

Family Theme | **Jesus Confronts Self-Righteousness** Date | **March 3, 2023**

Study Text | **Matthew 16:1-12; 23:1-36**

**Read the Word:** Matthew 16:1-12; 23:1-36

**Disciple Your Family:** Discuss with family members how we are to do good deeds to please Christ, not to impress people or try to earn right standing with God.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



**Key Truth: Self-Righteousness Will Not Get People to Heaven (Matthew 16:1-12)**

**APPLY:** Trust Jesus, knowing His signs and wonders affirm that He is the Son of God.

- *The Pharisees and Sadducees had seen Jesus perform many signs and miracles. Why did they still reject Him as the Messiah and Savior?*
- *Why do many people reject Jesus today?*
- *Through what signs does God reveal Himself today? (His Word; His people; His presence; the conviction of the Holy Spirit; changed lives; power over temptation; etc.)*

**APPLY:** Avoid works-based religion. Do good deeds to please Christ, not to impress people.

- *The Pharisees and Sadducees were caught up in works-based religion. What does that look like today? (Legalism; seeking to keep man-made lists of do's and don'ts; etc.)*
- *Why might a desire to impress others be detrimental to our walk with God?*
- *How can we help others understand that good works are important, but they are not the foundation of saving faith?*



**Key Truth: Self-Righteousness Leads to Hypocrisy (Matthew 23:1-36)**

- *What is hypocrisy? How did the scribes and Pharisees display it? (Hypocrisy is when our actions do not match what we say or claim to believe. The religious leaders did not practice what they preached.)*

**APPLY:** Zeal for external signs of righteousness isn't necessarily a sign of inward righteousness.

**APPLY:** Self-righteousness is done to glorify self while true righteousness is done to glorify God. Practice true righteousness.

- *Motives matter. How can a good deed honor God? How might it also displease Him? (It honors God if done out of love for Him and a desire to please Him; it displeases God when done to earn His favor or look good in the eyes of others.)*
- *We live in an age of self-promotion and self-glorification. Why might that be harmful to our walk with God? In what types of situations might it be tempting for a Christian to emphasize self over God's glory?*
- *Why are man-made legalistic teachings dangerous? (They can cause people to try to earn right standing with God instead of trusting in Christ for righteousness; etc.)*
- *How can focusing on Jesus and the truth of Scripture help keep one's ego in check?*

**APPLY:** Let love for God and love for others be your motivation for what you do.

- *Why is humility so important for Christians? Why will a humble spirit make us more like Christ and less like the scribes and Pharisees?*

**Build a Foundation:** Discussion questions for elementary students.

- What is self-righteousness? (When we think we are superior, especially to God's way.)
- How did the disciples misunderstand what Jesus was telling them?
- What does it mean to be a hypocrite? (When your behavior or actions don't match what you say you believe.)
- How can hypocrisy hurt a believer's relationship with God? How can it keep others from choosing to follow Jesus?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **Matthew 6:21**



**Discuss This Week's Building Block:**

The Jewish religious leadership of Jesus' day included two groups, the Pharisees and Sadducees. Neither accepted Jesus as Messiah.

**Everyday Extras:**

Challenge family members to perform at least one secret act of service each day this week. It might include doing another person's chore, leaving an unexpected gift or treat, or sharing encouraging words. Sometimes it is tempting to serve others when we will be seen because it puts attention on us or makes us "look good" for serving. But following Jesus' example means serving even when nobody will know we have done so—serving because it's the right thing to do instead of because of the notice we might gain. The motivation of the Pharisees and Sadducees was self-serving. The Bible encourages us to let our love for God and others be the motivation for what we do.

**Preschool Highlights:**

Today your child learned about a parable Jesus told about a man who had 100 sheep. He lost one and left the other 99 to search for that one lost sheep. When the shepherd found it, he celebrated with his neighbors. We are like the sheep, and Jesus is our Shepherd. Jesus celebrates when we are found because **We Are Special to God.**

Family Theme | **Jesus Teaches Forgiveness** Date | **March 10, 2024**

Study Text | **Matthew 18:15–35**

**Read the Word:** Matthew 18:15–35

**Disciple Your Family:** Discuss how we are to forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



**Key Truth:** Jesus Gives Instructions to Follow When Believers Sin  
(Matthew 18:15–20)

**APPLY:** Follow Jesus' instructions when another believer sins.

- *Why is confrontation difficult?*
- *What can we do to ensure our hearts and attitudes are right before confronting another's sin?*
- *What should be the goal of confrontation? How can remembering this help us when we need to confront a fellow believer?*

**APPLY:** A person who sins should humbly accept the loving correction of a fellow believer and, if necessary, the church.

