

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **December 6, 2020** Family Theme | **God Revealed Truth**
Study Text | **Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12**

Objective: Help your children understand that God revealed truth in His inspired Word. We can base our lives on the Bible, knowing that everything it asserts as truth is true.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: These books were written during the waning years of several apostles as persecution by the Jewish leaders was giving way to the more persistent persecution by the Roman government. Having firm confidence in the truth and reliability of one's beliefs is essential when it is a matter of life or death. This lesson fits with the whole of Scripture because it demonstrates how the God of all truth revealed His truth to us in the Bible.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer each day this week with family members. **How do we know about God? Answer:** We know God through the wonders of creation (Psalm 19:1-4), through His image in which we are made (Genesis 1:27), and especially through His Son, Jesus (John 1:18). We know about God from the Scriptures, the Bible.

Read the Word: Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children or grandchildren about the fact that many in our culture question the truthfulness of the Bible. Assure them we can trust the truthfulness of the Bible because it was given to us by God.



Key Truth: The Bible Reveals Truth About God (Hebrews 1:1-2)

When we observe creation, we discover overwhelming evidence that an intelligent Designer has intricately designed everything. This is known as general revelation. God chose to reveal Himself further through giving the Scriptures and sending His Son. This is known as special revelation. We can know God on a personal, intimate level by understanding who He has revealed Himself to be in His Word.



Key Truth: The Bible Is Inspired by God (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16a)

Peter tells us in 2 Peter 1:21 the Scriptures were given by servants who were guided by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we do not trust in God's Word because important individuals wrote it; rather, we trust in God's Word because it was given to us by God. Second Timothy 3:16 describes the Scriptures as being inspired or breathed out by God. It is God's divine truth. We can confidently learn and live out the truths of the Bible, knowing it was inspired by God.



Key Truth: The Bible Gives Truth for Everyday Life (2 Timothy 3:16b-17; Hebrews 4:12)

The Bible is all we need in order to know God, to live for His kingdom, and to be equipped for the work He wants to accomplish. All Scripture is from God and is useful for every part of life. There is nothing we can possibly go through to which Scripture cannot speak. We can go to God's Word for guidance in every situation.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- How has God revealed His truth to humanity?
- What does it mean that God's Word should be the final authority in our lives?
- In what way do you need to apply God's Word to your life this week?
- **For Elementary:** What do we mean when we say the Bible was inspired by God?
- **For Elementary:** Why is it so important that we apply God's Word to our lives?

Everyday Extras

Use this activity to teach your children or grandchildren that the Bible originated with God, not men. That is the only way 40-plus human authors, over a 1500-year period, in three languages could write something that all fits together without contradicting itself. The accuracy of the hundreds of prophecies, some given centuries in advance, could only have been accomplished by God inspiring His prophets. The Bible, as God's Word, is our final authority for what we believe and practice.

Gather this list of items, then write the list of Bible references and books on index cards. Have your children match the description with the item that is a metaphor or simile for the Bible.

Bread	Matthew 4:4
Flashlight	Psalms 119:105
Hammer	Jeremiah 23:29
History book	Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
Honey	Psalms 119:103
Map or guide book	Psalms 73:24; Proverbs 6:22
Matches (fire)	Jeremiah 23:29
Medicine	Psalms 107:20; Proverbs 4:20-22
Milk	1 Peter 2:2
Mirror	James 1:23-24
Poetry book	Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations
Rock	Matthew 7:24-25
Seed	1 Peter 1:23, Luke 8:15
Silver or gold (money)	Psalms 12:6
Sword (or knife)	Hebrews 4:12

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned how an angel visited both Mary and Joseph to tell them about the very special baby that Mary would give birth to. He was to be named Jesus and He is a special gift. **Jesus Is God's Son.**

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **December 13, 2020** Family Theme | **God's Word Is Absolute Truth**
Study Text | **Psalm 119:89, 142, 160; John 17:17; Deuteronomy 30:19-20; John 8:31-32**

Objective: Help your children understand that God's Word is absolute truth and they can base their lives on it.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson fits with all of Scripture because it affirms that all of God's Word is absolutely true.

Bible Basics: Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Psalm 119:89, 142, 160; John 17:17; Deuteronomy 30:19-20; John 8:31-32

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that, unlike all earthly sources of information, God's Word is always true and accurate. They can base their lives on the truth of the Bible.



Key Truth: God's Word Is Always True (Psalm 119:89; 142; 160; John 17:17)

God has given us absolute truth in His Word. The psalmist proclaimed God's laws are eternal; they will endure forever (Psalm 119:89, 160). Psalm 119:142 tells us God's righteous laws are true and everlasting. Another reason for us to have confidence in the truth of God's Word comes from the words of Jesus. When Jesus prayed in the Garden before His arrest, He affirmed God's Word is true (John 17:17). We can have confidence the Bible is absolutely true and reliable.



Key Truth: Life and Freedom Are Found in God's Word (Deuteronomy 30:19-20; John 8:31-32)

Life simply works better if lived according to God's ways. Although every person needs to be forgiven and redeemed through turning from sin to trust in Christ alone, simply applying God's moral principles from the Scriptures is generally beneficial to anyone. Life is found in knowing Christ and living out God's truth. Jesus said knowing God's truth would set us free. Two thousand years later, the freedom found in the truthfulness of the words of Christ continues. Following God's truth gives us abundant life and freedom from the bondage of sin.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- What is meant by the term *absolute truth*?
- Why do moral standards need to be based on absolute truth?
- How does the existence of God point to the existence of absolute truth?
- What are some benefits of the fact that God's truth is absolute and unchanging?
- Why is living by God's unchanging truth the best way to live?
- What unchanging truth from God's Word do you need to live by this week?

- **For Elementary:** Why is it important to know the truth found in God's Word?
- **For Elementary:** How can studying God's Word help you grow in Christ?

