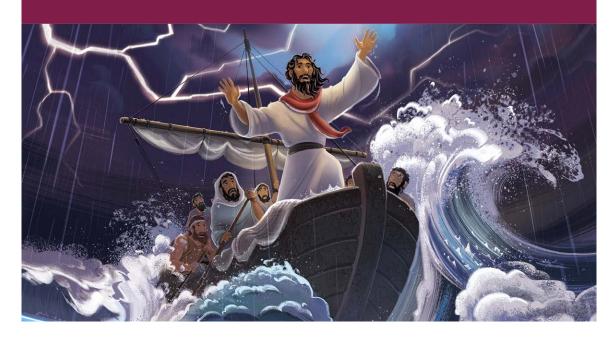


# JESUS CALMED A STORM



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; and Luke 8:22-25 from the Bible.



A phobia is a persistent and excessive fear. The most common phobias are the fear of heights, the fear of enclosed spaces, and—of course—the fear of snakes! Even if these aren't things you're afraid of, something else probably has—at one point or another—caused you to be afraid.

When the winds gusted and the waves crashed against the boat, the disciples were very afraid. The storm seemed so big. The situation appeared to be so dangerous that the men thought they were going to die. In their desperation, they cried out to Jesus for help, and Jesus, just with the command of His voice, calmed the wind and waves.

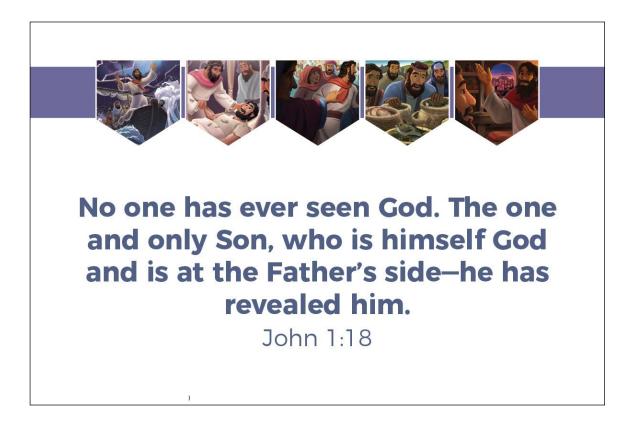
When the disciples saw Jesus' power, they were amazed. They had heard the wisdom in His teaching; they had seen the compassion He had for other people; but in this scene, the disciples saw the full glory and power of Jesus as the Son of God.

Because Jesus is the Son of God, we can cry out to Him for help when we are afraid or overwhelmed. He is strong enough to save us, and He is faithful to help us according to His will for us. He demonstrated His faithfulness and power most clearly when He came to die on the cross and rescue all who believe in Him.

Jesus' disciples knew Jesus was a good man and a good teacher. When Jesus calmed the wind and the waves, He showed His disciples that He is also God. God rules the sea and stills its waves.

**Pray:** We praise You, Jesus, because You have power and authority over all of creation. Everything in heaven and on earth obeys You because You are the Son of God. When the storms of this world rage, help us to trust in Your power to help us. Amen.









Praise God for the glory of His creation. Thank Him for the beautiful and useful things He has made. How does creation reveal God's glory? How does creation show us His control?

# **Evenings**

Ask God to calm the fears that trouble your heart. Pray for His peace to comfort you and remind you of His presence in times when you're afraid. How can our fears be an opportunity to trust and depend on God?



# For Fun

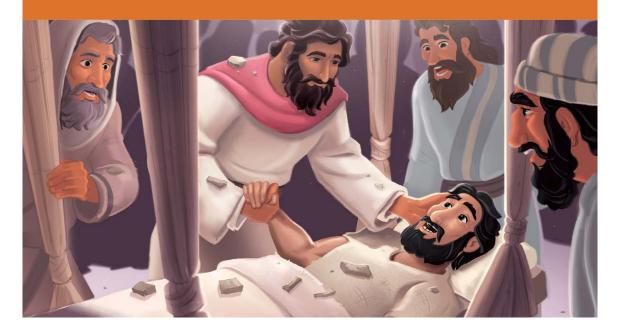
Use a 2-liter bottle and funnel to create a rain gauge. Use duct tape to attach the funnel to the top of the bottle. Allow kids to decorate the bottle and create evenly spaced marks on the side of the bottle to measure rainfall. As you work on the rain gauge, discuss the miracle Jesus performed and how it displays His power over all of creation. Jesus is the Son of God!

# **To Serve**

Each day, text a friend or family member and ask how you can pray for him or her. Choose a different person each day of this week. Explain the story kids learned this week and how it shows Jesus' faithfulness to help us in our need. Take time to pray as your family shares a meal or drives in the car.



# JESUS HEALED AND FORGAVE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; and Luke 5:17-26 from the Bible.



For \$2,000, the Esperance Heli Tours company in the Western Australia islands will give you a helicopter tour over Lake Hillier. Despite the cost, the tours are exceedingly popular because Lake Hillier is no ordinary lake. A mixture of colorful bacteria and algae in the water makes this lake a bright bubble-gum pink! It is truly a sight that most people haven't seen before.

