

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **September 4, 2022** Family Theme | **Living for Christ**
Study Text | **Philippians 1:1-30**

Objective: Learners find joy and glorify God by living each day in a way that is worthy of Christ and His gospel.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The apostle Paul likely wrote this letter to the Christians in Philippi while under house arrest in Rome, around AD 62. Paul led the way in obeying Christ's command to take the gospel to all people groups, establishing churches and teaching them to obey Christ's commands.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer this week with family members. **What are the basic offices of the church? Answer:** The pastor is the main preacher and teacher of the church, who exercises oversight over the group (1 Timothy 3:1-7). Deacons are godly men who assist the pastor and people in carrying out the mission of the church (1 Timothy 3:8-10).

Read the Word: Philippians 1:1-30

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children or grandchildren about how we can have joy by advancing the gospel message and living in a way that is worthy of Christ and the gospel.



Key Truth: Believers Find Joy in Loving One Another, Partnering to Spread the Gospel, and Growing in Christ (Philippians 1:1-11)

Paul began with the traditional greeting including himself as the author, who he was writing to, and a blessing (verses 1-2). He thanked God for the Philippians' partnership in spreading the gospel (verses 3-5). God will complete what He is doing in His followers (verse 6). Paul encouraged the Philippians to continue their support of the gospel ministry and to keep growing in love for one another (verses 7-8). He prayed they would grow in Christ-like love, be able to discern what is best, and be blameless when Christ returns, filled with Christ's righteousness (verses 9-11).



Key Truth: Believers Can Glorify Christ by Living Worthy of the Gospel No Matter Their Circumstances (Philippians 1:12-30)

Paul assured the Philippians that even his imprisonment was advancing the gospel, which was his priority. His situation was causing others to preach Christ, some for the right reasons and others with wrong motives (verses 12-18). Paul expected to be delivered because of their prayers for him, but wanted to honor Christ through the way he lived or the way he died. To live is to walk with and serve Christ. To die is to be with Him in glory (verses 19-21). Paul struggled with what he wanted most, to continue the work God gave him, or to go on and be with Christ. He wanted to be with Christ, but knew his continued ministry would be best for the Philippians (verses 22-26). We strive to live in ways that honor and glorify Christ, including being faithful to the gospel message and united with other believers (verse 27). The Philippians were not to be frightened by the trials they would face for the cause of the gospel. He warned them that persecution and challenges would come their way, but this was a privilege for them in Christ (verses 28-30).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What does it mean to live for Christ?**
- What can we do to continue to grow in love, faith, and holiness, bearing fruit for God's glory?
- How can we respond to blessings and good circumstances in ways that advance the gospel?
- **How did God use Paul's circumstances to spread the gospel?**
- **How can we use difficult circumstances to bring Jesus glory and spread the gospel?**
- What does it mean to live in a way that is worthy of Christ and the gospel?
- What could you set aside or begin to do this week in order to more fully live in a way that is worthy of Christ?

Everyday Extras

Brainstorm with your family about ways we can act like Jesus would act. Write the suggestions on strips of paper and put them in a jar. Together, read Philippians 1:21, and pray that God will help your family to live for Christ—at home, at school, at work, and in your community. Have everyone choose a suggestion strip and find ways to “live it” during the day. Report on your successes when you are together tomorrow. Wearing a Christian t-shirt or Christian jewelry is fine, but doing what Jesus would do is even better.

As a family, pray the words of Philippians 1:9–11 over one another. Parents can lead by substituting a child's name in the verses (instead of the word *you*), but older children can do the same for their parents and for one another. Young children can supply key words as you coach them. This prayer model from God's Word can teach every family member about the way we should diligently pray for each other.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Paul loved Jesus and wanted everyone to know about Him. But some people did not want him sharing about Jesus. They had Paul arrested and he was in prison for two years. Paul was sent by ship to Rome to talk to the Emperor. The ship was caught in a bad storm for several weeks (Acts 27). God was with Paul and **God Is With Us All the Time** too.

Objective: Family members follow Christ's example of humility, putting others first and living out God's Word.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: In this section of his letter to the believers in Philippi, written around AD 62 while under house arrest in Rome, the apostle Paul taught us to humble ourselves and serve God and others as Christ did.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer this week with family members. **What is the incarnation? Answer:** The incarnation is the act by which the Son of God became a human being named Jesus, being born of the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:23).

Read the Word: Philippians 2:1-18

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children about how we are to humble ourselves and serve God and others as Christ did, putting others ahead of ourselves.



Key Truth: Believers Think and Act Humbly, Following the Supreme Example of Jesus (Philippians 2:1-11)

Paul instructed the Philippians to maintain unity and love in the body of Christ because of the encouragement, love, fellowship, affection, and compassion they had together in Christ (verses 1-2). This would lead them to humbly put others first and consider others' needs and interests as well as their own, just as Christ did (verses 3-5). They were to have the same humble mindset as Christ who was willing to set aside some of His rights as God and come in human form to save us. He was fully God and fully man (verses 6-8). Because He did this, God the Father has exalted Him above all others. One day all will bow before Him and acknowledge that Jesus is Lord (verses 9-11).



Key Truth: Believers Live Out What God Is Working in Them (Philippians 2:12-18)

Paul called the Philippians to *work out* their salvation by putting into practice in their daily living what the Spirit was working into their lives. He challenged them to let their actions and attitudes reflect their identity in Christ. At the same time, God would be working in them, giving them the will and power to do it if they relied on Him (verses 12-13). Working out their salvation included setting aside grumbling and complaining, and living in ways that are above criticism and wholesome in character. They were to hold fast to God's Word, obeying it with the return of Christ in view (verses 14-16). Paul could rejoice in Christ, even though he was in prison and might lose his life for his faith. He urged the believers to rejoice with him (verses 17-18).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- In what ways did Christ humble Himself?
- **What are some ways we can follow Christ's example and demonstrate humility?**
- In what ways did Christ put others' needs ahead of His own?
- In what ways can we follow Christ's example and put others' needs ahead of our own?
- What attitudes and actions promote unity with fellow believers?
- What does it look like to live out our salvation?
- **In what way will you humble yourself and put the needs of others ahead of your own this week?**
- In what way can you more fully live out your salvation this week, depending on the Holy Spirit's help?
- **What are three ways you can have an attitude like Jesus?**

Everyday Extras

Watch the classic "Mirror Scene" from the movie, *Duck Soup*. (It's easy to find on YouTube.) Your children may want to try to imitate the scene in a doorway at your home. Jesus is our example. When we try to do the things He would do and make the choices He would make, we are happier and those around us are happy too. These decisions, though, require us to think about others before we think about ourselves.