Everyday Extras

Have you seen the pre-lit Christmas trees with color-changing lights? Decades ago, we used a color wheel that turned slowly to reflect various colors on our aluminum trees. Now fiber-optic light panels have a much more sophisticated sequence of changes. Or maybe you can find an outdoor light projector in your neighborhood that casts ever-changing images of snowflakes or sparkles or pictures.

Those lights change constantly. But God's Word never changes. It is settled in Heaven (Psalm 119:89). We know it is true and completely trustworthy. Even when many other things change around it, we are secure in knowing God's Word can always be trusted.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted by the government. God provided a safe place for Mary and Joseph to stay and for Mary to give birth to Jesus. Mary wrapped her baby in cloths and placed Him in a manger, a long box for animals to eat from. **Jesus Is God's Son.**

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **December 20, 2020** Family Theme | **The Promised Messiah Is Born**
Study Text | **Matthew 1:18 – 2:12**

Objective: Help children understand that Jesus, the long awaited Messiah and King, was born to a virgin as promised. We acknowledge and obey Christ as King of our lives.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson tells about the birth of Jesus, God's Son. He was the Messiah whom God had promised long before in the Old Testament, the One who would save us from our sins. The Old Testament pointed to Him. The genealogical record of Matthew demonstrates Jesus met the requirements of being of the royal line of the descendants of David, as well as a son of Abraham.

Bible Basics: Review the names and order of the first five books of the Old Testament and the first four books of the New Testament from last quarter's Bible Basics.

Read the Word: Matthew 1:18 – 2:12

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that for believers, Christmas is about the birth of Jesus. Jesus' miraculous birth happened just as God said it would in the Old Testament. We worship Jesus for coming to save us.



Key Truth: Jesus' Birth Was Miraculous (Matthew 1:18-21)

Jesus' conception was not the result of normal relations between a man and a woman, but rather He was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph and Mary had not come together sexually, and Mary was a virgin. Jesus was born of an earthly mother without the need of an earthly father. This is the doctrine of the Virgin Birth. We can trust God to do whatever is necessary to accomplish His plan.



Key Truth: Jesus' Birth Was Promised in the Old Testament (Matthew 1:22-25)

After recording the miraculous events that surrounded Christ's birth, Matthew gave more evidence that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah, taking his audience back almost 700 years to when the Prophet Isaiah had declared that God would provide a "sign" concerning the Messiah (Isaiah 7:14). A virgin would conceive and give birth to a son. Jesus was the ultimate fulfillment of that prophecy. We can rely on everything God says in His Word.



Key Truth: Wise Men Worshiped the Promised Savior (Matthew 2:1-12)

Meanwhile, in the East, magi had seen what they understood to be a star announcing the birth of the king of the Jews. Magi carefully observed the stars, always alert to special signs or heavenly messages in them. The journey began with being open to God's leading back in their homeland comparing their celestial observations. Then they followed God's leading until they found what God wanted them to find. Finding the child led to worshipping the child. Draw close to Christ and worship Him as your Savior.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- How was Jesus' birth different from all others?
- By what means did Mary become pregnant?
- How did Joseph display an openness to follow God's leading?
- Why would it have been difficult for Joseph to take Mary as his wife after finding out she was pregnant?
- How do the details of Christ's birth give us confidence we can trust God's Word?
- How will you worship the Savior who came to save you from your sins?
- **For Elementary:** What do you learn about trusting God from Mary and Joseph?
- **For Elementary:** What did the shepherds do after seeing the promised Messiah?
- **For Elementary:** How did the wise men respond when they found Jesus?

Everyday Extras

Make a game of searching for baby Jesus from your nativity set (preferably an unbreakable one). One family member hides the small figurine, then the others must search for it. You can add a flashlight "star" to help them if you want to. Talk together about the wise men who traveled so far to find the promised King. Jesus wants everyone to find Him!

Make a batch of Forgotten Cookies together with the simple recipe below. Talk about having to wait so long for the cookies, but how wonderful they will be when you eat them. Remind your family that many years passed between the time God promised a Messiah and the time He came. He was a wonderful gift!

Forgotten Cookies

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Beat 2 egg whites until thick and creamy (nearly stiff peaks) with an electric mixer. Add 2/3 cup sugar and beat until stiff. Gently fold in 1 cup of mini chocolate chips and 1 teaspoon of vanilla. Add 1/2 cup finely chopped nuts or a little food coloring if you want. With a teaspoon or small melon scoop, drop the cookie "dough" onto a foil-lined cookie sheet. You can put the cookies close together, but not touching. Put them in the oven and immediately turn the oven off. Do not open the door until morning! Forget about them!

When you get up the next day, remove the cookies from the oven and store them in an airtight container.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned about two groups of people who came to see the Son of God. An angel appeared to shepherds in a field and told them about the birth of Jesus. They quickly went to see the newborn baby. The wise men saw a new star in the sky and knew it was a message that Jesus had been born. The wise men followed the star and brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **Jesus Is God's Son** and He is special.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **December 27, 2020** Family Theme | **Jesus Is Our Example** Study Text | **Matthew 3:13 – 4:11**

Objective: Talk with your children about declaring their allegiance to Christ through baptism and following Jesus' example in overcoming temptation.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry when He set the example for us in being baptized and in overcoming temptation.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer each day this week and work with family members to do so as well. **What is the relationship among the three persons of the Trinity? Answer:** They love one another (John 14:31; 17:26; Galatians 5:22). They are equal, though they have different roles (Matthew 28:18-20).

Read the Word: Matthew 3:13 – 4:11

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children about the meaning of baptism and why it is important for all believers, and help them learn how to overcome temptation.



