingdom cannot fall even when our earthly hope crumbles in the face of adversity.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Can you name a country that has a king or queen? Do kings or queens last forever? Whose kingdom lasts forever?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What does it mean to be a citizen of America? What about a citizen of heaven? Which kingdom do Christians belong to? How does that give you hope when difficult things are happening around the world?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Check out older maps of countries and see how they've changed throughout history. Some have completely different names. Some don't exist anymore at all! Remind your family that God's kingdom is more established and will last longer than any nation.

Thank God for His kingdom that goes on forever. Thank Him for accomplishing things that we cannot do on our own and offering us the gift of joining His kingdom. Pray for the opportunity to help others see the goodness of God's kingdom.

# REVELATION 21:3

Then I heard a loud voice from the throne:

Look! God's dwelling is with humanity, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.



## WEEK 39: REVELATION 21:1-7

Have you ever sat in a brand-new car? It's nice and clean on the inside and outside—you can even smell how new it is. That new-car smell is one of the most popular scents—you can even buy items meant to mimic the scent. It reminds us of how we all long for something new.

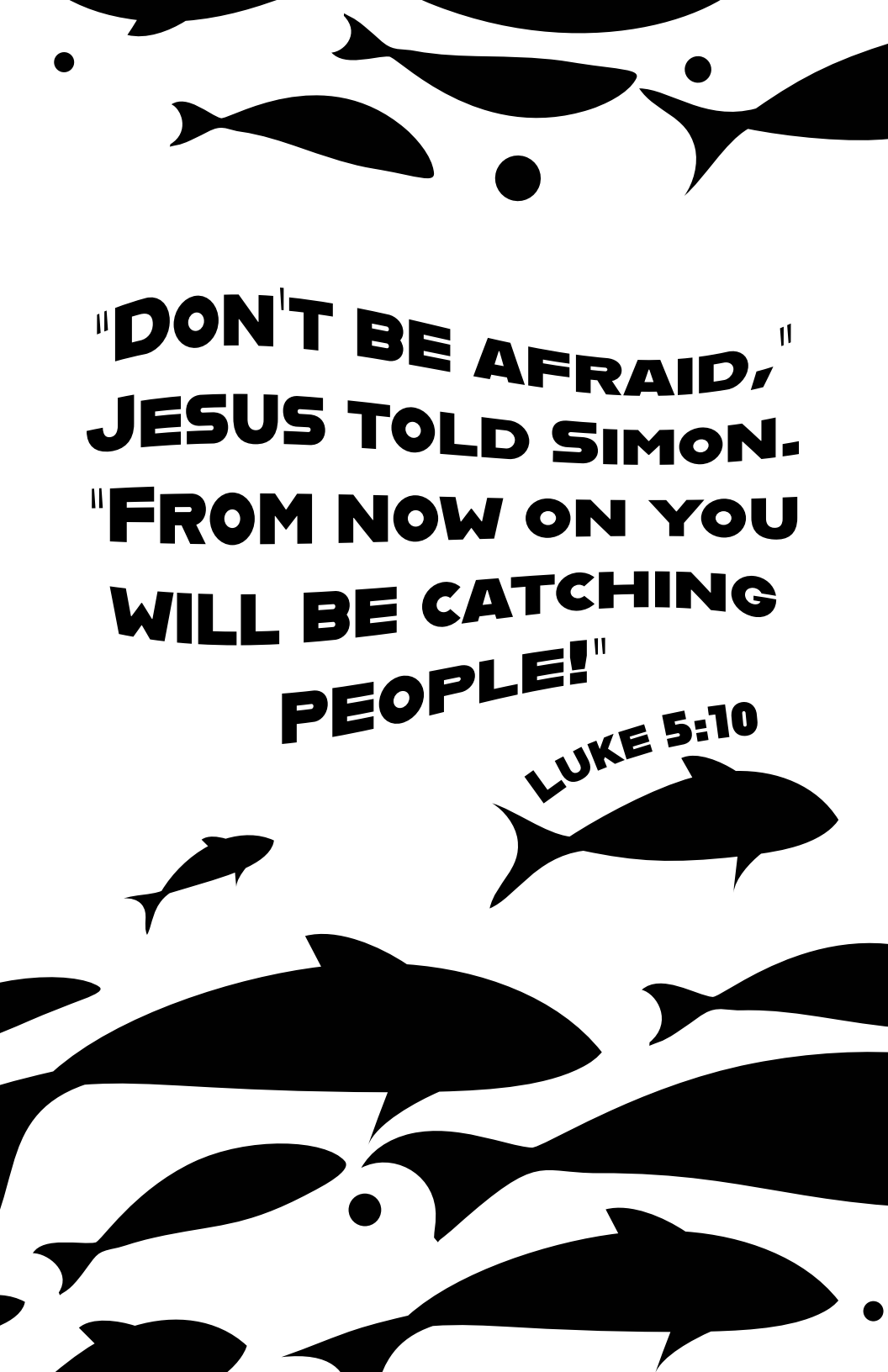
The Word of God says one day God will make all things new—a new Heaven and a new Earth. God will create something entirely new for all who know and follow His Son, Jesus Christ, as their Lord and Savior. There will be no more death, no more pain, no more crying—it will be without sin, and Jesus will reign forever and ever. God will live among us—He will dwell with us. If you are in Christ, you have something incredible to look forward to, something new that this world would never be able to compare to.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What are some of your favorite things about our world? Even those things won't compare to what God will do when He makes all things new!

