

# HOME connection

OT Unit: Chasing the Wind, Lesson 1

**D6 Family Theme:**  
THE SEARCH FOR MEANING

**Objectives:**

**Know:** Fulfillment in life cannot be found in the things of this world.

**Think:** Be conscious of the fact that earthly pursuits do not bring meaning and satisfaction.

**Do:** Pursue meaning through knowing and following God.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-18.** Solomon wrote about life's meaninglessness. He painted a depressing picture, especially at first. Our limited ability to remember what preceded us fed his overall anxiety. Without God, we merely exist. We are just living under the sun. The key to wisdom is not to live just under the sun!



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Pursue what is lasting and eternal, rather than what is earthly and fleeting. Pray that you and your family will be able to set your eyes on eternal things and store up your treasures in Heaven.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** People want a purpose and a reason for doing everything. The world looks for their meaning in how others see them, but as Christians, we look for our meaning in knowing and serving God. Talk with your child about the meaning of his name. As his parent, you had a reason for choosing that specific name. His name will also have an origin and a definition. Explain to him that just as his name has a meaning, his life has a meaning and purpose that can only be found in God.

**OPTION 2:** Ask your family to talk about their experiences that were, in their opinion, completely pointless or meaningless. Usually they will not have a problem coming up with examples. How did they react to the activity? How did it affect their motivation or even their performance in other areas?



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned Naaman was a powerful man in the Syrian army. Your child also learned about a young girl who trusted God. She was a servant to Naaman's wife. Terrible sores from leprosy appeared on Naaman. God used the young girl to help Naaman. **I Can Trust God.**



K & 1  
GRADE



2 & 3  
GRADE



4 & 5  
GRADE

Today your student learned Solomon wrote in the book of Ecclesiastes that life without God is meaningless. He came to understand that it is only God who gives true meaning to life. Your student was challenged to live a life of meaning by knowing and following God.



YOUNG  
TEEN



HIGH  
SCHOOL

Your teens explored the introduction to Ecclesiastes as Solomon launched a philosophical study of what makes life meaningful. Watch a documentary or movie about Howard Hughes, the eccentric billionaire who had it all, but became reclusive and psychotic. Help your teens understand that a meaningful life is not about possessions or popularity. What gives your teenager a sense of purpose and fulfillment? Help your teen to find ways to invest more time in those things.



YOUNG  
ADULT

*The Brink* magazine went out today. The group members discussed Ecclesiastes 1 and learned how our true meaning comes from knowing and following God.



ADULT

*FUSION* and *FUSIONnext* magazines went out this week, as well as *What's Up?*, the newsletter for parents of teens. Groups discussed how fulfillment in life cannot be found in the things of this world. Members were encouraged to pursue meaning through knowing and following God.

# HOME connection

OT Unit: Chasing the Wind, Lesson 2

## D6 Family Theme:

EMPTY PURSUITS

### Objectives:

**Know:** Self-indulgent living does not provide lasting peace and fulfillment.

**Think:** Always be mindful that self-indulgent choices leave us empty and disappointed.

**Do:** Seek to Please God, enjoying the blessings that come from walking with Him.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-26.** Solomon decided to use his great resources to see what was truly worthwhile in life. Architecture, landscapes, immense wealth, sensual pleasure—it was all just chasing the wind. Even more frustrating was his realization that he would one day die, just as any fool, and leave it all to others.



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Seek to please God and others, rather than self. Pray that God will help you and your family to put your selfish desires aside and seek to please God above all else.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** People are constantly trying to find belonging, happiness, and purpose through things of this world, like romantic relationships, wealth, or popularity. However, they are looking in all the wrong places. Solomon teaches us that self-indulgence is an empty pursuit, and the only thing worth pursuing is pleasing God. Show your children a variety of pictures depicting fashion through the decades. You can use pictures from the Internet or some family photos. Explain to them how the definition of what is “cool” changes over time. Taking the time and effort to try and fit a changing definition is meaningless. Instead, they should spend their time investing in Someone who never changes, God.

**OPTION 2:** Take the potato chip challenge! The long-time advertising slogan for Lay’s Potato Chips is “Too good to eat just one” (or formerly, “Betcha can’t eat just one”). Open a bag and try it. Can your family members stop at only one chip? Look at the nutritional values on the bag and talk about why it is easy to overeat potato chips, even though they supply very little of what our bodies need to be strong. Like potato chips, some of the things that the world system offers are not good for us and do not satisfy us. We need to make wise choices in life that build us up and have lasting value.



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned the young girl who trusted God told Naaman's wife about a prophet in Samaria who could heal Naaman's leprosy. The young girl's faith was strong and she trusted God to heal Naaman. **I Can Trust God** like the young girl did.



