

Family Theme | **The Ten Commandments** Date | **May 5, 2024**

Study Text | **Exodus 20:1-21**

Read the Word: Exodus 20:1-21

Disciple Your Family: Discuss with family members how living according to God's laws and commandments demonstrates love for God and for people.

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



Key Truth: God's Commands Show Us How to Live for Him (Exodus 20:1-11)

APPLY: As our Creator and Deliverer, God rightly expects us to keep His commands.

APPLY: The God of the Bible is the only true God and should be the only object of our worship.

- *Idolatry is the worship of anything other than God. What are some things people worship and put before God in our culture?* (Certain people; pleasure; money; possessions; careers; etc.)
- *Why is God to be the only object of our worship?*

APPLY: Our highest priorities are loving God and walking with Him.

- *What characteristics illustrate that loving God is our highest priority? What should we do if we realize something else has taken priority over God?*

APPLY: We are to set aside time to worship God and to rest.

- *Why do we struggle taking a day of rest? How does rest show our dependency on God?*



Key Truth: God's Commands Show Us How to Live With Others (Exodus 20:12-17)

APPLY: Parent-child relationships are extremely important to society. Children who are taught to respect and obey their parents are more likely to honor and respect others.

- *Why is it important for children to learn to honor and obey their parents?*
- *(BRINK) How might a young adult living at home honor his or her parents? How can an adult who has moved out honor his or her parents?*

APPLY: If everyone followed the Ten Commandments, society would be much better off. Treat others with love and respect.

- *How does keeping God's commandments demonstrate love and respect for people?*
- *How would things change if everyone lived according to these relational commandments?*
- *What does it look like to love all people without showing approval for their sinful actions?*



Key Truth: Reverence for God Helps Keep Us From Sin (Exodus 20:18-21)

APPLY: Respect for God should motivate us to obey Him.

- *Why is God worthy of our reverence and healthy fear?*
- *How can we develop a respectful fear of God?*

APPLY: God's commands are for our own good and happiness.

- *Why is life better when we obey God's commands?* (God created us; He knows and wants what is best for us; etc.)
- *How is reverence for God connected to obeying Him?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- Why are rules important? Why did God give us these Ten Commandments?
- Who do the first four commandments help us love? Who do the last six commandments help us love?
- Why do you think it's hard to always follow God's rules?
- What are benefits to obeying God's commandments? What consequences can result from disobeying them?

Work together to memorize the Verses of the Month: **Mark 12:30-31**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

The Ten Commandments are God-given foundational instructions for a relationship with God and with others.

Everyday Extras:

The Ten Commandments are tools God has given us to better love Him and love others. Write a different commandment on ten index cards and hide them around your home. Have family members search for them. After all the commandments have been found, put them in order. Read each one aloud and talk about it. Discuss why God gave us that commandment and brainstorm ways to follow it in your lives. Throughout the week challenge family members to identify choices they made that day to align with one of the commandments.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned God gave Moses ten rules or commandments for the people of Israel (and us) to follow. We should not have any other gods except God or put anyone or anything before Him. We should be careful with how we use God's name and keep the Sabbath day holy. God gave us these rules because He knows what is best for us. **God's Rules Are Best.**

Family Theme | **Offerings to God** Date | **May 12, 2024**

Study Text | **Scriptures From Leviticus 1-7**

Read the Word: Scriptures From Leviticus 1-7

Disciple Your Family: Discuss how the sacrificial system revealed God's holy nature and put lessons from it into practice.

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



Key Truth: The Sacrificial System Revealed God's Holy Nature and How the Israelites Were to Relate to Him (Scriptures From Leviticus 1-7)

APPLY: The sacrificial system demonstrated the need for blood to be shed to cover and make amends for human sinfulness (Hebrews 9:22). Thank Jesus for shedding His blood for us on the cross.

APPLY: Like a burnt offering, we are to be totally devoted to God. We are to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:1).

- *As noted, the burnt offering primarily symbolized total devotion to God. In what ways can we demonstrate total devotion to God today?*

APPLY: Thank God every day for His love and blessings (Psalm 118:1; Ephesians 5:20).