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What is something about our world that you want God to change? Isn't it incredible that God will make all bad things good and all wrong things right when He makes all things new?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Make a blanket fort in your living room. Then, get everyone in the family really close together in your fort. This is the idea in Revelation 21:3 of how God will dwell with us—or live with us—in the new Heaven and new Earth. How cool is that? We will be with Him and see Him face-to-face!

Spend a moment thanking God that He has promised to make all things new. Tell Him how you look forward to the day when there will be no more pain or death and you'll see Him face-to-face.



**"DON'T BE AFRAID,"  
JESUS TOLD SIMON.  
"FROM NOW ON YOU  
WILL BE CATCHING  
PEOPLE!"**

**LUKE 5:10**

## WEEK 40: LUKE 5:1-11

In this passage, Jesus used a miraculous catch of fish to call some of His disciples into service. These weren't famous men. Jesus called ordinary people to follow Him. Jesus was showing that serving Him didn't require any special qualifications. Many of these men were fishermen. In this passage, they were out fishing but were unsuccessful until Jesus showed up. These men caught fish with Jesus when they hadn't caught anything earlier. Jesus told them to follow Him and that they would now be called, "fishers of men." This means they would share the good news of Jesus and catch people for God's Kingdom.

These men left everything and followed Jesus. As Christians, faithful obedience is what God asks of us. God calls all Christians to be "fishers of men." Though that may cause us some anxiety, we can trust that through God's guidance and power, we can all do this. Let's allow God to work in us, giving us the words and the boldness to speak with others about Christ.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Which would be more fun for you, going fishing for fish or fishing for people (telling others about Jesus)? Which of the two is more important? Why?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Do you have any fears about telling someone about Jesus? What are they? How can you overcome them?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Parents, share about how you came to know Jesus. Then, share with your family a time when you spoke to someone else about Jesus and how they responded. If your children have accepted Jesus, invite them to talk about that time.

Thank God that we can share the greatest news ever, the good news of Jesus. Ask God to provide opportunities to share with someone and the faith and boldness to speak out.

**LOVE**

**THE LORD**

**YOUR GOD**

**WITH ALL YOUR**

**HEART,**

**WITH ALL YOUR**

**SOUL,**

LUKE 10:27

**WITH ALL YOUR**

**STRENGTH,**

**AND WITH ALL YOUR**

**MIND.**

**AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**

## WEEK 41: LUKE 10:25-37

In Luke 10: 25-37, Jesus teaches what it means to love your neighbor as yourself. An expert in the law asked Jesus to explain who our neighbors are, and Jesus shared the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus told of a man who was traveling, robbed, beaten, and left on the side of the road. Several very important people passed him by without stopping to help. But then a Samaritan man, who was not important like the others, passed by. He felt sorry for the injured man and stopped to help. The Samaritan took care of him, bandaged his wounds, gave him a ride to an inn, and paid for the innkeeper to take care of him until he returned. Jesus told this story to help us understand who our neighbors are. The Samaritan was a good neighbor to the wounded man. Jesus said that we are to do the same as the Samaritan. We should not overlook those in need but love everyone as we love ourselves.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Who is your neighbor? How can you show love to your friends, family, and those in need?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Discuss what it means to love others as we love ourselves. Why do you think God wants us to love our neighbors?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Make some cookies for your neighbors! Whether it's break-and-bake or a family recipe, bake them together and take a moment to pray for your neighbors before delivery.

Thank God for loving us and for caring for our needs. Thank him for always teaching us to be more like him and love others through the Bible.

**'Son,' he said to him,  
'you are always with me,  
and everything I have is  
yours.'**

**Luke 15:31**

## WEEK 42: LUKE 15:11-32

Have you ever done something wrong and had to ask for forgiveness? How did you feel when you had to apologize to the other person? You probably felt a little embarrassed, right? In Luke 15, we see a story about a son who sins against his father and against God. Because of how he chose to live in sin, he lost everything he had and so he went home to beg his father to let him come back.


When the son comes home in embarrassment, the father does the unthinkable—he doesn't discipline him in front of everyone or tell him how terrible he is, but instead, the father welcomes his son with a hug, and a kiss, and even gives him gifts. This is a picture of what our Heavenly Father does for us. When we turn from our sins in repentance and trust in Jesus alone to save us, He welcomes us into His family. He doesn't even have to discipline us, because He put on His own son, Jesus, all the punishment we were owed due to our sins. That's good news worth celebrating!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** When you do something wrong, how does it make you feel? Did you know that you can always ask God for forgiveness when you do something wrong, and His Word says that He offers you forgiveness?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Why do you think God wants to offer us forgiveness through His Son, Jesus? Have you ever repented of your sin and trusted in Jesus alone to save you from your sin?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Parents, play a game of hide and seek, but instead of someone hiding, hide an item that your kids would never want to lose. When they find it, share how much more excited God is when we come to Him, asking for His forgiveness.

Thank God that He offers you forgiveness for your sins.



For the Son of  
Man has come  
to seek and to  
save the lost.