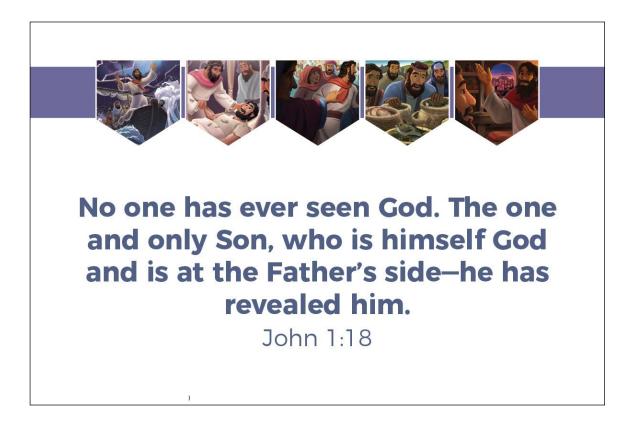
A well-recognized miracle in the Bible involves four friends who lowered a man who was paralyzed through a roof to get him to Jesus. Jesus saw the friends' faith and told the man that his sins were forgiven. When the Pharisees questioned Jesus' authority to make such a statement, Jesus showed His power and authority by telling the paralyzed man to get up and walk, and the man took up his mat and walked!

The crowds who saw this miracle were amazed because they had never seen anything like this before. John 1:18 says "No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side—he has revealed him." When Jesus showed His power and authority to heal and forgive, He was showing that He is God. Though we can't see God, we can see His power and His love demonstrated through Jesus.

The man who was paralyzed needed to be healed. Jesus did something even greater; Jesus forgave his sins, and then He healed the man. Because Jesus is God, He has the power and authority to heal and forgive. Jesus forgives everyone who trusts in Him.

**Pray:** God, thank You for revealing who You are through Jesus—the Son of God. By showing us His power and authority, Jesus showed us that He is God. We can trust in His promise to forgive sins because He is able! Amen.









Make a list of friends, family members, or church members who are dealing with health issues. Ask God to comfort these people in their sickness and to bring healing if it is His will. How can we know God has the power to heal?

#### **Evenings**

Thank God for His kindness and compassion. Think about the ways He has shown these attributes in the Bible and in your own life. Praise Him for those ways.



# For Fun

Make a list of to-dos and chores for your household. Assign each chore to two or more family members. Encourage them to work together to accomplish the task. Remind kids of the friends who helped bring to Jesus the man who was paralyzed. Talk about other ways your family can help one another. Be sure to point out how Jesus has forgiven all who believe in Him and given them the Holy Spirit as a helper to follow Jesus.

#### **To Serve**

Purchase a Bible and offer it to a neighbor or local gathering place as a gift. Reminds kids that the Bible shows us God's plan to save sinners through His Son, Jesus. Explain how the whole Bible points us to Jesus as the One who has power and authority to forgive sins. Deliver the Bible and ask God to use it to reveal His Son, Jesus, to whomever reads it.



# JESUS HEALED SICKNESS



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 9:18-31; Mark 5:21-43; and Luke 8:40-56 from the Bible.



Interstate 405 in Orange County, California, is the most heavily trafficked road in the United States. On an average day, the road is traveled by up to 374,000 cars! The morning and afternoon traffic has been known to move at a snail's pace of 4 to 5 miles per hour. That's a lot of traffic, and a lot of frustrated people who just want to get where they're going!

Traffic is a nuisance. It always seems to pop up when you're in a hurry and have no time to spare. No one likes to be stuck in traffic or hindered when they are on a mission to get things done, but we see a different approach from Jesus in the Gospels. Jesus was always on an important mission, yet He always took time to care for people in need.

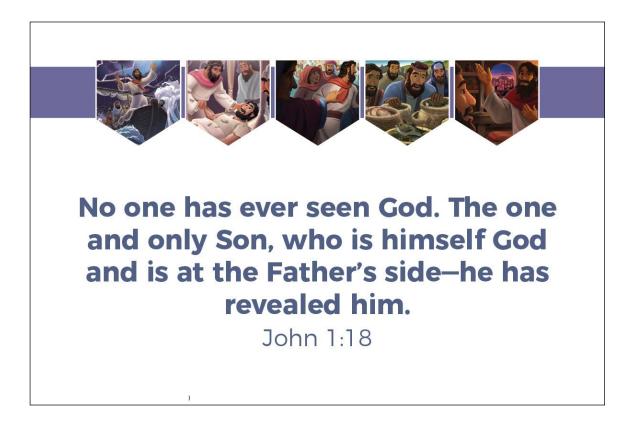
Even when Jesus was on His way to an emergency at the house of Jairus, Jesus stopped and talked to a woman who touched Him. She had faith that just touching Jesus could heal her sickness. Jesus stopped to acknowledge her faith in Him. It wasn't an inconvenience for Jesus at all because this was the mission He came to fulfill. When He heard that Jairus' daughter had died, Jesus went to the house and raised her back to life!

Jesus was never too busy or moving too fast to give time to the people who needed Him most. Whatever need they had, Jesus had the power to help. Jesus saw our greatest need was to be rescued from our sins, and He gave His own life for us. Like the woman who reached out to Jesus for healing, anyone who believes in Him will be saved from their sins.

By healing the woman and raising the little girl from the dead, Jesus showed His power as the Messiah. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save people from sin and death. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sins and changes us to be more like His Son.

**Pray:** Thank You, Jesus, for always making time to be with people and to meet their needs. Thank You for meeting our greatest need by dying on the cross and offering forgiveness to all who believe in You. Do not let us forget Your nearness to us and Your power to save. Amen.









Ask Jesus to help you notice the needs of others today. Try to slow down and notice those who may need an encouraging word or prayer. How can our care help others to see Jesus?

#### Evenings

Ask God to give you patience and trust for the things you ask of Him. Ask for help in trusting that He always has a plan that is good. How do you think Jairus felt waiting on Jesus? Why can we trust Jesus to always do what He says He will do?



# For Fun

Clear the kitchen counter or table of all items. Challenge each family member to roll a ball from one end of the table to the other without the ball falling over the edge. The key to the game is to roll the ball gently enough that it travels slowly and stops before reaching the edge. Give a prize to the family member who comes closest to the edge without going over. Remind kids that Jesus was always willing to slow down to take care of people needs. Talk about ways your family can slow down and look out for the needs of others.