As a family, read Philippians 2:14. Hold one another accountable for obeying this verse this week. Impose a penalty for those who grumble or complain—parents included! You could do jumping jacks, pay a fine, sing a solo, or lose a privilege. Set a reward for those who are successful. Do your best to replace your complaining with thanksgiving this week. (If this is a struggle for your family, you can extend the challenge further than one week. Say the verse together every morning!)

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned during the storm, an angel told Paul the ship would wreck, but no one would die. Paul knew God was with him and told the people not to be afraid. The ship broke apart, and just as the angel had said, all 276 people on the ship made it safely to the island (Acts 27). God was with the people on the ship and **God Is With Us All the Time.**

Date | **September 18, 2022** Family Theme | **Thinking Like Christ**
Study Text | **Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:3-8; Philippians 4:8-9**

Objective: Family members think more and more like Christ, adjusting their view of life to fit His.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul's teachings in Romans and Philippians were written in the late AD 50s and early AD 60s. In these passages Paul encouraged his readers to conform their thinking to that of Jesus.

Bible Basics: Review Ephesians 6:10-11 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:3-8; Philippians 4:8-9

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we are to think like Christ, offering ourselves as living sacrifices to God, putting others ahead of ourselves, and focusing on what is good, right, and honorable.



Key Truth: Thinking Like Christ Means Daily Offering Ourselves to God as Living Sacrifices (Romans 12:1-2)

Paul urged his readers to present themselves to God as living sacrifices. This is an act of worship that involves a total surrender to God's agenda. That surrender is a testimony to the world of God's worth to us (verse 1). Following Christ as He demands will put us at odds with the world because the culture will no longer be shaping us. The Spirit will transform us by renewing our minds and our character with Scripture, helping us discern what God expects of us (verse 2).



Key Truth: Thinking Like Christ Means Putting Others Ahead of Ourselves (Philippians 2:3-8)

Jesus considered the needs of others as more important than His own comfort. Thinking like Christ means we set aside our selfish nature and consider others' needs and interests above our own (verses 3-5). Christ did not cling to His rights as God, but humbled Himself to become human and die to save us. We are most like Him when we are putting others ahead of our own interests (verses 6-8).



Key Truth: Thinking Like Christ Means Focusing on What Is Good, Right, and Honorable (Philippians 4:8-9)

While important, it is not enough to just avoid putting bad information and images in our minds; we must also dwell and focus on things that are good and pure and honorable, especially God's Word (verse 8). After teaching the Philippian believers what they should think about, Paul instructed them to follow good examples and put godly principles into action so that the God of peace would be with them (verse 9).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What does it mean for something to be transformed?
- **Why do our minds need to be renewed and transformed when we become followers of Christ?**
- **Why is it so important to guard what goes into your mind?**
- How do we begin to think like Christ instead of thinking like the lost world around us?
- Thinking like Christ means submitting to God's will and design for our lives. What does it look like for us to submit to God like that? How could we do that this week?
- Thinking like Christ means serving others. What does it look like to serve others? How could we do that this week?
- Thinking like Christ means choosing to saturate our minds with what is good and right and pure. How do we do that? How could we do that this week?
- **What thoughts does Philippians 4:8 tell us we should have?**

Everyday Extras

Guess how one family member will answer questions. You can ask about one person's favorite song, restaurant, sports team, color, ice cream flavor, school subject, book title, and so on. Have everyone write down (or dictate) their guess about how that person is thinking before he or she tells the answer. See how many of your answers are correct. Because you know your family well, you can guess correctly most of the time. How can we think like Jesus thinks? How can we know Him well enough so that our minds think like His mind? We know Him by knowing His Word!

Sometimes our brains want to think about ideas that are not good. Those ideas make us worried or afraid. They make us want to do the wrong thing instead of the right thing. How can we substitute these ideas for the good thinking we should be doing instead? We examine our thinking and refuse to listen to lies from the Devil. We need good ideas to think about, so we fill our minds with what is true and pure and right and lovely (Philippians 4:8). We have some good thoughts ready to battle the bad ones. We can pray about everything, so we don't have to worry (Philippians 4:6-7). Some people make "worry stones" or "worry dolls," so they can help deal with difficult thoughts. Instead, make some prayer stones with your children as reminders to take our worries to Jesus. After all, He is always with us and always wants to help. Find smooth stones that will fit in your child's pocket and allow your children to decorate them with designs as a reminder to pray instead of worrying.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned the island people were very kind to Paul and the other passengers. Paul was putting wood on a fire when a poisonous snake bit him. But God was with Paul, and he was unharmed. The people on the island thought Paul was a god, but Paul knew it was because God was with him. **God Is With Us All the Time** just like He was with Paul.

Objective: Family members keep seeking to know Christ better as they wait eagerly for His return.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: In this section of his letter to the believers in Philippi, written around AD 62 while under house arrest in Rome, the apostle Paul taught his readers about the great value of pressing forward to know Christ better.

Bible Basics: Memorize the names and order of books 18 through 22 of the New Testament (Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, and 2 Peter) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Philippians 3:1-21

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with family members about how we are to make knowing Christ our highest priority and how we can do that.



Key Truth: Believers Put No Confidence in Their Own Righteousness (Philippians 3:1-7)

Paul began with a reminder to rejoice in the Lord. This is a recurring theme of Paul's letter to the Philippians. He felt that reviewing important points was valuable (verse 1). Paul warned the believers to watch out for those who put their confidence in their own works and not in Christ. This was evil and worked against the gospel (verses 2-3). Paul had more reason to rely on good works than anyone, but he considered all these gains as loss and a false basis of spiritual confidence. These things were both useless and unimportant when it came to a genuine relationship with God (verses 4-7).



Key Truth: Believers Press on to Know Christ Deeply and Experience All God Has for Us (Philippians 3:8-14)

Knowing and walking with Christ surpassed everything Paul previously placed value in. His desire was to be united with Christ, possessing the righteousness that comes only through faith in Christ and His finished work. His one great passion was to fully and finally know Christ and the power of His resurrection, and to share Christ's suffering (verses 8-11). Paul had not yet attained full knowledge and experience of Christ, yet he put the past behind him and pursued it with all his being, straining for the prize (verses 12-14).