- *Why is church discipline not often practiced?*
- *How can we balance zeal for God's holiness and the purity of His church with compassion, mercy, and grace towards one another?*

**APPLY:** Choices have consequences. Rather than run from them, we will always do better to address them head on and honestly.

**APPLY:** The goal of confronting sin is restoration of the one who sinned.

- *How should we respond if someone confronts us about a sin we've committed? Why is it difficult to respond in this manner?*

**APPLY:** Jesus' presence is with local church believers as they seek to restore believers who have sinned.



**Key Truth:** Believers Forgive as Often as Necessary (Matthew 18:21–35)

**APPLY:** We are to forgive those who wrong us as often as necessary.

- *There is a philosophy in our culture of "never forget, never forgive." How does that compare to the teachings of Jesus?*
- *What is the danger in refusing to forgive?*
- *Some refuse to forgive because they believe that forgiveness means excusing the bad behavior. How would you explain the biblical definition of forgiveness? (Forgiveness does not mean we excuse bad behavior; it means we release or dismiss the offense or person. No one deserves forgiveness; therefore, it is an act of mercy and grace.)*

- *Forgiving someone does not necessarily mean that consequences are erased or boundaries are not adjusted in the wake of someone's choices. In what situations might boundaries be necessary? (Abuse of any kind; adultery; extreme mismanagement of finances; etc.)*

**APPLY:** The debt we owe God because of our sins is far more than we could ever repay.

**APPLY:** Those who have been forgiven by God are expected to forgive others.

- *Why should we forgive others unconditionally?*
- *How should God's forgiveness influence our forgiveness of others?*

**Build a Foundation:** Discussion questions for elementary students.

- Why do you think the man who had been forgiven of his debt did not forgive the debt that was owed to him?
- Why is forgiveness so important?
- Which is harder: to forgive or to ask for forgiveness?
- Does forgiveness mean the action was excused or without consequence?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **Matthew 6:21**



### **Discuss This Week's Building Block:**

Forgiveness is a choice. Because God forgave us, we are to forgive others.

### **Everyday Extras:**

Use this simple object lesson to remind your family of the value of forgiveness. (Do this in the sink or outside to make clean up simple.) Add ¼ cup warm water to a sealable sandwich bag. Next, add ½ cup vinegar to the bag. Add 3 teaspoons of baking soda to the center of a tissue. Fold the tissue around the baking soda. Work quickly and place the folded tissue into the bag, zip it closed, and place it on the bottom of the sink or on the ground. When the vinegar and baking soda mix completely, a small explosion will occur from the expanding gas it creates. You can shake the bag if the explosion is "hesitant." When we refuse to forgive, our anger and hurt can grow, and these emotions might explode on others. That is not wise or right living. The Bible teaches we are to forgive others. Pray and thank God for the gift of forgiveness and ask for His help forgiving others when it's needed.

### **Preschool Highlights:**

Today your child learned about another parable where a woman lost one of her ten coins. She searched for the lost coin until she found it, and she told her friends and neighbors. They knew the coins were special to her and they rejoiced with her. **We Are Special to God** and the angels in Heaven rejoice when we choose to follow Him.

Family Theme | **Choosing Treasures in Heaven** Date | **March 17, 2024**

Study Text | **Matthew 19:16–30; 1 Timothy 6:17–19; Matthew 6:19–21**

**Read the Word:** Matthew 19:16–30; 1 Timothy 6:17–19; Matthew 6:19–21

**Disciple Your Family:** Discuss how we should love and trust God more than we love and trust money and possessions.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



**Key Truth: Believers Value Following Christ Above Material Possessions (Matthew 19:16–30)**

**APPLY:** Do good deeds out of love for Christ, not to try to earn salvation.

**APPLY:** Our choices reveal what is most important to us.

- *Jesus' teaching about giving all to follow Him would seem extreme to many in our culture. Why?*
- *The rich man chose his possessions over following Christ. What do your choices reveal is most important to you?*