- *God pours out blessings for us. What are some ways we can express our thanks to Him? (Join others for corporate worship; obey His Word; serve Him and His people; love others; thank Him in prayer; etc.)*

APPLY: Enjoy peace with God through Christ's sacrifice on the cross (Romans 5:1).

- *Why is it important to acknowledge our sins? Why is confession to God important?*
- *What are some examples of making restitution to people we have sinned against?*
- *How do these offerings point to the holiness of God?*
- *It can be difficult for us to relate to these passages. How can these verses encourage us in our pursuit of holiness?*



Key Truth: The Sacrificial System Gives Us Life Lessons (Scriptures From Leviticus 1-7)

APPLY: Draw near to God through faith in Christ.

- *How was the sacrifice of Jesus foreshadowed in this first offering? (The sacrifice was to be a male without blemish; like Jesus, the animal was to take the place of others; there would be a blood sacrifice; etc.)*
- *Why is faith in Jesus the only way to forgiveness and a right relationship with God?*

APPLY: Follow the guidelines God gives us in His Word.

- *We know that worship is important. Why does it matter how we worship? (We must worship God in the way He has prescribed; worship is about Him and not our personal preferences; etc.)*
- *It's easy to become legalistic. How can we focus on worship that begins in the heart?*

APPLY: Strive for holiness while being thankful for God's grace when we fail.

APPLY: Obey God's commands and instructions knowing He wants what is best for us.

- *Why are God's commands and instructions what's best for us?*
- *When we're struggling to obey God's commands, how might it help to remember that He has our best interests in mind?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- What was the purpose of the Old Testament offerings and sacrifices?
- Why did the people have to continually bring offerings and sacrifices?
- How did Jesus change that?
- How does knowing Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice affect your worship of Him?

Work together to memorize the Verses of the Month: **Mark 12:30–31**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

We offer love and worship to God through obedience to Him.

Everyday Extras:

God had a detailed plan for how Moses and the Israelites were to worship Him and gain forgiveness of sin through sacrifices, but Jesus took the place of the Old Testament sacrifices for our forgiveness of sin.

Place a blanket on a flat surface, but make sure it isn't spread out neatly. It should have some folds and peaks. Use blocks or canned goods and instruct your child to build something (a tower, house, castle, etc.) on the blanket. When what your child is building begins to fall or crumble ask what the source of the problem is. Remove the blanket or smooth it out and allow your child to start over. Discuss the importance of a good foundation and remind your child the way we worship God serves as a foundation for our relationship with Him. Have family members share attributes of God they are thankful for as a form of worship and close your time together in prayer thanking God for who He is and for His desire to build a relationship with each of you.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned the Ten Commandments help us love God and love others. God wants us to honor our parents. We are not to kill others. Adults are to keep marriage promises. We should not steal or lie. We should not want something so much that we don't want anyone else to have it. God loves us and we should follow His rules. **God's Rules Are Best.**

Read the Word: Acts 2:1-47

Disciple Your Family: Discuss how believers have the Holy Spirit living in us to give us direction and empower us to live for Christ.

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

**Key Truth: As Promised, God's Spirit Indwells Believers (Acts 2:1-21)**

APPLY: All believers need close fellowship in a local church family.

- *What benefits come from being an active part of a local church?*

APPLY: The Holy Spirit dwells in every believer.

- *What does it mean that the Holy Spirit dwells in believers?*
- *How is the Spirit's indwelling in the New Testament different from His work in believers' lives in the Old Testament? (The Spirit temporarily came upon God's people in the Old Testament to empower them for certain tasks. The Spirit now dwells permanently in New Testament believers to lead, guide, and empower them.)*

APPLY: We can expect mixed response when we share the gospel with unbelievers.

APPLY: The Church continues the work of Christ on earth as each believer lives under the control and influence of the Spirit.

- *How does this passage show God's desire for His gospel to go forth to the nations? What are some practical ways we can be a part of taking the gospel to the nations?*

**Key Truth: The Church Grows as the Gospel Is Preached (Acts 2:22-41)**

APPLY: Jesus' signs, wonders, and miracles affirmed that He is the Promised Messiah.