Key Truth: Believers Follow Godly Examples and Look Forward to Christ's Return (Philippians 3:15-21)

Paul exhorted mature readers to realize they had not yet arrived and to follow his example of pursuing Christ (verses 15-17). He warned the believers about enemies whose false teaching and influence led some astray. Their minds and way of life are fixed on worldly things, while believers' ultimate citizenship is in Heaven. We eagerly await the Lord's return and the glorified bodies we will receive. We will fully know Christ and be made like Him (verses 18-21).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- Why should knowing and pursuing Christ be our highest priority?
- **Why is it important to know Christ?**
- What does it look like to pursue Christ?
- Why should we put no confidence in our own righteousness and good deeds?
- **How does a believer grow in his or her knowledge of Christ?**
- What does it look like to press on in our pursuit of knowing Christ?
- **What can you do this week to grow in your knowledge of and love for Christ?**

Everyday Extras

Have each member of the family make a list of the good things they have done. (Young children could draw pictures.) Include awards and proud moments. Include school, sports, and community activities. Talk together about how good these activities make you feel and how you are proud of them. Act as if you are going to celebrate these accomplishments but destroy the list instead. If you have a firepit, you could burn them. If you have a shredder, you could shred the list. You could tear the list into tiny pieces and flush it down the toilet. That's exactly how Paul saw his accomplishments, according to Philippians 3:7–8. Even the best things about him were garbage, he said, compared to knowing Jesus.

Ask your family to compete in a race. Have one person dress in a winter coat and boots, another dress in an oversized bathrobe and slippers, and the third person ready to run for speed. Talk about how we can be slowed down when we are not ready to run! Read Philippians 3:13–14 together and talk about the race we are in. When we think about living for Jesus as a race, we don't want to let the bad things or the good things in our past slow us down and distract us from the race. We always want to be doing our best to know Jesus better!

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned about the joy that comes only from God. Paul wrote a letter to the Christians in Philippi while he was in prison. He told them he was praying they would stay strong and continue to make good choices. Paul wanted the people to do all things with a joyful heart, which means without complaining, whining, or arguing. **I Can Choose to Be Joyful** too.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **October 2, 2022** Family Theme | **Rejoicing in Christ**
Study Text | **Philippians 4:4-20**

Objective: Family members find joy, peace, and contentment by walking in close relationship with Christ.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: In this section of his letter to the believers in Philippi, written around AD 62 while under house arrest in Rome, the apostle Paul taught his readers to pray instead of worry and to learn to be content and at peace in all circumstances.

Bible Basics: Memorize John 8:12 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Philippians 4:4-20

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your family about how we can rejoice and pray instead of worry, and learn to be content in all circumstances in the strength Christ gives us.



Key Truth: Believers Rejoice and Pray Instead of Worry (Philippians 4:4-9)

After calling for two women to settle their differences (verses 1-3), Paul gave commands that lead to peace, regardless of circumstances. First, Christians should live in an attitude of joy because of their relationship with the Lord, even when facing difficulty (verse 4). Second, believers are to be gracious or reasonable toward others, not retaliating, but being gentle and considerate (verse 5). Third, believers should not allow anxiety or worry to overwhelm and stress them. They could have such freedom by taking all concerns to God in prayer, being thankful to Him always (verse 6). Finally, Paul urged his readers to focus their thoughts on things that are morally excellent in God's sight and to follow the good example Paul had modeled for them. The God of peace would be with them if they did these things (verses 8-9).



Key Truth: Believers Learn to Be Content in All Circumstances (Philippians 4:10-20)

Paul was grateful for the gifts sent by the Philippian church to help meet his needs, as they had done before (verse 10). Paul was not overly focused on his needs. He had learned to be content whatever his circumstances. To be content means to be self-sufficient, not dependent on circumstances. Paul had lived through both plentiful times and needy times. He could be content in either experience because of the strength Christ gave him (verses 11-13). Paul was grateful for the generosity of the Philippians as they partnered with him. They frequently contributed to support Paul's ministry. Paul understood that their generosity helped meet his needs, but beyond that it would lead to spiritual rewards for them (verses 14-17). Their support for God's work pleased God. He meets the needs of those who support His work. He would reward them accordingly, perhaps in this life, but certainly in the one to come. God uses our gifts and prayers to reach the world with the gospel message today (verses 18-20).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What is the difference between joy and happiness?**
- **Why can we have joy even when going through difficult times?**
- How do our attitudes and thoughts help determine whether or not we are at peace?
- How can we make sure our thoughts are centered on what is good and right?
- What does it mean to be content?
- Why can we be content in all kinds of circumstances?
- In what ways could you more fully center your thoughts on what is good and right?
- In what ways could you more fully support the spread of the gospel to all peoples?

Everyday Extras

Ask everyone to secretly think of a time when they rejoice. (They could think of payday, getting an A on a test, scoring a touchdown, having their favorite ice cream, visiting Grandma's house, or other good occasions.) Take turns acting out the occasion for other family members to guess. When everyone has had a turn, make a family selfie as everyone's face shows how they feel at their occasion. Paul told the Philippians to rejoice always (Philippians 4:4). No matter what our circumstances are, we can have joy in the Lord.

Make a Cure-Your-Worries Jar with your children. Start by writing some of your favorite promises from God on strips of colored paper. (You can begin with these promises, but there are many others: Philippians 4:7; Philippians 4:19; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Peter 5:7; Isaiah 41:10; John 16:33; Psalm 94:19; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Luke 12:24; Psalm 23:4; Psalm 56:3; 2 Thessalonians 3:16.) When someone in your home feels worried, have them write their worries on a strip of white paper and exchange it for one of the Scripture promises in the jar. Add some M&Ms for encouragement! You can make these jars for loved ones too!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Paul was joyful because his focus was living for Jesus. He knew it was important for the people of Philippi to know about Jesus and His love for them. We can make Jesus our focus by reading our Bibles, talking to Him through prayer, and thinking about the many blessings He has given us. **I Can Choose to Be Joyful.**

Objective: All in your household reject all false teaching and hold to genuine faith, love, and prayer.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Likely written around AD 62-64, the apostle Paul wrote to the young leader Timothy to instruct him on how to lead the church at Ephesus. This section of the letter gave instruction on how to deal with false teachers and what to pray for.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer this week with family members. **What is the role of the Son? Answer:** The Son offers forgiveness and saves people from their sins (Matthew 9:6; 1 Timothy 1:15). He serves as judge over mankind (John 5:22).

