

D6 EveryDay Parent Page

Date | **December 4, 2022** Family Theme | **God Pursues the Disobedient**
Study Text | **Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10**

Objective: Parents help their children find joy and purpose by living in daily obedience to God and telling others about Jesus, even those who are different from us.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Jonah prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II who ruled the northern kingdom of Israel from 782 to 753 BC. The book of Jonah demonstrates that God has compassion for all people, not just the Jews, and wants all to repent and be saved.

Bible Basics: Work with family members to memorize Psalm 46:10.

Read the Word: Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children or grandchildren understand that God disciplines us when we do not obey His Word. He does this because He loves us and wants the best for us, just like parents do.



Key Truth: God Disciplines Believers Who Disobey Him (Jonah 1:1-17)

- God directed Jonah to preach to the wicked people of the city of Nineveh, but Jonah's apparent hatred for those people caused him to disobey and try to flee from God on a ship. God used a severe storm to get Jonah's attention (verses 1-4).
- The ship's crew cried out to their false gods and threw cargo overboard in an effort to save their lives. They also cast lots in an attempt to discover who had caused the storm. The lot fell on Jonah (verses 5-7).
- Jonah identified himself as a Hebrew and a believer in the Lord, the God of Heaven who made the sea and the dry land. This implied that this God could control the sea. Jonah admitted he was running from God. His disobedience affected those around him (verses 8-10).
- Jonah knew the Lord was disciplining him. The only way to stop the storm was to throw him overboard. The crew tried to avoid this, but had no other option. The sea grew calm when they threw Jonah overboard. This caused the pagan sailors to fear the Lord, make sacrifices to Him, and to vow to obey Him (verses 11-16).
- God sent a large fish to swallow Jonah, where he remained for three days and nights (verse 17; see also 2:10) before the fish spit him out.



Key Truth: God Does Great Things Through Believers Who Obey Him (Jonah 3:1-10)

- God once again instructed Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach to the inhabitants. This time he obeyed and went to preach the message God had given him, including the fact that Nineveh would be totally destroyed within 40 days (verses 1-4).
- The Ninevites believed God and outwardly displayed their inner conviction and sorrow over their sins. The king called for his people to fast and wear sackcloth while calling out to God for forgiveness. They were to turn from the evil and violence that characterized Nineveh in hopes that God might be appeased and relent (verses 5-9).
- God accepted the repentance of the Ninevites and spared them (verse 10). God wanted Jonah to understand that God loves all people and wants them to turn to Him and be saved (4:11).

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.

- **When has it been difficult for you to obey God?**
- **Why didn't Jonah want to obey God?**
- **What excuses do you give for your disobedience?**
- **In what ways might God discipline us when we disobey?**
- **What does it mean to repent?**
- What do people face if they refuse to turn from their sin and trust in Christ?
- What is our role in helping people come to repentance?
- **In what area could you repent and more fully obey God's will?**

Everyday Extras

Play Hide and Seek with a twist. Hide the pieces of the nativity set (or some other Christmas collection). Limit the hiding spots to one room. See how quickly your family can find them and return them to the nativity. (Multiple rounds of the game are inevitable!) Talk together about the way you looked diligently for the pieces so they could return to the right place. God looked for Jonah the same way, wanting him to do the job God had given him to do. We can never hide from God. He is always watching us and He always wants us to follow Him.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned **God's Ways Are Best** through the story of Jonah. God wanted Jonah to give the people of Nineveh a message. But Jonah did not want to obey God and he tried to hide from Him. God sent a huge storm to batter the ship Jonah was on. Jonah told the men to throw him into the water. When they did, God saved the ship and saved Jonah by sending a giant fish to swallow him.

Objective: Family members have confidence in God's Word knowing Christ fulfilled promises foretold about Him in the Minor Prophets.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The ministry and writings of the Minor Prophets took place between 840 BC and 400 BC.

Bible Basics: Review with family members the names and order of the first 27 books of the Old Testament (Genesis-Daniel).

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children about how fulfilled prophecy affirms the truth and accuracy of the Bible.



Key Truth: Jesus Fulfilled What the Minor Prophets Foretold of His Birth (Hosea 11:1; Micah 5:2; Haggai 2:20-23; Malachi 4:5-6)

- Hosea 11:1 says Christ would be called out of Egypt. This is fulfilled in Matthew 2:13-15.
- Micah 5:2 says the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. This is fulfilled and explained in Matthew 2:1-6.
- Haggai 2:20-23 speaks of Zerubbabel as God's servant, associating him with a restoration of the promised Davidic line. Many see this fulfilled in Christ, the One in whom the line of David would reign forever.
- In Luke 1:5-17 an angel shared things about John the Baptist that were prophesied hundreds of years before by the prophet Malachi (Malachi 4:5-6). These were fulfilled in Matthew 3:1-6; 11:10-14; and 17:10-13.



Key Truth: Jesus Fulfilled What the Minor Prophets Foretold of His Life and Ministry (Zechariah 9:9; Malachi 3:1; Zechariah 11:12-13)

- Zechariah 9:9 says that Christ would be just or righteous, and humble. This is fulfilled in John 5:30; Philipians 2:5-8; and Matthew 11:29.
- Malachi 3:1 says a messenger would prepare the way for the Messiah, the Messiah would suddenly appear at the Temple, and the Messiah would announce a new covenant. These are fulfilled in Matthew 11:7-10; 21:12-13; and Luke 22:20.
- Zechariah 11:12-13 speaks of a shepherd being valued at only thirty pieces of silver and that the thirty pieces of silver were thrown into the house of the Lord. Jesus was rejected and betrayed for thirty pieces of silver which were thrown into the house of the Lord. See Matthew 26:14-15 and 27:3-5.