- *Joel prophesied about signs and wonders that would accompany the coming of the Spirit. What "signs" helped convince you of the truth of the gospel?*

APPLY: The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of the gospel message.

- *How did Peter use the Old Testament to show that Jesus is the Promised Messiah?*

APPLY: A gracious and holy God offers salvation to everyone through faith in Jesus Christ.

- *Why do we need a Savior? Why can't we save ourselves? (We fall short of God's perfect standard and cannot earn salvation by doing good works; Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and gives us His righteousness; etc.)*
- *The disciples' lives were changed because of Jesus. How has Jesus changed your life? How are you sharing that change with others?*

**Key Truth: The Church Grows as Believers Live Out the Gospel (Acts 2:42-47)**

APPLY: The Church grows when believers have the following priorities: Learning and obeying God's Word, prayer, communion, fellowship, caring for each other, and sharing the good news of Christ.

- *The early church members were devoted to learning and obeying God's Word, prayer, communion, fellowship, caring for each other, and sharing the good news of Christ. Why are these activities vital for healthy churches?*
- *What do churches sometimes put their attention into that might cause them to get distracted from these key priorities?*
- *The Church looked out for the needs of each other. How can we meet each other's needs? How can we deepen our fellowship?*
- *As Christians, what is our responsibility when it comes to the growth of the Church?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- What is the Church and who is the head of the Church?
- What does the Holy Spirit do for us?
- How are our words and actions so important to how others view the church?
- How can our words and actions change a person's perception of the church?

Work together to memorize the Verses of the Month: *Mark 12:30–31*



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

The New Testament church began with the coming of the Holy Spirit. The church is a local organization of Christians who meet for worship, instruction, fellowship, accountability, and witness.

Everyday Extras:

Select a variety of items from either the kitchen or a toolbox. Have family members name each item and describe its purpose. Ask if any of the items have multiple uses. Remind your family members that followers of Jesus are the Church—the Church is not only a building. Discuss the purpose of the Church and ways each person can show Jesus to others.

Remind your family they are a valuable part of a body of believers. We do more for Jesus when we serve Him together.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned Saul hurt and killed many people who followed Jesus. One day, God caused a bright light to blind Saul and He asked why Saul was hurting His people. God also sent a man named Ananias to help Saul by healing him. Saul knew Jesus was who He said He was, and Saul chose to follow Him. Jesus wants everyone to follow Him. **I Can Follow Jesus.**

Family Theme | **The Gospel Is for Everyone** Date | **May 26, 2024**
Study Text | **Jonah 1:1–5; Acts 10:1–45; Matthew 5:13–16; 2 Corinthians 5:14–20**

Read the Word: Jonah 1:1–5; Acts 10:1–45; Matthew 5:13–16; 2 Corinthians 5:14–20

Disciple Your Family: Discuss how Jesus loves all people and wants us to care for them and get the gospel to them.

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



Key Truth: God Called Jonah and Peter to Take the Message of Salvation to Those Who Were Different From Them (Jonah 1:1–5; Acts 10:1–45)

APPLY: God might ask us to do things we'd rather not do.

- *When have you gone your own way rather than doing what God wanted you to do? How did that turn out?*
- *How should we respond when God asks us to do something that is extremely uncomfortable? What might make these uncomfortable tasks easier? (Remembering the Holy Spirit is with us; praying before doing; taking a friend with us; etc.)*

APPLY: Pray that God will connect you with people who need to hear the gospel.

- *Have you ever prayed that God would give you the opportunity to share the gospel with someone? Why should evangelism be an active component of our faith and not simply a passive component?*

APPLY: God loves all people and wants to save them, including our enemies.

- *What causes people to develop prejudices and unfavorable opinions about other groups of people?*
- *Who are like the Ninevites to us—people who are different and maybe even enemies?*
- *How might a heart of compassion change how we view those who are lost?*



Key Truth: God Calls Us to Engage and Take the Gospel to Those Who Are Different From Us (Matthew 5:13–16; 2 Corinthians 5:14–20)

APPLY: Interact with people who are lost and live a godly life before them.