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

Today your student learned people try to find fulfillment in life through relationships, activities, material things, and pursuits. He or she learned none of those areas are bad, unless they become more important than our relationship with God, which is the only way to true happiness.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

Solomon searched for meaning in pleasure, wealth, study, and work, but still did not feel fulfilled. Illustrate this to your teen by making a fake cake. Spread icing on a couple of Styrofoam discs—add flowers and candles if you wish. Google "fake cakes" for ideas. Ask your teen to cut and serve it for dessert. Just because something looks good does not mean it is going to satisfy you. What "fake cakes" can your teen identify in today's culture? How can you test them and avoid being tricked by them?



YOUNG ADULT

The group examined our culture's desire to chase empty pursuits and discussed why it's important to seek to please God and to make that our number one goal.



ADULT

*FUSION* groups discussed how self-indulgent living does not provide lasting peace and fulfillment. Members were challenged to seek to please God, and to enjoy the blessings that come from walking with Him.

# HOME connection

OT Unit: Chasing the Wind, Lesson 3

**D6 Family Theme:**  
LIFE'S CONTRADICTIONS

**Objectives:**

**Know:** We find no satisfaction in constantly striving for more money and possessions.

**Think:** Keep in mind that apart from God, money and possessions do not satisfy.

**Do:** Make knowing God my highest priority and be content with what I have.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read Ecclesiastes 5:8—6:12.** Getting ahead is constantly on people's minds. Some succeed. Others do not. Getting ahead never guarantees happiness or satisfaction in life. We never know what is coming around the corner. Contentment and satisfaction are wonderful gifts from God, and they keep us from living under the sun.



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Stop striving for more and be content with what you have. Pray with your family and thank God for all the things He has blessed you with, big and small.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** No matter how many earthly possessions God has blessed us with, we find it hard to be content and happy with what we have. We are constantly trying to find the next big thing in hopes that it will leave us satisfied, but we will never be satisfied by earthly things. Have your child make a list of all the things in her bedroom or playroom. When her list becomes extensive or she cannot think of anything else, talk with her about how those things are all possessions that God has blessed her with and she should enjoy them. But, she will only find satisfaction in her relationship with God.

**OPTION 2:** Ask your family to talk about what words or ideas come to mind when you say *satisfaction*. How much do they see it as something to *seek* rather than something to *enjoy*?



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned Naaman went to the king of Syria and explained what the young girl had said. The king sent a letter to the king of Israel, who became very upset upon reading it. He knew only God could heal Naaman. The prophet Elisha trusted God would help him heal Naaman, and he sent for him. **I Can Trust God** too.



K & 1  
GRADE



2 & 3  
GRADE



4 & 5  
GRADE

Today your student learned there are many contradictions between what the world and the Bible tell us will give us peace. He or she learned how two men, Nicodemus and Brother Lawrence, found peace in Jesus. Your student discussed and was encouraged to incorporate seven different peace practices into his or her life.



YOUNG  
TEEN



HIGH  
SCHOOL

Your teens explored the idea of contentment today as they studied about Solomon's reflections on material possessions. More is never enough. Is there something that you can do to improve your family's satisfaction with what they already have? You may spend some time with refugee families or at a homeless shelter. You may challenge your teenager to fast for a 24-hour period—either from food, social media, video games, or something else that consumes their attention. Accept the same challenge from your teen!



YOUNG  
ADULT

The group members examined the lack of satisfaction that comes from striving for more money and possessions. Group members were challenged to make God their highest priority and to be content with what He has given them.



ADULT

Adults considered how we find no satisfaction in constantly striving for more money and possessions. They were encouraged to make knowing God their highest priority and to be content with what they have.

# HOME connection

OT Unit: Chasing the Wind, Lesson 4

**D6 Family Theme:**  
THE VALUE OF WISDOM

**Objectives:**

**Know:** Wisdom helps us live for God, enjoying His blessings.

**Think:** I will allow God's wisdom to guide my decisions and actions.

**Do:** Live wisely, enjoying God's blessings and making the most of our time.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read Ecclesiastes 9:7-18.** With all Solomon's talk of meaninglessness and chasing wind, his recommendation to enjoy life as God's favor allows may surprise us. Yet who gives a gift that they do not want the receiver to enjoy? Yes, life ends. People forget. But life's Giver rules over this life and the next.



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Make the best use of our time, knowing we are not guaranteed tomorrow. Pray that you and your family will live each day glorifying God and sharing Him with others.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** The Bible is full of God's wisdom on how to make the most of the blessings He has given us in this life. Solomon reminded you that your earthly life will end, so it is important to use the things God has given you to bring others to know Him. Talk with your children about the ways they spend most of their time. This can include reading, sports, video games, YouTube, or school clubs. Since their life "under the sun" is short, they need to make sure they make the most of the time God is giving them. Discuss how they can follow God's wisdom and not waste all their time on activities that don't matter.