Key Truth: Jesus Fulfilled What the Minor Prophets Foretold of His Death and Resurrection (Jonah 1:17; Zechariah 9:9, 12:10; Exodus 12:46; Hosea 13:14)

- Jonah 1:17 says Jonah was in the belly of a fish for three days and three nights. This foreshadowed Christ's resurrection after three days in a tomb (Matthew 12:38-41).
- Zechariah 9:9 gives a picture of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-5; John 12:12-16). Zechariah also prophesied that Christ would be pierced in 12:10. This is fulfilled in John 19:34, 37.
- Exodus 12:46 and Numbers 9:11-12 said that none of the bones were to be broken on the Passover Lamb. This was fulfilled for Christ, the Lamb of God, in John 19:36.
- Hosea 13:14 described the Messiah's power over death and asked where were death's victory and sting. Paul asked the same question in 1 Corinthians 15:55-57.

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 made it possible for God's prophets to foretell the future?
- **How does fulfilled prophecy show that the Bible is true and accurate?**
- **Why does studying how Christ fulfilled prophecy strengthen our faith in Him?**
- **With whom could we share how Christ fulfilled promises about His birth at Christmas?**

Everyday Extras

Play a game of Yahtzee, but have your children predict the numbers on the dice before they roll their turn. How often are they correct? This twist may be more fun than the original game! Prophecies are not predictions. Though prophecies are about future events, they are a message from God. Talk together about the many prophecies that were fulfilled when Jesus came. Through many years, God gave His prophets messages about the coming Messiah. Jesus fulfilled all of them. Every prophecy was correct! You could also ask each family member to predict who will be the next person to knock on your door. Why did they make the guesses they did? It may take several days to know whose prediction was correct. Old Testament prophets described the coming Messiah in different ways. They were speaking for God, so their prophecies were more than predictions. Their prophecies came true after the prophets had been dead many years, but the Messiah came just as they said He would.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned while Jonah was in the fish's belly for three days and three nights, he prayed and told God he would go to Nineveh. God had the giant fish spit Jonah onto dry land. Jonah obeyed God and gave the people of Nineveh God's message. The people stopped sinning and followed God's ways. Jonah and the people learned **God's Ways Are Best.**

Objective: Family members live with confidence knowing God will never leave or forget them as they walk with Him.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Isaiah ministered and wrote during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. These kings reigned from 767 BC to 686 BC.

Bible Basics: Review Jeremiah 17:7 this week with family members.

Read the Word: Isaiah 49:1-26

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we can live and serve God with confidence because He never leaves or forgets those who trust in Jesus.



Key Truth: God Sent the Servant (Jesus) to Redeem People From All Nations (Isaiah 49:1-13)

- In verses 1-4, the *Servant* addressed the Gentiles, those not of Israel. Christians understand the *Servant* as a reference to Jesus. He claimed divine origin and purpose, but also suffered setbacks and rejection.
- Israel rejected Jesus, but God intended for Him to bring Israel back to their Maker and Redeemer, yet there was more. He was to make salvation possible for the Gentiles as well (verses 5-7).
- Verses 8-13 describe God's promise and call to Jews and Gentiles alike. He offered a favorable day of salvation, blessing, protection, and guidance. All creation was to praise God for His compassion on all people.



Key Truth: God Does Not Leave or Forget His People (Isaiah 49:14-21)

- When God brought the promised judgment on Israel, they said God had left them and forgotten them. God responded by comparing Himself to a nursing mother who would never forget or forsake her child. His people are always in His thoughts. Good would come to them again (verses 14-18).
- In the time of judgment, the land would be like a wasteland, with barely a remnant left behind. God, however, intended to repopulate it. The population would grow to fill the land fully once more like a grieving woman suddenly surrounded by children (verses 19-21).



Key Truth: The Future Is Bright for God's People Because He Is in Control (Isaiah 49:22-26)

- God said He would once again deliver His people. Verses 22-24 describe God's direction of Israel's deliverance. He had done it before with Egypt. He would do it again with Babylon and Persia, despite the pessimists who doubted it could happen.
- God would deliver them in such a way that all would know He is the Lord and Redeemer (verses 25-26).

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.

- **Who was the *Servant* that Isaiah said would bring salvation to God's people and to the nations?**
- How has God gone to great lengths to redeem us?
- **How does it encourage you to know that God never leaves or forgets His people?**
- How does the fact that God is in control make the future bright?
- What promises has God given that guarantee a bright future for those who trust Him?
- **With whom can you share the hope you have in Jesus?**

Everyday Extras

Join the Secret Service! Commission every family member to secretly serve someone else in your home. Here are some ideas: Make up someone's bed while he or she is in the bathroom. Wash the dishes. Change the water in the dog's bowl. Clean out a drawer. Match all his socks. Polish her shoes. Refold the towels so they all stack alike. Buy her favorite candy bar and hide it in her backpack. Vacuum out his car. Sew on a missing button. Organize cans in the cupboard or books in the bookcase. Scrub the tub. Prepare a favorite snack for after school or work. We are like Jesus when we serve others. Sometimes our service costs us time and money, but even when we do it secretly, God knows and He always repays us.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned God sent an angel to share some exciting news with Mary and Joseph. The angel, Gabriel, told them Mary would have a baby — God's Son — and they were to name Him Jesus. This young child was a gift of love from God. **Jesus Is a Gift of Love** from God to everyone in the world.

D6 EveryDay Parent Page

Date | **December 25, 2022** Family Theme | **The Savior Is Born**
Study Text | **Isaiah 7:1-16; 9:2-7; Luke 2:27-38**

Objective: Family members celebrate Jesus' birth and live in the peace, hope, and light He came to give us.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Isaiah ministered and wrote about a coming Messiah during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. These kings reigned from 767 BC to 686 BC. Luke wrote of the birth of that promised Messiah about 700 years later.