#### **To Serve**

Choose a verse of Scripture (or the key passage) and create a piece of art using the words and phrases of the verse. Display the artwork in a car window for others to see as you drive around town or get stuck in traffic. Remind kids that Jesus met people where they were and took time to meet their needs. These window decals can serve to remind us and others to recognize Jesus' love and His power to heal.



# JESUS FED MANY PEOPLE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 15:32-38 and Mark 8:1-10 from the Bible.



What's the biggest cheeseburger you've ever seen? If you visit Mallie's Sports Grill in Michigan, be sure to check out their 134-pound cheeseburger. It comes with beef patties, bacon, cheese, and pickles—all stuffed between a 50-pound bun! That burger might be enough to feed most of the families in your church!

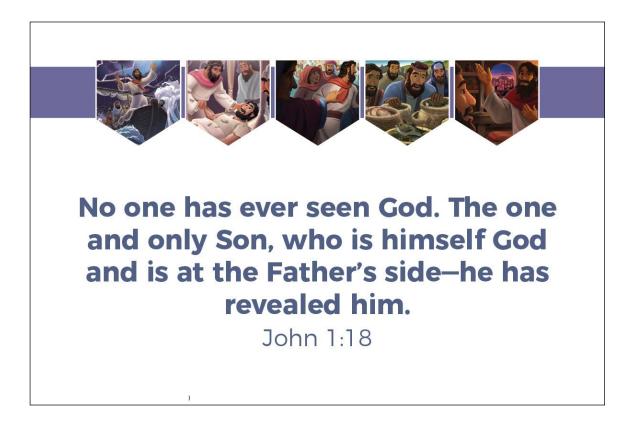
The miracle of Jesus feeding a huge crowd of people is a great display of His power. He fed thousands of people with just seven loaves and a few fish—and they had plenty of food leftover! But this miracle was also a great display of Jesus' love.

Jesus saw the people's physical need of hunger. He saw how it might keep them from hearing His teaching and believing in Him as the Messiah. So, Jesus provided for their needs. On the cross, Jesus provided for our greatest need. Sin keeps us from enjoying a relationship with God, so Jesus willingly sacrificed His own life to save all who believe in Him. This is the greatest demonstration of His love.

# By feeding the crowd, Jesus provided for the physical needs of the people. Later, Jesus called Himself the bread of life. (John 6:35) Only Jesus can satisfy our souls forever by providing forgiveness, peace with God, and eternal life.

**Pray:** Jesus, You are the Miracle Worker. You have healed the sick, made the blind to see, and fed thousands with just loaves and fish. We see Your power through these miracles, but more importantly we see Your love for the people who received these miracles. Thank You for giving Your life to provide salvation to all who believe in You. Amen.









Thank God for your favorite foods. Which of these foods can you enjoy together this week?

# **Evenings**

Thank God for meeting the needs of your family. What are some of the everyday needs He has met? How has God met unexpected needs?



# For Fun

Pick a night this week to let kids make the family dinner. Allow them to pick the menu, shop for groceries, and prepare the meal (with appropriate adult supervision). While enjoying the meal, talk about the work that went into preparing the meal and how it was a sign of their love for the family. Remind kids that Jesus' miracles are not only a display of His power, but also a display of His love. He performed those miracles because He loved the people who needed His help.

# **To Serve**

Plan a cookout or picnic with neighbors. Invite them to come and share a meal with your family as a way of showing them love and hospitality. Remind your family what Jesus said about the world knowing His disciples by the way they love one another. We can show love to others because Jesus has first loved us!



# JESUS' MIRACLES PROVE HE IS GOD



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of John 14 from the Bible.



Anyone who wants to travel internationally is required to have a passport. A passport comes from the country in which the person has citizenship, and it gives the person's name, birthdate, and physical characteristics. When entering other countries or reentering his home country, the passport is used to ensure a person is who he says he is.

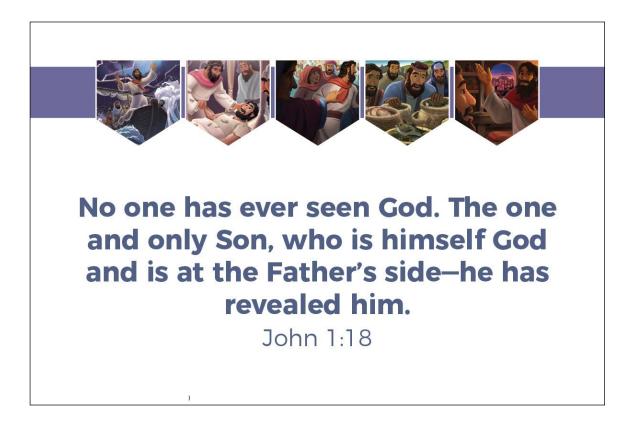
When Philip asked Jesus to show him the Father, Jesus replied that anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father. Like a passport that proves a person's identity, Jesus' powerful teaching and amazing miracles prove that He is God. When He was healing the sick, raising the dead, and forgiving sins—things only God can do—Jesus was showing His divine authority and power.

As we learn about the miracles of Jesus, we might be amazed or excited. But be careful not to miss the point. Jesus' miracles were signs that are meant to point us to God and help us to believe in Him. Jesus' miracles are meant to show us the beauty of God's plan to restore His relationship with His creation. Jesus came to dwell with sinners and died to offer them new life in Him. God continues to dwell with those who believe in Jesus by sending the Holy Spirit—who is God living with and within every believer. When you hear of Jesus' miracles, realize that God is showing you His plan to come and restore a relationship with You.

God has always existed as three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father sent the Son to rescue us from sin. He gives us the Holy Spirit to comfort us, show us our sins, and guide us as we live for God's glory.