Read the Word: 1 Timothy 1:1–2:6

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children understand there are people who teach things that are not true. We go to the Bible to know what is true.



Key Truth: Believers Reject False Teachers and False Doctrine and Grow in Godly Love (1 Timothy 1:1-11)

Paul, writing with God-given authority, opened with the customary greeting (verses 1-2). He had left his young disciple Timothy at Ephesus to deal with false doctrine and false teachers in the church. They focused on myths, fables, and genealogies that led to speculation and argument instead of growth in Christ. Instead, they should focus on sound doctrine that produced pure hearts, good consciences, and sincere faith, leading to love for God and others (verses 3-5). Leaving sound doctrine had led the false teachers into empty discussion even as they thought of themselves as authorities in the Law. They misused the Law, attempting to make it a means of salvation rather than a means of convicting the lost as it was intended (verses 6-11).



Key Truth: God Saves Undeserving Sinners and Calls Them to Stand for the True Faith (1 Timothy 1:12-20)

Paul thanked God for saving him and calling him to be an apostle. He acknowledged that he had once opposed Christ and His followers, persecuting them (verses 12-14). Humbled by God's grace and mercy, Paul considered himself the worst of sinners. Christ, however, had come into the world to save sinners just like him. He was an example of how God will redeem anyone who believes in Christ, and he proclaimed glory to God (verses 15-17). Paul concluded chapter 1 by reminding Timothy to fight for the true faith, holding to sound doctrine and disciplining those who stray from truth (verses 18-20).



Key Truth: Believers Pray for All People, Including Those in Positions of Authority (1 Timothy 2:1-6)

Paul mentioned various types of prayers that should be prayed for *all men*, including various kinds of political rulers, even ones who are evil. These prayers are to be offered so that believers can lead *peaceful and quiet lives of godliness* (verses 1-2). Such praying is good and pleasing to God who desires that everyone be saved through faith in Christ, the mediator between God and humans. He gave Himself as a ransom for all who believe (verses 3-6).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What is faith?**
- **Why is knowing God's truth so important to our faith?**
- Why is false teaching dangerous?
- **What are some false teachings we hear in our culture?**
- **What can we do to help us recognize false teaching?**
- What does it mean to reject false teachers and false doctrine?
- What is involved in standing for our faith?
- What are some things we can pray for government officials, for lost people we know, for family and friends, and for our spiritual leaders and missionaries?
- What false teaching do you need to compare with the Bible's teaching?
- Who will you pray for this week and what will you pray about for them?

Everyday Extras

Pay your children their allowance with Monopoly money this week, or offer a rice cake instead of a cookie. Chances are the substitutes will not be acceptable. The same is true with the good news about Jesus. False messengers would like for people to accept another version of the gospel, but we must know the truth about Jesus and make sure no one teaches something that is not true. Review 1 Timothy 1:15 with your children to remind them of the most important part of the gospel message.

Encourage your children to find the names of their state and federal elected officials and make a list of them. You can include everyone from the President of the United States to the sheriff, aldermen, and school board members in your community. Then ask them to practice 1 Timothy 2:1-3. You can pray for one official each day. Whether you agree with their politics or not, lead your children in respectfully asking God's direction for those in office. As society turns increasingly further from God, the opportunity and responsibility to pray becomes even more important.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned about a young man named Timothy whose grandmother and mother taught him to serve God. Paul wanted Timothy to travel with him and they taught others about God. Paul and Timothy served God through their words and actions. **I Can Serve God** through my words and actions like they did.

Date | **October 16, 2022** Family Theme | **Demonstrating Your Faith**
Study Text | **1 Timothy 4:1-16**

Objective: Family members set a good example for others by rejecting false teaching and practicing disciplines that help them grow in godliness.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Likely written around AD 62-64, the apostle Paul wrote to the young leader Timothy to instruct him on how to lead the church at Ephesus. This section of the letter gave instruction on what Timothy should teach and how he should set an example for other believers.

Bible Basics: Encourage learners to memorize Psalm 19:14 this week and to work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: 1 Timothy 4:1-16

Disciple Your Kids

Discuss with your children and grandchildren how we can set a good example by watching out for false teaching, practicing disciplines that lead to godliness, and putting God's Word into practice.



Key Truth: Believers Stay True to the Faith and Practice Disciplines That Lead to Godliness (1 Timothy 4:1-10)

The Holy Spirit has revealed that some will leave the faith because of being swayed by false teaching. Its source is deceitful, demonic spirits working through false teachers (verses 1-2). They taught that people must abstain from marriage and certain foods in order to be holy, even though God created these things for us to receive with thanksgiving (verses 3-5). Paul urged Timothy to instruct the believers in the truth regarding these areas. He was to be guided and nourished by the truth of God's Word, to stay away from worldly myths, and to engage in activities that would help him be godly. This godliness has value in this life and in the next. We strive for godliness with our hope set on God (verses 6-10).



Key Truth: Believers Set a Good Example by Putting Biblical Truth Into Practice (1 Timothy 4:11-16)

Paul instructed Timothy to boldly lead and teach the truth in spite of his relatively young age. He was to set a godly example for all the believers in living a Christian lifestyle (verses 11-12). For leading the church, Timothy was to practice the public reading of Scripture; to preach, challenge, and encourage believers in God's Word; and to teach the truths and doctrines of the faith (verse 13). He was to recognize God's calling on his life and develop his spiritual gifts to effectively lead the congregation, just as recognized by the spiritual leaders who commissioned him. Timothy was to give extensive attention to these things so all could see his progress. This would benefit Timothy and those under his leadership and teaching (verses 14-16).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What is involved in modeling the faith?
- What should we model when it comes to dealing with false teachers or false doctrine?
- Why is false teaching so dangerous?
- What are some disciplines we can practice that will help train us to be godly?
- What does it look like to set a godly example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity?
- What spiritual discipline or habit could you more faithfully practice in order to keep growing in your faith?
- How are you modeling service by using your abilities and spiritual gifts to serve God and others?
- **Who is the best example to follow in demonstrating our faith?**
- **How can you lead by example through your words? Actions? Love? Faith?**

Everyday Extras

Ask each member of your family to demonstrate something he or she does well to teach others in your family how to do it. They may choose to demonstrate a cooking skill, a cleaning skill, a craft, a playground skill, a musical skill, a video gaming skill, or any expertise they have. You could video and share the demonstrations with friends and loved ones too. Remind your children that they could demonstrate their skill even to someone older than they are. That was what Paul reminded Timothy of in 1 Timothy 4. He was an example of Christian faith, even to people older than he was. Your children can also demonstrate their faith in Jesus to others.