**APPLY:** Don't let wealth and possessions become more important than following Christ.

- *Why are wealth and possessions often an obstacle to salvation?*
- *Why is it so tempting to focus on the here and now and what's in front of us rather than what awaits us in Heaven?*

**APPLY:** Give and serve out of love for Christ.



**Key Truth: Believers Trust in God, Not Money (1 Timothy 6:17–19)**

**APPLY:** Avoid becoming arrogant and placing trust in money and possessions.

- *Why is it foolish to trust in money?*
- *What does it look like to be wise with our money, while also remembering our ultimate hope and trust are in God?*
- *What are some riches God gives us to enjoy? (Spiritual blessings; family members; friends; material blessings; daily provision; etc.)*

**APPLY:** Follow Christ's example by doing good, being generous, and serving others.

- *How can we be rich in good works? (By giving of our time, money, and other resources to serve Christ and others.)*



**Key Truth: Heavenly Investments Are the Only Safe Investments (Matthew 6:19–21)**

**APPLY:** Invest your time, talents, and money in things that matter to God.

- *When it comes to our wealth and possessions, why might it be detrimental to be so earthly minded and not heavenly minded?*

- *What can we invest in that matters to God? (Sharing the gospel; making disciples; meeting needs; using our gifts to serve; funding missions; etc.)*
- *What are some practical ways you can start investing in heavenly pursuits this week? In what ways can you use your time, talents, and money?*

**APPLY:** Support your local church and find a place to serve there.

- *Do you believe all people are called to serve in the local church? How might that type of investment lead to great results?*

**Build a Foundation:** Discussion questions for elementary students.

- Why do you think the rich young man could not or would not give up everything to follow Jesus?
- What does the world tell us is more important: earthly riches or heavenly ones? Why do you think that is?
- How can serving others help keep the proper perspective on what is important?
- What are ways to keep your focus on heavenly treasures over earthly ones?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **Matthew 6:21**



### **Discuss This Week's Building Block:**

The Bible teaches us to seek treasure in Heaven rather than earthly possessions.

### **Everyday Extras:**

Demonstrate the process of threading a needle. Allow every family member to attempt the task and consider adding competition for added fun. Threading a shoelace through shoe eyelets would work better for younger kids. Discuss how difficult it is to fit the thread through the eye of the needle. What other things around our house might fit through the hole (fishing line, a strand of hair, pasta noodle)? What about a banana? A pillow? A stuffed animal? A camel?

Jesus used the example of a camel when he talked to the rich young ruler. He wanted the man to know that a person who loved earthly treasures (money, fame, having lots of stuff) more than the things of God would have a harder time getting into Heaven than someone trying to get a camel through the eye of a needle.

Jesus wanted the man to understand that earthly treasures do not compare to the heavenly treasures we receive when we follow and serve God. We need to keep our focus on things that help us grow closer to Jesus and show others we value our relationship with Him.

### **Preschool Highlights:**

Today your child heard a parable about a son who left home and wasted all his money. He returned home to ask to be one of his father's workers. When the father saw his son, he ran to him and forgave him. The son was so special to his father that he celebrated his return. **We Are Special to God** and He forgives us and celebrates our return to Him.

Family Theme | **Jesus Comes as King**      Date | **March 24, 2024**

Study Text | **Matthew 21:1-17**

**Read the Word:** Matthew 21:1-17

**Disciple Your Family:** Discuss how we are to obey Jesus as our sovereign Lord.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



**Key Truth: Jesus Demonstrated His Sovereignty as King (Matthew 21:1-11)**

**APPLY:** Jesus' fulfillment of prophecy affirmed that He is the Messiah.

- *This passage shows us how Jesus fulfilled prophecy. How does the fulfillment of prophecy strengthen our faith in Jesus and Scripture?*
- *What are some other prophecies that Jesus fulfilled?*

**APPLY:** Jesus is the sovereign Lord. He is fully God and fully man.

- *How did these events demonstrate Jesus' sovereignty?*
- *There are some who argue Jesus was a great teacher but not the Son of God. How does the sovereignty of Jesus show us He is the Son of God? (Jesus did not make random predictions and things did not happen by chance or coincidence. As the Son of God, He had knowledge of what would happen, and He fulfilled prophecy.)*