**Pray:** God, thank You for wanting to dwell with us. You sent Jesus—God the Son—to rescue us from sin, and You send Your Spirit to dwell with us and in us when we believe. Thank You for giving us all these ways to see who You are and to help us believe in You. Amen.









Thank God for the miracles recorded in the Bible and how they reveal His character. How do miracles show God's compassion? How do they show His power?

#### **Evenings**

Praise God for where you saw Him provide for you today. Where did you see God's faithfulness today? How did God show you His love and care for your needs?



# For Fun

Make a memory book with photos, letters, drawings, or similar items to remember the ways God has been at work in your family. Think about the times God has shown His faithfulness to be with you, to help you, and to remind you of His love. Explain that—like the miracles of Jesus—the amazing things we see God do are meant to reveal how much He loves us and how much we can trust Him. Keep the book in a place that can be revisited from time to time for a reminder of who God is and how He is working in your family!

#### To Serve

Work with kids to study some of the miracles Jesus did in His ministry. Allow kids to write scripts for reenacting those stories. Volunteer to teach younger kids on a Sunday at your church and use the skits to teach them about Jesus. If you have kids in your neighborhood, host a backyard Bible club and teach the miracles to kids each day.



# JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT CHARACTER



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 5:1-16 from the Bible.



What kind of juice would you get if you squeezed an orange? What about if you squeezed an apple? Or course, the orange would give orange juice and the apple would give apple juice. If something else came out, then you need to throw away those oranges and apples!

One of Jesus' most well-known teachings is known as the Beatitudes. In these verses from Matthew 5, Jesus described the type of character He desires in His followers. Jesus spoke of the blessings that come to a person who is humble, merciful, peaceful, and pure in heart. If the pressures of life squeezed His followers, this is what would come out.

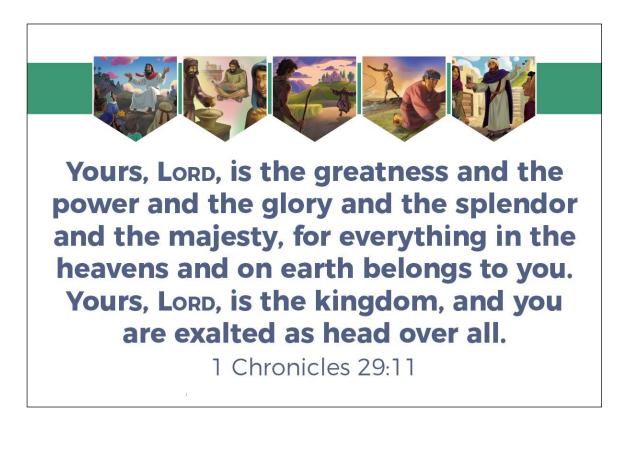
When you are pressed by hard situations, does what comes out look like Jesus or something else? When we believe in Jesus, our hearts are changed to love Him and obey Him. We want to live in a way that honors Him. We will never do this perfectly, but the Holy Spirit grows us and changes us to be more like Jesus.

Humility, mercy, peace, and righteousness perfectly describe Jesus. When the Spirit helps us grow this fruit in our life, He is making us a light that points the world to Jesus!

# Jesus taught people what it means to follow Him. He taught how people should live. People who trust in Jesus live to honor God and show what His kingdom is like.

**Pray:** God, help us to grow in Christ-like character. Make us humble, peaceful, merciful, and hungry for righteousness. We want the Spirit to produce this good fruit in us so that we can live in a way that honors Jesus and points others to Him. Amen.









Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in Christ-like character. What is the fruit of the Spirit? How is the Spirit working to produce this fruit in you?

# **Evenings**

Pray for those who are persecuted for their faith in Jesus. Why does Jesus say that the Kingdom belongs those who are persecuted for righteousness? How is their suffering uniting them to Jesus?



# For Fun

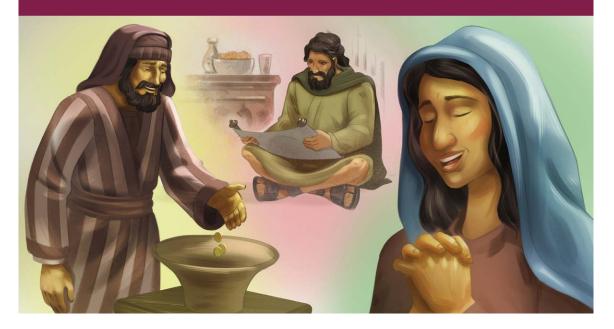
Make fresh juice or lemonade by squeezing fruit. Let kids choose the fruits and try different juices. Read Matthew 5:1-12 and discuss the character traits Jesus describes. Talk about how these traits describe Jesus and why they should be true of His followers. Remind kids that God has given the Holy Spirit to help believers grow in this good fruit.

# **To Serve**

Make a fruit basket with fresh fruit, nuts, and candy. Choose a neighbor to receive the basket as a gift. Include a card that explains how your family is learning about the type of love and character Jesus wants His followers to display. Remind kids that one of those traits is to love others as He has loved us, so this gift is an expression of love for your neighbor!



# JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT BEHAVIOR



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 6:1-18 from the Bible.



A custom is a practice or behavior that is unique to a particular group. Different countries and cultures around the world have different customs. For instance, in some countries, the custom of burping after a meal can actually be a compliment to the chef! (Though we don't recommend trying this at home.)