- *How might we damage our witness if we spend our time engaged in petty arguments and social media controversies?*
- *How can we set a biblical example in our interactions with people who are different from us? (View all people as created in God's image and equally valuable to God; treat all people with love and respect; etc.)*

APPLY: Like an ambassador, represent Christ to the people around you.

- *What are some of the first things you notice about a person when meeting him or her for the first time? What things would you want someone to notice about you?*
- *What does it mean to live as an ambassador for Christ?*

APPLY: Build relationships with people around you and watch and pray for opportunities to respectfully share God's truth.

- *With what lost person could you begin to build a relationship?*

APPLY: Seek to lovingly and respectfully engage the lost around you.

- *What opportunities do you have to build relationships with lost people around you? How can you be more intentional in building these relationships?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- What did God tell Peter through his dream?
- Why was it confusing to Peter that he should share the gospel with Gentiles (non-Jews)?
- Is there anyone or group of people you have a hard time believing the gospel is for them?'
- How does God's love for someone help us understand the importance of sharing the gospel with him or her?

Work together to memorize the Verses of the Month: **Mark 12:30–31**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

The gospel is for all people.

Everyday Extras:

The gospel is for everyone. Remember Jesus offers grace and salvation for every single person in this world. Others should be able to see how Jesus impacts our lives through our everyday actions. Showing Jesus in how we live can be more effective than just the words we say. Have family members role-play scenarios to practice how to share the gospel with others through words and actions. Suggestions include what to do when others are making fun of another person, a family from another country moves next door, and a less popular classmate asks your child to sit with him or her at lunch.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned that after Saul chose to follow Jesus, he was known as Paul. He and Barnabas told others how to follow Jesus. A man named Sergius wanted to know more about Jesus, but his friend, Elymas, did not want him to. But Sergius saw Jesus' amazing power and chose to follow Jesus. **I Can Follow Jesus** and tell others about Him.

Family Theme | **Paul** Date | **June 2, 2024**
Study Text | **Various Scriptures From Acts**

Read the Word: Various Scriptures From Acts

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

Discuss the following Key Events and Life Lessons. Use the questions to spark discussion.



Key Event 1: Before His Conversion Paul (Saul) Persecuted Followers of Christ (Acts 7:58; 9:1-4)



Key Event 2: Christ Confronted and Converted Paul on the Road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-31)

- When has someone encouraged you and helped you in your walk with Christ or ministry?



Key Event 3: Paul Took the Gospel to the Gentiles and Planted Churches (Acts 13-20)

- When missionaries go to an unevangelized area to establish a church, what are some challenges they might encounter?



Key Event 4: Paul Faced Much Opposition and Hardship to Spread the Gospel (Acts 21-28)

Life Lessons From Paul

Life Lesson 1: God saves sinners from all backgrounds and uses them for His glory.

- In what ways are you serving God and bringing Him glory? How could you do more of this?
- How should Paul's life encourage us to share the gospel with all people, even those who seem too far gone?

Life Lesson 2: Like Paul, believers are to press on to become more like Christ and to serve Him (Philippians 3:12-14).

- The first part of Paul's life was spent far from belief in Christ. How might his testimony aid us when sharing the gospel with those who think God could never love them or use them?
- How can we avoid complacency and remain fervent in our walk with Christ?

Life Lesson 3: Seek to share the gospel wherever God leads you.

- In what ways are you being disciplined?

- *How are you seeking to share the gospel with people God has placed around you?*

Life Lesson 4: Living for Christ and sharing the gospel with the lost world often brings difficulty and persecution.

- *What types of opposition have you faced because you follow Jesus?*
- *Why should we trust God when He gives us difficult or dangerous instruction?*

Life Lesson 5: Grow in faith and knowledge of God by reading and putting into practice the inspired truth Paul wrote.