LUKE 19:10



## WEEK 43: LUKE 19:1-10

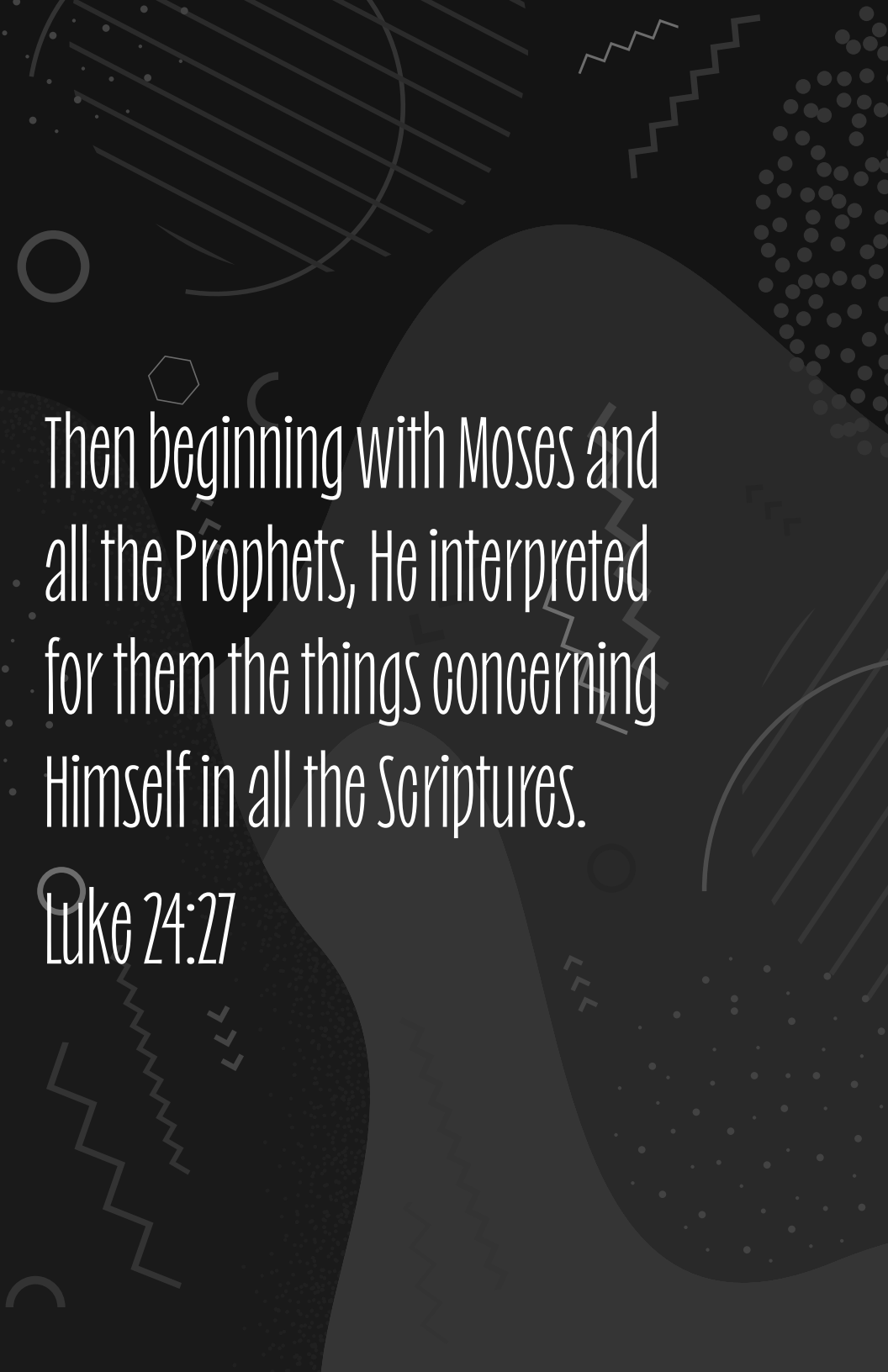
Before Zacchaeus met Jesus, he thought money was the most important thing and even took extra money from people as he collected the taxes. When he heard that this man named Jesus was passing by, he had to see him and find out who He was. So, Zacchaeus climbed a tall tree to catch a glimpse. The amazing part was that Jesus already knew him! He saw Zacchaeus up in the tree and called him by name. Jesus wanted to spend time with him and eat with him! Many people didn't understand why Jesus would like to eat dinner with someone who had done so many bad things. But after Zacchaeus met Jesus, he knew he needed to change his life. He then promised to give back all that he had taken from people and give the rest to the poor. His heart was forever changed. The story of Zacchaeus is a great reminder that Jesus sees each of us, no matter who we are or what we have done. He sees us, knows us, and wants a relationship with us.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** God loves you and has made you special. What are some special things that God made about you?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Just like Zacchaeus changed when Jesus saw him, how can our lives change when we have a relationship with Jesus?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Create an indoor or outdoor obstacle course with objects you have on hand. Use tables, chairs, or even cushions! Talk about the obstacles that kept Zacchaeus from getting to Jesus. With older kids, discuss personal obstacles that might keep people from Jesus.

Thank God that he loves us enough to see us and know us. Thank Him that he wants a relationship with each of us. Ask him to show you how we can live our lives for him.

The background is a dark grey to black gradient, overlaid with various abstract geometric patterns. These include thin white lines forming circles and arcs, a hexagon, and several jagged, zig-zag lines. There are also clusters of small white dots, some arranged in a grid-like pattern. The overall aesthetic is modern and minimalist.