**OPTION 2:** Talk about the hide-and-go-seek phrase, *Ready or not, here I come!* How well does that phrase apply in other areas of life? Ask for examples. Consider looking up and discussing the words to Emily Dickinson's famous poem "The Chariot." It begins with the famous line: *Because I could not stop for death, He kindly stopped for me.*



PRE-  
SCHOOL

Today your child learned when Naaman arrived to Elisha’s house, a messenger came out. He told Naaman to go dip his body in the Jordan River seven times. Naaman became angry because he did not trust Elisha’s instructions. But Naaman’s servant convinced him to follow Elisha’s orders, and Naaman was healed! **I Can Trust God.**



K & 1  
GRADE



2 & 3  
GRADE



4 & 5  
GRADE

Today your student learned God’s wisdom is greater than strength or weapons of war. He or she heard the story of David and Goliath to help him or her visualize and remember that key point. He or she was encouraged to be on guard against Satan’s plans, choose to follow God’s way, and live by the wisdom that comes from God.



YOUNG  
TEEN



HIGH  
SCHOOL

Make every day count. Your teenagers studied Solomon’s reflections on enjoying the blessings of each day and making wise choices with time. Help your teen to establish balance between recreation and work, fun and responsibility, alone time and social time. This will prepare him or her for adult decisions and lead to better time management. Find something that everyone in your family enjoys doing together—and do it this week!



YOUNG  
ADULT

Group members studied the value of wisdom and were encouraged to live wisely and make the most of their time.



ADULT

*FUSION* groups considered how wisdom helps us live for God, enjoying His blessings. Members were challenged to live wisely, enjoying God’s blessings and making the most of their time.



# HOME connection

OT Unit: Chasing the Wind, Lesson 5

**D6 Family Theme:**  
THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

**Objectives:**

**Know:** We should live each day remembering we are accountable to our Creator.

**Think:** Let awareness of the coming judgment motivate me to love and obey God.

**Do:** Have proper reverence for God and obey His Word each day.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read Ecclesiastes 11:9–12:14.** Solomon challenged us to serve God before old age takes its toll on what we can do. While we can, we must respect God's wisdom. Living life only "under the sun" is truly meaningless and fruitless. We must let God's Word move us into action or stop us as needed.



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Let the coming judgment motivate us to fear and obey God. Pray that you and your family would be able to stand against temptation so you will be found blameless on Judgment Day.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** It is easy to go through the motions in life and just let the days pass us by. However, there is a greater purpose to a Christian's life: to love and obey God. Every decision we make is known by God, so it is important for us obey God's Word every day. Play *The Game of Life* with your child. Afterward, ask her if going to college, getting a job, having a family, and buying a house is what life is all about. Tell her that these are all opportunities that God gives her in life, but her purpose is to use those opportunities to bring glory to God and bring others to God.

**OPTION 2:** Ask your family how many books they have. This is not a case of who has the most, but rather an illustration of Ecclesiastes 12:12. How many of those books could be discarded without a problem? How many Internet pages do people read on average, daily? How many of those pages are of any lasting value? Which books have lasting value?



PRE-  
SCHOOL

Today your child learned Naaman learned about the power of the one, true God. He almost missed being healed because the answer was so simple. We all have the problem of sin, and the answer is simple. Our sin can be healed when we choose to trust God. **I Can Trust God** like Naaman learned to do.



K & 1  
GRADE



2 & 3  
GRADE



4 & 5  
GRADE

Today your student learned King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes that we are to fear God and keep His commandments. He or she studied the example of Daniel who honored and followed God throughout his life. Students were challenged to follow God's plan for their lives by honoring Him and following His commandments.



YOUNG  
TEEN



HIGH  
SCHOOL

Youth, old age, death, wisdom, and duty are all crammed into this passage. With your teenager, look at the word pictures describing old age in Ecclesiastes 12:2-5. Can you find some humor in them? Look at the word pictures for sudden death in verse 6. Talk to your teen about Solomon's conclusion about the whole duty of life and the judgment to come. Encourage your teen to memorize "the conclusion" in Ecclesiastes 12:13. Write it in ketchup around a plate of French fries as a reminder.



YOUNG  
ADULT

The group members studied the purpose of life and were encouraged to live each day remembering that we are accountable to our Creator.



ADULT

*FUSION* groups examined how we should live each day remembering we are accountable to our Creator. Members were encouraged to have proper reverence for God and to obey His Word each day.