- *There are some today who reject Paul's writing and refuse to accept it as part of Scripture. Why is it important to view Paul's letters as the inspired and inerrant Word of God?*
- *What is one lesson from the life of Paul that you will apply to your life this week?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- Why do you think both the Jewish leaders and Jesus' followers had a hard time believing Saul had changed?
- Is there anyone you have doubted true change in his or her life based on your past experience with that person? Do you believe Jesus can make that drastic of a change in someone in today's world?
- What changes have you made because of your relationship with Jesus?
- How can Paul's transformation encourage you to share the gospel with those around you?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: 1 Thessalonians 2:12



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

After Paul's conversion to Christ, his goal was to share the gospel with both Jews and Gentiles. The book of Acts includes his missionary journeys.

Everyday Extras:

God changed Paul's life on the Damascus Road and He can change ours too. The transformation that a caterpillar makes into a butterfly is a very unique process. Read a book or search on the Internet about this transformation. Remind your family that God can take something not so great and turn it into something beautiful. Take inspiration from Paul's life and ask the Lord to show each of you how to live a life that points others to the amazing God who can transform anyone who gives their life to Him.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned some people told Jesus' followers they had to do more than just believe in Jesus. They must also follow extra rules. God's Word tells us when we choose to follow Jesus we must believe in Him and stay away from sin. Paul wrote a letter to the people to help them know how to follow Jesus. **I Can Follow Jesus** and live my life as the Bible tells me to.

Family Theme | **The Church Expands** Date | **June 9, 2024**

Study Text | **1 Thessalonians 2:1-20**

Read the Word: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

Disciple Your Family: Talk with family members about living out and sharing the gospel with unwavering commitment, a pure heart, and a consistent witness.

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



Key Truth: Faithfulness to the Gospel Is Characterized by Unwavering Commitment (1 Thessalonians 2:1-2)

APPLY: Christians can expect misunderstanding and mistreatment as we live for Christ and share the gospel.

- *What kinds of persecution or mistreatment do believers face in our culture? When have you been mistreated for your faith?*

APPLY: Keep living for Christ and sharing the gospel despite opposition.

- *How should we view opposition to the gospel message? How can we let it motivate us rather than discourage us?*
- *When has the example of another believer inspired and motivated you to be faithful during difficult times?*

APPLY: Our commitment to the gospel can serve as a testimony of its truth.

- *Why is commitment to the gospel more than a one-time decision? How might a commitment to the gospel increase our spiritual influence on others?*



Key Truth: Faithfulness to the Gospel Is Characterized by a Pure Heart (1 Thessalonians 2:3-8)

APPLY: Make it your practice to do the right things for the right reasons.

- *Why is it important to do things for the right reasons? (The condition of our hearts matters to God; doing the right things for the wrong reasons displeases God; etc.)*

APPLY: Let love for God and love for others be your motivation for sharing the gospel.

- *There are some who accuse Christians of trying to convert people to simply win someone to their side or win an argument. How would you refute those claims?*
- *When we share the gospel with the lost, how can we make sure we are doing so with pure motives and a pure heart?*
- *How can we cultivate genuine love and compassion for those whose lifestyles are vastly different from our own? (Instead of giving in to stereotypes and caricatures, get to know those who differ from you; ask about their past and genuinely listen to why they believe what they do; love them because Jesus does; etc.)*



Key Truth: Faithfulness to the Gospel Is Characterized by a Consistent Witness (1 Thessalonians 2:9–20)

APPLY: Let your conduct back up your words.

- *Why is it vital that our conduct is consistent with what we say?*

APPLY: Be true to the full message of the Bible.

- *Why is it important to present both the positive and negative truths of God's Word?*

APPLY: Count the cost and proclaim the gospel boldly. Faithfulness is what matters.

- *What does it look like to "count the cost" in our day?*
- *Why is it important for our relationships with unbelievers and new believers to extend beyond the initial sharing of the gospel? What might this look like?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- How can Paul's example of sharing the message of Jesus even when it didn't make everyone happy encourage us to do the same?
- Why is prayer such an important part of sharing the gospel?
- How does living a life of integrity impact your mission to help others know Jesus? How can a lack of integrity hinder it?
- What steps are you currently taking to grow your faith and relationship with Jesus?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **1 Thessalonians 2:12**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

God used the apostle Paul to establish new churches and to write a portion of the New Testament.