**APPLY:** Follow Jesus. He alone has sovereign power over every aspect of life.

- *How have you seen Jesus' sovereign power displayed in your life and the lives of those around you?*

**APPLY:** Believe and trust that Jesus has the power to accomplish His will.

- *How can remembering that Jesus is sovereign help us to trust Him when our faith is weak?*



**Key Truth: Jesus Exercised His Authority as King (Matthew 21:12-17)**

**APPLY:** Jesus made it clear He was the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament.

- *How did Jesus demonstrate that He was the Messiah spoken of in the Old Testament? (He quoted the Old Testament Scriptures, connecting them with Himself.)*

**APPLY:** Church is not about our own interests and profit. It is about worshiping God and helping others do so as well.

- *How do believers sometimes make church about themselves instead of about glorifying God?*
- *How can we make sure our worship and our church services are about the glorification of our King and not glorification of self?*

**APPLY:** Give Jesus authority over all aspects of your life.

- *It can be very easy to compartmentalize our faith and appear to follow Jesus in some aspects of life while ignoring Him in other aspects. Why are we often guilty of doing this?*
- *How can we make sure that Jesus is Lord and King over every aspect of our lives?*

**APPLY:** Use any authority you have to glorify God and help others as Jesus did.

- *How can we be good stewards of the authority we are given?* (Don't seek it for our own ease or power, but as a tool to serve others.)

**Build a Foundation:** Discussion questions for elementary students.

- How did the way Jesus entered Jerusalem fulfill Old Testament prophecy and why is that important?
- What changed the people's opinion of Jesus?
- How do we see Jesus' humility in His actions?
- How do our actions show to others how we feel about Jesus?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **Matthew 6:21**



**Discuss This Week's Building Block:**

Jesus is the Promised Messiah. His triumphal entry fulfilled Old Testament prophecy.

**Everyday Extras:**

Provide several keys and one lock. It could be the lock on the front door or a portable lock used for a bike or gate. With the correct key out of sight, encourage family members to take turns selecting a key to open the lock. Warn against forcibly turning the key to avoid it breaking. When everyone has tried, maybe multiple times, reveal the hidden key and show how it works. Even though we had many keys (count them together), only one can open the lock. Jesus is our King. Just like only one key could open that lock, Jesus is the only One who can save us from sin. God's Word teaches the truth about who Jesus is and why we should praise and celebrate Him.

For added emphasis and fun, provide a large key or a crown shape and encourage family members to decorate them and display them as reminders of our amazing King Jesus, the only One who can save us from sin.

**Preschool Highlights:**

Today your child learned Jesus is the Son of God and He chose to die for our sin. Some people did not like Jesus and told lies about Him. Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, made a wrong choice and led soldiers to Jesus. Jesus was arrested and after talking to different people was nailed to a cross where He died. The good news is Jesus didn't stay dead. **Jesus Is Alive!**

Family Theme | **Jesus Died and Rose Again** Date | **March 31, 2024**

Study Text | **Matthew 27:32-66; 28:1-15**

**Read the Word:** Matthew 27:32-66; 28:1-15

**Disciple Your Family:** Discuss what Jesus did for us on the cross and how we should trust Him as Savior and worship and serve Him as Lord.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



**Key Truth:** Believers Worship Jesus Who Died on the Cross to Pay the Penalty for Our Sins (Matthew 27:32-66)

**APPLY:** Be confident in God's Word knowing the death of Jesus was prophesied in the Old Testament.

- *How does fulfilled prophecy affirm the Bible is God's Word?*

**APPLY:** Love and serve Jesus because He paid the penalty we deserved.

- *Why did Jesus have to die?* (Jesus died as our substitute; without His death, we would forever be separated from God and have to suffer the penalty of sin.)
- *What thoughts and emotions arise when you read that the Savior faced physical, emotional, and psychological torture?*
- *Why is Jesus' crucifixion the greatest demonstration of love ever given? How should we respond to this love?* (God Himself gave His life for us; He died for us when we were His enemies; we should worship and serve Christ, walking closely with Him; etc.)

**APPLY:** Walk in a close, personal relationship with God.

- *How did Christ's death on the cross make it possible for us to have direct access to God? Why is it important that we are now able to go to God directly through Christ?*
- *What activities help us walk in a close relationship with God?* (Spending time with Him in Scripture and prayer; following the prompting of His Spirit; sensing His presence all through the day; etc.)