Key Truth: Jesus Set the Example in Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)

After years with no record of Jesus' activity since He was twelve years old (Luke 2:41-50), He appeared and presented Himself to be baptized by John the Baptist. Although Jesus had never sinned and had no need to be baptized in the sense of having repented, His baptism was necessary for several reasons. Many scholars believe that the idea of fulfilling all righteousness means to complete everything included in a relationship of obedience to God. Second, baptism gave approval to the work, ministry, and message of John. Third, baptism would be a new ordinance of the soon-coming church. Fourth, through baptism, Jesus identified Himself with those He came to save. Although Christ was the head of the church, His baptism connected Him to the process that all believers should follow. Every believer should be baptized and live and speak in ways that identify him or her as a follower of Christ.

In Romans 6:3-4, the apostle Paul used baptism as an illustration of the believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The beauty of baptism is in the image it portrays. It symbolizes Christ who was dead, buried, and raised to new life. Our baptism symbolizes our death to sin, being buried to that way of life, and being raised to live a new life in Christ.



Key Truth: Jesus Set the Example in Overcoming Temptation (Matthew 4:1-11)

Just as Jesus had set the example of baptism, He also revealed the truth that our enemy will tempt us. If Jesus, the Son of God, was not exempt from temptation, neither will anyone else be. This event in the life of Jesus provides insight as to how the enemy will tempt us. The first temptation was to try to get Jesus to satisfy a legitimate need in an illegitimate way. The second temptation was more subtle and involved misapplying Scripture in an effort to get Jesus to seek glory for Himself apart from God's will and timing. The last temptation was simply to take a shortcut in God's plan, setting up His earthly kingdom without going to the cross. Jesus' primary defense was the Scriptures. Jesus knew God's Word, and undoubtedly dwelled on it and applied it in every situation, including temptation. God's Word is our defense in times of temptation.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Why was it necessary for Jesus to be baptized?
- What is the meaning of baptism today? What does it symbolize?
- How did God confirm at Jesus' baptism that Jesus is His Son?
- How would you define the word *temptation*?
- How can we prepare ourselves to face temptation, and what can we do when tempted to help us overcome the temptation?
- **For Elementary:** Is temptation sin?
- **For Elementary:** How did Jesus resist temptations presented to Him by Satan?

Everyday Extras

Talk with your family today about resisting temptation. Try this experiment. Leave a plate of cookies on the counter, but tell everyone not to eat the cookies. They must resist them! How do people do in avoiding the temptation? The next day, give the same instructions about not eating any cookies, but instead, put the cookies in a sealed container high in the cabinet. How does your family do about resisting temptation? Sometimes the best way to resist temptation is to stay far away from it. Jesus is our example in facing temptation with a strong defense from God's Word. Work to memorize Psalm 119:11 together to keep you from sin. As a family, in this new year, agree to avoid temptation when you can and fight it with God's Word when you cannot avoid it.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Jesus taught the people He would comfort them when they are sad. He also taught the people how to have the right attitude by being humble and gentle with others. Your child heard two stories to help them understand Jesus' teachings. **The Bible Teaches Me** how to have the right attitude.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **January 3, 2021** Family Theme | **Jesus Teaches a New Way of Living** Study Text | **Matthew 5:1-48**

Objective: Learners go beyond the letter of the Law and adopt godly attitudes and live out the intent of God's Law. This will lead to true happiness and well-being.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set early in the ministry of Christ when He taught a large crowd, giving clarity to the meaning of the Law that had been given to God's chosen people in the Old Testament.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer each day this week and work with family members to do so as well. **What is Hell? Answer:** Hell is a place of separation from God, where those who practice sin and reject Jesus suffer eternal and terrible punishment (Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 21:8).

Read the Word: Matthew 5:1-48

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children or grandchildren about how God wants us to have good attitudes as well as good behavior. Thinking and living God's way brings true happiness and well-being.



Key Truth: Godly Living Brings True Happiness (Matthew 5:1-16)

The Sermon on the Mount serves as a bridge from the Law to the gospel. Jesus began to teach by stating the kinds of attitudes He wants to develop in His followers. Each attitude is followed by a resulting condition that leads to genuine happiness and well-being. Jesus also warned His disciples that believers will be subjected to all kinds and degrees of opposition, attacks, and losses. However, we will experience the kingdom and the presence of God. Even in persecution, we will be blessed. Jesus summarized this introduction to His sermon with a declaration of the distinctiveness of those in the kingdom, highlighting influence and responsibility. We are to be salt and light to the world around us. We can find true happiness by adopting godly attitudes and lifestyles.



Key Truth: Godly Living Goes Beyond the Letter of the Law (Matthew 5:17-48)

As if He were reading the minds of His listeners, Jesus abruptly declared, *If you believe I am getting rid of the Law, you have misunderstood. I have come to fulfill the Law.* Were they thinking that a new way meant discarding the old? Jesus assured them that even the smallest letter and stroke of the Law would be fulfilled. He was advocating for true fulfillment of the Old Testament. Jesus declared that His Jewish listeners would have to do better than their religious leaders and teachers to be part of the kingdom of God. They needed to go beyond the letter of the Law to the heart attitudes and intent God desires. Jesus presented six case studies to make His point. God wants us to live out the intent of His commands.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- How are the values and attitudes Jesus spoke about different from those of our culture?
- What would happen if people thought and acted like Jesus taught in this Scripture?
- Which of these attitudes and actions will you put into practice this week?
- **For Elementary:** Why are our attitudes just as important as our actions in God's eyes?
- **For Elementary:** What are some examples of how we can do the right thing, but with a wrong attitude?

Everyday Extras

Have a contest to see who can say funny things without laughing. Take turns looking at another family member and finishing the statements below (or make up some of your own) without smiling. Be funny, but be kind!

- If you kissed a frog, it would probably turn into a _____.
- If you had a building named after you, it would probably be a _____.
- If there was an ice cream flavor named after you, it would be _____.
- If you starred in a movie, it would probably be about _____.
- If you were an animal, you would be a _____.
- If you turned into a pancake, I would _____.
- If you were the president, we could all _____.