Then beginning with Moses and  
all the Prophets, He interpreted  
for them the things concerning  
Himself in all the Scriptures.

Luke 24:27

## WEEK 44: LUKE 24:13-35

The Bible is the greatest, true story that ever was and ever will be. Every page points us to the main character of this story, Jesus. All of Scripture is about God's plan to save us from the penalty of our sin through His Son, Jesus. In Luke 24:27, Jesus reminds some of His disciples that all Scripture reveals this truth about Him. Jesus made it abundantly clear for His disciples—and He makes it clear for us today—He alone is Savior and Lord.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What is your favorite book right now? What is it about? When you think about the Bible, what is it all about?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What are some of your favorite Bible stories? How do they point us to Jesus? Why is it important that all of Scripture points us to the truth that Jesus alone is our Savior and Lord?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Make up a story together as a family. You may even want to find a funny Mad Lib online to help inspire you but make sure everyone helps piece this story together. When you are done, remind your family that over the course of thousands of years, the Bible was written as a collection of 66 books. It was written intentionally under the direction and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and across all the books that make up the Bible, the main character—the hero—of this entire story remains the same: Jesus.

Thank God together for His Word that makes it clear to us that Jesus is Savior and Lord!

**FIGHT THE  
GOOD FIGHT  
FOR THE**

**FAITH;  
TAKE HOLD OF**

**ETERNAL LIFE**

**THAT YOU WERE CALLED  
TO AND HAVE MADE A  
GOOD CONFESSION  
ABOUT IN THE PRESENCE OF  
MANY WITNESSES.**

**1 TIMOTHY 6:12**

## WEEK 45: 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-12

Do you enjoy running? Running can be fun for many people, but it can also be challenging for others. In 1 Timothy 6:11-12, Paul uses the idea of “running” or “fleeing” from sin. Sin is disobedience to God. It is the major “I” problem. It’s all about what I want, how I want it, and when I want it. Sin is choosing yourself over what God says or wants. Sin is disobedience to God.

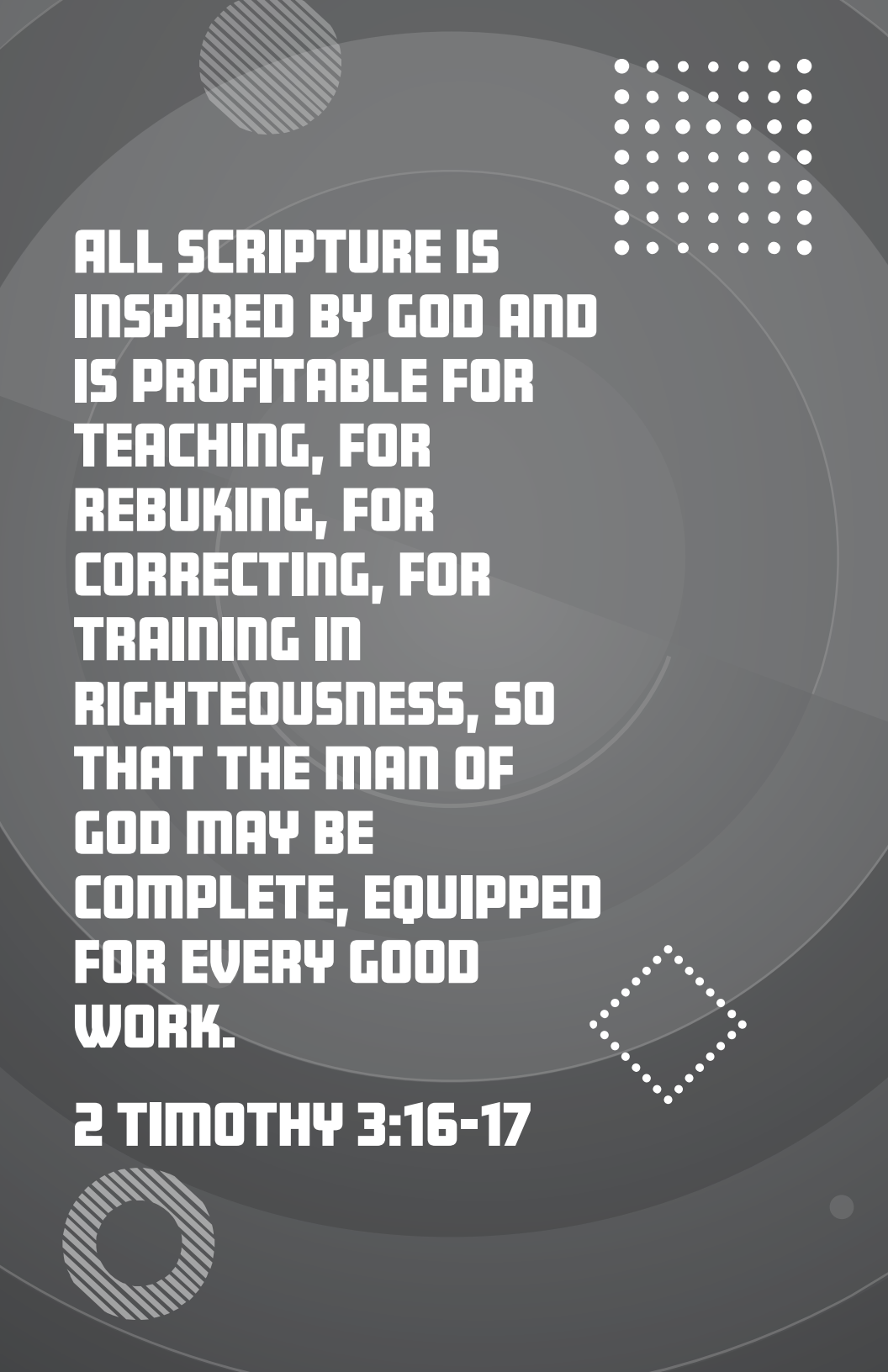
Paul says that we are to flee from sin. We should run away from sin and run towards something else. In 1 Timothy 6, Paul says we should run towards righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. These are all signs that you have faith in Jesus and that He is transforming you to think and act more like Him. It’s not easy to do this. As Paul says, it’s a fight, but it is worth fighting for!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What is sin? How have you sinned? How can we be forgiven for our sins?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Why do we need to run from and fight against sin? How can we help one another to run towards the things Paul describes in 1 Timothy 6:11?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Take a jog or a walk around your neighborhood or around your yard. Take a moment to remind everyone that 1 Timothy 6:11-12 tells us to run from sin and run towards righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