Send out investigative reporters from your family to ask the question, “What can I do to be successful?” Have each child ask three or four people and record their answers. (This could be a wonderful holiday project.) Compile the advice into a notebook; talk about it and what you can learn from it. When Paul wanted Timothy to be successful as a Christian, he gave the younger man instructions—not just advice. We can read them in 1 Timothy, especially in chapter 4. Your family could add some of Paul’s instructions to the notebook too!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Paul wrote Timothy a letter to remind him the Bible comes from God and is true. Paul also encouraged Timothy to keep making good choices and to continue serving God and loving Him with all his heart. When we love God with all our hearts, we should want to serve Him. **I Can Serve God** every day.

Objective: Family members further the faith by pursuing godliness, generosity, and contentment rather than riches.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Written by Paul around AD 62-64, this part of his letter to Timothy instructed him to strive to further the faith by teaching the believers to flee false teaching and greed, and to pursue godliness, generosity, and contentment.

Bible Basics: Review the names and order of the first 22 books of the New Testament and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: 1 Timothy 6:3-21

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that we are to pursue godliness and contentment rather than riches and be generous with what God gives us.



Key Truth: Believers Are Content With Godliness and Guard Against Greed (1 Timothy 6:3-16)

Paul returned to the subject of false teachers. They were guilty of teaching a different and false gospel that did not agree with the sound teachings of Jesus. We can evaluate all teachings by that standard. They also refused to submit to teaching that would lead to godliness (verse 3). They displayed arrogance and a lack of understanding. They and their teachings led to quarrels, dissension, and friction for those who followed them. They pretended to be godly hoping it would bring personal gain (verses 4-5). Paul, however, wanted learners to understand that godliness does not guarantee financial gain, but brings a greater spiritual gain when accompanied by contentment with the basic needs of life (verses 6-8). On the other hand, those who seek riches fall into all kinds of temptation and harmful desires. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, even causing some to wander from the faith (verses 9-10). Those who desire to be godly, however, are to flee from such desires and behaviors. Instead, they pursue the things and ways of God. They fight to advance the gospel (verses 11-12). Believers strive to keep God's commands and instructions as Christ did, seeking to be above reproach until Christ returns in all His glory (verses 13-16).



Key Truth: Believers Are Generous, Trusting in God Rather Than Riches (1 Timothy 6:17-21)

Christians who are rich by the world's standards must be careful to maintain an attitude of humility. They were not to be arrogant as if their wealth was deserved, and they were not to set their hopes on money as if this were the source of security and true satisfaction. Instead, they were to set their hope on God, the one who provided all that was needed for true contentment and enjoyment (verse 17). Instead of seeking and hoarding riches, believers are to be generous. They are to use their wealth for the benefit of those in need and for the advancement of God's kingdom, knowing their ultimate reward in Heaven is much better than material comforts on this earth (verses 18-19). In all of this Timothy (and all believers) was to continue to guard against false teachers and their false doctrines (verses 20-21).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What do you think it means to fight the good fight of faith?**
- What are some characteristics of false teachers in verses 3-5?
- What does it mean to be content?
- How can we learn to be content with little or with much?
- What does it look like to pursue what is good and right?
- Why do people tend to want to trust in money for their security?
- How does trusting God help us to be generous and willing to meet others' needs?
- What are some ways we can practice generosity in our culture?
- **How can you fight against the doubts and false truths Satan wants you to believe?**
- **In whom should we find our contentment? How do we do that?**

Everyday Extras

Have a family marshmallow fight. Make marshmallow shooters with a balloon and a cardboard tube. Tie a knot in the bottom of a small balloon and snip it open at the top. Stretch the top over the end of a sturdy, empty toilet paper roll (use a rubber band or tape to secure it tightly if needed). Pull back on the knot to shoot miniature marshmallows. You can aim at one another or at targets for a competition. (You can also shoot marshmallow into the air to try to catch them in your mouth!) When we are fighting for the faith, we are not fighting with marshmallows! We are rejecting any teaching that disagrees with what Jesus said. We are fighting temptation to be greedy. We are not getting sidetracked with controversies and arguments. We are holding on to right living and godliness. We are defending what is true and good. When we fight for the faith, we are assured of victory!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Paul sent Timothy to check on some believers. Timothy learned the believers were doing what Paul had taught them. They were serving God by making good choices, telling others about Jesus, and staying strong in their faith. **I Can Serve God** by loving Him, obeying His Word, and helping others just like Paul and Timothy did.

Objective: Family members rely on God's power to keep living for God and to do what He leads them to do.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events of 2 Kings took place after the kingdom was divided following the reigns of David and Solomon. This section took place around 850 BC and covers the passing of the prophetic torch from Elijah to Elisha.

Bible Basics: Review John 8:12 and Psalm 19:14 this week and work with family members to do so.

Read the Word: 2 Kings 2:1-15

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about what it means to be faithful to God and why it is best to do so all our lives. We must ask God for His power to help us be faithful.



Key Truth: Faithful Believers Determine to Serve God as Long as They Live (2 Kings 2:1-8)

As the time drew near for God to take Elijah to Heaven in miraculous fashion, both Elijah and his apprentice Elisha demonstrated faithfulness to the end. Elijah, knowing the time was near, continued to visit and encourage the young prophets he apparently mentored. Elijah instructed Elisha to stay put while he continued on to Bethel to do this. Elisha, however, determined to remain with Elijah to the end, knowing his time was short. Even the apprentice prophets knew Elijah was to be taken soon (verses 1-3). Two more times Elijah attempted to leave Elisha behind as he continued his journey. Both times Elisha refused to abandon his mentor (verses 4-6). At the third destination, Elisha and the apprentice prophets there were blessed to see Elijah's final miraculous work. He took his cloak, a symbol of his authority, rolled it up and struck the water. The water of the Jordan parted, and Elijah and Elisha crossed on dry ground together (verses 7-8).