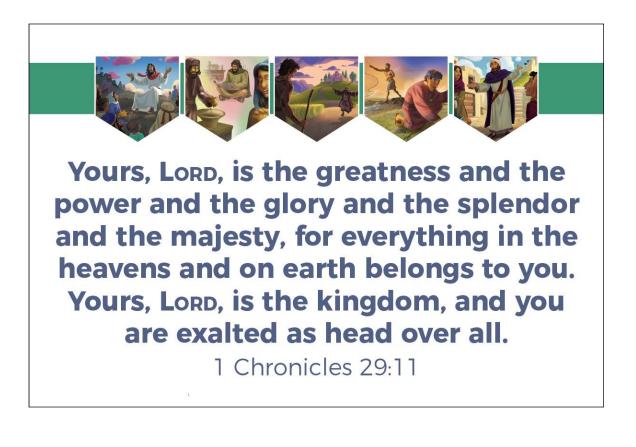
Jesus taught that every believer is part of a better, truer Kingdom: God's kingdom. As citizens of God's kingdom, He has called us to live in a different way. The behaviors we practice should reflect of our residency in His kingdom—and that often means they are very different from the world around us.

How do we live out these behaviors? Second Peter 1:3 tells us that God has "given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." Jesus showed us what it looks like to fully obey God, and God has given every believer His Spirit as a helper to make them more and more like Jesus. The more we know Jesus and what He has done for us, the more we want to imitate His ways and the more we depend on the Spirit to transform us. Our prayer should be that God would change our words, thoughts, and actions to look more like Jesus so that the world can see Him more clearly.

Jesus taught people what it means to follow Him. He taught how people should interact with God and others. Believers live to honor God—not to earn God's favor but because they already have it.

**Pray:** God, help us to grow in our love for Jesus so that our words, thoughts, and actions would become more and more like Him. Help us to remember that we don't obey to earn your love, but we want to obey because you have freely loved us through Jesus! Amen.









Think about all the things you know about Jesus—who He is, what He has done, how He is at work in you. Ask God to increase your love for Jesus so that it overflows into your behavior today. How does loving Jesus help us to obey Jesus?

#### **Evenings**

Ask God to help you forgive others. Ask Him to help you get over the hurt and be able to love that person as He loves him. How is forgiving others a behavior that models Jesus to the world?



# For Fun

Visit an ethnic restaurant in your city to observe their foods and customs. If the owners or employees represent the culture of the restaurant, ask them to share more about their culture and customs that might be unique. Ask to pray for them and for their family and be sure to thank them for sharing their culture with your family.

#### **To Serve**

Take time each day this week to pray for missionaries who are serving in other countries. Ask God to bless their work and for the good news of Jesus to spread in the culture where the missionaries serve. Remind kids that God's kingdom is not limited to one culture or one race. Heaven will be filled with believers from every nation, tribe, and tongue—united in their love and worship of Jesus Christ!



# JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD'S LOVE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Luke 15 from the Bible.



According to a recent survey, the average American spends two and a half days each year looking for lost items. The item lost most often is the TV remote. Did you check under the couch cushion?

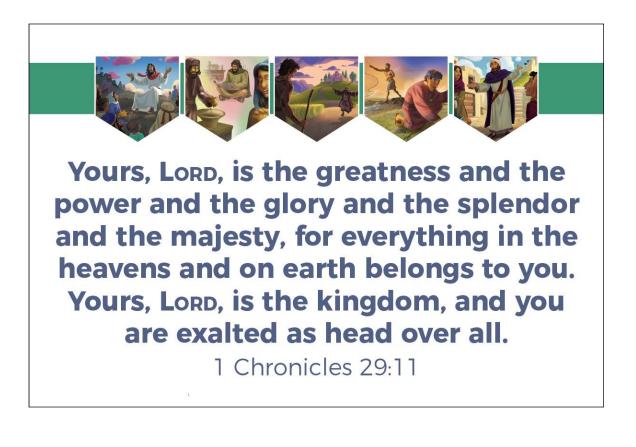
The Bible says that Jesus came "to seek and to save the lost," but Scripture isn't talking about a lost TV remote! Jesus came to save people who are lost. To be lost means to not know Jesus as Lord and Savior. This means that every one of us is born lost and desperately in need to be found by Jesus.

This week, we learned about the parable of the lost sheep, the parable of lost coin, and the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15. Each of these parables show us God's love for people who are lost. The parables teach us how much God wants to bring lost people back to Himself. In fact, God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus into the world on a rescue mission to save sinners and offer forgiveness to anyone who believes in Him.

Jesus told these parables to teach about God's love. God sent Jesus so sinners can be forgiven. As Savior, Jesus loves and seeks sinners. He paid the ultimate price—His own life—to save people from sin.

**Pray:** God, thank You for loving us so much that You would send Jesus to rescue us from sin. Help us to know Jesus and trust in Him as our Savior and our Lord. Amen.









Ask God to help you recognize people who are lost and hurting. How can you share the story of Jesus' rescue mission with those people?

# **Evenings**

Thank God for revealing who He is through the Bible. Make a list of His attributes, names, or characteristics throughout the week.



# For Fun

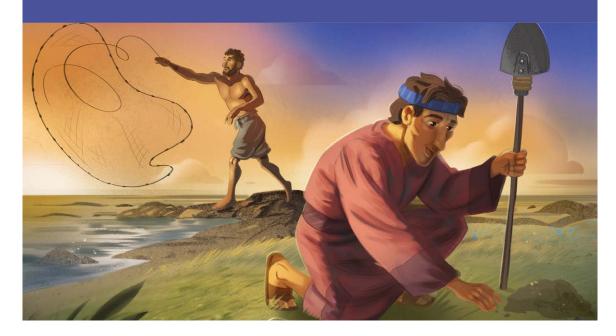
Visit a public park to play hide-and-seek as a family. Give each person the opportunity to seek those who are hiding. After the game, read Luke 19:10 and talk about God's plan to send Jesus to give His life to save sinners like us.