**Key Truth:** Believers Worship Jesus Who Rose From the Dead (Matthew 28:1-15)

**APPLY:** The fact that the sealed and guarded tomb was empty affirmed that Jesus had risen from the dead.

- *Why do people reject the evidence for Jesus' resurrection? Do you think they even take time to examine the evidence?*
- *Jesus spoke about His resurrection before it happened. How can this give us confidence in His other promises?*

**APPLY:** Jesus loves us and wants to restore us even when we fail Him.

- *How do people try to discredit God's truth in our day?*

**APPLY:** Worship the risen Savior and tell others about His resurrection.

- *What details would you include when telling someone why you have confidence that Christ rose from the dead?*

- *What are the ramifications of Jesus' resurrection on our lives today?*
- *How is the resurrection of Christ a source of encouragement and hope for believers?*

**Build a Foundation:** Discussion questions for elementary students.

- How does knowing Jesus experienced some of the same pain we do help us trust Him with the things we go through?
- Why do you think the soldiers accepted the bribes from the chief priests instead of telling others what really happened?
- How were the actions of Joseph of Arimathea and Mary and Mary Magdalene different from the soldiers?
- What three things did Jesus conquer with His resurrection?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **Matthew 6:21**



**Discuss This Week's Building Block:**

Jesus is alive. He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and rose again on the third day.

**Everyday Extras:**

When Jesus was buried in the tomb, there was a huge sense of sadness and loss. Because we have the benefit of knowing the end of the story, we know Jesus did not stay in that borrowed tomb when He was buried.

Plant some seeds in an inside pot or in your yard. After a few days of caring for it, take turns checking on the progress and note when signs of life appear from the buried seeds. There is something special about the hope we feel when we know something good is going to happen.

Discuss how Jesus' friends must have felt when He was buried and the difference you feel knowing that wasn't the end of the story. Jesus died on the cross for our sin, and He rose from the grave just as He said He would. Use your words and actions to honor and celebrate Jesus as your Savior and remember the true meaning of Easter.

**Preschool Highlights:**

Today your child learned that after Jesus died, His body was placed in a guarded tomb. On the morning of the third day, two of Jesus' friends went to the tomb. The stone was rolled away, and an angel told them Jesus was alive. The friends then saw the risen Jesus. He told them not to be afraid and to tell others what they had seen. I can tell others **Jesus Is Alive** too.

Family Theme | **Moses**      Date | **April 7, 2024**  
Study Text | **Various Scriptures from Exodus and Numbers**

**Read the Word:** Various Scriptures from Exodus and Numbers

**Disciple Your Family:** Discuss with family members how we can put life lessons from Moses into action.

Discuss the following Key Events and Life Lessons and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



**Key Event:** God Protected and Prepared Moses (Exodus 2:1-22)



**Key Event:** God Called Moses to Deliver His People (Exodus 3:1-15; 4:1-17)

- When have you encountered God in a life-altering way?



**Key Event:** Moses Saw God's Glory and Interceded for God's Sinful People (Exodus 32:1-20; 33:1-6, 12-23; and 34:1-9, 29-35)



**Key Event:** A Moment of Anger and Disobedience Kept Moses From Entering the Promised Land (Numbers 20:1-13)

## Life Lessons From Moses

**Life Lesson 1:** God protects us and prepares us for what He has planned.

- Moses didn't feel prepared for the job God asked him to do. Why do you think God often uses those who feel unprepared and unqualified?
- How can you look back and see how God prepared you for something that was yet to come?

**Life Lesson 2:** God is with us when it seems He has forgotten us.

- Share about a time when it felt like God was absent.
- Why should we continue to trust God when it seems He has forgotten us?

**Life Lesson 3:** When God is with us, we can accomplish anything He calls us to do.

- People today often talk about finding power and strength from within. Moses knew his only source of power came from God. Why is it important to remember that we can only do great things because of God working in and through us?
- Share other instances (both in Scripture and in your life) where God used the insignificant and the unqualified for His glory.
- Why is it crucial for us to walk closely with God and be empowered by the Holy Spirit?