Sometimes what we do on the outside and what we feel on the inside are different. Jesus taught us that what is on the inside matters most. He knows our hearts and our motives, and He is not fooled when we act one way in public and another way in private. He cares about our attitudes, not just our actions, and holds us accountable for them. The good news is He promised to give us a new heart, a clean heart, when we confess our sins!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE **1** & ROUND **2**

Today your child learned Jesus taught His disciples and other people how to live their lives in ways that make Him happy. Jesus taught the people to show mercy (when you don't get the punishment you deserve) to others and to be a peacemaker. He or she heard two stories to help apply these truths to his or her life. **The Bible Teaches Me** to live in ways that make Jesus happy.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **January 10, 2021** Family Theme | **Love Your Neighbor** Study Text | **Luke 10:25-37**

Objective: Learners choose to act in loving ways to those they come in contact with each day.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set during the ministry of Jesus, the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. It demonstrates how His teaching on loving others affirms and strengthens the teaching of the Old Testament on this subject.

Bible Basics: Review 2 Timothy 3:16 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Luke 10:25-37

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how important it is to love God and love the people around us. Our neighbor is anyone we come in contact with.



Key Truth: Our Neighbor Is Anyone We Come in Contact With (Luke 10:25-32)

In an effort to catch Jesus saying something that contradicted the Law, an expert in the Law asked what a person must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus simply asked him what the Law said. The man responded we are to love God supremely and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. The Lord, knowing the man did not truly keep these commandments, said that if he could keep them he would live. The lawyer showed his insincerity by asking the Lord whom he had to treat as a neighbor. In other words, who qualified as a neighbor and whom could he ignore? Jesus responded with a story about a man who came to be in great need. He was robbed, beaten, and left for dead on the road. He was then ignored by a priest and a Levite. As Jesus would make clear in the verses that follow, our neighbor is anyone we come in contact with. We are to treat all people as God's Word commands.



Key Truth: Genuine Love Results in Action (Luke 10:33-37)

Jesus continued His story by saying that a hated Samaritan passed by and was the only one concerned enough to stop and assist this injured traveler. The Samaritan invested his resources to treat and bind the man's wounds. He invested his money to pay the innkeeper. He put the man on his own donkey, indicating he walked the rest of the way. He invested his day and pledged to invest his future time to care for the injured Jewish man. The Samaritan valued the injured man above his own schedule and above any prejudice by acting in the injured man's best interests. Jesus asked which man proved to be a neighbor, and instructed the lawyer to go and do as the Samaritan had done. We demonstrate our love with action.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Why would Jesus' story about the Good Samaritan have been shocking to the people of that day?
- Why should loving our neighbors be a high priority for us?
- What does it look like to love our neighbors in our culture?
- **For Elementary:** Who are we to consider as our neighbors?
- **For Elementary:** To what "neighbor" could you show love this week? How will you do so?

Everyday Extras

How can you love your neighbor this week? Take your family to volunteer somewhere — a food bank, a nursing home, a homeless shelter, a tutoring center — and encourage them to care about someone who is not at all like them. They should intentionally find someone who has a different color of skin or who is a different age than they are.

Then go a step beyond, just like the Good Samaritan did. Challenge your child to do something special for that person, spending money and time to show you care. For instance, if you meet someone in a nursing home, write down his or her name, then make and send a special card next week. If you work at a food pantry, buy a special treat for someone's box. If you meet someone in a homeless shelter, give her a hat you made. (You can make five-minute fleece hats with only one seam on the sewing machine! See <https://www.one-goodthingbyjillee.com/5-minute-fleece-hats/> or other blogs.)

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned a man who was an expert in God's law asked Jesus a question. Jesus told him to love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. Then Jesus shared a parable to explain who is our neighbor. A Jewish man was traveling down a road when he was robbed. The thieves took everything the traveler had and they beat him up. They did not do what was right. Unlike the actions of the robbers, **I Can Do What Is Right in my actions.**

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **January 17, 2021** Family Theme | **Seek the Lost** Study Text | **Luke 15:1-32**

Objective: Children understand that God loves sinners and longs for them to repent and be saved. We should seek out and share the gospel with the lost.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set during the life of Christ on earth and demonstrates God's desire that all sinners turn to Him for salvation. This was why God planned before Creation to send His Son to die on the cross and prepared for it all through the Old Testament.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer each day this week and work with family members to do so as well. **What does it mean to repent? Answer:** To repent of sin is to turn away from it (Ezekiel 18:30).

Read the Word: Luke 15:1-32

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand the foundational truth that God loves all people and sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us. He longs for us to turn from sin and come to Him.



Key Truth: Even Sinners Are Priceless in God's Sight (Luke 15:1-10)

This chapter demonstrates one reason most of the Jewish religious leaders opposed Jesus. They felt it was inappropriate, and even sinful, for Jesus to have any association with those they considered sinners. Jesus responded to their charges with parables that demonstrate God's love for the lost and His desire for them to come to repentance. We should view unbelievers as God does and share His love with them.



Key Truth: Going Our Own Way Leads to Brokenness (Luke 15:11-19)

Christ told a third parable in which a youngest son shamefully asked his father for his share of the inheritance and immediately wandered far into sin. Sadly, he wasted all he had to feed his passions, his ego, and his pleasures. He quickly discovered that his pockets were not deep enough, the pleasures were temporary, and his ego could bruise. He realized he was not worthy to be his father's son but determined to return home, hoping his father would treat him like one of his servants. We can remind the lost of the emptiness of sin and the blessings of walking with God.



