

OT Unit: Walking in Wisdom, Lesson 1

D6 Family Theme:
THE SOURCE OF WISDOM**Objectives:****Know:** Accepting God's Wisdom leads to life, while rejecting it leads to calamity.**Think:** Have the mindset that learning and applying God's wisdom is the path to godliness and success.**Do:** Seek out and apply the wisdom found in God's Word.**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read Proverbs 1:1-33. Wisdom prizes good influences and relationships. It deals with what we "take in" as well as what we "put out." Wisdom involves looking at the hard reality of this world and recognizing that it is not ours to define or determine. The path of wisdom begins with recognizing this truth.

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Accept and live according to God's wisdom. Pray that you and your family will not only read God's Word but apply it to your lives. Pray that God will show you the areas of your lives that need change.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: God blessed Solomon with great wisdom and Solomon shared that wisdom with us through the book of Proverbs. God's wisdom is available to everyone, we just have to seek it out. Explain to your child that by reading the Bible, he will gain Godly wisdom. He can use that wisdom to avoid temptation and live a disciplined life. Encourage your child to have a daily devotional time. Talk with him about how there is a chapter in Proverbs for every day of the month. This is a great book of the Bible to read when you are beginning to spend daily time in the Word.

OPTION 2: Consider the popular saying: *I believe everything happens for a reason. Sometimes the reason is that you acted like an idiot.* How does your family understand this? How often does something "just happen" to people who act unwisely? Consider also the quote attributed (perhaps incorrectly) to John Wayne: *Life is hard; it's even harder when you're stupid.*



PRE-
SCHOOL

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*. **Jesus Is God's Son.**



K & 1
GRADE



2 & 3
GRADE



4 & 5
GRADE

Today your student learned God appeared to Solomon in a dream and offered him whatever he wanted. Solomon asked God for wisdom. God not only blessed Solomon with incredible wisdom, but also wealth and power. Solomon knew God was the source of his wisdom and everything else he had. Students were encouraged to turn to God for wisdom.



YOUNG
TEEN



HIGH
SCHOOL

Teens studied today about the source of wisdom. God has provided for anyone to gain a wise outlook on life. James 1:5 taught that believers can ask God for wisdom and He will gladly give it. Wisdom begins with fearing the Lord, giving Him reverence and respect. You grow in wisdom as you spend time with God and His Word. Recognizing simple (ignorant) people in a different category from the mockers and the fools (who reject God's wisdom) can give your teen discernment about choosing friends. Pray with your teen about the importance of *walking with the wise* (Proverbs 13:20).



YOUNG
ADULT

The Brink magazine went out today. The group members discussed Proverbs 1 and the wisdom that comes from God. The group was challenged to apply the wisdom that is found in Scripture.



ADULT

FUSION and *FUSIONnext* magazines went out this week, as well as *What's Up?*, the newsletter for parents of teens. Groups discussed how accepting and living by God's wisdom leads to life, while rejecting it leads to calamity. Members were encouraged to seek out and apply the wisdom found in God's Word.

OT Unit: Walking in Wisdom, Lesson 2

D6 Family Theme:

THE NEED FOR WISDOM

Objectives:

Know: Those who reject God and His truth lack wisdom.

Think: Be conscious that God's Word is my source for wisdom.

Do: Learn and apply the wisdom of God's Word and live wisely in relation to all people.

**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read Proverbs 8:5; 12:15; 29:16; 3:21-23. Ignorance is the position from which we all start, but we cannot afford to live there. We all need knowledge, and we need to use the knowledge wisely, in the fear of the Lord. We can never afford to be among those who have no need of anyone else's advice!

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Listen to God's Word and set a good example for fools. Pray that you and your family are willing to listen to the godly advice of others and are willing to share godly wisdom with those who might not want to hear it.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: Without wisdom in our lives, we are ignorant or foolish. As Christians, we need to be willing to seek out and listen to godly wisdom which can come from Scripture and godly counsel. Pray with your children that God will help them turn from the temptations in their lives and make the wise choice to follow God's way. Talk with your children about the people they may know of that live wicked lives, void of wisdom. Sometimes it seems like their lives are perfect, despite their bad choices, but it is important to remember that God will punish the wicked and reward the righteous.

OPTION 2: Ask for comments on the phrase, *Ignorance is bliss*. What does it mean. How much do we agree with it? How much do we value knowledge over ignorance?



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted by the government. It was very crowded in Bethlehem, but God provided a place for Mary and Joseph to stay. God took care of them because **Jesus Is God's Son.**



K & 1
GRADE



2 & 3
GRADE



4 & 5
GRADE

Today your student learned that Nabal's wife, Abigail, kept David from making a foolish decision. She did so by having him think about the bad consequences his actions would bring. David needed the wisdom only God can give, and so do we. Students were challenged to listen and respond to God's voice so they can make wise choices.