Bible Basics: Work with family members to memorize Isaiah 9:6 this week.

Read the Word: Isaiah 7:1-16; 9:2-7; Luke 2:27-38

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with family members about the true meaning of Christmas. Jesus' birth fulfilled God's promises to send a Savior for all the world.



Key Truth: God Promised a Savior to Be Born of a Virgin (Isaiah 7:1-16)

- King Ahaz of Judah feared that the northern kingdom of Israel, allied with Syria, would defeat or destroy him and his kingdom. God sent Isaiah to inform Ahaz that this would not happen (verses 1-9).
- God offered to fulfill any sign of Ahaz' choosing as proof, but Ahaz declined. Isaiah declared that God would give a sign anyway — a virgin would conceive and bear a son, Immanuel. Before the child was out of infancy or toddlerhood, the two enemy kings and their land would be destroyed (verses 10-16).
- This prophecy would have another, deeper fulfillment further in the future. Jesus, the Messiah, would be born to a virgin. He would literally be *God with us* (Matthew 1:22-23) and would provide salvation and deliverance by dying on the cross.



Key Truth: God Promised a Savior to Bring Light and Truth to a Sinful World (Isaiah 9:2-7)

- Isaiah prophesied that Galilee would emerge from darkness to light. The people would move from the sorrow of oppression to joy and thriving as a nation. God promised to break the rod of the oppressor (verses 1-5).
- Isaiah again mentioned a special child (Jesus) from whom the people would experience stable, unending, and wise government. His shoulders would receive the lash and carry the cross. Afterward, they will bear the government, the rule over humanity. This child turned ruler would continue the throne of David. The Lord of Hosts would make it happen (verses 6-7).



Key Truth: God Proved Faithful to His Word (Luke 2:25-38)

- God had revealed to Simeon that he would not die before seeing the Messiah. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple, God told Simeon that this infant was the One! Simeon took Jesus in his arms and spoke of God's faithfulness and how Jesus would bring light and salvation to all peoples. However, His ministry would also bring division (verses 25-35).
- There was also an old prophetess named Anna who worshiped at the Temple constantly. She gave thanks to God and announced that the Messiah had come (verses 36-38).

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 did Jesus' birth fulfill promises God had made in the Old Testament?**
- What was Jesus' primary reason for coming?
- What does it mean that Jesus brought light into the world?
- How did Jesus provide deliverance from sin?
- How did Jesus' coming bring us peace?
- What promises are we looking forward to concerning Christ's second coming?
- With whom could you share that Jesus came to save us and that He is coming again?
- **How can you follow the example of the shepherds and wise men in sharing the good news of Jesus' birth and your worship of Him?**

Everyday Extras

Read the names given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. These names talk about His character and what He can do. Encourage every member of the family to think of something about God's character and reverently express it in a name for God. To one person He might be, "Great Forgiver," and someone else might call Him, "Rest-Giver," for example. Explain to each other why you chose those names. Write them on a small ornament or ask every family member to write them on a small piece of cardstock for an ornament frame. The names of Christ have new significance at different stages of your life, but He never changes.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem to put their names on an important list. While they were in Bethlehem, it was time for Jesus to be born. Mary wrapped her baby in cloths and placed Him in a feeding box, called a manger, that was filled with hay. Mary and Joseph loved their Son. They knew **Jesus Is a Gift of Love.**

Objective: Family members live for Christ in response to His suffering and dying for us.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Isaiah ministered and wrote during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. These kings reigned from 767 BC to 686 BC.

Bible Basics: Memorize the names and order of books 28-31 of the Old Testament (Hosea, Joel, Amos, and Obadiah) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your family about how God inspired Isaiah to write about how Christ would die for us. He did this hundreds of years before it happened. We should thank Jesus for dying for us and live to please Him.



Key Truth: Jesus Was Despised and Rejected by Those He Came to Save (Isaiah 52:13 – 53:3)

- Although He would ultimately be exalted, the Servant (Jesus) would be beaten, marred, and rejected at His crucifixion. The result of this rejection, however, would be His blood shed for people of all nations (verses 13-15).
- People would find no “redeeming qualities” in this Servant. He would not seem special to them. Indeed Jesus was rejected by the authorities and people of His day (53:1-3).



Key Truth: Jesus Paid the Penalty for Our Sins (Isaiah 53:4-9)

- Although many seemed to think God was punishing the Servant for His own wrongdoing, He actually endured the punishment we deserved for our sins. He paid the price for us (verses 4-6).
- The Servant did not try to explain or defend himself against the false charges that the religious leaders brought against Him. Jesus was arrested and tried for something He did not do, and then He was taken away to die on the cross. He willingly gave Himself to die in our place (verses 7-9).



Key Truth: Jesus Is Highly Exalted Because He Suffered to Save Us (Isaiah 53:10-12)

- The Servant’s life was offered as a guilt offering for many. Verse 11 gives a glimpse of the resurrection of the Servant. As proof of His innocence, He would return to life and save many. Because He paid the penalty of their sins, those who believe in Him are counted as righteous in God’s sight (Galatians 3:5-6). Jesus’ saving work would result in His being highly exalted. He is now exalted at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us (verses 10-12).