Key Truth: Faithful Believers Seek God's Power to Accomplish God's Work (2 Kings 2:9-15)

After the miracle at the river, when asked what he desired from Elijah, Elisha asked for extra power (a double portion of Elijah's spirit) from God to enable him to accomplish the work God had in store for him. His desire was to be as effective as Elijah had been. In fulfillment of that request Elisha would perform twice as many recorded miracles and prophetic utterances as Elijah (verse 9). Elijah informed Elisha that if he witnessed Elijah's being taken away, this double portion would indeed be bestowed upon him. Suddenly, chariots and horses of fire separated them and Elijah was taken by a whirlwind up into Heaven. Elisha cried out, *My father*. Elijah had been Elisha's spiritual father. With this cry, Elisha tore his clothes, an act of mourning over the loss of the great prophet (verses 10-12). Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak, symbolic of taking up the work Elijah (and God) had left for Him to do. He struck the water as Elijah had done, and asked *Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?* This was probably a request for God to demonstrate His power just as He had for Elijah. The water parted, an evidence that the power that once rested on Elijah now rested on Elisha. God recognized and rewarded Elisha's faithfulness. The apprentice prophets bowed before Elisha, recognizing that the power and Spirit of God now rested on him (verses 13-15).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What does it mean to be faithful?
- What does it look like to faithfully serve God?
- Why do we need God's power in order to faithfully serve Him?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to remain faithful to God?
- In what area do you presently need God's power to help you remain faithful?
- **What can you do this week to faithfully serve God?**
- **Describe Elijah and Elisha's relationship with each other and God.**
- **How did God show His faithfulness to Elisha? What are ways you have experienced God's faithfulness to you?**

Everyday Extras

Try a relay game to clean up the playroom (or some other room in your home). Have one child pick up the toy, hand it to the next, who will hand it to the next person to put in place. To make it more difficult, have the children use only their feet, not their hands, to pick up and pass toys. This can get really fun when trying to put toys in the toybox or on a shelf! A relay is all about passing something to someone else. When Elijah went to Heaven, his responsibilities and power with God were passed on to Elisha, who had to be sure to do all that God wanted him to do. We must be faithful to do our part in receiving and passing on the faith too.

Use sheets of paper (recycled is fine) to set out a path. Each piece should touch the one before it, moving one step ahead or to the right or to the left. Blindfold your child and take him to the starting point. Touch his left shoulder if he is to step left, his right if he is to step right, and his nose if he is to walk straight ahead. Stepping off the paper means he must start over. When we follow God, we must wait for His instructions about what to do next. We can read our Bibles and pray and ask others to help us make decisions. Even when we are unsure about what to do next, we always want to follow Him, and He will give us direction.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned King Josiah was young, but he followed God. As Josiah got older, he sent his helpers to fix God's temple. The High Priest found book of the Law, God's Word, in the temple and gave it to the king. Josiah knew **God's Word Is Special**. King Josiah also realized the people had become wicked and he chose to lead them back to serving the one, true God.

Objective: Family members choose to humbly obey God even when it doesn't seem to make sense.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events of 2 Kings took place after the kingdom was divided following the reigns of David and Solomon. This section took place around 835 BC and demonstrates that God desires to be the God of all people, not just the Israelites.

Bible Basics: Memorize the names and order of books 23 through 27 of the Old Testament (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: 2 Kings 5:1-27

Disciple Your Kids

Discuss with family members how God can use all people for His glory and that we must trust and obey Him even when it doesn't seem to make sense.



Key Truth: God Can Use Anyone to Accomplish His Will (2 Kings 5:1-8)

Naaman, the commander of Syria's army, was a mighty warrior, but he also was a leper. A lowly Israeli servant girl he had captured served in his house (verses 1-2). Surprisingly, the girl wanted to see Naaman healed and suggested he see the prophet Elisha in Israel (verses 1-3). Naaman passed this along to his king who sent Naaman to Israel along with gifts and a letter to Israel's king asking for him to heal Naaman. Israel's king thought the king of Syria was looking for an excuse to attack Israel (verses 4-7). Elisha, however, asked the king to send Naaman to him so Naaman would know there was a prophet of the true God in Israel (verse 8). God did this through a lowly servant girl.



Key Truth: God's Methods Are Best, Even When They Seem Strange to Us (2 Kings 5:9-14)

Naaman went to Elisha's house expecting to meet with him and be healed. Elisha, however, simply sent a messenger to instruct Naaman to go wash in the Jordan River seven times (verses 9-10). This angered Naaman, who expected special attention and healing from the prophet. He went away enraged. His servants, however, urged him to follow Elisha's instructions since he had nothing to lose. All he had to do was obey. He did so and was healed (verses 11-14).



Key Truth: Believers Must Guard Against Greed (2 Kings 5:15-27)

Naaman's attitude changed. He understood that there was only one God, Israel's God, and he pressed Elisha to accept his gifts. Elisha, however, refused, wanting Naaman to see that the healing came from God, not from him (verses 15-16). Naaman, thinking he could only worship the God of Israel on Israel's soil, asked to take some back to Syria. He also asked forgiveness for having to bow as his master worshiped other gods. Elisha sent him away in peace (verses 17-19). Sadly, Elisha's servant Gehazi let greed guide him and ran to catch Naaman. He lied, claiming Elisha had sent him, and asked for some of the gifts to help two needy prophets. Naaman gave him gifts and Gehazi hid them at his home. God had revealed it to Elisha though, and Elisha confronted Gehazi. Gehazi's disobedience meant that he and his descendants would be lepers from then on (verses 20-27).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- How does the account of Naaman's healing show us that God can use anyone to accomplish His purposes?
- **How do you see God working through Naaman's story?**
- **How was humility and obedience such an important part of Naaman's healing?**
- In what ways might God use seemingly insignificant people for His glory today?
- **Why should we trust and obey God even when it doesn't seem to make sense?**
- **Elisha's servant let greed control him. Why is greed dangerous for us today?**
- What command or instruction from God do you need to obey, even if it doesn't seem to make sense?
- How can you make yourself available for God to use this week?

Everyday Extras

Play a game of doctors and patients with two bowls and several strips of paper. Write out various complaints that people take to the doctor on half of the strips of paper (*I have a broken leg, I have a sore throat, I have a wart on my knee, etc.*), fold them, and put them in the first bowl. On the other strips, write out remedies a doctor might prescribe (*Take two aspirin, put an ice pack on it for 20 minutes, gargle with salt water, etc.*) and put them in the second bowl. Find some interesting medical advice when you draw one piece of paper from the first bowl and one from the second bowl. Most of the time, the advice will not match! That may be how Naaman felt about the instructions that Elisha gave him. He did not like the dirty Jordan River and did not think the instructions were appropriate for someone with his credentials as a Syrian general. When he finally obeyed what God told him through the prophet Elisha, he was cured from his leprosy!