As a family, pray and ask God to help us all move towards a life that shows others our faith in Jesus.



**ALL SCRIPTURE IS  
INSPIRED BY GOD AND  
IS PROFITABLE FOR  
TEACHING, FOR  
REBUKING, FOR  
CORRECTING, FOR  
TRAINING IN  
RIGHTEOUSNESS, SO  
THAT THE MAN OF  
GOD MAY BE  
COMPLETE, EQUIPPED  
FOR EVERY GOOD  
WORK.**

**2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17**



## WEEK 46: 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

There is such a sense of accomplishment when you finally craft the perfect Lego set and every piece is right where it needs to be. How do you make this happen? By following the directions. Without directions, many Lego sets couldn't be finished or wouldn't look nearly as cool. The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that Scripture has all the directions to live a life that is pleasing to God. Our lives are the Lego sets and Scripture is God's perfect set of instructions on how to build our lives to look like Jesus.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Where do we find directions on how to look more like Jesus?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What are ways that Scripture can help us know how to live like Christ?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Buy and build a small Lego set. Try to build it without the instructions. When you get stuck, pull out the instructions and note how much easier it is to build the Lego set when you know what to do.

Pray for God to give you a love of His Word and the ability to follow it with your whole heart.



**THEREFORE LET  
US APPROACH THE  
THRONE OF GRACE  
WITH BOLDNESS**

**SO THAT WE MAY  
RECEIVE MERCY  
AND FIND GRACE  
TO HELP US AT  
THE PROPER TIME.**

**HEBREWS 4:16**





## WEEK 47: HEBREWS 4:14-16

What do you think it means to “walk a mile in someone else’s shoes?” Have you ever heard that phrase before? It means that before you judge someone else, you try to understand their unique challenges, perspectives, and experiences. It’s easier said than done.