YOUNG
TEEN



HIGH
SCHOOL

Wisdom brings many rewards, your teens learned today. How do wise choices protect us? If you can bear it, watch a clip of *The Three Stooges* and discuss foolishness. Talk with your teenagers about the difference between wisdom, intelligence, and education. Can an ignorant person be wise? Your students should to be learning academics, but in what ways are they also learning wisdom? What opportunities are there for people to add wisdom and common sense to their academic learning? Brainstorm with your teens about creating more opportunities. A family camping trip, planned visits, assigned reading, employment, teamwork, and other activities may be starting places.



YOUNG
ADULT

The group examined our need for God's wisdom and ways, and was challenged to live wisely in relation to all people.



ADULT

FUSION groups discussed how those who reject God and His truth lack wisdom. Members were challenged to learn and apply the wisdom of God's Word and live wisely in relation to all people.

OT Unit: Walking in Wisdom, Lesson 3

D6 Family Theme:

WISDOM IN RIGHTEOUS LIVING

Objectives:

Know: Those who are wise practice righteous living.

Think: Consider righteous living to be the only wise way to live.

Do: Practice righteous living and teach it to the next generation.

**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read Proverbs 23:24-25; 19:1; 29:23; 5:1-8. Although the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, that often occurs in the context of a home and family. Proverbs tells us much about how to do that. Among other things, it gives precious warnings about honesty, humility, and faithfulness in all things, including our marriage vows.

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Always be truthful and do what is right even when no one is looking. Pray that you and your family will live righteous lives even when its hard. Thank God that He is always there to help us make wise choices.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: Just like we have to go to school to learn math and proper grammar, we have to work hard to acquire wisdom. One way we can gather wisdom is by watching it lived out by those around us. But what will a life of wisdom look like? A life of wisdom is filled with honesty, integrity, and humility. Talk with your child about ways they can show honesty, integrity, and humility in their lives. Have your child list some of the mentors in her life that have shown her what righteous living looks like. Encourage her to write them thank you notes for showing her what godly wisdom is supposed to look like in a Christian's life.

OPTION 2: Put this statement up where everyone can read it, and ask for comment: *THIS STATEMENT IS FALSE*. What does it mean? What do we usually think of statements or people that we cannot firmly identify as true or false?



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned Mary gave birth to baby Jesus while they were in Bethlehem. 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** and He is a special gift.



K & 1
GRADE



2 & 3
GRADE



4 & 5
GRADE

Today your student learned that much of the book of Proverbs requires action. He or she learned God's Word helps us listen wisely, speak wisely, look wisely, and walk wisely in order to live wisely. Your student was challenged to use God's Word to help him or her use wisdom to live a life of integrity.



YOUNG
TEEN



HIGH
SCHOOL

Three areas where wisdom is applied to life were part of your teens' study from the book of Proverbs today: honesty, humility, and purity. All of these are important topics for teenagers. Which one of these areas would your teen say is the biggest struggle for her? Provide additional accountability for your teenager in that area. Together, brainstorm five ways to improve in that area, then check in weekly to be sure your teen is making progress. Ask your teen to write and share his own proverb about the area he chose—using words to make an analogy about the benefit of honesty (or humility or purity).



YOUNG
ADULT

The group members examined how righteous living includes sexual purity and were challenged to turn away from sexual temptation.



ADULT

Adults considered how wise people practice righteous living. They were encouraged to practice righteous living and to teach the next generation to do the same.

OT Unit: Walking in Wisdom, Lesson 4

D6 Family Theme:
WISE MEN SEEK HIM**Objectives:****Know:** Joseph and the wise men displayed wisdom in their responses to God's leading at the birth of Christ.**Think:** Consider it my joy to respond to God's leading with obedience.**Do:** Worship the Savior born to us and follow His leading.**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read Matthew 1:18—2:12. Herod constantly feared that others were plotting to take his place. He murdered any opponents, even in his family! Constantly on the alert for conspiracy, he became deaf to the voice of conscience that God had given to him. Mary, Joseph, the magi, and the shepherds, however, listened to God's voice. Rejoice today in what came of their listening obedience.

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Be willing to do whatever God leads you to do. Pray that you and your family will listen for God's direction in your life, and trust that He knows what is best.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: As Christians we need to be willing and ready to do whatever God calls us to do. We have to always be on the lookout for God's leading in our daily lives, just like the wise men had to follow the star. When the wise men followed the star, they found Jesus and worshipped Him. In the same way, we should seek to worship and glorify God with everything we have. Talk with your children about the gifts they want for Christmas, and the gifts they are giving to other people. Talk with them about the different gifts they can give to God each day, like their time, their talents, and their thankfulness.

OPTION 2: The wise men worshipped Jesus when they found Him and they gave Him gifts. Ask your family to name reasons why Jesus is worthy of our worship. Encourage them to give Him their worship as a gift to Him this Christmas.