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 was Isaiah able to write about things that would happen to Jesus hundreds of years later?
- **What did Jesus come to do for us?**
- **How was He treated?**
- **Why did Jesus have to pay the penalty for our sins?**
- **How do you feel when you think about what Jesus did for you?**
- **How should we respond to Jesus' dying for us on the cross?**

Everyday Extras

Today is a good day to write thank-you notes for the Christmas gifts you received. Write one to Jesus, too, for the greatest gift of all. Isaiah 52 and 53 gave us a description of Jesus' suffering. We feel sad for the way Jesus was treated. He was beaten and mocked and wounded for our sakes. Sometimes, we need to simply "sit with the sad," to acknowledge and mourn what He endured. So find time as a family to shut down all the devices and remember how much Jesus loved you to suffer that way for you. You may want to hold hands and bow your heads together for a moment of silence. Then rejoice together in the New Year because you know His suffering led to your forgiveness. You can sing a song of praise together.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned God wanted everyone to know about Jesus. An angel appeared to shepherds in a field and told them about His birth. They quickly went to see baby Jesus. Wise Men saw a special star that had appeared in the sky. They knew it was a sign that God's Son had been born. They traveled to see Him and brought Him gifts. They knew **Jesus Is a Gift of Love.**

Objective: All in your household submit to Christ as Lord of all.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul likely wrote his letter to the believers at Colossae around AD 61-62 while he was under house arrest in Rome. He wrote to counter false teaching and to encourage growth toward Christian maturity.

Bible Basics: Memorize Colossians 1:16b-17 with family members.

Read the Word: Colossians 1:9-23

Disciple Your Kids

Discuss how Jesus is more important than everything else in the universe and that we should do whatever He says.



Key Truth: Believers Keep Growing in Knowing and Living Out God's Will (Colossians 1:9-14)

- Paul prayed that the Colossians would grow in the knowledge of God's will and in spiritual wisdom and understanding. He wanted them to live in ways worthy of the Lord, producing good fruit for Christ (verses 9-10).
- The Colossians' good work was to include patience that would come through God's power. God's work in them produced joy and gratitude because God had freed them from darkness and brought them into the kingdom of light. This was done through Christ who redeemed and forgave us (verse 11-14).



Key Truth: Christ Is Preeminent Over All Creation (Colossians 1:15-20)

- Jesus was the *image*, the exact portrayal of the invisible God. He had no beginning just like God the Father. He was the *first-born* in that He has rights over all creation. He created it all and holds it all together. He rose from the dead to reign supreme over everything that had been created (verses 15-18).
- God was pleased to have His complete fullness dwell in Christ and to reconcile sinful people to Himself through Christ alone. In Christ, God came to live among us and to heal the breach our sin created (verses 19-20).



Key Truth: Christ Died to Reconcile Us to God (Colossians 1:21-23)

- The Colossians had been enemies of God in both thought and deed. However, reconciliation with God through Christ causes God to see us in a new way as holy, blemish free, and beyond accusation. In God's sight, Christ's merits have become ours. We are clothed in His righteousness. Now we must continue in faith, moment by moment (verses 21-23).

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 we mean when we say Christ is preeminent and supreme over all?
- What does it mean that we should live in ways that are worthy of Christ as Lord?
- **How can we grow in the knowledge of God's will?**
- What does it mean to be reconciled to God?
- How did Christ's death make it possible for us to be reconciled to God?
- In what area of life could you more fully submit to Christ's lordship this week?
- **How do the five truths you learned about Jesus help you trust He is above all?**
- **How can you use those five truths to praise Him?**

Everyday Extras

Ask each family member to secretly think of a person everyone in the family knows. Take turns describing that person without telling his or her name. Give one clue at a time and see how long it takes people to guess the person. Read the apostle Paul's description of Jesus in Colossians 1:15–20. Could there be any mistake about the Person he was describing? No! Jesus is the only One who measures up. Video yourselves as each member of the family takes turns reading the phrases in Colossians 1 that describe Jesus and post the video for your friends and families to see.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned about the missionaries, Paul and Barnabas. They traveled and told others about God's Word. A Roman leader wanted to know what God's Word said. When his helper tried to stop him, God blinded the helper. The Roman leader saw God's power and believed in Him. We can tell others about God's Word because **The Bible Is for Everyone.**

D6 EveryDay Parent Page

Date | **January 15, 2023** Family Theme | **Alive in Christ**
Study Text | **Colossians 2:6-23**

Objective: Family members walk closely with Christ by faith, not depending on legalistic human regulations for right standing with God.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul likely wrote his letter to the believers at Colossae around AD 61-62 while under house arrest in Rome. He continued teaching believers to obey all of Christ's teachings.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer this week with family members. **What is regeneration?** **Answer:** Regeneration is the act of God by which He gives spiritual life to those who repent of sin and believe in Christ (Ephesians 2:1-5; Titus 3:5).

Read the Word: Colossians 2:6-23

Disciple Your Kids

Discuss with your family members how we are to obey the clear “do’s” and “don’ts” of Scripture while avoiding getting caught up in man-made regulations.



Key Truth: Believers Keep Growing in Faith, Trusting in Christ Alone and Rejecting False Teaching (Colossians 2:6-8)

- Believers are to keep trusting and submitting to Christ in order to be established in their faith. Our thinking is not to be caught up in and dominated by the world's philosophies, but rather by Christ and the truth of His Word (verses 6-8).



Key Truth: God Gives Forgiveness and Spiritual Life Through Faith in Christ Alone (Colossians 2:9-15)

- The false teachers combined Christian teaching about Christ with Jewish rituals and rules, as well as pagan, spirit-focused devotion. Paul insisted that believers needed no fuller, more complete experience than the fullness of life that Christ gives. Believers put off the old nature and are raised with Christ to new life (verses 9-12).
- Without Christ, people are spiritually dead in sin. But in union with Christ, God has canceled the record of our sin debt, setting it aside, *nailing it to the cross*. God demonstrated His sovereign power over all other powers, human or spiritual, through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (verses 13-15).