# To Serve

Schedule time to volunteer at a local animal shelter. Spend time cleaning, feeding, or playing games with the animals. After serving, talk about how each of those animals is waiting to be adopted. Read Galatians 4:4-5 and explain that anyone who believes in Jesus is saved from sin and adopted into the family of God.



# JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 13:1-52 from the Bible.



In 1989, a man shopping at a flea market in Adamstown, Pennsylvania, found and purchased a framed painting for a grand total of \$4. He didn't care much for the painting but liked the frame, so it seemed to be a fair price. While inspecting his purchase, the torn canvas and old frame fell apart and revealed a small, folded note inside the frame. The small note was one of the original printings of the Declaration of Independence from 1776. It had been hidden and preserved for more than 200 years. This man didn't quite get what he was expecting because his \$4 purchase turned into a rare treasure that he later sold for \$2.5 million.

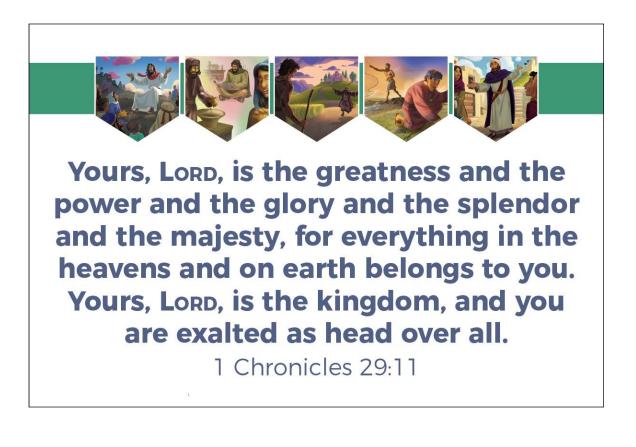
This week, we learned that Jesus used stories, called parables, to help people understand what the kingdom of God is like. Many of the people who heard about Jesus expected Him to be a king who would overthrow the Roman empire. They expected a great kingdom on Earth that would bring wealth and power to God's people. But that's not how Jesus described His kingdom.

In Matthew 13, Jesus compared the kingdom of God to things like a tiny mustard seed, a priceless pearl, and a hidden treasure. Jesus wanted those who could understand to see how the kingdom of God would begin small but grow and spread throughout the world. He also wanted them to see that knowing Him and belonging to this Kingdom was far more valuable than anything else we could possess. While this type of kingdom wasn't what the people expected, Jesus is the King of kings, and He is growing the Kingdom above all kingdoms!

The kingdom of God is growing in the world. This kingdom is valuable and worth giving everything for. While we wait for Jesus to return and fully set up His kingdom, we carry out the mission of telling others about King Jesus, who rescues sinners.

**Pray:** Jesus, we praise You because Your kingdom is greater than everything else! Help us to know you as the King of kings. And give us the courage and the opportunity to tell others about Your amazing love. Amen.









Think about a friend or family member who needs to hear about Jesus. Ask God to give you the courage and opportunity to tell them about King Jesus.

# **Evenings**

Thank God for making us citizens of His kingdom which will one day be fully complete. What does it mean to be a citizen of heaven? How does it feel to know His kingdom will have no tears, no pain, and no death?



# For Fun

Draw names to choose a "King/Queen for the Day." The selected family member will get to choose the foods you eat, activities for the day, and maybe even the TV show you watch. Draw a new name each day until everyone has a turn. At the end of each day, spend time talking about how our "kingdoms" differ from the kingdom of God. Remind kids that His kingdom is far greater than anything we could imagine!

# **To Serve**

As a family, learn a worship song in another language or visit another culture's worship service in-person or online. Talk about how this experience is a reminder that the kingdom of God is growing and spreading throughout the world. Consider sending an encouraging card and an offering to support the church you visit. Celebrate with them that the kingdom of God is growing in the world!



# WE ARE PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 22:1-14 and Luke 14:15-23 from the Bible.



Who is the greatest NBA basketball player of all time? People try to support the players they think are the GOAT ("greatest of all time") by spouting how many points they scored, how many championships they won, or how many MVP awards they received. The long lists of stats are impressive for each player, but the question remains to be one of the most-discussed debates of recent decades.

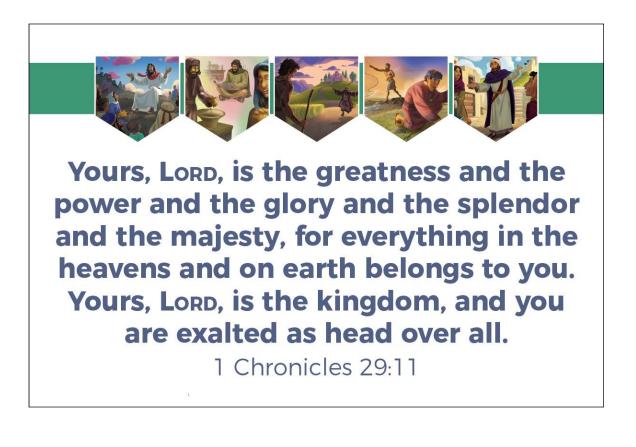
Have you ever wondered what makes someone worthy of being a part of God's kingdom? Some people might think worthiness is based on a person's good deeds. Others might say that being a part of God's kingdom is only for the smartest people, the richest people, or those who have the best to offer God. But this debate is clearly answered in God's Word.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast." What makes someone worthy to be a part of God's kingdom is the invitation that God extends to all people—freely—through Jesus Christ. Anyone who believes in Jesus as Lord and trusts in the work He has accomplished for them will be saved into God's kingdom!

Jesus invites us to join Him in heaven—the great wedding feast. When we receive His invitation, Jesus gets us ready by clothing us in His righteousness. Salvation is a free gift for everyone who trusts in Christ.