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned an angel appeared to shepherds in a field and told them about the birth of Jesus. They wanted to see this special gift from God. They quickly went to where the angel said He would be. **Jesus Is God's Son.**



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

Today your student learned the wise men were dedicated seekers, were humble worshipers, and were sacrificial givers. We use wisdom when we follow their example in our relationship with Jesus. Your child was challenged to seek Jesus and worship Him, just as the wise men did.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

For a Christmas lesson in the middle of a study of Proverbs, it makes sense to study the wise men. Joseph is another character who is often overlooked in the Christmas story. Joseph dealt wisely with Mary and baby Jesus as he followed God's directions. Ask your teen about two times that he did. Though legends have added to the account of the visit of the magi, we do know they traveled from the East, followed the star, brought three different kinds of gifts, and were intent on worshipping Jesus, the newborn king. As a wise family this Christmas, what can you give Jesus? Be intentional in creating a new focus on giving. In all the hubbub and gift giving, don't forget to worship Him!



YOUNG ADULT

Group members studied the Christmas story and were challenged to worship the Savior and follow His leading.



ADULT

FUSION groups considered how Joseph and the wise men displayed wisdom in their responses to God's leading at the birth of Christ. Members were challenged to worship the Savior born to us and to follow His leading.

OT Unit: Walking in Wisdom, Lesson 5

D6 Family Theme:

WISDOM IN DAILY LIVING

Objectives:**Know:** Proverbs gives wisdom needed for successful life and relationships.**Think:** Consider applying God's wisdom to be the key to successful daily life.**Do:** Apply the wisdom of Proverbs to my work, my speech, my money, and my emotions.**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read Proverbs 10:4-5; 21:23; 23:4-5; 14:29. Few places in Scripture are more concrete than Proverbs! These texts address real life: how diligently we work; how carefully we talk or act toward others; how wisely we behave with material wealth; how well we control anger. Even unreligious people can understand the wisdom and importance of such behavior.

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Choose your words carefully, seeking to build people up rather than tear them down. Pray that you and your family will be conscious of the way others are treated and will encourage others to do the same.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: When going through your day, how often do you take the time to think about the mundane choices you are making? Proverbs tells us how important it is to use wisdom even in our day-to-day choices. As Christians, we should work hard, choose our words carefully, have good stewardship of our money, and control our emotions. Make a chore list with your child, but instead of chores, have him list the ways in which he can display wisdom in his life. The Bible is full of the characteristics we should have as Christ followers. You can help him add to the four that are already listed by going through other passages in the Bible.

OPTION 2: How often do we encounter laziness? How have we seen it in life? What are some of the most striking examples your family can bring up? How do they generally view lazy people? What are some "lesser-thought-about areas of laziness" that we should pay attention to?



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned wise men discovered a new star in the sky and knew it was a message that Jesus had been born. The wise men followed the star to where God's Son was, and they brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **Jesus Is God's Son** and we can worship Him.



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

Today your student learned that although Solomon began his leadership with wisdom, he did not end with it. At some point he quit guarding his heart and he allowed other things to come before his devotion to God. Solomon made choices that took his focus off of God. Your student was reminded of the importance of daily seeking God's wisdom to make wise choices in his or her life.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

Your teenagers looked at four important themes in the book of Proverbs today. A good attitude toward work, words, self-control, and money are indicators of godly wisdom. Ask your teen to rank these four areas from easiest to hardest in his or her personal success. Establishing good habits as a young person can lead to victory later. Have your teen suggest one good habit in each area (such as saving 10% of what she earns or saying the fruit of the Spirit before blurting out an angry response). Would this be a good habit for you too? What steps can you take to work together on establishing a new habit?



YOUNG ADULT

The group members studied how wisdom should influence our daily lives and were challenged to apply the wisdom of Proverbs to work, speech, money, and emotions.



ADULT

FUSION groups examined how Proverbs gives wisdom needed for successful life and relationships. Members were encouraged to apply the wisdom of Proverbs to their work, their speech, their money, and their emotions.

NT Unit: Walking in the Spirit, Lesson 1

D6 Family Theme:
LIVING IN THE SPIRIT**Objectives:****Know:** In Christ we are free to live under the control and direction of the Spirit.**Think:** Consider my priority to be the things that matter to God.**Do:** Set my mind on the things of God, allowing Him to make me more and more like Christ.**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read Romans 8:1-39. Every day, sometimes without realizing it, we benefit from freedoms. While the freedoms we enjoy as citizens, employees, and friends are valuable, they pale in comparison to the freedoms found in Christ.

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Live confidently in Christ's unending love. Pray that even during the trials of life, you and your family will lean on God's love to get you through.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: In Christ, we are free from the penalty of our sins, which is spiritual death. We are free to live as children of God and can rely on Him to get us through difficult times. We are free from hopelessness and can live in His love. When we live in the Spirit, we receive all these benefits and more. Talk with your children about some of the benefits they receive because they live in a house. Some answers may be hot water, a comfy bed, or three meals a day. If they did not live in a house, they would not have access to these. If we do not live in the Spirit, we do not receive the benefits.