# HOME connection

NT Unit: To Seek and to Save, Lesson 1

**D6 Family Theme:**  
LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

**Objectives:**

**Know:** We are to love everyone we come in contact with. Love is demonstrated through actions.

**Think:** I will let love for others dictate how I treat the people I come in contact with.

**Do:** Act in loving ways to those we come in contact with each day.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read Luke 10:25-37.** While the world has its concepts about what true neighborly love should look like, Scripture has some very specific, and often contrary, viewpoints.



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Make loving others a high priority. Pray that you and your family will be able to love those around you like God loves His children. Pray that God will fill you with His love, so that you can share it with those who need it.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** Today's culture is very self-centered. We focus on what is best for us, rarely taking into consideration those around us. The Bible is very clear that we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Talk with your children about what the Bible means by *neighbor*. Tell them that their neighbor is anybody that they come in contact with. Throughout the week, help your children perform random acts of kindness for their "neighbors." They can bake cookies for their next-door neighbors, or while they are at the grocery store, they can help someone push the cart out to the car and unload groceries.

**OPTION 2:** Ask your family to name for you "famous" television neighbors. For instance, Barney Rubble was the famous neighbor of Fred Flintstone and Fred Mertz was the famous neighbor of Ricky and Lucy Ricardo. After naming some of these neighbors, ask them to share characteristics of these neighbors or lessons learned from them. Characteristics may include loyalty, trust, and honesty. Lessons learned may include the fact that friends or neighbors are invaluable or that everyone needs neighbors that they can trust.



PRE-  
SCHOOL

Today your child learned Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. The people shouted “Hosanna” to show their love and joy for Him. I can show my love and joy for Him too. I know **Jesus Is the Risen King**.



K & 1  
GRADE



2 & 3  
GRADE



4 & 5  
GRADE

This week your student learned about loving your neighbor. He or she heard the parable of the Good Samaritan as an example of how to love our neighbors by showing them mercy, love, and compassion. He or she learned everyone is our neighbor and was encouraged to put mercy, love, and compassion into action.



YOUNG  
TEEN



HIGH  
SCHOOL

The story of the Good Samaritan still teaches that our actions reveal our motives. The Good Samaritan, though he was of a different race than the injured man, went to extraordinary measures to care for him, while the religious professionals passed him by. Loving our neighbor extends to anyone we come in contact with—not just those in our neighborhood. Is there a student at your teen’s school who needs extraordinary care? What practical step could your teen take—even if it moves him or her out of the comfort zone?



YOUNG  
ADULT

The group members studied the importance of loving our neighbor and were challenged to show love to every person they meet this week.



ADULT

Adults discussed how we are to love everyone we come in contact with. Love is demonstrated through actions. Adults were encouraged to act in loving ways to those we come in contact with each day.

# HOME connection

NT Unit: To Seek and to Save, Lesson 2

**D6 Family Theme:**  
SEEKING THE LOST

**Objectives:**

**Know:** God loves sinners and longs for them to repent and be saved. Heaven rejoices when they do.

**Think:** View sinners as lost treasure that is worth every effort to recover.

**Do:** Join the Father in seeking the lost and celebrating their return.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read Luke 15:1-32.** The old adage says, “beauty is in the eyes of the beholder.” Nowhere is this truer than it is with sinful humanity. While some would have counseled God to start over with humanity when Adam and Eve sinned, He saw great value in His creation, value that would cost Him the life of His Son, a price He was willing to pay.



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Share with the lost the blessings of walking with God. Pray that God will bring lost people into your lives so that your family can share God’s love with them. Pray that your family would be able to bravely share your testimonies with the lost.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** God loves every person on the earth and longs for everyone to know Him. He is constantly pursuing the lost and rejoices when He saves them. Play a game of “hot and cold” with your child. Hide a dollar bill somewhere in your house, and have your child go on a treasure hunt for it. If your child is far away, say “cold” or “freezing,” and if your child is close, say “warm” or “hot.” Once your child has found the dollar, remind him that just as he wanted to find the treasure, God wants to find and save all the lost people in the world.

**OPTION 2:** Ask your family members to share something they own that is a prized possession to them. It could be a relic from the past, old coins, an antique piece of furniture, etc. Ask the following questions:

- *What makes the item such a prized possession for you?*
- *How did the item come into your possession?*
- *What is the value of the item?*
- *Would you ever consider giving up the item? Why or why not?*



PRE-  
SCHOOL

Today your child learned one of Jesus' disciples, Judas, betrayed Him and led some bad people to Him. They arrested Jesus, and He was sentenced to die on a cross. They did not believe that **Jesus Is the Risen King**.