Your young children will enjoy reenacting the story of Naaman at bath time! Assign parts and don't be surprised if the fun continues all week long.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned King Josiah promised God he would worship and serve only Him and help his people do the same. He told the people to turn away from following the false gods and return to worshiping the one, true God. King Josiah destroyed all the false idols and had the priests lead the people in celebrating Passover. They knew **God's Word Is Special** and so do we.

Date | **November 13, 2022** Family Theme | **Boldly Honoring God's Word**
Study Text | **2 Kings 22:1–23:3, 21-25**

Objective: Family members humbly obey God's Word, setting an example for those around them.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events of 2 Kings took place after the kingdom was divided following the reigns of David and Solomon. This section took place around 620 BC when the book of the Law was found and Josiah led the people in a covenant to follow God's Law.

Bible Basics: Memorize Deuteronomy 26:17 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: 2 Kings 22:1–23:3, 21-25

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we are to set good examples by turning away from sin to honor and obey God's Word.



Key Truth: Believers Honor and Obey God's Word, Making It Their Final Authority on What to Believe and Practice (2 Kings 22:1-20)

Chapter 22 announces the beginning of young Josiah's 31-year reign over Judah. Unlike many of his predecessors, Josiah did what was right and walked in God's ways as his ancestor David had. This literally postponed God's judgment on Judah (verses 1-2). Among other reforms, Josiah called for the repair of the Temple, which had fallen into disuse and disrepair. He used the money that had been given by the people to pay for workers and materials to make the repairs (verses 3-7). During this process the high priest found the Book of the Law, which had been neglected, in the Temple. It was read to Josiah, who tore his clothes in mourning when he heard it, realizing they had not been obeying it (verses 8-13). Josiah sent for a word from the Lord through Huldah the prophetess. God said He would bring disaster on Judah because they had turned away from Him and worshiped false gods (verses 14-17). They were to tell Josiah, however, that because he had humbled himself and realized they had sinned, God had heard him and would delay the judgment until after his death (verses 18-20).



Key Truth: Believers Set an Example of Obedience and Deal With Sin (2 Kings 23:1-3, 21-25)

Having discovered God's will and commands in His Word, Josiah sought to lead the people in repentance to God. He assembled representatives of all the people for a public reading of the Book of the Law (verses 1-2). He then encouraged the people to total commitment and obedience to God by making a covenant to the Lord. Josiah led the people by example, fully committing himself to walk with God and obey His commands with all his heart. All the people promised to do the same (verse 3). One such command was to keep the Passover, the celebration commemorating the Lord's deliverance of Israel from Egyptian slavery and bondage. This Passover was conducted with more careful attention to the Law of God than it had been since before the period of the Judges (verses 21-23). Josiah also cleansed the land of idols, abominations, and those who practiced evil rituals. He turned to the Lord with all his heart, obeying all the law of Moses (verses 24-25).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **How can we honor God's Word and give it priority?**
- Why is obedience to God best for us?
- What are some commands in God's Word that are mostly ignored or disobeyed in our culture?
- What are some steps we might take to deal with some sin we struggle with?
- In what area could I take steps this week to put away some sin?
- In what area could I more fully obey God this week?
- **What change took place in King Josiah's heart when he heard God's Word?**
- **Are there any changes you need to make in your heart to have a better attitude toward God and His Word?**

Everyday Extras

We honor our country's flag. Have your children list ways that people treat the flag with respect (standing when it comes by, saluting, taking ball caps off, not letting it touch the ground, etc.). Do we honor our Bible the same way? This is God's Word, given to us straight from God Himself. We should treat it with great respect, not just as a symbol, but as the authority in the way we think and act. Josiah was an excellent example of that. This week, your family could stand as a sign of your respect when you read the Bible together.

A treasure hunt in your kitchen cabinets! Let the children help clean out a seldom used cabinet or closet to see what you've stored there from the past. Can you clean it up and use it again for some special occasion? (Fry Daddy, Bundt cake pan, ice cream maker, fondue pot, popsicle molds—there must be something!) While Josiah's wicked grandfather and father had been in charge of Judah, the Temple had fallen into disrepair. When they restored it and finally discovered the book of the Law, the king and the priests began to obey it. All of Judah kept the Passover again and remembered what God had taught their parents and grandparents.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned God showed a prophet named Jeremiah a basket with good figs which represented the people who followed Him. God also showed Jeremiah another basket with rotten figs which represented the people who did not. Jeremiah told the disobedient people to return to God, but they chose not to. **God's Word Is Special** and helps me obey God and do what is right.

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Date | **November 20, 2022** Family Theme | **The Promise of Hope**
Study Text | **Jeremiah 31:1-40**

Objective: Family members turn away from all sin and walk with God, thankful for His great mercy.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Jeremiah likely wrote these prophetic words some time around 600 BC as the Babylonians attacked Judah and deported many Jews back to Babylon. This chapter spoke of how God would restore joy and peace to His people, promising a new covenant with them.

Bible Basics: Memorize Jeremiah 17:7 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Jeremiah 31:1-40

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we experience peace and joy when we turn away from sin and walk closely with God.



Key Truth: God Restores Joy and Peace When His People Repent of Sin (Jeremiah 31:1-22)

God planned to restore peace and joy to His people Israel. He assured them of His faithful, everlasting love (verses 1-3). God would rebuild His people. There would be dancing and celebrating. They would enjoy the fruit of vineyards again, and they would once again worship the Lord in Zion. They would praise God who would bring them back as a loving father restores a wayward son (verses 4-9). All nations and peoples would hear of God's restoration of His people. God would turn their mourning into joy and satisfy them with His goodness (verses 10-14). The punishment God had brought on them would cause their patriarchal ancestors much anguish. Yet there would be restoration, and Israel would return from its exile. God's love endures, and He would remember His wayward people in mercy (verses 15-20). God instructed Israel to mark the way by which they went out, because they would also return that way. Sadly, the *faithless daughter* would be just as slow to believe God's promise of restoration as she was to believe His promise of judgment (verses 21-22).