Everyday Extras:

Paul shared about Jesus with the people in Thessalonica and continued to help them grow their faith. Our words and actions reflect our lives with Jesus, so we should do our best to make sure they honor Him. Have some craft time with markers, construction paper, stickers, etc. and let family members make cards and notes with verses of encouragement and words that share Jesus' love. Ask Jesus to provide opportunities to share these cards with people who need to know about His love or need words of encouragement.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned after Paul left Thessalonica, he wrote a letter to remind the believers of the truths they had been taught. We can read that letter in God's Word. **I Can Learn From God's Word** to live in peace. Jamie and Annie Webster's mom reminded them of what God's Word says when they were having a hard time getting along with each other.

Family Theme | **Walk in Purity** Date | **June 16, 2024**

Study Text | **1 Thessalonians 4:1–8; 2 Samuel 11:1–2; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20; Psalm 51:1–13; Genesis 39:7–12**

Read the Word: 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8; 2 Samuel 11:1–2; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20; Psalm 51:1–13; Genesis 39:7–12

Disciple Your Family: Discuss with family members how we should follow God's design for sexuality. His ways are best for us.

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



Key Truth: Pure Believers Guard What They Look At (1 Thessalonians 4:1–3; 2 Samuel 11:1–2)

APPLY: It should be the believer's goal to please God more and more by staying away from sexual sin.

- *How can we keep ourselves from sexual sin?* (Be careful what we look at; avoid tempting situations; flee when tempted; etc.)

APPLY: Take action to guard what you look at.

- *How can we guard what we look at?* (Avoid movies, shows, websites, social media platforms, magazines, etc., that are likely to show enticing images; turn away immediately when enticing images appear; stay occupied with what is good and right; use blocking or accountability software; etc.)
- *It's been said that we no longer have to go looking for sexual images; they come looking for us. How can we help younger generations be proactive in guarding what they look at?*
- *How can we help a friend who is caught in the trap of an addiction to pornography?*



Key Truth: Pure Believers Follow God's Ways, Not the Ways of the Lost Culture (1 Thessalonians 4:4–5; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20)

APPLY: Control your body in holiness rather than giving in to sexual passion and lust.

- *What messages about sexuality do we hear from the lost culture around us?*
- *Why has our culture strayed so far from God's design for sexuality?*

APPLY: Follow God's will for sexuality, not the lost culture that says people should indulge sexual desires rather than preserve sex for biblical marriage.

- *Why is it best to follow God's will for sexuality?*
- *How have phones and social media introduced new levels of temptation? How might the building of community with other believers help us fight against this temptation?*



Key Truth: Pure Believers Confess and Turn From Sin, and Avoid, Flee, and Resist Temptation (1 Thessalonians 4:6–8; Psalm 51:1–13; Genesis 39:7–12)

APPLY: Sexual sin affects others as well as ourselves.

- *In what ways does sexual sin destroy families, damage relationships, and hurt others?*

APPLY: We must confess and turn away from sin.

- *What do we learn about confession from David and Psalm 51?*

APPLY: Make it your practice to avoid, flee, and resist sexual temptation.

- *What are some examples of avoiding, fleeing, and resisting sexual temptation?*

APPLY: God can deliver us from sexual sin.

- *The Corinthians dealt with all kinds of wickedness. But they also had a spiritual transformation as seen in 1 Corinthians 6:11, which states, "And such were some of you." What hope can that give to the Christian who is struggling with sexual sin?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- Why is purity in a believer's thoughts, words, and actions so important?
- How does Satan twist God's words to try to deceive you?
- How can knowing the truth found in God's Word help you recognize Satan's lies?
- What are some verses in God's Word that can help you in your personal battle with the devil?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **1 Thessalonians 2:12**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

God commands purity in our thoughts, words, and actions.