Key Truth: God Welcomes All Who Repent and Turn to Him (Luke 15:20-32)

While the repentant young man was still a long way off, the father saw him making his way back home. He ran to meet his son and welcomed him with open arms. He restored the son and celebrated his return. The father's reception went well beyond what the son could have hoped for. Tragically, the older brother did not share his father's sentiment. Like the Pharisees and teachers of the Law in verse 1, he was upset that this renegade brother of his was celebrated. What response could be more appropriate when a lost son that was feared dead was found to be alive? Jesus was conveying the Father's desire to love and embrace sinners who turn to Him. We thank God for welcoming us into His family and long to see others saved.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- According to the parable of the Prodigal Son, where does sin eventually lead?
- What is God's attitude toward those who are lost?
- What does God desire for people who are lost in sin?
- How did God prove that He loves those who are lost?
- What lost person could you view from God's perspective and look for opportunities to share the blessings of walking with God?
- **For Elementary:** Why did the shepherd look for the one lost sheep when he had 99 others?
- **For Elementary:** Why did the woman look for the lost coin when she had 9 others?
- **For Elementary:** What do we learn from the parables about God's concern for the lost?

Everyday Extras

Have the big clean out! Go on a search for missing things in your closet, the dresser, the laundry room, or the toy box at your house. Tell your child to look for whatever might often turn up missing at your house — coins, collar stays, socks, blocks, puzzle pieces, earrings, game tokens, Barbie clothes — whatever it is. Whenever you find one of the missing items, stop and celebrate with a piece of fruit or bite of candy, or sing a special song. At supper, you can have a special dessert to rejoice! Remember that Jesus came to find what was lost — and He celebrates when lost people come to Him!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned a priest came upon an injured traveler, but didn't stop to help him. Then a Levite walked by the hurt man. Levites are helpers to the priest. He did not stop to help either. Finally, a man from Samaria saw the hurt man. Samaritans did not like Jews so the traveler didn't think he would help, but he did! **I Can Do What Is Right** just like the Good Samaritan did.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **January 24, 2021** Family Theme | **God Promises Blessings** Study Text | **Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6**

Objective: Children understand that God promised to bless the world through Abraham and his descendant, Jesus Christ. God has blessed us so we can be a blessing to others.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set a few hundred years after the events of the Tower of Babel. It introduces Abraham, the father of the Jewish people. God called him to an unknown land and gave him covenant promises of a future nation through which God would bless all the earth.

Bible Basics: Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that Jesus fulfilled God's promise to bless all peoples from Abraham's descendants. It has always been God's plan to save us by faith.



Key Truth: God Promises Blessings to Those Who Trust and Obey Him (Genesis 12:1-9)

The Lord appeared to Abraham and commanded him to leave his country and his home and family, and go to an unknown place that the Lord would make known to him. God promised that when Abraham did so, God would bless him and make him a great man and give him many descendants, and that he in turn would be a blessing to all the people of the world. Abraham did as the Lord told him. The promise to bless all peoples of the earth was fulfilled through Jesus, Abraham's descendant. We should believe God and be willing to do whatever He asks.



Key Truth: God Reassures Those Who Trust in Him (Genesis 15:1-5)

Abraham did not understand how God would bring His plan to pass. This is understandable because he and Sarah were well beyond the age of childbearing. In his discouragement he started devising ways to work out God's plan for Him. The Lord, knowing the struggles of Abraham's heart and mind, appeared to him in a vision and told Abraham not to be afraid, and that He was Abraham's shield and great reward. God reiterated the truth He had already given that Abraham would have a son who would serve as his heir. We can trust God to keep His promises.



Key Truth: We Are Saved by Faith (Genesis 15:6)

Verse 6 simply reports that Abraham believed what God had told Him. He was sure that what God says is true and will come to pass. He was fully persuaded that God would fulfill His promise: he believed God. In response to Abraham's trust, God gave Abraham His righteousness. Righteousness portrays a state of acceptance by God and right standing with Him. This verse confirms God's plan of salvation has never changed. In fact, this statement is repeated four times in the New Testament (Romans 4:3, 22; Galatians 3:6, James 2:23) illustrating its importance. Our faith or trust in God brings us Christ's righteousness, and

this exchange of faith for righteousness is, and always has been, God's plan. We trust in Christ alone for right standing with God.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Why would it have been difficult for Abraham to do what God had asked him to do?
- In what way would Abraham be a blessing to all the people of the world?
- How did God's covenant with Abraham fit into His plan of redemption for mankind?
- How did Abraham respond, and what was the result?
- In what promise of God do you need to trust today?
- **For Elementary:** How do you think God's promises helped strengthen Abraham's faith?
- **For Elementary:** How do God's promises help strengthen your faith?

Everyday Extras

God's covenant to Abraham promised to make him a blessing to others. We are also blessed to be a blessing. God gives to us so we can also give to others. To help your children understand that truth, buy a bag of mini candy bars or fruit snacks for each child. Give them each a special blessing, reminding them of your love for them and God's blessing on your family as you give them the bag of candy. Then instruct your children to be a blessing to others — to give away their candy. They must find people in the neighborhood, at church, or at school to be the recipients. Practice saying, "I'm sharing my blessings with you!"

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned God spoke to Abraham and told him to move his family from the country of Ur to the land of Canaan. God promised to bless and protect him. Abraham was obedient and he, his wife, and their nephew left their family and friends. God appeared to Abraham again and told him Canaan would one day be his. Abraham built an altar to thank God for His promises and care. **God Keeps His Promises.**

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **January 31, 2021** Family Theme | **Faith Will Be Tested** Study Text | **Genesis 22:1-19**

Objective: Help children understand that Abraham was willing to do anything God asked him to do. God was pleased with Abraham and promised to bless him.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set after God miraculously provided the promised son to Abraham and Sarah, even though they were well beyond childbearing years. Through this son, Isaac, God would begin the process of building a great nation and blessing all people just as He promised Abraham.

Bible Basics: Memorize the names and order of books six, seven, and eight of the Old Testament (Joshua, Judges, and Ruth) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Genesis 22:1-19

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that God will sometimes give us difficult commands or allow us to go through difficult circumstances to see if we will trust and obey Him. We please God and grow stronger in faith when we obey and trust Him.