Key Truth: Believers Hold Fast to Christ and Reject Man-made Philosophies and Regulations (Colossians 2:16-23)

- Paul told the believers not to be pressured into participating in Jewish rituals or to feel inferior to those insisting on strange spiritual experiences rather than devotion to Christ, the Head of the body (verses 16-19).
- Believers do not need lists of human prohibitions (*Don't handle, don't taste, don't touch!*). Those are worldly principles, not godly ones. As with all human rules, they fall short of spiritual change. We are to obey the clear “do’s” and “don’ts” of Scripture while avoiding man-made regulations (verses 20-23).

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 grow more and more established in our faith?
- **What does it mean that those who don't know Christ are dead in sin?**
- **Why does spiritual life come only through faith in Christ and not by doing good works?**
- What are some human philosophies and traditions that some people claim we must hold to in order to be right with God?
- Why do these things fail to make us right with God?
- **What will you do this week to help you keep growing in your faith?**

Everyday Extras

Play dead. Set the stopwatch and see how long each member of the family can keep from moving even one muscle. You could make the challenge harder for older kids by asking them not to breathe or blink! We were all dead — dead in our sins — until Jesus made a way for us to be alive in Him (Colossians 2:13). When you are dead, you cannot enjoy good things or make decisions. You cannot participate with the living. Talk together about the interesting paradox that Jesus died to make a way for us to be truly alive. This is a great opportunity to also discuss the symbolism of baptism with your children.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Paul and Barnabas shared God's Word in the synagogue, the Jewish place of worship. Many of the people listened to Paul and Barnabas as they shared God's Word and some believed what they heard. Others were not happy with their message and tried to stop them. But Paul and Barnabas continued because they knew **The Bible Is for Everyone.**

Objective: Family members focus on the things of God, putting off sinful attitudes and actions and putting on godly ones.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul likely wrote his letter to the believers at Colossae around AD 61-62 while under house arrest in Rome.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer this week with family members. **Where is Jesus now? Answer:** Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into Heaven (Acts 1:1-3) where He now lives, seated at the right hand of the Father (Colossians 3:1).

Read the Word: Colossians 3:1-17

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that we are to focus on what is good and right instead of what is bad. We are to take off sinful attitudes and behavior and put on good ones.



Key Truth: Believers Focus on God and His Ways Rather Than on the World and Its Ways (Colossians 3:1-4)

- Our spiritual union with Christ means that we have been raised with Him just as we were crucified and buried with Him. We are to set our minds and hearts on things above, beyond this world, where Christ is at the right hand of God. Even while living on earth, we make the everlasting things of God our primary focus rather than sinful earthly things (verses 1-2).
- Our spiritual reality is that we are now secure and safe with Christ. He is now our reason for living and we will appear with Him when He returns in glory (verses 3-4).



Key Truth: Believers Set Aside Old, Sinful Ways and Put on New, Godly Ways (Colossians 3:5-17)

- Because of our new life in Christ, believers are to put to death sinful appetites such as sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desires, and covetousness. Sins like these are the reason God's wrath is coming. Before Christ we lived according to these passions, but now we are ashamed of them (verses 5-7).
- Like changing clothes, believers are to put off sins like anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene language, and lying. We do so because we have put off the old, sinful self and have put on the new self that is being made more like Christ. This blessing is available to all people through Christ regardless of our differences (verses 8-11).
- We are to put on traits of Jesus such as compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Christ calls us to bear with one another, forgive one another, and above all, to love one another. We should model peace and thanksgiving (verses 12-15).
- Believers make God's Word part of their very nature. We teach it to one another. We refer to it to admonish or encourage one another. It flows out of our hearts in song and thanksgiving. Everything we say and do is to be done in Jesus' name and for His glory (verses 16-17).

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 do people become new when they trust Christ as Savior?**
- What does it mean to set our minds on things above? What do we begin to focus on?
- What are some things we are to cast aside once we trust Christ as Savior and Lord?
- **What are some godly attitudes and actions we should take on as followers of Christ?**
- **What sinful attitude or action could you more fully put off this week?**
- **What godly attitude or action could you more fully put on this week?**

Everyday Extras

Recycle a milk jug to make a bird feeder, a garden tool, a school supply organizer, or a home decoration. To make a great scoop for dog kibble or cat litter, cut off the bottom of a clean half-gallon milk jug. Then cut away the plastic below the jug's handle. Round the sides next to the cut-away sections. (You can find instructions here: howtomakes.org/diy-recycled-milk-jug-crafts-for-kids.) You've made something new out of trash! That's what God did for us. We are recycled too! He made us new people, so we think and act a new way. We quit doing the things we did before He made us new. We do everything we do to please Him.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned the Devil tried to tempt Jesus, which means he tried to get Jesus to sin (go against God's way). Jesus was tired and hungry in the desert. The Devil tried to trick Jesus into turning some rocks into bread. Jesus used God's Word to keep Him from sinning. We can do the same. **The Bible Is for Everyone** and it will help us say no to the Devil.

D6 EveryDay Parent Page

Date | **January 29, 2023** Family Theme | **Pure Living**
Study Text | **1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Colossians 3:5-6**

Objective: Family members submit to God's will for sexuality and develop strategies to live a life of purity.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul's teaching on how we should use God's gift of sexuality complements such teaching all through the Scriptures.

Bible Basics: Memorize Psalm 51:10 this week and work with family members to do so.

Read the Word: 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Colossians 3:5-6

Disciple Your Kids

At your discretion and at your children's level, talk with them about God's design and desire for pure living and the boundaries He has given us to follow.