Everyday Extras:

God wants us to live pure lives, but Satan wants us to believe his lies. The Bible will help us battle against the devil's temptations. Offer family members a snack of some rotten or spoiled food. Talk about whether you should eat it. Then offer a plate of edible food. Explain that you will remove the bad food and replace it with the good food. Relate it to removing Satan's lies and replacing them with God's truth. Discuss replacing wrong thoughts with right ones. Pray together and ask God to help family members keep their minds focused on God's truth instead of Satan's lies.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned Paul also reminded the believers to be patient with everyone (1 Thessalonians 5:14). That means we are not to get upset or complain when things take longer than we want. Mr. Webster reminded Jamie and Annie what God's Word said when they were being impatient at the park.

I Can Learn From God's Word to be patient, even when it's hard.

Family Theme | **Wait in Faithfulness** Date | **June 23, 2024**
Study Text | **1 Thessalonians 4:13—5:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12**

Read the Word: 1 Thessalonians 4:13—5:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12

Disciple Your Family: Discuss with family members how we should live for and serve Christ, ready for His return.

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



Key Truth: Believers Have Hope for the Future, Even in Grief
(1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)

APPLY: Take comfort that believers will be reunited in the presence of the Lord with Christian loved ones who pass away.

- *How is the resurrection of Jesus connected to our hope for eternal life?* (His resurrection demonstrates that God's promises of eternal life are true.)

APPLY: Have hope even in grief, knowing believers will be together with Christ forever.

- *Even though we have hope in eternity with Christ, why does it still hurt when loved ones die?*
- *Why can Christians grieve differently than those who don't know Jesus?* (We know we will see Christian loved ones again.)
- *How does the promise of Jesus' return encourage you?*



Key Truth: Believers Are to Remain Spiritually Alert and Ready for Christ's Return
(1 Thessalonians 5:1–11)

APPLY: Stay alert and ready for Christ to return.

- *What does it mean to be ready for Christ's return?* (We have trusted Christ and are in a right relationship with God; we are living for and serving Him; etc.)

APPLY: Live each day as if the Lord will come that day.

- *How will the Lord's coming be like a thief in the night?* (It will be sudden and unexpected.)
- *If we knew the exact timing of Christ's return, do you think more people would live for Him? Why or why not?*
- *Christians know that Christ will return. How can this certainty help us live for Him each day? How can it motivate us to share the gospel with those who need to hear it?*



Key Truth: Believers Need Not Be Shaken by False Reports of Christ's Return
(2 Thessalonians 2:1–12)

APPLY: The truth of God's Word will keep us from being distressed over false teaching.

- *How is deception taking place in our culture, and even among those claiming to be Christians?*
- *How can we determine what is true?* (Evaluate what we hear and read by what the Bible says; do our best to verify what is in the news, social media; etc.)

APPLY: Urge the lost to embrace the truth of God's Word and to reject the lies of the lost world.

APPLY: We need not fear the future because Christ will triumph over evil.

- *Why is lawlessness a characteristic of rebellion against God?* (True law comes from the very nature of God Himself. The one who places himself in opposition to God must also stand in opposition to true law; etc.)
- *How can focusing on Christ and His return keep us on the right path and prevent us from succumbing to false teaching?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- What will happen when Jesus returns to earth?
- What are we to do until Jesus' return and why?
- How would you live your life differently if you knew the exact timing of Jesus' return?
- Have you accepted Jesus as Your Savior? If not, what is keeping you from doing so?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **1 Thessalonians 2:12**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

Jesus Christ will return to earth. He will take all believers to Heaven and condemn all unbelievers to Hell.

Everyday Extras:

We should live each day as if the Lord is returning that day. Use sidewalk chalk to draw a huge clock on the driveway. For the hour and minute hands, use pool noodles, brooms, rakes, or safe tools. Call out different times and have the children use the items to show the time on the clock. Discuss what it would be like if there were no clocks, watches, or phones to show us the time. Talk about the importance of time and what we do with our time. Jesus promised us He would return, but He didn't give us an exact time. We can trust in His promise and always be ready.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned Paul reminded the believers in Thessalonica of ways they should live to please God. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, we learn we are to be joyful, pray continuously, and give thanks in everything. The Webster children were reminded to do those things when they were sad about not going camping. **I Can Learn From God's Word** how He wants me to live.