Key Truth: God Tests Our Faith (Genesis 22:1-2)

Abraham was commanded to sacrifice his only son Isaac, the son he loved so much, and from whom the great nation and blessing was to come. It is important to note from verse 1 that this was a test of Abraham's faith. God did not "tempt" Abraham in the sense of enticing him to sin. Rather, this was a God-ordained test for Abraham's benefit (not God's) to grow his faith and set an example for believers in all places and times. It no doubt also left a hefty impression on young Isaac as a graphic example of his father's unwavering faith. See difficult circumstances and commands as opportunities to please God and grow our faith.



Key Truth: Trust and Obey God, Even When It Is Difficult (Genesis 22:3-10)

There was no delay in Abraham's obedience. He set out early the next morning with his son Isaac. Imagine the struggle in Abraham's mind as he took each step of the three-day journey with his son walking beside him. Although Abraham did not yet know how the Lord would work all this out, he had enough faith to believe that God would keep His promise. God would use his son Isaac to bear a descendant who would bless the world, even if He had to raise Isaac from the dead to do so (See Hebrews 11:17-19). By verse 10, Abraham had the knife in the air, ready to thrust it into his son. Trust God and obey all of His instructions.



Key Truth: God Provides What Is Needed to Do His Will (Genesis 22:11-19)

Just as Abraham was about to slay Isaac, the Angel of the Lord called out to Abraham and kept him from doing so. Abraham had stood the test and had proven himself faithful to God. Abraham would not hold anything back from God, including his son. God provided a ram that Abraham could use as a sacrifice instead. This pictured what would one day be seen on these same mountains — the only Son of God would carry the

wooden instrument of His death up this hill and the Lord would provide a sacrifice for our sins. Thank God for providing Jesus as the sacrifice for our sins and trust Him to provide what we need to follow Him.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Why was the command to offer Isaac an even more difficult task for Abraham than it would have been for other parents?
- How does Hebrews 11:17-19 help us understand how Abraham could obey the command to offer Isaac?
- Do you think God ever intended for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? Explain.
- How does this account demonstrate how God will provide what is needed to do His will?
- **For Elementary:** How did God test Abraham's faith?
- **For Elementary:** What has God asked you to do that is testing and stretching your faith?

Everyday Extras

God asked Abraham to give up his son, Isaac. Abraham obeyed because he loved God and trusted Him more than anything else. What would your family be willing to give up because you love and trust God? Think together about a family "fast." What do you really love that you would give up in order to say, "we love God more than we love that"? Maybe you would give up desserts for a week. Maybe you would give up television or cell phones for a day. Maybe you would give up talking for an hour. Plan with your family how to make a sacrifice to God, motivated by love for Him.

Isaac's familiarity with making sacrifices to God indicates that Abraham was teaching God's ways to Isaac. God established the home to make disciples and transfer the faith.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned God promised Abraham that even though he and Sarah were older and didn't have any children, their family would be as many as the stars in the sky. They had a son whom they named Isaac. Abraham trusted God because he knew **God Keeps His Promises.**

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **February 7, 2021** Family Theme | **Grace Is Undeserved** Study Text | **Genesis 27:1-46**

Objective: Children understand that God graciously chooses us and works His plan through us in spite of our faults and failures. We thank Him for the undeserved grace He pours out on us.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set during the time of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) when God began to build the nation through which the Messiah would come and bless all peoples of the earth just as God had promised Abraham and Isaac.

Bible Basics: Review last quarter's memory verses (Genesis 1:1, John 1:1-2, and Proverbs 3:5) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Genesis 27:1-46

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children or grandchildren about how we should always do things God's way, even when it seems that doing it our way might be better. God is able to bring about His will even when we make bad choices.



Key Truth: God Will Accomplish His Plan Regardless of Our Bad Choices
(Genesis 27:1-29)

God had promised to pass His blessing through Jacob. The elder brother (Esau) would serve the younger (Jacob). See Genesis 25:23. Apparently Rebekah believed God needed her help to bring about His will. She planned to deceive her husband and to steal the blessing he intended for Esau. Jacob hesitated, but more out of caution or fear of getting caught, rather than ethics. As with so many others, the two deceivers obtained what they wanted. Their successful deception failed to promote honesty and good will within their family, however. The price paid would far exceed their expectations. We should always choose to do what is right. Thank God for letting us be part of His sovereign plan in spite of our faults and failures.



Key Truth: Choosing to Do Things Our Way Leads to Negative Consequences
(Genesis 27:30-46)

Esau took food to his father, expecting to receive his blessing. Verse 33 indicates that Isaac was furious when he realized he had given the blessing to Jacob. He understood the deception and understood that little remained to pass along to his favorite son. Esau openly planned to kill Jacob after Isaac's death. Rebekah's "success" in obtaining the blessing for Jacob gave her little comfort as she pondered Esau's desire to kill Jacob. One plot led without fail to another. She prepared to send Jacob away to her brother and his family in Haran, hoping he could return when Esau's anger died down. In Chapter 28 we see that despite the bad choices and sinful actions of all involved, God's will was accomplished and Jacob received the blessing given to Abraham just as God desired. Choose to do what is right, and trust God to work out His plan.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Why is it never a good idea to do things the wrong way?
- What are some of the negative consequences we face when we do things our way instead of God's way?
- What does it mean that God is able to work out His plan even when we make bad choices?
- How did God show grace to Jacob and his family, even though they made some bad choices?
- In what area do you need to do what is right and trust God to work out His plan?
- **For Elementary:** What were the consequences of Esau's and Jacob's wrong choices?
- **For Elementary:** What is grace? How do we know God showed grace to Jacob?

Everyday Extras

To think more about the way Rebekah and Jacob deceived Isaac, try swapping identities with someone else at the dinner table one night. You could draw names or just assign the role reversals. Mom would act like daughter Jane, talk about what she usually talks about, while John took on Mom's role, serving the meal and giving the kinds of instructions Mom usually gives, and so on. How easy would it be to fool someone who could not see well?