K & 1  
GRADE



2 & 3  
GRADE



4 & 5  
GRADE

Today your student heard one or more parables to reinforce the fact that God searches for the lost and celebrates when they are found. He or she was reminded God shows us mercy when He forgives our sin. Your student was encouraged to thank God for seeking the lost and pray for someone who needs to be found.



YOUNG  
TEEN



HIGH  
SCHOOL

What would it take for you to stop loving your child? Use this lesson on the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son from Luke 15 to talk to your child about your enduring love for him or her. Teens face life-changing decisions that can destroy families. Help your children understand how valued they are in your home and by the Heavenly Father as well. We want them to make good choices, but a repentant prodigal is celebrated when he or she returns.



YOUNG  
ADULT

Group members examined three parables from Luke 15 and were encouraged to seek the lost and celebrate their return.



ADULT

*FUSION* groups discussed how God loves sinners and longs for them to repent and be saved. Heaven rejoices when the lost are found. Group members were challenged to join the Father in seeking the lost and celebrating their return.

# HOME connection

NT Unit: To Seek and to Save, Lesson 3

**D6 Family Theme:**  
FROM DEATH TO LIFE

**Objectives:**

**Know:** Jesus was crucified and then laid in a tomb. On the third day He was raised from the dead to bring us everlasting life.

**Think:** Live with the assurance that sin no longer separates me from God.

**Do:** Walk with God daily, worshiping and serving my risen Savior.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read Luke 23:26-46; 24:1-12.** While there are big events that each of us have experienced, nothing compares to the “event” of the resurrection of Jesus. Just as these events may be life-changing, the events recorded in our passages today change everything. The benefits will be experienced from now throughout eternity and are intended for all of humanity to partake of and to enjoy.



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Worship the risen Savior and tell the world He lives. Pray with your family and thank God for what He did for you on the cross. Pray that you will make decisions that glorify God and point others to Him.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** Jesus lived a perfect life, free from sin. Because of this, He was able to die on the cross as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Because of this life-changing event, we are no longer bound to our sins, and we have the freedom to walk with God daily. Talk with your children about world-changing events in history, like wars, peace treaties, and disease. Talk about how these events have changed the world for better and for worse. Explain to them that no other event in history could ever compare to the resurrection when Jesus died so that they can live. They should use this new life to serve and glorify God.

**OPTION 2:** Enlist an individual outside of your family to join you to share a life-changing event from his or her life. Find someone who has a significant event that would be unusual or uncommon. This event could be a tragic one such as the unexpected death of a loved one or it could be a joyous one such as a trip out of the country or the opportunity to meet royalty. Ask that person to tell his or her story briefly, and allow time for family members to ask follow-up questions.



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned a rich man named Joseph took Jesus' body from the cross and placed it in a guarded tomb. Three days later Mary and Mary Magdalene discovered the tomb was empty. They saw Jesus and knew **Jesus Is the Risen King.**



K & 1  
GRADE



2 & 3  
GRADE



4 & 5  
GRADE

Today your student learned Jesus was crucified on the cross and rose again three days later. He or she learned Jesus demonstrated mercy in sacrifice when He gave His life for our sin. Students were encouraged to worship God as their risen Savior and share the message of His sacrifice to those around them.



YOUNG  
TEEN



HIGH  
SCHOOL

Though the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus may not be new to your teenager, help to make today's lesson have new dimension. Instead of Easter's focus on eggs and rabbits and chocolate, encourage your family to read together Luke 22:39 through Luke 24:53—the entire story of the betrayal, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection. Note the response of the disciples after Jesus returned to Heaven (Luke 24:52-53). Is this your family's response too?



YOUNG  
ADULT

The group members studied the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus and were challenged to walk with God daily and worship the risen Savior.



ADULT

*FUSION* groups discussed how Jesus was crucified and then laid in a tomb. On the third day He was raised from the dead to bring us everlasting life. Members were encouraged to walk with God daily, worshiping and serving their risen Savior.



# HOME connection

NT Unit: To Seek and to Save, Lesson 4

**D6 Family Theme:**  
SEEKING THE SAVIOR

**Objectives:**

**Know:** Zacchaeus sought to see Jesus. Jesus sought to save Zacchaeus.

**Think:** Be mindful that Jesus can meet the deepest needs of the people I come in contact with.

**Do:** Seek to introduce people to the Savior who can change their lives and meet their needs.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read Romans Luke 19:1-10.** The needs in our world seem to be as great or greater than at any other point in history. There are multiple ways in which these needs can be addressed, but only Christ offers the help and hope we need.