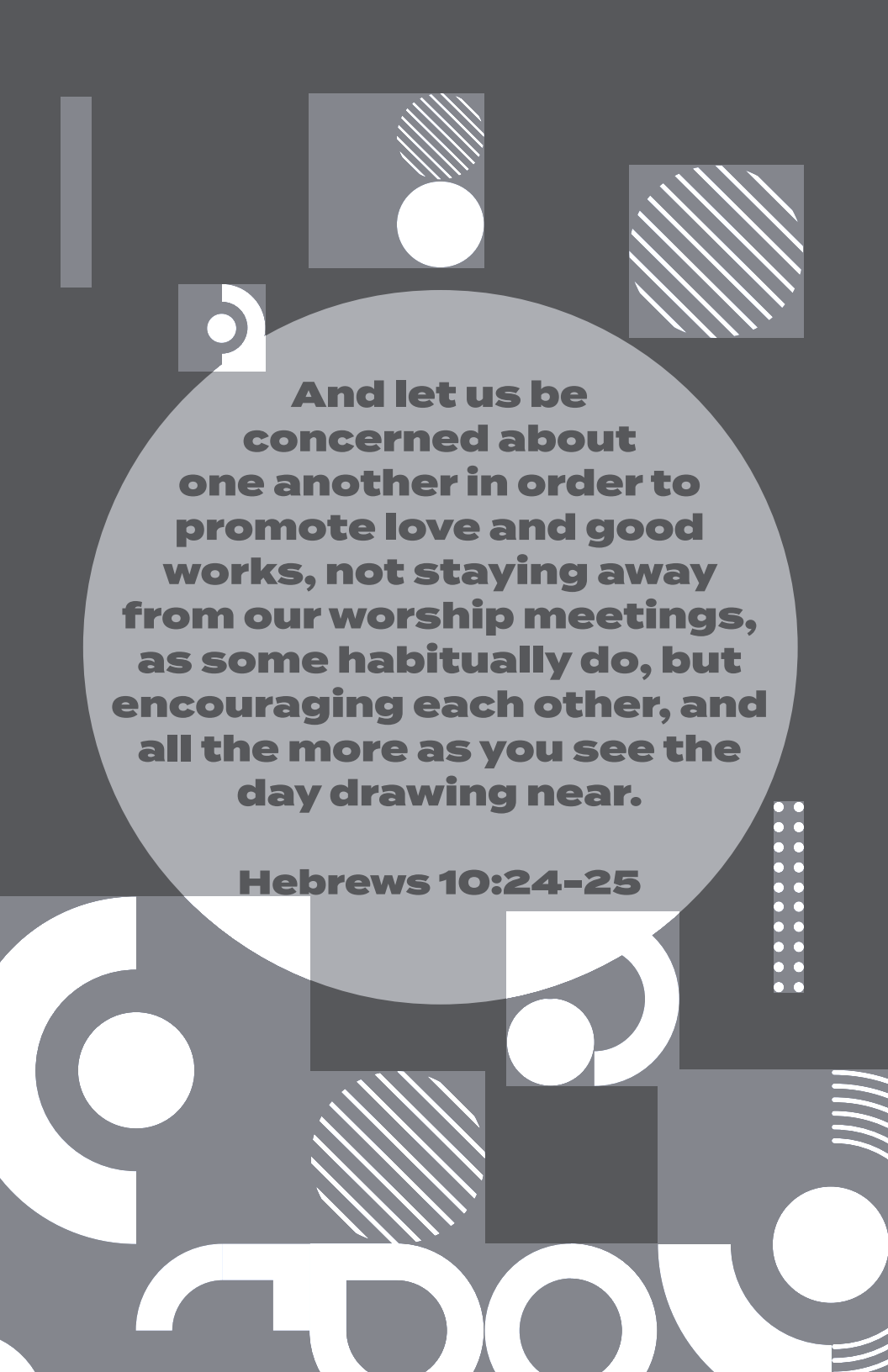
However, when we consider Jesus, He walked way more than a mile in our shoes. The Bible says that Jesus came as a baby and then lived life like we do—facing the same sort of temptations and struggles that we do today. Yet, Jesus never sinned. He never chose His own way over what God the Father wanted Him to do. Jesus never disobeyed God. Because Jesus lived a perfect life and faced the same sort of temptations we do, He can understand how hard it can be to obey. He alone offers us the love, mercy, and grace we need.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Do you ever feel like it’s hard to obey your parents or your teachers all the time? If so, why do you think that is?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Why is it that we need love, mercy, and grace from Jesus? How can that help us live in obedience to God? How amazing is it that Jesus always obeyed God the Father?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Set up a game of cornhole or horseshoes at your home. Have everyone in the family learn the rules and play together. As you play, everyone will quickly learn that they aren’t perfect—in fact, we can’t be. But we have a Savior who lived life just like us and was perfect. This is why He alone can offer us salvation. Jesus was the perfect substitute to pay the penalty for our sins against God!

As a family, thank Jesus that He is our perfect Savior, that He sympathizes with us, and that He offers us love, mercy, and grace.

The background is a dark gray color with several abstract geometric elements. At the top, there are three squares: a solid gray one on the left, a gray one with a white circle and diagonal lines in the middle, and a gray one with white diagonal lines on the right. Below these is a small square with a white circle and a white arc. A large, light gray circle is centered on the page, containing the main text. To the right of this circle is a vertical bar with white dots. At the bottom, there are several large, white, stylized shapes, including a large 'C' on the left, a large 'B' in the middle, and a large 'U' on the right, along with other geometric patterns like a circle with diagonal lines and a circle with horizontal lines.

**And let us be  
concerned about  
one another in order to  
promote love and good  
works, not staying away  
from our worship meetings,  
as some habitually do, but  
encouraging each other, and  
all the more as you see the  
day drawing near.**

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

## **WEEK 48: HEBREWS 10:24-25**

Going to church can be so much fun! We have fun singing to Jesus, praying together, and hearing from God's Word. One big piece of why Church is so incredible is because we get to see other Christians and encourage one another. We get to lift one another up in prayer, tell each other how much we love one another, and remind each other how much God loves them.

In the early church, sometimes it was hard for them to get to church. In fact, there was lots of persecution and pressure on them to not go to church. However, the author of Hebrews reminded Christians why it is so important to go to church and meet with other Christians. We need one another and we need encouragement from one another as we strive to live for Jesus in obedience. Going to church isn't only fun, but it's necessary and worth it!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What's your favorite part of going to church?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** Who is a friend or leader at church that you think you could encourage? What will you do to encourage them?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Go to church this upcoming Sunday. When you do, have each person in your family find someone else to encourage that morning. Make it a habit of going to church looking to be an encourager for other Christians.

Spend time together as a family praying for your church.

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Let us run with  
endurance  
the race

that lies before us,  
keeping our eyes on

**JESUS**,  
JESUS

the source and  
perfector of our faith,  
who for the joy  
that lay before him endured  
a cross and despised the  
shame and has sat down  
at the right hand  
of God's throne.

HEBREWS 12:1-2

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## WEEK 49: HEBREWS 12:1-2

Have you ever seen a real rocket take off into space? It is a sight to behold. As the rocket blasts higher and higher some of the pieces are ejected off the rocket and fall back to earth. Why does this happen? It happens because those pieces are no longer needed and actually hinder the rocket on its mission of reaching space. It loses certain parts so that it can move in the direction that it needs to go to accomplish its mission.