Key Truth: God Desires to Bless His People as They Walk With Him in the New Covenant He Promised (Jeremiah 31:23-40)

God had benevolent plans for Israel and Judah. Even though the land would be desolate and Jerusalem demolished, new inhabitants would later fill both the land and the city, and thrive there. God had been working against them; now He would work just as hard for them (verses 23-30). God would establish a marvelous new covenant. Israel repeatedly broke the old covenant established under Moses. In the new covenant, God promised to work within the hearts of His people. They would know God and obey from the heart! The old covenant of Moses' time could never bring the hope of salvation. That comes only through the new covenant, sealed with the blood of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, the one for the many (verses 31-34). The rhythm of sun, moon, and stars would wear out long before God's love for Israel came to an end. To make it very clear, God then referred to some of the parts of Jerusalem that would be rebuilt. He even promised to extend the city (verses 38-40).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- How does turning away from sin and walking in right relationship with God help us experience joy and peace?
- What does it mean to repent?
- How is the new covenant that God promised through Jeremiah different from the previous covenant given through Moses?
- What is involved in walking closely with God?
- Is any sin hindering your walk with God? If so, what will you do about that sin?
- What could you do this week to help you walk closely with God in the new covenant Jesus established through His blood?
- **Which of God's promises are giving you hope and peace right now?**
- How did the sins of the people of Judah affect everyone?
- **How can you remember to obey and trust God when those around you are not?**

Everyday Extras

Write bits of bad news and good news on pieces of paper, wad them into a ball, and place them in a bag. (Ideas for bad news: *You will have no allowance this week. Your bedtime is 15 minutes earlier tonight. You cannot wear your favorite shirt until Monday. You cannot sleep with your favorite stuffed animal. No phone privileges for you today, etc.* Good news is easy to think of!) Have your children reach into the bag and draw from the items inside. They must accept the consequences, whether the news is bad or good. This was a random exercise, but God's punishment on the people of Judah was not random. They deserved the bad consequences of their disobedience. However, God also gave them good news—news of hope for the future.

Who can do the best imitation of crying? Have auditions around the dinner table to see who has the most convincing sobs. Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet because he spoke so often of his sorrow about the coming disaster for his nation. In Jeremiah 30–33, he pointed to the certainty of God's promises, His new covenant with Israel that assured them good things were ahead for their nation. Even though there would be weeping, the people of God could count on Him to keep His promises. While you're acting for each other, play a round or two of "Honey, I Love You But I Just Can't Smile."

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Jeremiah told the people to stop worshiping false gods, but they refused. God showed Jeremiah a potter who crushed a clay jar back into a lump of clay. The Israelites were like clay in God's hands, and He told Jeremiah they would have to be punished for their disobedience. **God's Word Is Special** and helps me make right choices.

Date | **November 27, 2022** Family Theme | **The Results of Disobedience**
Study Text | **2 Kings 25:1-21**

Objective: Family members walk in God's ways and guard against sin, knowing sin brings consequences.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events of 2 Kings took place after the kingdom was divided following the reigns of David and Solomon. The events of this section took place around 586 BC when Jerusalem and Judah fell to the Babylonians.

Bible Basics: Review the names and order of the first 27 books of the Old Testament this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: 2 Kings 25:1-21

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how God disciplines us when we continue in disobedience.



Key Truth: God Disciplines Those Who Lead His People Astray (2 Kings 25:1-7)

We learn from chapter 24 that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon put Zedekiah in power in Jerusalem as a vassal king under Nebuchadnezzar's authority. Zedekiah did what was evil in God's sight and also rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar (24:18-20). Nebuchadnezzar attacked and besieged the city. This was ultimately the result of ongoing evil by Zedekiah and most of his predecessors. They provoked the Lord to anger, causing Him to give Jerusalem and Judah over to their enemies just as He had promised (2 Kings 23:26-27; 24:20). Zedekiah's disobedience eventually resulted in suffering and death as horrible famine and fear came upon the city (verses 1-3). Finally, the Babylonians broke through the wall of the city causing Zedekiah and his army to flee. The Babylonians pursued and overtook the king, causing his army to scatter (verses 4-5). Zedekiah was captured and was forced to watch as the Babylonians slaughtered his sons. Then they gouged out his eyes, making the murder of his sons the last thing he ever witnessed. The king was then bound in chains and taken to Babylon (verses 6-7).



Key Truth: God Disciplines His People When They Continue in Disobedience (2 Kings 25:8-21)

One of the final responses of Nebuchadnezzar to Zedekiah's rebellion was to destroy Jerusalem. He appointed Nebuzaradan, his chief official and personal bodyguard, to burn the city, including the "house of the Lord" or the Temple. The loss of the Temple conveyed a strong message. The Temple symbolized God's presence and the worship of Yahweh. Its destruction, along with the loss of the Temple artifacts and the killing of the priests, symbolized the loss of genuine worship. Nebuzaradan also burned the king's palace and all the other major buildings (verses 8-9). The Babylonian army broke down the city walls leaving Jerusalem defenseless. Except for the poorest people left to work the land, the rest were taken away to Babylon as the third and final wave of deportations (verses 8-12). The furnishings and utensils of the Temple were all carried away into Babylon (verses 13-17). Many remaining Jewish officials were captured and executed (verses 18-21).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What are some typical consequences people face for disobeying authority or breaking the law?**
- **What are some examples of how people disobey God?**
- What are some typical consequences of disobeying God?
- **What are some typical blessings of obeying God?**
- **In what ways might our disobedience affect those around us?**
- How have you seen disobeying God result in bondage and destruction?
- In what area could you more fully obey God?

Everyday Extras

Would you rather be gored by a rhinoceros or bitten by a tiger? Would you rather be stung by a swarm of bees or bitten by a snake? Would you rather be buried to your neck in sand or stretched between two poles? Think of other terrible punishments and have your children choose between them. When God's people in the nation of Judah refused to obey Him, He sent a terrible punishment: they would be captured by the Babylonians and their homeland would be in ruins. Though it was a terrible punishment, God wanted His people to repent and return to Him.

The Ukraine has recently faced terrible bombing, the widespread exile of its people to other countries, and the loss of economic stability. Their country has been in ruins because of war. Have your children talk about the tragedies that children and their parents have faced in the Ukraine, then compare it to what the Israelites faced as their country was in ruins and their citizens were taken as captives to Babylon. The Israelites in Judah faced terrible consequences for their sins. We need to learn from them the joy of obeying God's Word and the importance of repentance.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned more about Jeremiah's obedience to the Lord. Jeremiah chose to obey God even when it was hard. He knew he could trust God to help him. Jeremiah learned to obey God's Word. **God's Word is Special** and helps me obey God every day.