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Look to Jesus to meet every need. Pray with your family and thank God for His provision. Pray that you and your family will remember that everything you have comes for God.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** Our world is full of people seeking a relationship that will save them from loneliness, wrong choices, or pain. God offers that relationship through salvation and freedom from sin. With your children, practice telling others about Jesus. Take turns with your child being the unsaved person, so that both of you can practice sharing the gospel. Share the Romans Road with your child (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9-10), which is an easy tool to use when sharing the gospel. Remind your child that people all over the world are looking for a Savior; we just have to tell them about Him.

**OPTION 2:** Ask this question: *What do hurting and needy people turn to when they realize the fact that they need help?* For instance, people in our world often turn to drugs or alcohol thinking this may provide the help they need. However, there is no validity in turning to these things because they are temporary fixes and normally lead to even greater issues. Who are people ultimately seeking?



PRE-  
SCHOOL

Today your child learned before Jesus went back to Heaven He spent time with the disciples. Jesus gave them a special mission—to share the good news with everyone around them. I can tell others **Jesus Is the Risen King** too.



K & 1  
GRADE



2 & 3  
GRADE



4 & 5  
GRADE

Today your student learned Zacchaeus sought to see Jesus, and Jesus sought to save Zacchaeus. He or she learned Jesus is able to change lives. He or she learned we are to follow Jesus' example of showing mercy through acceptance of those around us. Students were challenged to show God's mercy through their words and actions.



YOUNG  
TEEN



HIGH  
SCHOOL

Zacchaeus was not the tree-climbing sort. While he was searching for a glimpse of the Savior, Jesus was seeking the lost Zacchaeus. Their meeting that day at the sycamore tree changed everything for the tax collector. Talk with your teen about the difference that Jesus makes in someone's life. What changed about Zacchaeus? How does knowing Jesus affect our money? Our behavior? Our speech? Our friendships? Our family?



YOUNG  
ADULT

While studying the story of Zacchaeus, group members were challenged to seek to introduce people to the Savior who can change their lives and meet their deepest needs.



ADULT

Adults examined how Zacchaeus sought to see Jesus, and Jesus sought to save Zacchaeus. Adults were challenged to seek to introduce people to the Savior who can change their lives and meet their needs.

# HOME connection

ST Unit: Life's Big Questions, Lesson 1

## D6 Family Theme:

HOW CAN I KNOW GOD EXISTS?

### Objectives:

**Know:** The fact that we exist at all is evidence for the existence of God.

**Think:** God has to exist for life to exist.

**Do:** Investigate the evidences beyond Scripture that project an eternal Creator God.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:19-20; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 148; Romans 2:12-15; Hebrews 10:16.** Whether it is due to the current bias within our culture's scientific educational system, a series of books written by secular thinkers, or experiences with difficult moments in life, we have had or will have moments where our knee-jerk reaction is to question the existence of God. However, it is possible that we can know that God exists, regardless of our current circumstances.



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

The existence of all life offers evidence of the existence of a personal God, who has made Himself known to us through His creation. Pray with your family and thank God for the continuous ways He declares His existence.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** Some people continually try to prove that God is not real. As Christians, we can have confidence that we believe in a God who is real. Besides the evidence in Scripture, all we have to do is go outside to see that God exists. Take a walk or a bike ride with your family, either down your street or at a park. Point out all of God's creation, like the trees, clouds, animals. Explain to your child that all of creation points to a Creator. Everyone and everything you point out will have such detail in its design that a Creator God had to intentionally make it.

**OPTION 2:** Have your family discuss some of their favorite things, like movies, songs, sports, novels, etc. After your discussion, ask the following questions:

- *How did some of these favorite things come to be?* (directors, producers, authors, cooks, crops, construction workers, etc.)
- *Did any of these things materialize accidentally?*



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned God is the Creator of all things. He or she heard a Webster Family story where Jamie, Annie, and Rosie learned God created each person and made each one of us special. Your child learned God made each person special. **God Made Me Special** too.



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE

Today your student learned God is real because of His creations, our sense of morality, and through His Son, Jesus. He or she learned believing God is real should change what we do. Students were encouraged to live their lives so others can see their belief that God is real.



4 & 5 GRADE



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

Your teens looked at the “first cause” argument for God today; we can know God exists because we can see His creation. We can also see the intricacies of His creation—pointing to a Designer, not some cosmological accident. There are some huge philosophical and apologetic ideas here. Encourage your teen to find some answers for challenges about the existence of God. Share a book on Christian apologetics (like Josh McDowell’s *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*) together, attaching sticky-note comments for one another as you read a chapter at a time.



YOUNG ADULT

Group members examined the question, “How can I know God exists?” They were challenged to stand firm in their faith, confident that evidence points to an eternal Creator.



ADULT

Adult groups discussed how life, creation, and morality all point to the existence of God. Members were encouraged to stand firm in their faith, confident that evidences beyond Scripture point to an eternal, Creator God.