OPTION 2: Discuss with your family the fact that whether we realize it or not, our lives consist of numerous freedoms. Discuss what life would be like without the following freedoms. While there are some listed for you, feel free to add your own.

- *Freedom of speech*
- *Freedom of religion*
- *Freedom of the press*
- *Freedom of assembly*
- *The right to own private property*



PRE-
SCHOOL

Today your child learned he or she is to obey those whom God has placed over us. He or she heard a Webster Family story where Jamie, Annie, and Rosie chose to obey Mr. Martin when they went sledding. **I Can Obey God** when I obey others.



K & 1
GRADE



2 & 3
GRADE



4 & 5
GRADE

This month your student learned Romans 8 teaches us the Holy Spirit gives believers the power to overcome sin, follow God's way, assures us we are part of God's family, guarantees our future, prays for us, and loves us. He or she was encouraged to ask the Holy Spirit for help in leading a life pleasing to God.



YOUNG
TEEN



HIGH
SCHOOL

Romans 8, the passage your teen studied today, emphasizes living as a child of the King, free from condemnation, hopelessness, and insecurity. Talk about Prince Harry and Prince William, grandsons of Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain. What insecurities would they have? What does it mean to be an heir to royalty? What comparisons or contrasts can your teen make between his or her position as a child of God and the monarchy of Great Britain? When Meghan Markle joined the royal family last year, what changed about her life? We are free from our pasts—no longer penalized for our sins—when we accept Jesus as our Savior. Because of our relationship with Him, we can be free from sin, from sin's penalty, and from the Law.



YOUNG
ADULT

The group members studied what it means to live in the Spirit and were challenged to set their mind on the things of God to become more Christlike.



ADULT

Adults discussed how we are free to live under the control and direction of the Spirit when we are in Christ. Adults were encouraged to set their minds on the things of God, allowing Him to make them more and more like Christ.

NT Unit: Walking in the Spirit, Lesson 2

D6 Family Theme:

TRANSFORMED LIVING

Objectives:

Know: We are to give our all to God and be transformed by His Word, using our gifts and showing love to others.

Think: Consider every day an opportunity to present myself to God to do His will.

Do: Keep surrendering my life to God, serving and loving others.

**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read Romans 12:1-21. Following Christ is the most momentous event one can experience this side of Heaven. Once one experiences this conversion, life is never the same. Beyond the spiritual transformation that occurs, the true believer is ready and willing to give his all for the cause of Christ.

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Seek to discover which spiritual gifts you have and use them in the ministries of your church. Pray that you and your family will discover your spiritual gifts and that God will reveal opportunities for you to use them.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: When you become a Christian, God brings you from being an orphan to being His child. He brings you from darkness to light. Your life is transformed for the better, and we owe everything to God for this gift. The only way to thank God for this new life is to give it back to Him. We need to use the gifts God has blessed us with to glorify Him and bless other people. Talk with your child about what your spiritual gifts are and how you use them at home, at work, and at church. Talk with her about what her spiritual gifts might be, and how she can use them to glorify God.

OPTION 2: Discuss with your family how each Bible character below gave, or was willing to give, his or her all for God.

- Abraham
- Elijah
- Samson
- Stephen
- Peter
- Lydia
- John the Apostle

Encourage your family members to give their all to God this week.



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned God wants us to obey with a happy heart. He or she heard a Webster Family story where Rosie prayed and asked God's Spirit to help her have a good attitude in obeying. **I Can Obey God** and He will help me.



K & 1
GRADE



2 & 3
GRADE



4 & 5
GRADE

Today your student learned Romans 12 teaches us we are to transform our thinking and actions toward God's way instead of the world's way. He or she studied different verses in Romans and applied them to different situations to understand how God's Word can guide us in making choices that please God.



YOUNG
TEEN



HIGH
SCHOOL

Your teenagers learned vital truths about the Christian walk today as they studied Romans 12. First, our lives must be "living sacrifices," surrendered to God's will. Then, we must use our spiritual gifts, the way the Holy Spirit has equipped us to serve the church. Also, love should characterize our interactions with others, as we prefer others above ourselves. Have you helped your teen to identify his or her spiritual gift? Several spiritual gift inventories are available on the Internet. If your teen will take one (or more) of them, you may have a new concept of what your teen can contribute to God's kingdom. This would help both parent and maturing students to channel their efforts in becoming productive members of the church.



YOUNG
ADULT

Group members examined Romans 12 and discussed what it means to live a transformed life and how that transformation should affect how we treat others.



ADULT

FUSION groups discussed how we are to give our all to God and be transformed by His Word, using our gifts in ministry and showing love to others. Group members were challenged to keep surrendering their lives to God, serving and loving others.