Family Theme | **Everyday Christian Living** Date | **June 30, 2024**

Study Text | **1 Thessalonians 5:12–28**

Read the Word: 1 Thessalonians 5:12–28

Disciple Your Family: Discuss with family members practical instructions for Christian living we can put into practice.

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



Key Truth: Believers Are to Love, Respect, and Encourage One Another
(1 Thessalonians 5:12–15)

APPLY: Respect, love, and follow your church leaders because of their work for the Lord and your church.

- *How can we show respect and love for our church leaders? (Seek to practice what they preach and teach; support their efforts to help the church grow and mature; pray for and encourage them; etc.)*

APPLY: Urge the idle to carry out their responsibilities, encourage the timid, help the weak, and have patience with everyone.

- *Paul urged the idle to carry out their responsibilities. What is the danger in Christians being lazy? What should our work ethic look like?*
- *In these verses, Paul told us to help the weak. Why is it tempting to condemn the weak? What does it look like to give them help and patience?*

APPLY: Respond to adversaries with kindness rather than retaliation.

- *What are some examples of how we can respond to adversaries with kindness rather than retaliation?*



Key Truth: Believers Are to Practice What Is Good and Right and Abstain From Evil (1 Thessalonians 5:16–22)

APPLY: Live out God's will by being joyful, prayerful, and thankful at all times.

- *Describe what a life of rejoicing looks like. How can we apply this command to our lives?*
- *Why should we be thankful even in difficult situations? (Our sins are forgiven and Heaven awaits; God uses difficulties to help us grow and to accomplish His will; etc.) What is the difference between giving thanks **in** all circumstances and giving thanks **for** all circumstances?*

APPLY: Hold to and practice all that is good and avoid all that is evil.

- *How can we hold fast to what is good? (Identify from God's Word what is good and right and put those things into daily practice.)*
- *What does it look like to avoid every kind or form of evil?*



Key Truth: God Is Working to Make Believers Holy (1 Thessalonians 5:23–28)

APPLY: Ask God to make you more like Christ. Then do the things that will help that to happen.

- *How does God work to set us apart and make us more like Christ? (Uses His Word and circumstances to grow and teach us; helps us keep ourselves from sin; etc.)*
 - *Why is holiness much more important than personal wealth, popularity, and prestige?*
- APPLY:** Take in God's Word at home, at church, and as you move about in order to grow in your faith.
- *Knowing and understanding God's Word is vital to spiritual growth. What are various ways we can learn and grow in our knowledge of the Bible?*
 - *Paul knew God's Word had to be shared, and he did this through traveling, writing, and speaking. What are some ways we should be sharing God's Word with others?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- Is it easy or hard to get along with or be patient with others?
- Who is someone who has encouraged or comforted you? Who is someone you have encouraged or comforted?
- How is being joyful different from being happy? Why is it important to pray and give thanks?
- How has the Holy Spirit helped you stay away from evil?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **1 Thessalonians 2:12**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

Sanctification is the lifelong process Christians begin at conversion where they become more like Christ.

Everyday Extras:

Paul gave the believers in Thessalonica instructions for everyday Christian living. Those instructions are still true for us today. Write the words of 1 Thessalonians 2:12 on separate index cards or pieces of paper. Mix them up and place the words along a path (to the mailbox, a tree, the car, etc.) so your child can find them. Once all the words have been found, place them in the order they were collected, and say the verse together. Relate the activity to the lesson by discussing when we don't live as God wants us to, it's like reading words in the wrong order. We might be able to do it, but it doesn't work as well as if they were in the correct order. When we live as God's Word tells us to, it not only makes sense, but also pleases Him.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned God's Word tells us to stay away from every kind of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Doing evil is turning away from what God says is good and holy. It is causing sadness, suffering, and hurt. Just like the Webster children learned, **I Can Learn From God's Word** to be careful of what my eyes see, my ears hear, and what my words and actions do.