# HOME connection

ST Unit: Life's Big Questions, Lesson 2

## D6 Family Theme:

WHY IS EVERY LIFE VALUABLE?

### Objectives:

**Know:** Every life, regardless of any circumstance, is valuable.

**Think:** Every life is valuable because every person is made in the image of God.

**Do:** Every person should be treated with dignity because they are image bearers of their Creator.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; 9:5-6; Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:13-16.** As children, some of our treasures actually weren't valuable at all. Yet, we guarded or protected those things because they were simply valuable to us. Now, we understand the nature of value much more and can usually identify things of worth. But, does knowing that something is valuable have an impact on how we may treat that something? Does it impact us within our culture? What about within the church? If we knew that every person was incredibly valuable, regardless of appearance, status, skin color, ethical or political position, would we treat him or her as someone of great value?



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Every human being is an image bearer of the Creator; therefore, every human being has purpose. Pray that you and your family will be able to see the value and purpose in all people, and that God will help you live out your purpose.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** The Bible says that Adam and Eve were created in the image of God. Every human being is an image bearer of Christ. To explain what this means to your child, have her take a silly selfie on your phone. Show her the picture and ask if the picture is her. Tell her that the picture isn't her because it is just an image of her. It can show someone what your child looks like and a little bit about her. As image bearers of Christ, we are not God, but we can show people what He looks like and a little bit about Him. Since everyone bears the image of God, everyone has value.

**OPTION 2:** Name some items that are considered very valuable today [*Mona Lisa*, Honus Wagner baseball card, *Action Comics #1*, diamond-crusted Rolex, an original Rembrandt, one of the 300 original Chevrolet Corvettes, etc.]. Invite your family to add to your list of valuable items. Ask them, *Why are these items considered valuable? What determines the value of these items? Does your knowledge of a thing's value affect the way you may treat that thing?*



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned God made each person different. He or she heard a Webster Family story where Mrs. Martin helps Annie understand that God can use each person's differences for His purpose. **God Made Me Special** and different from anyone else.



K & 1  
GRADE



2 & 3  
GRADE

Today your student learned every person is valuable because he or she is created in God's image. We are intelligent and moral. We have abilities. We are giving and eternal. He or she learned every life is valuable to God and was challenged to treat others in ways to show they are valuable to him or her and to God.



4 & 5  
GRADE



YOUNG  
TEEN



HIGH  
SCHOOL

This Mother's Day, rejoice in the value of human life! Help your teenagers celebrate the mother and grandmothers God gave to them. Google abortion statistics for the year your child was born to help him or her understand the "chances" of being born that year. (For instance, in 2004, the CDC reported the abortion rate at 238 abortions per 1000 live births.) Because people are created in God's image, every life is precious.



YOUNG  
ADULT

The group studied the question, "Why is every life valuable?" Group members were challenged to treat all people with value and dignity because they are image bearers of their Creator.



ADULT

Group members explored how God created humans in His image, therefore every life, regardless of any circumstance, is valuable. Members were challenged to treat all people with value and dignity because they are image bearers of their Creator.

# HOME connection

ST Unit: Life's Big Questions, Lesson 3

## D6 Family Theme:

WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANITY UNIQUE?

### Objectives:

**Know:** Christianity is uniquely grounded in the person, life, and historical resurrection of Jesus.

**Think:** Among all religious options, only Christianity withstands the test of history and time.

**Do:** Respond confidently and compassionately to objections raised against the truth of Christianity.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-19; Mark 1:14-20; John 21:25; Matthew 8:23-27;**

**Romans 3:21-26.** People sometimes say that all religions are essentially the same. It is true that there are many common beliefs and practices across religions. But there are also massive differences that relate to the character and nature of God, the means of salvation, and the afterlife. And in particular, Jesus and His teachings set Christianity apart from other religions.



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

God's grace should make us humble and thankful, not proud. Pray that you and your family will recognize that it is only by the grace of God that we receive salvation.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** Our world is full of different religions, so how do we know that Christianity is the only one that is true? Christianity is unique because the life of Jesus can be historically proven. The gospel is good news, not just good advice we are giving to people. Find a newspaper in print or online to look at with your children. Point out the differences in the new articles and the advice columns. The articles are full of facts that can be proven, and the advice columns are full of feelings and reactions. Which of those are they more likely to trust? It is much easier to believe in something that can be proven.

**OPTION 2:** Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology abound with stories about gods and goddesses who were religious figures in their cultures. Can your family name some of them? Were they real people, who existed in history? No. But Jesus Christ was not a myth or legend. He did exist in history. His miracles were documented by eyewitnesses and recorded by those who knew Him. We can trust the claims of Christianity!