Key Truth: Do Not Be Deceived by the World's Views of Sexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9-20)

- Many sexual sins have become acceptable in our culture despite the consequences of those sins. God, however, has given us boundaries for our own good. Those who make an ongoing practice of these and other sins will not inherit the kingdom of God. God, however, is able to cleanse and change believers when they repent and trust Christ (verses 9-11).
- The Corinthian culture seemed to believe it is all right to give our bodies whatever they crave, including sex. Paul, however, taught that we should not be enslaved by our urges. Our bodies belong to the Lord, not to sexual immorality. Let us allow God's power to help us remain pure (verses 12-14)
- When we belong to Christ and have the Holy Spirit, we take Him and involve Him in everything we do. Therefore, when we commit sexual sin we have involved Christ in it. With this in mind, we must flee sexual sin and be reminded that our bodies belong to and were bought by Christ (verses 18-20).



Key Truth: God's Will for Sexual Activity Is Best for Us (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)

- It is God's will that we abstain from sexual sin. To do so we must learn how to control our bodies in purity and honor, refusing to be carried away by the lust that dominates this world. When we engage in sexual sin we harm others. We are called to a lifestyle of holiness (verse 3-8).
- God will judge sexual sin. However, sex within marriage is pleasurable, fulfilling, and God's design. It is not just right; it is also best. The biblical answer to our world's approach to sex is marriage and the sexual union it provides (Hebrews 13:4).



Key Truth: Sexual Immorality Must Be Put to Death (Colossians 3:5-6)

- Because sexual sin is so damaging and God's way is best, we must put to death sexual sin. This means we will need to take whatever steps necessary to avoid or disentangle from these kinds of sins. This may mean changing our reading and viewing habits, and our Internet browsing patterns. We need God's power to enable us to be pure (verses 5-6).

Parent Note:

The elementary lesson focused more on the general need to resist temptations and to seek God's help for purity in their thoughts, words, and actions. Please provide more specific teaching depending on the maturity and readiness of your children. It is important to provide biblical training to counter the teaching that culture introduces even at young ages.

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 God's design for sex? When is it a good thing and when is it sinful?
- How are the world's views and practices regarding sex different from God's design for sex?
- Why is God's design for sexuality best for us?
- What are some problems that come with sex outside of marriage between one man and one woman?
- The Bible tells us to put sin to death. What does that mean? How can we put sexual sin to death?
- What can we do that will help us remain sexually pure?
- **Why is it important to guard what we see, hear, and think?**
- **How can giving in to temptation damage your relationship with God?**
- **As believers, who helps us make choices that please God? What should we do when we choose sin over God's way?**

Everyday Extras

Find two glasses in your cabinet — one from your prettiest and finest crystal, and one that is common and ordinary. Secretly smear some dirt in the beautiful glass. Then offer your children a taste of cool, refreshing water. Describe the exterior of the two glasses and explain how expensive and special the beautiful one is. Then pour the water and ask your children to choose which glass they would like to drink from. Obviously, no one will want to choose the beautiful glass, no matter how lovely or expensive it seems to be on the outside. Together, wash the beautiful glass and refill it with water again. When our choices are not pure, God cannot use us. We want to keep our minds and our actions clean so that God is pleased with us.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned the Devil tried to get Jesus to sin two more times by telling Him a lie and daring Him to do something dangerous. Jesus knew what God's Word said and He used verses from the Bible to fight against the Devil. **The Bible Is for Everyone** and it can help us when the Devil tempts us to sin. God's Word is powerful!

Objective: Family members live, speak, and work (chores, school work, jobs) in ways that honor Christ and point unbelievers to Him.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul likely wrote his letter to the believers at Colossae around AD 61-62 while under house arrest in Rome.

Bible Basics: Review the names and order of books 1 through 31 of the Old Testament (Genesis — Obadiah) and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Colossians 3:22 – 4:6

Disciple Your Kids

Discuss with family members what it is like to live, speak, and work in ways that point unbelievers to Christ and honor Him.



Key Truth: A Believer's Workplace Conduct Should Bring Honor to Christ (Colossians 3:22 – 4:1)

- Although Paul was writing to slaves and their masters in the culture of that day, the same principles apply to today's workplaces.
- Workers are to give sincere obedience, not mere compliance only when the boss is around. Whatever work they are assigned, they do it in a way that would please God. They work this way out of reverence for God, not men (verses 22-23).
- Since believers are actually serving Christ as they work, God will reward those who work hard and pay back those who do wrong on the job (verses 24-25).
- God will also judge employers. They are to treat their employees fairly, remembering they are accountable to their Master in Heaven (4:1).
- Christian employers and employees should live and work as Jesus would, reflecting integrity, honesty, dependability, and mutual respect in the workplace. This gives a marvelous witness to those who do not know Christ.



Key Truth: Prayer and Wise Living Help Us Influence Unbelievers (Colossians 4:2-6)

- Believers are to be devoted to prayer. They should take it seriously and keep on praying with thankful hearts (verse 2).
- Christians pray that God will open doors for us to clearly share the good news of Christ (verses 3-4).
- Believers should be wise in how they act and speak among unbelievers, always ready to represent Christ and speak for Him. They are to be gracious in their communication with everyone, especially unbelievers, and be ready to sensibly defend and explain their beliefs (verses 5-6).