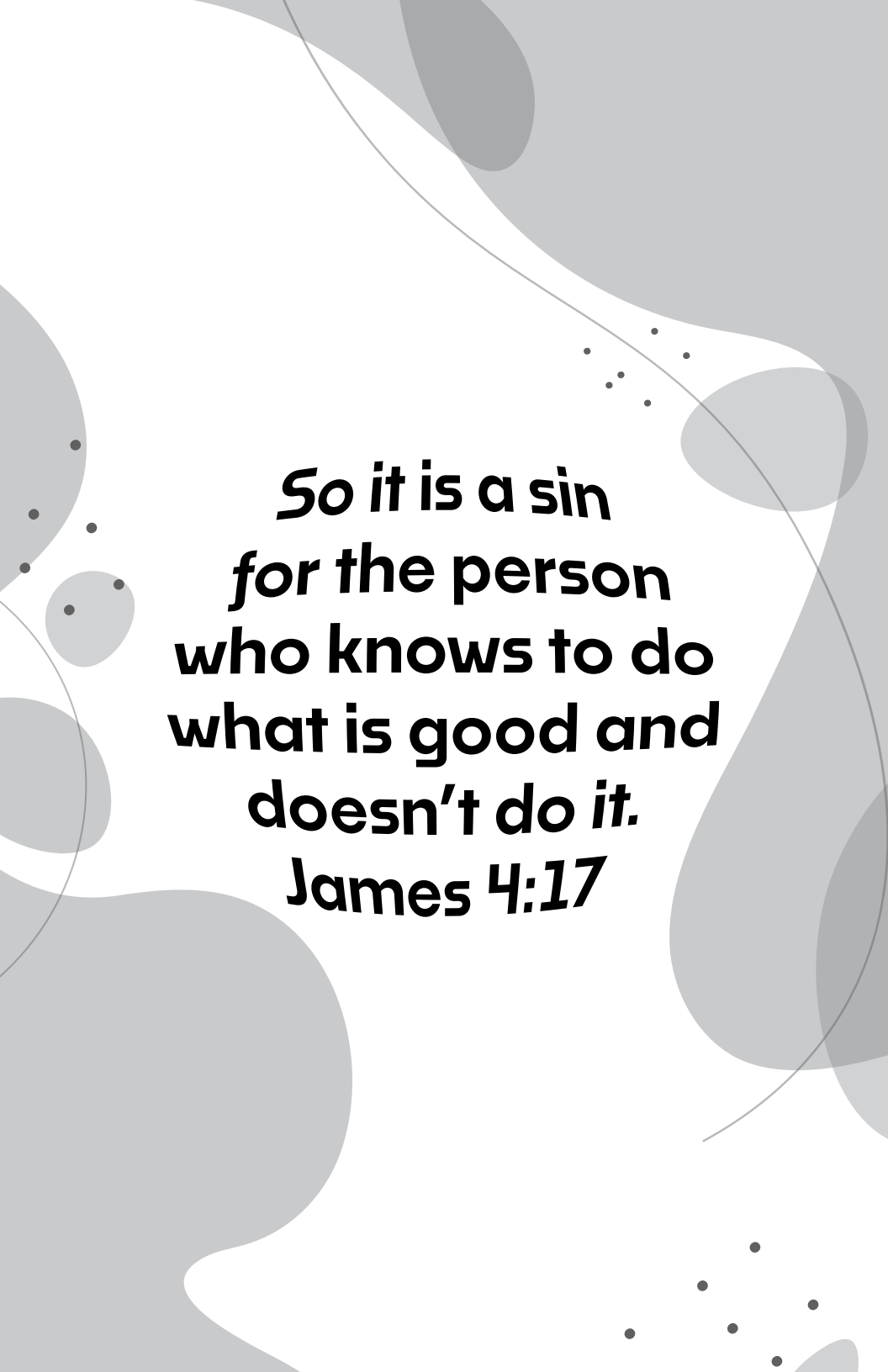
Just like the rocket, we have a mission. There are parts of our lives that we need to let go of to move forward in becoming more like Jesus.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** How are we like a rocket?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What are some things in your life that you might need to let go of to pursue looking more like Jesus?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Look up a video of a rocket launch online and notice the parts of the rocket that fall away. Get a piece of paper for each person in the family and have each person design their own rocket. Show the parts that might be able to break away.

Pray that God will show you the areas in life that you need to let go of to become more like Jesus.



***So it is a sin  
for the person  
who knows to do  
what is good and  
doesn't do it.  
James 4:17***

## WEEK 50: JAMES 4:13-17

There is no doubt that we live in a busy world. We are moving from one activity to another at a record speed. We are constantly planning, traveling, and rushing off to sports. We move through life at a rapid pace, without much thought to the here and now.

James calls it arrogant for those to say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and get gain." Our lives are in God's hands. Our time on earth is finite. Making plans is a not sin, but we should always be living our lives, realizing we are subject to the Lord and His will.

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Is there an event you are looking forward to, like a birthday or fun outing? It can be fun to anticipate the future, but how can we see that God makes every day special?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What upcoming activities or events are you looking forward to? How would you feel if that event was canceled? While this may be disappointing, reiterate the more important truth: the Lord loves us and works in our lives to draw us closer to Him. He guides our lives (and our calendars)!

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Plan a pretend trip with your family. Using a timer, have your kids rush to pack for the trip in under two minutes. Talk about what they were able to grab in that time. Did they miss or forget anything? As a family, discuss areas in your lives where you might be too busy and miss out on the good things God has for us today.