PRE-  
SCHOOL

Today your child learned we are God's masterpiece. He or she heard a Webster Family story where Rosie learned a valuable lesson about how to use words and actions with God's masterpiece. **God Made Me Special** and my words and actions should build others up because God made them special too.



K & 1  
GRADE



2 & 3  
GRADE



4 & 5  
GRADE

Today your student learned Christianity is unique because it is historical, offers eternal life, is seen in miracles, and is based on grace. The Bible gives us evidence of its uniqueness. We can use God's Word to defend our faith.



YOUNG  
TEEN



HIGH  
SCHOOL

Your teen studied apologetics today in the question of what makes Christianity different from other world religions. Its basis in history, its focus on grace (not earning our salvation), and its emphasis on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus distinguish it from any other religion. Christianity is not a myth or legend. It is not merely someone's opinion or advice. Christianity is about a relationship with Jesus Christ—and that is good news!



YOUNG  
ADULT

Group members examined the question, "What makes Christianity unique?" With evidence in hand, group members were challenged to respond confidently and compassionately to objections raised against the truth of Christianity.



ADULT

*FUSION* group members discussed how Christianity is uniquely and historically grounded in the person, life, and resurrection of Jesus. When others object to the claims of Christianity, believers can respond with confidence and compassion.



# HOME connection

ST Unit: Life's Big Questions, Lesson 4

## D6 Family Theme:

WHY IS JESUS THE ONLY WAY?

### Objectives:

**Know:** All of humanity is in need of a Savior and Jesus is the only One capable of saving us.

**Think:** Keep in mind that Christianity is an inclusive religion because the offer of salvation is available to everyone.

**Do:** Look for opportunities to share how Jesus is the way to salvation.



## READ: LISTEN TO GOD

**Read John 14:6; John 8:24; Romans 3:10-26; Galatians 2:16.** Many people reject the exclusive claims of Christ. For some, the idea that there is only one way to God seems closed-minded and hurtful. In fact, some Christians question whether Jesus even claimed to be the only way to God. The Bible says Jesus is the only way to God.



## PRAY: TALK TO GOD

The Bible teaches that humanity is in desperate need of salvation. Pray with your family and thank Jesus for dying on the cross for you, even in your sin. Pray that you and your family will recognize that the rest of humanity deserves salvation too.



## DO: WALK WITH GOD

**OPTION 1:** Everywhere you look there will be someone doing things differently than you. They will tell you that their way is the right way and your way is the right way. Everyone can have his or her own truth. Read a book to your child or have your child read a book, but start from the end of the book. Tell your child that there is only one way to read a book in English: from left to right and from beginning to end. In the same way, there is only one way to get into Heaven: through Jesus. Jesus' salvation is available to anyone who is willing to accept Jesus' way.

**OPTION 2:** Take your family to Starbucks to talk about choices. Howard Schultz (former CEO of Starbucks) mentioned that there were over 70,000 options for how to order coffee at his stores (some estimates are even higher). Or go to Baskin Robbins and look at the ice cream choices. Go to your grocery store and check on the breakfast cereal choices. We all love having choices! When it comes to religions you can choose Christianity, while others pick from Islam, Hinduism, Scientology, Jehovah's Witness, Mormonism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and the list keeps going. With coffee, ice cream, or cereal, our choices don't matter all that much. But choosing Jesus makes a difference for eternity!



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned God created each person with special differences in skin, hair, and eye color. God loves each person because He created each person to be different and special. We are all God's masterpieces. **God Made Me Special** and I am God's masterpiece.



K & 1  
GRADE



2 & 3  
GRADE



4 & 5  
GRADE

Today your student learned Jesus is the only way to have eternal life in Heaven. He or she learned Jesus was God's plan for forgiveness of every person's sin. We are to look for opportunities to tell others about Jesus and that He is the only way to Heaven.



YOUNG  
TEEN



HIGH  
SCHOOL

Talk with your teenagers about whether or not the gospel is exclusive. Is it exclusive to say that Jesus is the only way to salvation? Yes, it excludes earning our salvation by our own merit. It excludes any route to eternal life other than accepting Jesus' death on our behalf. But the good news of salvation is that it is inclusive—everyone is included in God's offer of salvation! Talk to your teen about what would happen if you put diesel fuel in your gas tank or gas in your diesel tank (<https://blog.allstate.com/fuel-functionality/>). Would you call this warning exclusive?



YOUNG  
ADULT

Group members examined the question, "Why is Jesus the only way?" They were challenged to look for opportunities to share how Jesus is the way to salvation.



ADULT

*FUSION* group members discussed how all of humanity is in need of a Savior and Jesus is the only One capable of saving us. Members were encouraged to look for ways to tell others about the truth of the gospel.