### **Life Lesson 4: Spending time with God prepares us to live for Him and serve Him.**

- What does spending time with God look like? How do we do that?
- How did time spent with God change Moses' life? How should it change our lives?

### **Life Lesson 5: Disobedience can keep us from experiencing some blessings.**

- How have you seen disobedience cause problems?
- What should we do if we realize we have been disobedient and have turned away from God's commands?

### **Build a Foundation:** Discussion questions for elementary students.

- How do you see God's plan in action in Moses' early life?
- What was Moses' response to God's plan for him to rescue the Israelites?
- How can Moses' story help you when you feel like you're not the right person to do what God has planned for you?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **2 Chronicles 7:14**



### **Discuss This Week's Building Block:**

God used Moses to deliver His people from slavery in Egypt.

### **Everyday Extras:**

Put several kitchen utensils or tools in a bag. One at a time, pull the items out of the bag and ask family members to identify each tool's purpose. Be sure to include some obscure items to increase interest. If possible, provide opportunities for family members to use the tools and experience the unique purpose of some of the tools. Show how some tools make tasks a lot easier even though they can be accomplished with something else (like using an egg slicer instead of a knife or a drill instead of a screwdriver).

We've learned God had plans and purpose for Moses' life. To fulfill God's purpose, Moses needed to show faithful obedience to God. We can better understand God's purpose for our lives when we learn to trust God, follow His leading, and live a life that honors Him.

### **Preschool Highlights:**

Today your child learned Pharaoh was the ruler of Egypt. He made a rule that all newborn baby boys were to be killed. But Moses' mother hid him for three months. She made a waterproof basket and put her baby in the Nile River. The princess found him and allowed his mother to care for him until he was older. God had a plan for Moses and **God Has a Plan** for me.

## **Read the Word:** Exodus 12:1–42

**Disciple Your Family:** Discuss with family members how Christ died on the cross to deliver us from our sins, and it is essential that we trust in Him.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



### **Key Truth:** God's Judgment Passes Over Those Covered by the Blood of the Lamb (Exodus 12:1–30)

**APPLY:** The lambs sacrificed at Passover foreshadowed the sinless Christ who would be sacrificed for our sins.

- *What similarities do you see between the Passover sacrifice and Jesus' ultimate sacrifice? (Without blemish or sin; blood was shed to provide escape from judgment; no bones broken; etc.)*

**APPLY:** The plagues God brought on the Egyptians demonstrated His mighty power over all things, including the false gods of Egypt.

**APPLY:** God's judgment will pass over those who trust in Christ for salvation.

**APPLY:** Parents are to live out God's truth, teach it to their children, and help them understand it.

- *Why did God instruct parents to pass His truth to their children (See also Deuteronomy 6:4–9)? How can they do this?*
- *For those who aren't parents, what role should they play in passing down their faith to younger generations?*

**APPLY:** Jesus shed His blood to offer salvation to all who will trust in Him.

- *What lessons can we learn about sin and forgiveness from the Passover account? (The severity of sin; the cost of redemption; a sacrifice had to be made; etc.)*
- *How would you respond to someone who says this passage shows that God is an evil, uncaring ruler and not a God of grace and forgiveness?*
- *What should be our response when we are reminded that Jesus is our Passover Lamb, sacrificed for our sins?*



### **Key Truth:** God Delivers His People From Bondage (Exodus 12:31–42)

**APPLY:** God's promises always come to pass.

- *This passage shows us the fulfillment of several of God's promises. What are some other promises from God that have come to pass?*

**APPLY:** Stubborn rejection of God's will and instruction leads to God's judgment.

- *How have you seen people suffer because they rejected God's will and ways?*

**APPLY:** With the help of the Holy Spirit, believers are free to live a new life of joy and obedience to God.

- *In what ways have you seen people set free from the bondage of sin?*
- *What kind of freedom have you experienced since placing your faith and trust in Christ as Savior and Lord?*
- *Although we have been set free, why are we often tempted to return to old sins and addictions that once held us in bondage?*
- *What should we do if we find ourselves gravitating toward the sins of our past?*

**Build a Foundation:** Discussion questions for elementary students.

- Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart?
- How did God protect the Israelites from the final plague?
- Why did God want the Israelites to share and celebrate the Passover with their children?
- How is the Passover connected to Jesus' death for our sin and His resurrection?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **2 Chronicles 7:14**



### **Discuss This Week's Building Block:**

The blood of the Passover lamb provided escape from the tenth plague and pointed to the sacrifice of Jesus.