Even though Jacob should not have told lies to his father, God gave grace and took care of His chosen people.

Point out that the fact that God accomplishes His plan despite our wrong choices demonstrates that He is the Sovereign Lord of all.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned when God told Abraham to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice, Abraham obeyed. When Isaac asked where the lamb was for the offering, Abraham said God would provide. At the moment of sacrifice, God provided a ram for Abraham. We can trust **God Keeps His Promises.**

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **February 14, 2021** Family Theme | **God Confirms His Promises** Study Text | **Genesis 35:1-29**

Objective: Help children understand God continually works to bring about His will and confirms that to us when we need it most. We can confidently live for the Lord knowing He will keep His promises.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set later in Jacob's life as God confirmed His promise to make from Jacob's descendants a great nation, just as He promised Abraham and Isaac. God blessed Jacob and changed his name to Israel.

Bible Basics: Review Ephesians 2:8-9 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Genesis 35:1-29

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that it is good to recall what God has done for us in the past and to remember that He is always working out His plan for our lives. He is with us through the ups and downs of life.



Key Truth: Reflecting on What God Has Done Strengthens Us (Genesis 35:1-8)

God told Jacob to return to Bethel. This return was to remind Jacob of what God had done to deliver and prosper him in the years that had passed since he left home fleeing his brother. Decades had elapsed between Jacob's two visits to Bethel. He went from being a single man with no resources to being a husband, father to numerous children, and owner of large flocks and livestock. When they arrived at Bethel, Jacob built an altar and worshiped God, who had spoken to him, protected him, and blessed him for many years. It is good to reflect on what God has done for us and worship Him.



Key Truth: God Is Always Working His Plan (Genesis 35:9-15)

This passage describes a second appearance by God to Jacob. God reminded him of his name change. In Genesis 32, after Jacob wrestled all night with the heavenly messenger, he received a new name, Israel, which was interpreted as one who strives with God. Here in chapter 35, God reaffirmed His promises. He would accomplish His plan. Jacob knew many struggles in his life (some caused by his own deceptive character), and more still lay ahead. God and His promises had not changed, but Jacob had! He worshiped the God who had blessed him. Submit to God's plan and work to advance it.



Key Truth: God Is With Us Through the Ups and Downs of Life (Genesis 35:16-29)

From Bethel, Jacob and his family moved toward Bethlehem. Jacob was making his way back to Hebron, hoping to see his father again. He could not remain at the place of his "mountaintop experience." Eventually, Jacob again saw his father, as he had requested of God years before at Bethel. He and his brother Esau, once estranged, came together at the end to bury their father with the proper honors. In a rather short time, Jacob had faced the loss of loved ones (Rachel, Isaac), the birth of a child (Benjamin), and family problems with his eldest son Reuben. We can praise God in the good times and trust Him when trials come.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- How can reflecting on what God has done in the past encourage and prepare us for what lies ahead?
- How would God bless all the peoples of the world through the nation He was building through Jacob?
- Why do you think we suffer ups and downs in life, even when God has great plans for us?
- What has God done in the past that assures you He can accomplish what He said He would do in the future?
- How could you express praise and worship to God this week for His blessings in your life and for what He yet has in store for you?
- **For Elementary:** What are some ways God changed Jacob?
- **For Elementary:** What are some ways God is changing you to be more like Him?

Everyday Extras

Hold a pose! How long can family members freeze in place? Set the stopwatch and have a contest or play a game of freeze tag. You can make the poses easy or difficult, according to your children's ages. Sometimes we feel like we are stuck — waiting on God to do what He has promised and uncertain about when it will happen. But God is faithful, even when we cannot see how He is working. He often lovingly confirms His promises to us and reminds us that He cares about us. Be watching for Him, even in the small circumstances and daily provisions you may often overlook.

Give a special valentine to someone who may not get one otherwise. Take cookies or a box of candy to someone to remind that person he or she is special!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child began learning about the life of Joseph. His brothers were jealous of the coat their father gave him, and they became angry when Joseph shared dreams where they were bowing to him. They sold Joseph and lied to their father about what happened to him. Joseph continued to trust that God was with him. **I Can Trust God** like Joseph did.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **February 21, 2021** Family Theme | **God Is in Control** Study Text | **Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-5**

Objective: Children understand that we can trust God, knowing that He is always with us and is in control even when it seems everything is going wrong.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set later in Jacob/Israel's life when his older sons sold Joseph into slavery to the Midianites, who then sold him to one of Pharaoh's officials in Egypt. This was all part of God's plan to save the beginnings of the nation from famine and greatly multiply the people.

Bible Basics: Review the names and order of books six, seven, and eight of the Old Testament (Joshua, Judges, and Ruth) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-6

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that God is always with us and has everything under control. We can trust Him even when things seem to be going wrong.



Key Truth: God Accomplishes His Plans, Even in the Midst of Family Problems (Genesis 37:1-11)

Genesis 37 picks up the story of Joseph, the main character of the rest of the book. Jacob (Israel) had a blended family: 12 sons and one daughter, from two wives (sisters) and their two servants. Just as his own parents (Isaac and Rebekah) had done, Jacob played favorites among his children. The favoritism, symbolized by a resented robe, made Joseph's brothers hate Joseph. Joseph did not help his situation by sharing his peculiar dreams with his brothers. In these verses, we see family dysfunction. We wonder how God could ever do anything worthwhile with such people. We should be an example of God's grace, even in the midst of family problems.



Key Truth: God Accomplishes His Plans, Even When Life Seems Off Track (Genesis 37:12-36)

Jacob appears to have given no thought to the way his preference for Joseph affected the other brothers. He seemed out of touch with the level of animosity they felt toward Joseph. He surely did not realize he was sending Joseph into danger. His brothers saw him coming and saw this as an opportunity to be rid of the brother they hated. They decided to kill Joseph and his dreams. Reuben, however, hoped to become a hero in his father's eyes by rescuing Joseph. Reuben's plotting did not succeed, however, as the brothers sold Joseph to Midianite traders who sold him into slavery in Egypt. Keep trusting God when things get difficult, knowing nothing can derail His plans.