NT Unit: Walking in the Spirit, Lesson 3

D6 Family Theme:
SUBMISSIVE LIVING**Objectives:****Know:** We are to submit to those in authority, show love to those around us, and follow the example of Christ.**Think:** I will let a submissive spirit guide my attitudes and actions.**Do:** Choose to submit to authority, love others, and put on the lifestyle and character of Christ.**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read Romans 13:1-14. While the Greek term for submission or subjection is often debated or denounced in today's culture, it is a recurring theme throughout the New Testament. It is good and right for believers to live lives of submission as prescribed by the Lord.

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Obey those in authority unless it means disobeying God. Pray that you and your family will show love to those around you and show respect to the authority figures in your lives.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: Living a submissive life can be hard sometimes. We might feel like we know better than those in charge, but the Bible tells us that we should always submit to those in authority. The only exception is if obeying them makes you disobedient to God. Play a game of "Simon Says" with your children. Start the game as you normally would, but as you progress add actions that would be disobedient to God. Some examples are "Simon says, hit your brother." or "Simon says to tell your mom she is mean." In order to win the game they should be obedient to everything you say except for the actions that would be displeasing to God.

OPTION 2: Talk with your family about submitting to authority. Ask them to name various authority figures we should submit to. Ask them if there is ever a time when we should not submit to these authorities. Discuss how we should respond if someone in authority tells us to do something God tells us not to do. Encourage your children to submit to those in authority this week, beginning with their parents!



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned obedience brings peace. He or she heard a Webster Family story where Annie's disobedience caused her to not have peace. When she told her mom what she had done, her mom forgave her. **I Can Obey God** by obeying those in charge of me.



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE

Today your student learned Romans 13 teaches us to submit to God's plan for our lives. He or she learned that includes obeying and honoring those whom He has placed in authority over us and loving others. He or she discussed what that means and ways to follow God's plan.



4 & 5 GRADE



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

Romans 13 explores some important questions about living a Spirit-filled life, including our responsibility to the government and our relationships to other believers. Though we are citizens of a heavenly kingdom, we are still to be responsible citizens of an earthly government. Are there occasions when Christians should *not* obey the government? Talk with your teen about those situations. Romans 13:11 taught that we live in urgent times. With your family, take a newspaper, a globe, a current news magazine, or perhaps your television or computer (to symbolize a newscast), and pray about what is happening in the world. Ask God to give your family wisdom in obeying authority while standing on God's Word.



YOUNG ADULT

The group members examined Romans 13 and discussed what the Bible says about submitting to those in authority. The group was encouraged to obey those in authority unless that means disobeying God.



ADULT

FUSION groups discussed how we are to submit to those in authority, show love to those around us, and follow the example of Christ. Members were encouraged to make the choice to submit to authority, love others, and put on the lifestyle and character of Christ.

NT Unit: Walking in the Spirit, Lesson 4

D6 Family Theme:
SELFLESS LIVING**Objectives:****Know:** We are to live in harmony with other believers, accepting one another and putting others ahead of ourselves.**Think:** I choose to allow love to guide my treatment of and acceptance of my fellow believers.**Do:** Glorify God by putting others' needs and desires ahead of our own.**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read Romans 14:1—15:7. There will always be issues on which good people do not see eye to eye. Sometimes the issues are frivolous but sometimes they are crucial. Living in such a way as to be able to overcome these differences and still continue the relationship is of utmost importance.

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Glorify God by living in harmony, putting others' needs ahead of our own. Pray that you and your family will listen to and accept believers who have differing opinions than you.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: We should always put others' needs before our own, whether that is listening to and learning from those with differing opinions, or making sure we show love to everyone around us. When we love others and sacrifice our time to help others, we are glorifying God. Ask your child for some ideas on how he can help those in his life. Decide on a service project for your family to participate in. This can be for fellow believers within your church or an outreach for the un-saved. Some possible ideas could be to donate old toys, gather blankets and water bottles for the homeless, or cook a meal for an elderly person at your church.

OPTION 2: Share the following items on which people do not see eye to eye. As you call them out, ask your family members to call out which they prefer.

- *Coke or Pepsi?*
- *White or wheat bread?*
- *Paper or plastic bags?*
- *MAC or PC?*
- *iPhone or Android?*
- *Ford or Chevrolet?*
- *Football or baseball?*
- *Starbuck's or Dunkin Donuts?*

We don't have to agree on everything, even in the same family. We love each other and respect each other's choices.



PRE-
SCHOOL

Today your child learned obeying shows our love, not only to God, but also to others. He or she heard a Webster Family story where Jamie and his friend obeyed Mr. Webster and they were rewarded for their obedience. **I Can Obey God** and show my love for Him through my actions.



K & 1
GRADE



2 & 3
GRADE

Today your student learned Romans 14 teaches us about selfless living. We are to follow Jesus' example in helping, serving, and caring for others. Our words and actions should reflect the Spirit of God, and we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us with our struggles.