### **Everyday Extras:**

Start with a ball of yarn or string and wrap it around a chair a few times as you remind your family that every time we sin we allow ourselves to become more and more tangled up in it. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God's ways. What are some things that would be considered sin? (Allow family members to further wrap the yarn around the chair with each suggestion.) Keep wrapping in between turns and be sure to make the web extra hard to unravel later. Maybe even tie some knots along the way. After a good web is created on the chair, talk about ways to free the chair from all that string. Scissors will probably be suggested, but ask leading questions to get there if not.

As you use the scissors to cut away the yarn, remind your family that sin keeps us tangled up or in bondage. Using inappropriate words sometimes makes it easier to do so more often. Often, one lie leads to another and before you know it you are trapped in a web of lies.

Just like God used Moses to help deliver the Israelites from Pharaoh's bondage, Jesus made it possible for us to be free from the bondage of sin.

### **Preschool Highlights:**

Today your child learned God heard the cries of His people, and He chose Moses to lead them out of Egypt. God told Moses and his brother Aaron to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let the Israelites leave. Pharaoh said no and God sent ten really bad things (plagues) to him and the people of Egypt. Just like He had a plan for Moses' life, **God Has a Plan** for our lives.

Family Theme | **God Leads His People**      Date | **April 21, 2024**

Study Text | **Exodus 14:1–31**

**Read the Word:** Exodus 14:1–31

**Disciple Your Family:** Discuss with family members how we should trust God when difficult times come knowing He can get us through anything.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



**Key Truth:** God May Allow Us to Face Difficult Circumstances (Exodus 14:1–12)

**APPLY:** For His good purposes, God sometimes allows or even leads us into difficult situations.

- *Why do you think God allows us to face difficult and seemingly impossible situations?*
- *How does God use difficult circumstances for His purposes and our good?* (Strengthens our faith; develops our character; accomplishes His will; etc.)

**APPLY:** Our hearts can become hardened when we ignore or reject God's Word and will.

**APPLY:** We should respond to difficulty with trust in God.

- *The children of Israel complained when their situation began to look dire. What things might we say or do that could indicate we are not trusting God in difficult circumstances?*

**APPLY:** View difficulty as an opportunity to glorify God and grow in faith.

- *What is your first reaction when you face trials and difficulty?*
- *How should our response to difficult situations be different from the world's response?*
- *How can we bring glory to God when facing difficulty?* (Trust God's plan; avoid grumbling and complaining; display joy and peace to those around us; etc.)



**Key Truth:** God Can Get Us Through Any Difficulty (Exodus 14:13–31)

**APPLY:** We need not fear when we are doing God's will.

- *How would you describe Moses' faith in verses 13–14? How can we cultivate that type of faith?*
- *When have you found yourself in a difficult situation because you obeyed God and followed His directions? How did God work out that situation?*

**APPLY:** As sovereign Lord of all, God maintains control over all His creation.

- *How does the Lord "fight" for His people today?*

**APPLY:** Trust God to see you through difficult situations knowing nothing is beyond His power and control.

- *Why can we trust God to see us through difficult situations?* (He loves us; He promises to never leave us; He knows all things and has all power to do what needs to be done; etc.)
- *When has God helped you through a difficult situation?*
- *After God brings us through a difficult situation, it's very easy to forget about Him and what He's done. What should be our response to God's deliverance of us?*

### **Build a Foundation:** Discussion questions for elementary students.

- What was the reaction of the Israelites when Pharaoh and his army came after them?
- How did God show the Israelites that He was still with them?
- God showed His power to both the Israelites and the Egyptians with the parting of the Red Sea. What are some ways we see God's power in our lives?
- How can this true story help you remember to trust God, especially in difficult situations?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **2 Chronicles 7:14**



### **Discuss This Week's Building Block:**

God parted the Red Sea to lead His people to safety.

### **Everyday Extras:**

Fill a large pan with only a little bit of water. Give each family member a straw. Have them stand on opposite sides of the pan. Instruct them to begin blowing with their straws so the water is parted and for them to keep the water parted. Encourage them to work together. After a few minutes, allow others to have a turn.