Key Truth: God Can Use Us for His Glory in Any Work Situation (Genesis 37:36; 39:1-6)

Imagine what it must have been like for Joseph as he faced life as a slave in Egypt, with different customs, food, and even a different language. But God was with Joseph in an obvious way. Joseph undoubtedly proved to be a hard and faithful worker, and God blessed his efforts. Even his master Potiphar understood that special divine favor rested upon Joseph (verses 2-5). Because of this favor, Joseph rose in position. Potiphar delegated him to be over the household and all that Potiphar had. God was in control, even in Joseph's slavery. Point people to God by being an excellent worker.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- How was God in control in Joseph's family, despite the wrong things that were done?
- How can we bring God glory through our work, knowing He is in control?
- In what area might you need to submit to God's control?
- How can we respond to trials and difficulty in a way that brings glory to God?
- **For Elementary:** Why can we say God is in control, even when bad things happen?
- **For Elementary:** How does it encourage you to know God is in control in times of trouble?

Everyday Extras

Do you remember how cheerleaders build a pyramid sometimes, with people on their knees, stacking up on top of each other? Try building a family pyramid as a team building exercise. Remind each other that everyone is important to the family. Set the timer on your camera and see how many tries it takes to get the shot!

If there is a problem with sibling rivalry at your home, plan a strategy to eliminate it. Have a peace summit and serve as a negotiator to solve irritating issues before they produce bad attitudes. Remind your children that families should be safe places for everyone to belong and feel valuable.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Joseph was a good worker, but because of a wrong accusation he was put in jail. While there, Joseph explained some dreams to two of the king's men who were also in jail. Later, the king had some dreams that his men could not explain. One of the men whose dream Joseph had explained remembered him and had Joseph brought to the king. Afterward, the king put Joseph in charge of storing the food. Joseph trusted God and **Can Trust God** too.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **February 28, 2021** Family Theme | **God Provides for His People** Study Text | **Genesis 45:1-28**

Objective: Children understand that God can go to any lengths necessary to provide for His people. We can trust God to provide what we need to follow Him.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set several years after Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt. The famine Joseph predicted had forced Israel (Jacob) to send his sons to Egypt to try to purchase food. Joseph, knowing God sent him to Egypt for this purpose, revealed his identity to his brothers and provided what the family needed. God preserved the people He would make into a great nation.

Bible Basics: Review 2 Timothy 3:16 and Ephesians 2:8-9 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Genesis 45:1-28

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that God can use any circumstances for our good, provide for our needs in any situation, and help us make things right with other people. God is the sovereign Lord of all.



Key Truth: God Can Use the Worst of Circumstances to Accomplish His Purposes (Genesis 45:1-7)

After many years, the brothers did not recognize that they were dealing with Joseph. Joseph could hide it no more. He announced to his brothers who he was. The brothers had sold Joseph into slavery, where he should have died — end of story. But Joseph understood the story better. He did not avoid what they had done. Yet, he looked past their actions to see that God used even their treacherous behavior to accomplish His purposes. In Joseph's eyes, God had sent him ahead, so that Egypt and all of Joseph's family would not perish. God is in control in every circumstance. Trust Him to accomplish His will.



Key Truth: God Can Provide for Our Needs in Any Situation (Genesis 45:8-13)

Joseph continued to attribute his presence there in Egypt to God. Indeed, God had made him not just survive, but also to thrive. He had become ruler of the land, and one whose wisdom and advice Pharaoh treasured as that from a father. Joseph understood his brothers and their families needed refuge from the famine, or they would perish. The brothers were to tell Jacob all that had happened, and to bring him and their families down to Egypt. Joseph saw God's hand at work, even in actions that hurt him deeply, and he held no grudge. The children of Israel survived in Egypt and thrived. They grew into the great nation God had promised. We can look to God to sustain us through difficult times.



Key Truth: God Can Restore Broken Relationships (Genesis 45:14-28)

The tearful reunion continued. After so much hatred, so much sorrow, and so many years, the brothers were talking again. Joseph gave new clothing to each of them. For his younger brother Benjamin he provided five sets of clothes and a small fortune in silver. To his father Jacob he sent donkeys loaded with fine Egyptian

goods, grain, and bread for the journey. The relationship between Joseph and his brothers was restored. Soon, father and son would be restored after such a long separation. God restores us to Himself through Christ and helps us restore other relationships as well.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- In what ways does God provide for His people?
- How did God provide for His people when the famine came to Canaan?
- What does it take for people to be restored in their relationship with God?
- What does it take for people to be restored in their relationships with one another?
- With whom do you need to seek restoration this week?
- **For Elementary:** How did God provide for Joseph? How did God provide for Joseph's family?
- **For Elementary:** How does God provide for you?

Everyday Extras

Surprise endings — don't you love them? Together, read David Wood's picture book, *Under the Bed* (even if your children are older!), for a good surprise. Or plan another surprise ending. A parent might collaborate with a child in advance, then take the family to dinner. When the check comes, and Dad suddenly can't find his wallet, John can offer to pay (since Dad gave him money ahead of time). You could plan a surprise outing for the family — to a local park or zoo or museum — or invite a surprise guest to your home. Remind your family that God always knows what is ahead; He is never caught by surprise. He uses our circumstances to work everything out according to His plan. Even things we don't understand will ultimately be opportunities for God's plan to work out.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Joseph's father sent his brothers to the king for food. They did not recognize Joseph, but he recognized them. Joseph trusted God and forgave his brothers. He was reunited with his father and brothers and they came to live with Joseph. **I Can Trust God** and His plan like Joseph did.