Ask the Lord to help you slow down and live for Him in the present.

**CASTING**

**ALL YOUR CARE**

**ON HIM,**

**BECAUSE HE CARES ABOUT**

**YOU. 1 PETER 5:7**



## WEEK 51: 1 PETER 5:7

Whenever you get hurt, who takes care of you? Whenever you are sad, angry, or anxious, who do you turn to? Often, we go to our parents first when we are in need. There's nothing like comfort from the ones who love you!

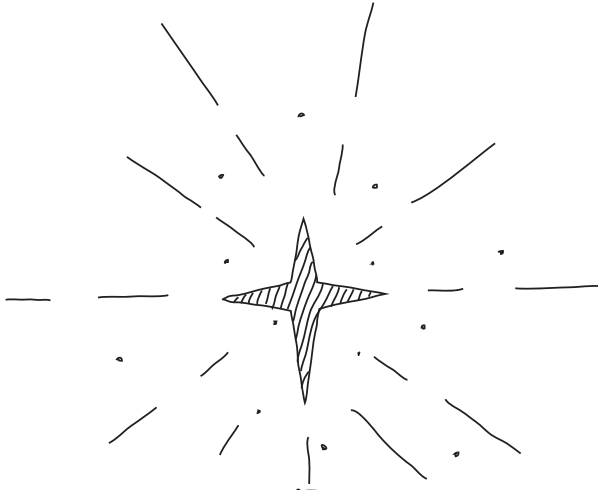
In 1 Peter 5, the Apostle Peter reminds us that we can always lay our cares, burdens, anxiety, hurt, and pain onto God. Why? Because He cares for us, He loves us, and He is in control of everything. It is tempting to try to handle things on our own and lay our burdens on our own shoulders. But humility is when we trust God with everything and rest in the truth that He loves us more than anyone else ever could. God cares about you!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What is something that worries you? Let's give that to God!

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What are some things that cause you to worry? Why is it important to trust the Lord with everything we worry about?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Take time to write down some worries you have on a piece of paper. Then, crumple it up, throw it in the trash, and ask God to help you trust Him with anything and everything you are concerned about. We can cast all our cares on Him because He cares for us!

Thank God that He loves us and cares for us more than anyone else! Pray about your worries and ask God to give you peace, knowing that He will carry your burdens.



**GLO**RY  
TO **GOD**

in the highest heaven,  
and peace on earth to  
people He favors!

LUKE 2:14

## WEEK 52: LUKE 2:1-20

Christmas is here! Aren't you excited?!? Throughout the Old Testament, the people of God had heard the prophets' promises that a Messiah would come soon. They were excited and anticipated the arrival of their Messiah for hundreds of years, but He didn't come quite as they had expected.

They were hoping for a politically powerful king to come and take over the whole earth and make it to where they would rule over everyone else. But God didn't send His Son as a powerful king or politician, but as a baby, born in a stable in the small town of Bethlehem. God sent His own Son, Jesus, the Messiah, at just the right time and in the way He had planned all along—born as the baby who would be the Savior of the world!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** What do we celebrate at Christmas? Why is it important that we celebrate Christ's birth?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** What are you most excited about for Christmas this year? Why is it exciting that Jesus was born as a baby over 2,000 years ago?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20 together as a family. Assign different parts of the story to each member of the family and act it out as you narrate.

Spend time thanking God that He sent His Son Jesus as our Savior.



I PRAY

THAT YOUR  
PARTICIPATION  
IN THE FAITH  
MAY BECOME  
EFFECTIVE  
THROUGH KNOWING  
EVERY GOOD  
THING THAT IS IN  
US FOR THE GLORY OF  
CHRIST.

PHILEMON 6



## WEEK 53: PHILEMON

Jesus changes everything! In his letter to his friend Philemon, Paul reminds Philemon how much Jesus has changed one of his former slaves, Onesimus. Paul wrote this letter because Philemon and Onesimus had a lot of conflict in their relationship. Onesimus was once a slave of Philemon who had run away from his master, and that caused a lot of issues in their relationship and may have even cost Philemon a lot of money.

Paul encourages his friend Philemon to forgive Onesimus, not because he deserved it, but because Onesimus was now a fellow follower of Christ. Following Jesus changes how we relate to God and how we relate to others. For Philemon, this meant he should now treat Onesimus as a brother in Christ, and not a runaway slave. For us, we should extend grace and forgiveness towards others. Why? Jesus offered us grace and forgiveness, and because of his completed work, Jesus changed everything!

**YOUNGER KIDS (AGES 3-7):** Paul encouraged Philemon to forgive Onesimus just as God chooses to forgive us for our sins against him. When is a time that you forgave someone for something they did wrong against you? Why did you forgive them?

**OLDER KIDS (AGES 8-11):** It's not easy to forgive someone. When is a time that you forgave someone? Was it hard to forgive them? Why? Have you ever been forgiven by someone? How did it make you feel when they forgave you?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:** Parents, have your children help you make dinner or a dessert one night. Talk about how you must transform the original ingredients to make your dish. Explain to your children that Jesus changes everything completely—and He changes everything for the better and for His glory.

Thank the Lord for His grace and forgiveness and ask God to help each of you to extend grace and forgiveness to others.



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