Was it hard to keep the water back? Did you run out of breath?

God parted the waters of the Red Sea, not with His breath, but with His power. The Bible tells us there were 600,000 men who needed to cross over to the other side, which means there were actually more people because women and children were not included in that number.

God guided Moses and the Israelites as they escaped Pharaoh and his armies, and God guides us too. We need to seek God's guidance by studying His Word and following the Holy Spirit's leading. God still leads His people.

### **Preschool Highlights:**

Today your child learned God had a plan to protect His people from the last plague and He had a plan to lead His people out of Egypt with a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire. When Pharaoh changed his mind about the Israelites leaving, God had a plan to help His people cross the Red Sea. God's plan is always the best plan. **God Has a Plan** for me and I will follow Him.

Family Theme | **God Provides for His People** Date | **April 28, 2024**

Study Text | **Exodus 16:1—17:7**

**Read the Word:** Exodus 16:1—17:7

**Disciple Your Family:** Discuss with family members how we should trust God when needs arise instead of complaining.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



**Key Truth:** God Wants His People to Trust and Obey Him (Exodus 16:1–12)

**APPLY:** Don't grumble and complain when needs arise. Trust God instead, remembering how He has faithfully provided.

- *In what ways might believers today be guilty of grumbling rather than trusting God?*
- *Why should we avoid complaining when things don't seem to be going our way? Why should we trust God instead?*
- *How might God use difficulty or needs to test us?*
- *When has God provided for your needs in a special or unusual way? What did you learn from that experience?*

**APPLY:** Trust and thank God for His daily provision.

- *What are some daily mercies that God gives us?*
- *How can we thank God for His daily provisions?*

**APPLY:** Remember God is with us and supplies everything we need to follow Him.



**Key Truth:** God Proved He Can Meet Any Need (Exodus 16:13—17:7)

**APPLY:** God is able to supply all our needs.

**APPLY:** It is important to follow all of God's instructions.

- *Which of God's instructions do you find difficult to follow?*
- *How is disobedience a lack of trust in God?*

**APPLY:** God instituted the Sabbath because people need to set aside time for worship and rest.

- *What happens when people neglect worship and rest?*

**APPLY:** Don't let difficulty cause you to doubt God's presence with you. He has promised to never leave us.

- *Why do you think the Israelites continued to disobey the Lord's instructions and grumble against Him?*
- *Why do hard times shake the faith of some people but bring other people closer to God?*

**APPLY:** Jesus is our living bread and living water. He alone can satisfy our every need.

- *How can we deepen our trust and belief that God will meet our needs?*

**Build a Foundation:** Discussion questions for elementary students.

- How did God provide for the Israelites in the wilderness?
- Why did some not follow God's instructions?
- What was the result of the people's disobedience to God's directions?
- How can we remember to trust God to provide for our needs?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **2 Chronicles 7:14**



**Discuss This Week's Building Block:**

Manna was God's miraculous provision of food for His people in the desert.

**Everyday Extras:**

What does it mean to be content? Content means to be satisfied. True contentment comes from a relationship with God. He is our Father who loves, cares, and provides for us. Share with your family about God's provision in your lives or the lives of loved ones. Remind them of Scriptures that reinforce His provision. Luke 12:22–24 tells us not to worry. We can trust God to meet our needs. Philippians 4:6 tells us we can ask God for what we need. Even though He knows our needs, sharing your feelings builds your relationship with Him. First Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to be thankful for everything. Even when God provided for the Israelites, they grumbled about it.

We don't want to be like the Israelites who complained and whined about what they didn't have. We should be grateful for what we do have. We can learn from God's Word that He knows our needs, He cares about our needs, and He provides for our needs. God met the needs of the Israelites. Let's be a family that trusts God to meet our needs, asks God for what we need, is grateful for what we have.

Let's do a contentment challenge and go a whole day without complaining. Do you think you can do it? Choose a day and be intentional to avoid complaining and express gratitude for God's provision all day long.

**Preschool Highlights:**

Today your child learned Moses and the Israelites praised God for leading them out of Egypt. But their thankfulness quickly turned into complaining when they became thirsty and hungry. God had a plan to provide water, manna, and quail for the Israelites, and they learned to obey His plan. **God Has a Plan** for my life and I will obey Him and follow His plan.