4 & 5
GRADE



YOUNG
TEEN



HIGH
SCHOOL

Unity and harmony were topics from Romans 14-15 that your teen studied today. Ask your teenager to sing a familiar song, like "Deep and Wide" or "Mary Had a Little Lamb." As he or she begins to sing, join in, but choose a different key. (Note: this is hard. You will have to be deliberately off-key.) See if you can continue singing the entire song in two different keys. Usually one person will pull the other one into their key. Try another song with one of you singing harmony. Talk about the difference in unity and unison. Also talk about the importance to allow for harmony instead of unison when we work with other believers. What one idea can your teen suggest for improving family harmony?



YOUNG
ADULT

While studying Romans 14-15, group members discussed the importance of selfless living and were challenged to glorify God by putting others' needs and desires ahead of their own.



ADULT

Adults examined how we are to live in harmony with other believers, accepting one another and putting others ahead of ourselves. Adults were challenged to accept each other when we disagree about issues not clearly spelled out in Scripture.

ST Unit: Living Out Authentic Faith, Lesson 1

D6 Family Theme:
AUTHENTIC FAITH**Objectives:****Know:** Authenticity is essential to vibrant and growing relationships with God and others.**Think:** Live with the assurance that God's nature allows me to be honest about myself.**Do:** Be honest in every way as you pursue a deeper relationship with God and others.**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read Psalm 103:1-14; Ephesians 2:1-10; Romans 7:15-25. Authenticity is not just a biblical concept; it is essential to a right relationship with God and with others. Thankfully, God is authentic in the way He communicates with us through His Word and gives us every reason to be authentic in our pursuit of Him.

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Continue to worship and serve God, knowing we don't have to be perfect to do so. Praise God that even through our failures, He uses us and wants a relationship with us.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: We are often ambushed with lies about who we are supposed to be and how we should live our lives. We feel like we have to wear masks around people to pretend to be someone we are not. God wants us to be ourselves and loves us for who we are. In our imperfections, God still chooses to use us to lead others to Him. Talk with your child about some of the reasons he feels inadequate or the reasons he feels he has to pretend to be someone else. Some of the reasons might be fear of rejection, fear of judgment, or fear of disappointment. Remind your children that you love them for who they are, just like God does.

OPTION 2: Discuss authentic faith by asking these questions:

- *What does it mean to be authentic?* (Honesty, being consistent regardless of who you are around, etc.)
- *What are some examples of ways that the world around us discourages authenticity?* (Refusing to forgive past mistakes; public crusades against people, organizations, or businesses for certain positions that are unpopular; unrealistic portrayals of people in media/entertainment; etc.)
- *What is the difference between a worldly understanding of authenticity and biblical authenticity?* (The world says to just be who you are, but Scripture teaches us to be who God designed us to be; the world says that people should just accept each other as they are, but Scripture teaches us to help those around us grow in the fear and admonition of the Lord; the world encourages you to be what people want you to be to get what you want from them, but God calls us to be what He wants us to be in order to serve His purpose and be a blessing to others.)



PRE-
SCHOOL

Today your child learned faith is when we have complete trust in something or someone. God told Noah to build an ark to save him, his family, and the animals He would send from a flood. Noah lived by faith by trusting and obeying God. I can follow Noah's example, and **I Can Live by Faith.**



K & 1
GRADE



2 & 3
GRADE

Today your student learned what it means to have authentic faith. He or she discussed the difficulty of wanting to do what is right and actually making those choices. He or she examined biblical examples of people who faced those same struggles. He or she was encouraged to turn to God's Word and the Holy Spirit for help in saying no to sin.



4 & 5
GRADE



YOUNG
TEEN



HIGH
SCHOOL

Teens started a new unit today on authenticity and accountability. Often teens try to please their peers by looking and acting in ways that are not true to their own character. Ask your teenager about this struggle. Does he wear "masks" so that he fits in? Does she feel like a "fake" in order to please someone else? Help your teen understand that authenticity is a mark of Christian living. Read *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Margery Williams) together (No, it is not just for children!) and talk about having your "fur rubbed off," so that you can be real.



YOUNG
ADULT

Group members discussed what it means to have authentic faith and were challenged to pursue authentic relationships with God and others.



ADULT

Adult groups discussed how authenticity is essential to a vibrant and growing relationship with God and others. Members were encouraged to be honest in every way as they pursue deeper relationships with God and others.

D6 Family Theme:
BIBLICAL ACCOUNTABILITY**Objectives:****Know:** Believers are to help each other grow by humbly giving and receiving accountability.**Think:** I will be open to giving and receiving accountability with other believers.**Do:** Build trusting relationships with other believers that allow for mutual accountability.**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read Galatians 2:11-14; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 Samuel 15:17-31; Psalm 51:1-17; Galatians 6:1-5. The Trinity teaches us that God, by nature, is relational. He created us to be in a relationship with Him. He also created us to be in a relationship with each other. The church, the body of Christ, is one of His great gifts to us. We do not have to walk the path of discipleship alone. Scripture provides us with examples of how we can take full advantage of the relationships available to us and grow together for the glory of God.