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 does it look like for a believer to do his or her work** (chores, school work, jobs) **in a way that honors Christ?**
- How should those in charge treat those under them?
- What does it mean to be devoted to prayer?
- How does a Christian's wise and godly conduct help reach unbelievers with the gospel?
- How can we build people up instead of tearing them down with our speech and social media posts?
- In what way can I more fully do the work assigned to me in a way that brings glory to Christ?
- **Why is it important to do our jobs** (school, jobs, extracurricular activities, etc.) **with the right attitude?**
- **How does prayer and thankfulness affect our attitude?**
- **How does your attitude influence your behavior?**

Everyday Extras

Play "Worst Case Scenario" with your children. Propose a situation where they have a choice to obey or disobey. They can then take turns building a story about what happens if they do not make a good choice. For instance, if your children did not stay with you in the grocery store, as you asked them to, Child 1 starts by imagining that they would get lost in the store. Child 2 makes the scene worse by suggesting a stranger would stuff them in a shopping cart and head out of the store. Child 3 then makes the story worse by saying they would be dumped in the dumpster with stinky food and trash. (And yes, it could get even worse!) Our choices always have consequences. God wants what is best for everyone, so He shares His plan with us in the Bible. He wants children to obey their parents to help keep them safe.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Jesus used God's Word to help Him say no to sin. The Bible helps us make right choices and follow God's way. Knowing what God's Word says helps us when the Devil tries to tempt us into making wrong choices. **The Bible Is for Everyone** and we can share what God's Word says to help others say no to the Devil and sin.

Objective: Family members find ways to serve Christ and seek to pass the faith along to others.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul's second letter to encourage the young pastor Timothy was likely written around AD 64-65 during Paul's second Roman imprisonment.

Bible Basics: Review Isaiah 9:6 this week with family members.

Read the Word: 2 Timothy 2:1-26

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about doing our best to please the Lord and to pass the faith along to others.



Key Truth: Believers Serve Like Good Soldiers (2 Timothy 2:1-13)

- After encouraging Timothy to follow and guard the gospel message he had been taught (1:13-14), Paul instructed Timothy to pass the gospel truth on to others with the help of God's grace. God's plan is for the gospel truth to be passed from person to person and generation to generation (verses 1-2).
- Like good soldiers, Christians are to bear up under the hardship that comes with following Christ. They do not let the affairs of daily life distract them from following and serving Christ. Their desire is to please Him. Like an athlete, they discipline themselves and live according to God's Word. Like a farmer, they are diligent in their efforts to do what Christ calls them to do. They do this with their risen Savior in mind (verses 3-8).
- Paul was modeling what he was teaching Timothy. He endured hardship and brought the message of salvation to those who needed to hear. If we die to sin and keep following Christ, we will reign with Him forever. God, however, denies those who deny Him and is always faithful to who He is (verses 9-13).



Key Truth: Believers Serve to Please the Savior (2 Timothy 2:14-26)

- Believers are not to get caught up in meaningless arguments about things that don't really matter. Instead, we are to make every effort to be worthy of God's approval, including working hard to accurately understand, apply, and explain God's Word (verses 14-15).
- We are to shun false teachers and reject erroneous doctrines. False teaching spreads rapidly and damages people's faith. God knows who is His and who is not because He knows the heart. True believers avoid evil by diligent obedience to God's Word and careful separation from false teachers (verses 16-19).
- Believers can be compared to the utensils used in a home. Some are for special purposes and others are for menial tasks. Believers can be used for special purposes by separating themselves from sin and living to serve God. We are to constantly flee from sinful things and pursue what is good and right with the help of other sincere believers (verses 20-22).
- Believers should seek to display the character of Christ in their dealings with others, especially those who are off track or don't know Christ. People will be more likely to listen and turn to the Lord as we display kindness, patience, and gentleness while sharing the truth of the gospel with them (verses 23-26).

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 serve God like a good soldier serves his or her commander?**
- **How can we stay focused on serving God and not be distracted by the daily routines of life?**
- How can we pass the faith along to others?
- What kinds of things make believers worthy of God's approval?
- What does it mean to handle God's Word correctly?
- How do we flee from sinful desires and pursue what is good and right?
- **What are some ways you can keep fighting the good fight of faith?**

Everyday Extras

Examine the different occupations Paul uses as word pictures (or metaphors) in 2 Timothy 2. Can you find teachers, soldiers, athletes, farmers, workmen, and servants in the chapter? Have each child secretly choose one of those jobs and act it out for the others to guess. Or allow them to draw them from a hat and carry on the conversation at dinner as if that were their occupation. At the end of dinner, everyone must guess which job was whose. Talk together about the lessons believers can learn from those occupations. Which one is easiest for your child? Which is more challenging? Remind your children that God will help them to do what His Word instructs them to do.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned **God's Word Is True**. The Bible is the only book given to us from God. It is His letter to us and is very special. God chose certain men to write the things He wanted us to know. God gave us the stories in the Old Testament and New Testament to help us learn from them and know the right way to live.

Objective: Family members be constantly growing in their understanding and practice of God's Word.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul's second letter to encourage the young pastor Timothy was likely written around AD 64-65 during Paul's second Roman imprisonment.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer this week. **What are the Scriptures? Answer:** The Scriptures are God's inspired and inerrant message to mankind (2 Timothy 3:16). Whatever the Bible says is true is true. Whatever it says is false is false (John 17:17). There are 66 different books of Scripture, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

Read the Word: 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we value and put into practice the Bible because it is God's Word to us.



Key Truth: The Days Leading Up to Christ's Return Will Be Difficult Because of People's Sin (2 Timothy 3:1-9)

- Paul warned that the *last days* would be times of great difficulty because of people's sins. Many scholars believe the *last days* began with the events of the first century and will continue until Christ's return. In verses 2-5, Paul described what people would be like because of their sinfulness. Timothy was to avoid being influenced by those who lived such lifestyles (verses 1-5).
- False teachers manipulate and convince those who are not strong in their faith. These people's immaturity and worldliness make them especially vulnerable to the false teachers. Since false doctrine never leads to truth, the deceived are always learning but never understanding the truth (verses 6-7).
- False teachers actually oppose truth. They have *corrupt minds* and are no longer capable of recognizing truth. God, however, has limited what they can do. Their folly will be exposed to all (verses 8-9).