**Pray:** God, thank You for the free gift of salvation You made available in Christ. Don't let us think that our worthiness comes from our own status or our own accomplishments. Help us to know that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Through Him, we are invited to celebrate in Your kingdom for ever and ever. Amen.









Pray for the opportunity to tell the good news of Jesus to someone today. Ask God to open doors for conversation and the boldness to share the gospel in that moment. Why should we share the good news of Jesus with others?

### **Evenings**

Pray for your church services this coming Sunday. Ask God to prepare the hearts of people so that they can hear the gospel and respond in faith. Why is it important to pray for our church gatherings? How are these times an opportunity for people to accept God's invitation to believe?



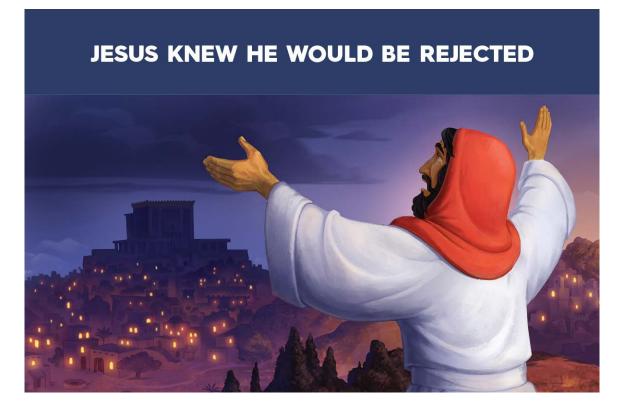
### For Fun

Set up a pyramid of plastic cups inside a plastic tote or on the ground outdoors. Let kids take turns pouring water into the top cup until it begins to overflow into the lower cups. Continue pouring water until all cups have been filled without falling. Discuss how our love and good works are an overflow of the love Jesus has shown us and the work He has accomplished for us. We don't work to earn God's love, but we can do good works because He has loved us in Christ!

### To Serve

Read John 13:34 and discuss how the love Jesus has shown to us is motivation to love others. Purchase a few gift cards to a restaurant or grocery store. Allow kids to randomly gift the cards to people who are eating or shopping at those places. If people ask why, allow kids to explain that they just want to love others the way they have been loved. Pray for the recipients in person or afterward at home.





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Luke 13:22-35 from the Bible.



The conversations Jesus had with people were full of truth and grace. Jesus told people the truth—even when it was hard for them to hear it—and Jesus always reminded them of God's grace that desired for them to be saved.

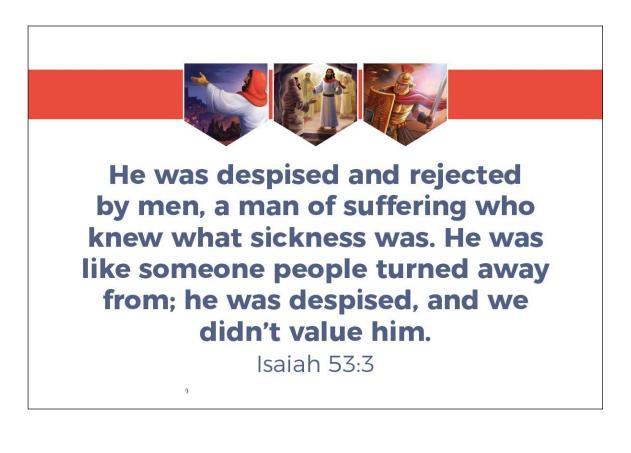
When someone asked Jesus, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" Jesus answered with truth and grace. He knew that a great number of people would despise and reject Him, and they would miss the new life He offered. Jesus also knew that many were still learning and seeking to believe in Him, so He reminded them He is the narrow gate that leads to salvation. His response offered people truth and grace.

As we learn about God's kingdom, we know that many will be invited in because they believed in Jesus, but we also realize some will reject Jesus. Then, there are others who think they have done enough good works to earn their way into God's kingdom, but Jesus will say that He never knew them because they did not put their faith in Him. While this news is hard to hear, it is actually a reminder of the good news we have in Jesus! What God wants most of all is for people to know Jesus and believe in Him. God promises that anyone who believes in Jesus and calls on His name will be saved!

# Everyone is invited into the kingdom of God, but not everyone will enter. People are saved only by trusting in Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.

**Pray:** God, thank You, Jesus, for teaching us that You are the way, the truth, and the life. We know that no one comes to the Father except through You, so help us to know You, Jesus, and help us to tell others about You so that we can receive the gift of salvation in You. Amen.









Praise Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life. What does it mean for Him to be these things? How is He the way? How is He the truth? How is He the life?

### **Evenings**

Pray for people in your community, your school, and your church to believe in Jesus. Ask God to help them find the narrow way, which is Jesus. How can we help others know the truth about Jesus?



### For Fun

Cut a hole in a poster board or sheet of paper. Give kids the chance to stand at a distance and throw a ball through the hole. Afterward, discuss what Jesus meant when He said the pathway to heaven is like a narrow door. Talk with kids about the reasons some people might reject Jesus and pray that your family and others would recognize Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.

### **To Serve**

Take a walk through a city park or the downtown area of your city. As you walk, pray for the people of your city to hear and believe the good news of Jesus. Talk with kids about how Jesus wept for the city of Jerusalem because they had rejected Him. Ask God to send a revival to your city so that a great number of people would call on the name of Jesus to be saved.



# JESUS RAISED LAZARUS



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of John 11:1-44; 12:9-11 from the Bible.



Can you imagine what Mary, Martha, and all the others were thinking when Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus and said, "Remove the stone"? Lazarus had been dead four days, and by this time the body was starting to smell. Everyone thought Jesus had come too late to help, but Jesus has power over sin and death. When Jesus called Lazarus' name, Lazarus was raised to life and came walking out of the tomb still wrapped in the grave clothes!