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Allow God to grow you through being accountable to other believers. Pray that you and your family would find believers to hold you accountable and that you would be open and honest with them.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: Even though we spend time studying God's Word and talking to Him through prayer, it is not always easy determining the right way to live. That is why it is important that we are held accountable by other believers. It is difficult to humble yourself and be honest about your struggles with another person, but it allows godly counsel into your life. Talk with your child about the accountability partners in your life and the role they have played. Encourage your child to find a godly mentor or friend in her life that she trusts enough to make her accountability partner. Remind her that the relationship will not be easy, but in the end, it will bring encouragement and wisdom.

OPTION 2: Start your family thinking about accountability by asking these questions:

- *What is the purpose of accountability?* (To help one another glorify God. This takes many forms, such as obedience to His commands, demonstrating His character and the glory of His ways to unbelievers, loving others as an example of His love for all, etc.)
- *What does accountability practically involve?* (Asking and answering questions related to personal conduct and thoughts, group discussions regarding specific topics, deep and ongoing relationships between a small group of people, etc.)
- *What prevents accountability from being practiced in our lives?* (Pride, shame, timidity, fear, etc.)

PRE-
SCHOOL

Today your child learned Joseph trusted God in the good times and bad. Joseph's brothers sold him to travelers. Joseph worked for Pharaoh saving food for times when food was hard to get. His brothers came to Pharaoh needing food. Joseph forgave them and gave them food. **I Can Live by Faith** like Joseph.

K & 1
GRADEDISCOVERY
Kids2 & 3
GRADE

EXPLORERS

4 & 5
GRADE

Today your student learned what biblical accountability means and to whom we are accountable. He or she looked at an event in Joshua 22 when a misunderstanding about an altar could have led to a bad situation. He or she was reminded that one day each of us will stand before God and give an account of our lives. Your student was challenged to make a difference by love and obedience to Him.

VELOCITY

YOUNG
TEEN

FORWARD

HIGH
SCHOOL

Accountability is a good practice. Your teen explored that idea today. If we recognize that we must give an account of ourselves, we are more likely to do the right thing. However, accountability requires us to be humble and honest, to take responsibility for our behavior. Everyone is accountable to someone. Talk with your teens about different persons or organizations that hold you accountable: the IRS, the bank, your employer, your neighbor, the police, family members, and others. Do you enjoy having to report to these people? Is it to your benefit? Your teenager is also accountable to various people. Help him or her make a list of them and consider ways that accountability is helpful. Read together Romans 14:12. Who are we all ultimately accountable to?

thebrink

YOUNG
ADULT

The group studied the importance of biblical accountability and was challenged to build trusting relationships with other believers for mutual accountability.

fusion
fusionext

ADULT

Group members explored how believers are to help each other grow by humbly giving and receiving accountability. Members were challenged to seek out an accountability relationship to help them grow in Christ.

D6 Family Theme:
DISCIPLINED LIVING**Objectives:****Know:** We are to live disciplined lives, pursuing holiness and turning away from sin.**Think:** I will be mindful to focus on what helps me grow, setting aside that which hinders.**Do:** Exercise self-control, reining in sinful indulgences.**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Titus 2:1-14; Proverbs 23:1-8. Discipline and freedom are often thought of as opposites. The reality, however, is that discipline leads to freedom. Without discipline we will always be limited in what we are able to do. Discipline helps us avoid waste and gives us direction, which is necessary for progress. A person cannot pursue Christ without discipline. The life of a disciple is a focused life of discipline.

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Measure all you do by the impact it will have on those around you. Pray that you and your family will think about the consequences of your actions and how they might affect other people in your lives.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: As Christians, our lives should serve a purpose, and that is to glorify God and bring others closer to Him. We need to make sure we are spending our time doing things that accomplish that purpose. We need to make sure we are loving those around us and resisting the temptations that come our way. Talk with your children about the sports teams on which they have played or observed. Athletes require discipline. They have to give up their time to practice and work out. They have to go on diets to get the nutrition they need. Discipline takes hard work and sacrifice but in the end, you are a better athlete.

OPTION 2: Use these questions to get your family talking about discipline.

- *Who are some of the most disciplined people that you know? (Answers will vary. Be prepared with an example of your own.)*
- *Why do these people stand out to you? (Again, answers will vary. In general, since discipline is not often a common practice, these individuals will be uncommon in a variety of ways. Try to focus on how they are unlike most people and can therefore do things that others cannot. The idea is to draw out the benefits of discipline.)*
- *What do you notice that they do not do? (This lesson focuses on the restraint involved in discipline. In order to do something, it means we cannot do something else. We only have so much time and attention. Try to draw the discussion in that direction.)*

PRE-
SCHOOL

Today your child learned God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites leave. Moses had courage and spoke out for God. God was with Moses and His people and helped them cross the Red Sea. Moses lived by faith and **I Can Live by Faith** too.