Key Truth: Believers Live by God's Inspired Word and Follow Godly Examples (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

- In contrast to the false teachers, Timothy followed the faithful example and teaching of Paul, including how Paul endured against opposition. All who are serious about following Jesus should expect such opposition because there will always be evil people (verses 10-13).
- Paul instructed Timothy to continue in the gospel truths he had learned and believed from the Scriptures. Those Scriptures were *inspired* or *breathed out* by God, coming into existence by His very breath or Spirit. By the Holy Spirit, God supernaturally inspired the writers so that what they wrote is without error. They are beneficial for teaching God's truth, confronting people's sin, correcting people's errors, and showing people how to live righteously. They make people mature and complete, fully equipped to meet the demands of every situation in life (verses 14-17).

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.

- According to 2 Timothy 3:1-9, what can we expect as we get closer and closer to Christ's return?
- Why are times difficult and perilous when sin runs rampant?
- Who do you know who sets a good example of following Christ? In what way could you follow that person's example this week?
- Why should Christians who live according to God's Word expect some opposition from the unsaved world?
- **What does it mean that the Scriptures were inspired by God?**
- **How does learning the Scriptures equip us to follow and serve God?**
- **Are Paul's warnings to Timothy still applicable in today's world?**
- **How does God's Word help us stand firm in our faith, keep our trust in Him, and continue to serve Him?**

Everyday Extras

Did you know the Bible tells us to stay away from some people? Yes, we are supposed to be kind and polite and love one another, but the passage in 2 Timothy 3:2-5 lists some people to turn away or avoid. These are people who have soaked up the culture of the last days before Jesus comes. They reflect choices that do not honor God, so we are better off to stay away from them. Play a game of Freeze Tag with your children. Remind them that avoiding "It" will allow them to have a lot more fun instead of being frozen in place. Maybe your kids can teach you what to avoid in a video game. Watch out for banana peels and oil puddles!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Paul wrote letters to people when he couldn't be with them. People would gather to read what Paul had to say and then talk about his letters. God told Paul to tell Timothy that all Scripture (the words in the Bible) is given to us from God. We know **God's Word Is True** and we can talk about it with our family and friends.

D6 EveryDay Parent Page

Date | **February 26, 2023** Family Theme | **God's Word Stands**
Study Text | **1 Peter 1:22-25; Matthew 5:18; Luke 3:1-2**

Objective: Family members live out God's Word with complete confidence and be ready to defend its truth.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson applies to all of Scripture, affirming that the Old Testament and New Testament were given to us and preserved by God. We can be confident that the Bible we read is the inspired Word of God.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer this week with family members. **Who wrote the Bible? Answer:** Holy men of God wrote the Bible, being guided in their writing by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).

Read the Word: 1 Peter 1:22-25; Matthew 5:18; Luke 3:1-2

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we can be confident that our Bibles are God's Word to us.



Key Truth: God Has Preserved the Accuracy of His Word (1 Peter 1:22-25; Matthew 5:18)

- Peter called the Scriptures the living and enduring Word of God. He said that all people are like the grass and flowers of a field, meaning their glory or beauty will wither away. The word of the Lord, however, will *endure forever* and offers eternal life (1 Peter 1:22-25).
- Jesus affirmed that nothing would pass from the Scriptures. They would serve their purpose (Matthew 5:18).
- The Old Testament books were carefully copied by Jewish scribes, who followed meticulous practices and routines. The Old Testament is often quoted by Jesus and the apostles. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls verified that the Old Testament we have today is the same Scripture used and recognized by Jesus in the first century.
- The books of the New Testament were eyewitness, historical accounts of the events related to the life, death, and resurrection of Christ and the establishment of His Church. Each book has some form of apostolic authority supporting it, either in authorship or content. The large number of copies allow us to reconstruct the original and know they are accurate.



Key Truth: There Are Reliable Evidences for the Truth of God's Word (Luke 3:1-2)

- Since the Christian faith is based on historical people and events, it is the most verifiable and testable faith. As we see in Luke 3:1-2, the Bible is full of historical details, making the biblical accounts historically verifiable. There are many external sources (non-biblical) that support the biblical account. Some sources are from non-Christians like the Roman historian, Tacitus, or the devoted Jewish historian, Josephus, who refer directly to Christ or His followers.
- Archaeological discoveries also support what is found in the Bible. Skeptics considered the Hittites to be biblical legend until major discoveries in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries affirmed their existence. In 2004, archaeologists unearthed a pool, believed to be called the Siloam Pool. This confirmed the biblical account of Jesus healing a blind man at a pool called Siloam in John 9. These are only two examples of many discoveries supporting biblical accounts and records.

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 that God has preserved His Word for us?
- **Why is it important that God has preserved His Word down through history?**
- How would you answer someone who asked how we can be sure the Bible we have today is what God and the original writers intended?
- **Why can we trust the Bible's reliability?**
- What kinds of external evidence affirm the accuracy of the Bible?
- **How does knowing God's Word doesn't change help you trust it more?**

Everyday Extras

Ask your children to copy a passage of Scripture in their best handwriting using an ink pen. Emphasize that they should have no errors. When they have finished, ask them to count the letters in their copy to be sure it matches the number of letters in the original. That's what the early scribes did! God's Word was carefully preserved by those who loved it, but also by God Himself. He wanted us to confidently know His instructions to us. Your older children will benefit from watching Dr. Daniel B. Wallace discuss "How Many Bible Manuscripts?" (Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts, 2011) as he defends the reliability of Scripture. He compares early copies of other ancient Greco-Roman literature to manuscripts of the Scripture. You can find it on YouTube.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Paul encouraged Timothy to share God's truths with others, make good choices, and love God with all his heart. We can tell others the truth of what God's Word says. We can learn how to make right choices and ask God to forgive us when we make wrong ones. We can love God with all our hearts. We can know **God's Word Is True.**