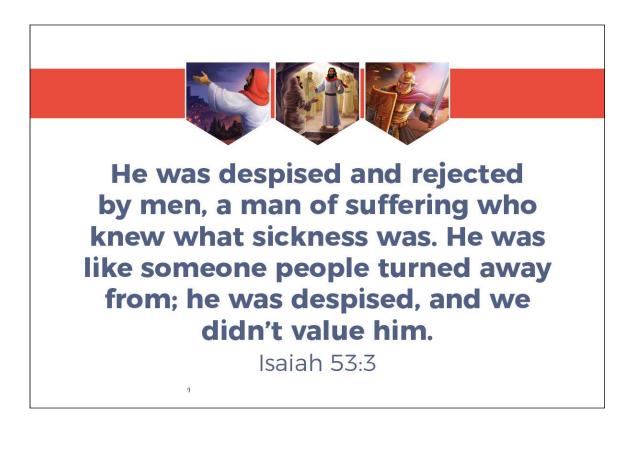
This miracle shows us that Jesus has power over death. Soon after raising Lazarus from the grave, Jesus miraculously rose from the dead and left His own tomb. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate example of His power!

The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. Sin separates us from God, and apart from Him we are spiritually dead. Just like Lazarus in the tomb, we are hopeless and cannot save ourselves. But God loved us so much that He sent Jesus—the One who has power over sin and death! He offers forgiveness for sinners and eternal life for those who are dead. According to Ephesians 2:5, anyone who believes in Jesus is "made alive" in Christ!

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He showed that He has power over death. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. He gives eternal life to those who trust in Him.

**Pray:** Thank You, God, for loving us even when we are dead in our sins. Thank You for sending Jesus to defeat sin and death so that we can have life eternally by trusting in Him. We love You because You have shown so much love to us! Amen.









Thank God for the miracles we see throughout the Bible. Focus on a different miracle each day. What does this miracle show us about who God is and what He can do?

### **Evenings**

Praise God for the forgiveness of sin that is made possible through Jesus. What does it mean to confess sin and seek forgiveness? How has Jesus defeated sin and death?



### For Fun

Take turns wrapping family members in bathroom tissue or bed sheets to resemble Lazarus in the tomb. Use a stopwatch to see how quickly each person can unravel the "grave clothes" from his or her body.

### To Serve

Visit a cemetery to place flowers or volunteer to help clean the grounds. Discuss how death is a consequence of sin, but those who trust in Jesus do not have to fear death because Jesus has power over it!



# THE WORLD IS AGAINST GOD



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Ephesians 6:10-20 from the Bible.



The speed and intensity of NASCAR races is amazing. Drivers push their car to speeds above 200 miles per hour on a racetrack with other cars, that are also going 200 miles per hour, and there is a high probability that they will bump into each other!

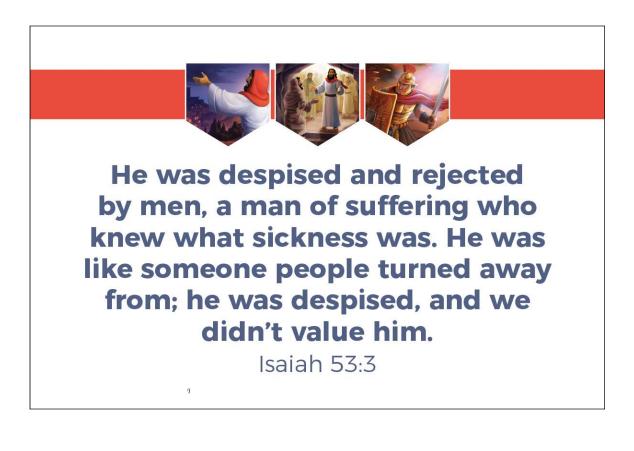
It takes a certain amount of guts for those drivers to get into the car and do what they do. They can have confidence because they trust the safety equipment around them to protect them. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul reminds believers of the confidence they can have in facing the battles of this world because God has given them His armor for protection.

In the letter, Paul reminds the people of all the reasons they can be bold and confident. He reminds them that because Jesus Christ has already defeated sin and conquered death, Christians also get to claim that victory. Thought Satan tries to do battle against us, we can put on the truth, righteousness, faith, and salvation that we have in Christ. We can stand up and battle against evil because everything we need to fight has been supplied to us in Christ!

Paul told believers to be ready to fight a spiritual battle every day. People and powers who are against God will be against us too. But Jesus died and rose from the dead. He had victory over evil. We can fight the battle against evil, knowing Jesus already won the war.

**Pray:** Thank You, God, for giving us victory in Jesus. Help us to put on Your armor to stand and fight. Even when we see evil around us in the world, help us to battle with confidence because Jesus has conquered sin and death. The victory belongs to Jesus! Amen.









Thank God for His armor that helps us battle against evil. As you get dressed, imagine putting on each piece of armor and readying yourself for the day. How does having God's armor give us confidence in facing troubles?

### **Evenings**

Praise God that every believer is a new creation in Christ. Thank Him for giving us new life, new purpose, and new identity through faith in Jesus. How are the pieces of God's armor related to our identity in Christ? How does Jesus' victory change the way we battle against evil?



### For Fun

Use aluminum foil and cardboard to create a suit of armor. Form teams of family members to compete for the "Best Armor" award. Afterward, read Ephesians 6:10-17 and discuss how each piece of armor is a reminder of the new identity we have in Christ.

#### **To Serve**

Reach out to church members or friends who have a loved one in active military service. Get ideas of care items you can send to bless the person. Put the items in a box and send with a note to thank them for their service. Remind them that God loves them in Christ and that your family is praying for their protection.