K & 1
GRADE2 & 3
GRADE

Today your student learned what God's Word says about discipline and self-control. He or she discussed discipline in thankfulness, giving, and time with God. Paul compared the Christian life to a race, and God's Word gives us the tools to run well and win.

4 & 5
GRADEYOUNG
TEENHIGH
SCHOOL

Your teen looked at living with a purpose in class today. Part of accountability is identifying our mission. Corporations and associations often have mission statements. Do you and your family have one? Try writing one together that includes God's plan for your family and then challenge your teen to think about the big picture of God's purpose for his or her life. Certainly the gifts, strengths, and personality of your teen should be factors in that mission statement. Your first drafts (both for family and personal mission statements) will most likely need revisions, but concentrate on finding concise, meaningful verbs and work from there. Encourage dinner table collaboration and Scripture study on this topic! Find examples in Joshua 24:14 and Philippians 1:21.

YOUNG
ADULT

Group members examined the importance of disciplined living and were encouraged to exercise self-control and restraint in order to live a life that is set apart.



ADULT

FUSION group members discussed how we are to live disciplined lives, pursuing holiness and turning away from sin. Members were encouraged to exercise self-control, reining in sinful indulgences.

D6 Family Theme:
INTENTIONAL FAITH**Objectives:****Know:** Christianity is about active pursuit, rather than passive belief.**Think:** I will keep a long-term view of faith, recognizing the eternal significance of each moment.**Do:** Take responsibility for growth and keep moving forward in pursuit of Christ.**READ: LISTEN TO GOD**

Read Philippians 3:7-14; Hebrews 12:1-4, 12-14; 2 Timothy 2:20-26. Our bodies do not become more fit by accident. We must fuel them with the proper food and exercise them in order for change to occur. Growth in Christ is no different. We must be intentional in our faith for it to be strengthened. We are called to be stewards of all God has placed in our care. That includes the opportunity we have to know and serve Him here and now.

**PRAY: TALK TO GOD**

Give equal attention to the elimination of sin and the practice of righteousness. Pray that you and your family not only seek out the sins in your lives, but replace them with Christlikeness.

**DO: WALK WITH GOD**

OPTION 1: Sometimes we feel like our relationship with God isn't making any progress. When God seems far away, it is often because we are not making the effort. We have to be intentional in our pursuit of God. When we make our relationship with Him our highest priority, the rest of the aspects of our life will follow suit. Put together a puzzle with your child where there is a picture of the finished puzzle. First, have your child put the puzzle together without the picture, and then, again with the picture. The puzzle came together much easier when he was able to focus on the picture, much like our lives when we are able to put our focus on God.

OPTION 2: Start your family thinking about intentionality by asking these questions:

- *What are some goals that you have set for yourself at some point in your life?* (Answers will vary, perhaps including such things as losing weight or learning a new skill. Be prepared with an example of your own.)
- *What made it difficult to achieve those goals?* (Answers will vary. The idea is to begin identifying how many things can distract us or work against our progress.)
- *What behaviors made it possible to achieve those goals?* (Answers will vary. The idea is to identify common traits to progress, specifically that it takes intentional effort in a variety of areas.)

PRE-
SCHOOL

Today your child learned Rahab put her faith into action when she hid the spies from the king's soldiers. Because of her actions and faith, God kept Rahab and her family safe. Rahab's actions showed her love for and faith in God. **I Can Live by Faith** and be a hero for God like Rahab was.

K & 1
GRADEDISCOVERY
Kids2 & 3
GRADE

Today your student learned Paul's goal was to know Jesus and be like Him. He was also dedicated to sharing the gospel with others so they could know Jesus and be like Him. Your student was challenged to be intentional with his or her faith and to encourage others to keep living for Jesus.

EXPLORERS

4 & 5
GRADE

VELOCITY

YOUNG
TEEN

FORWARD

HIGH
SCHOOL

Today your teens talked about intentionally growing in Christ. If your teen had a recent growth spurt, ask him or her to compare those clothes in the back of the closet with the ones they are wearing now. Think of friends who have also had sudden noticeable growth. Some growth is unpredictable—teens grow at different rates, over different stretches of time. For physical and mental growth, however, there are developmental milestones that physicians and social norms have established. What would be the spiritual milestones that would be growth indicators for your teens? Read together Ephesians 4:13-16 for some ideas. Help your teenager to measure progress in these milestones during the coming year.

thebrink

YOUNG
ADULT

Group members examined the importance of intentional faith and were challenged to take responsibility for growth and keep moving forward in pursuit of Christ.

fusion
fusionext

ADULT

FUSION group members discussed how Christianity is about active pursuit, rather than passive belief. Members were encouraged to set aside hindrances and to do the things that will help them grow in Christ.