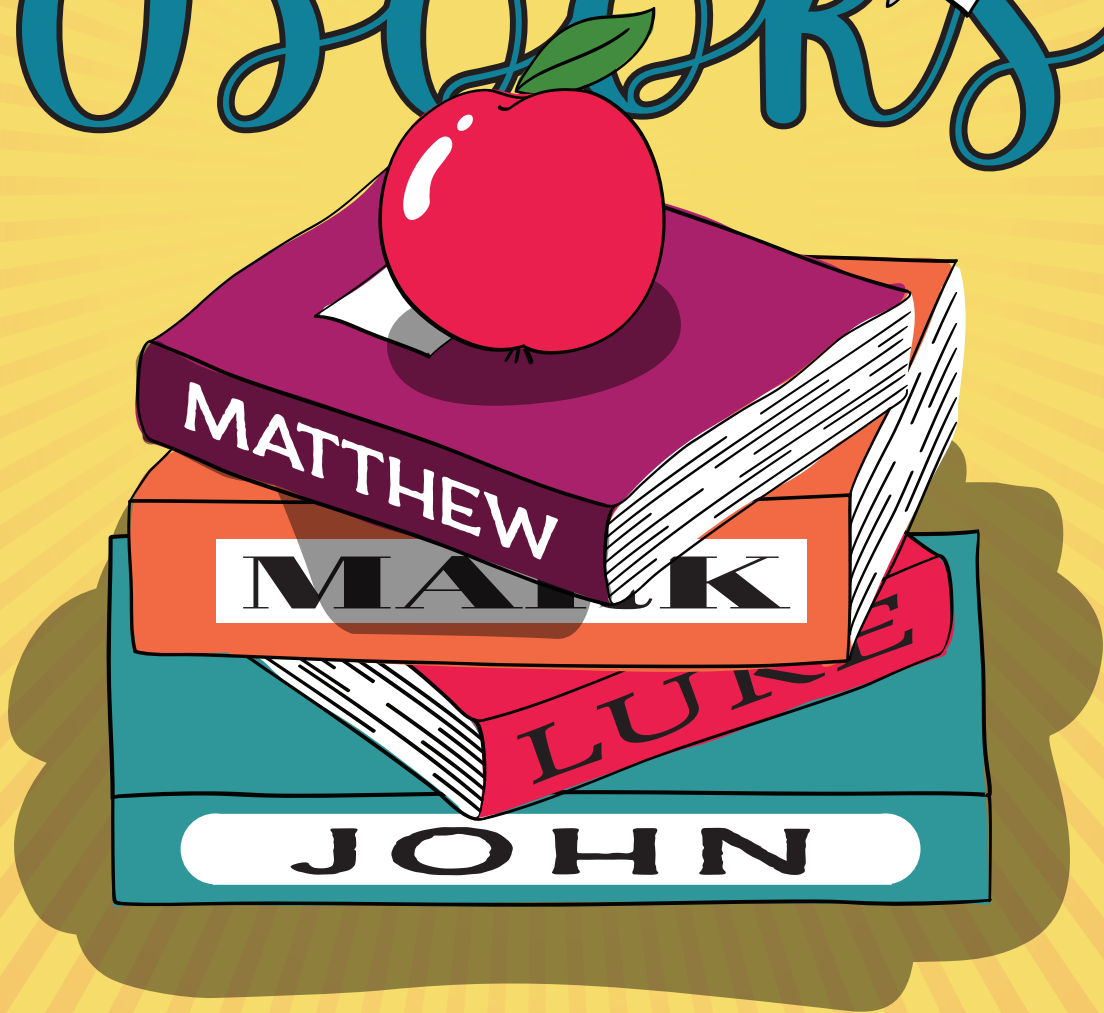


Back TO THE Books





FIRST CHURCH

OPEN BIBLE

Family Life Resources

We understand the challenges of busy schedules at home, which is why we offer resources that support you and your family which are easy to use, relevant and most importantly honor God. We pray these resources for your home along with the classes and services at First Church make an eternal difference in the lives of families like yours.

Blessings,
First Church Open Bible

Colossians 2:6,7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

MOST BIBLE VERSES IN THIS BOOKLET ARE QUOTED FROM THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

Summer with Team Jesus

INTRODUCTION

Here at First Church, our summer has been all about **Team Jesus!** In June, our VBS taught us that Jesus chose us, trained us, and sent us to spread the gospel.

In July, our children grew in discipleship. In August, some of our kids took time out to go to camp. We are finishing out August with an emphasis on missions as we wrap up summer and head **Back to the Books.**

We want to remember to listen to Jesus and learn from Him. Let's be prepared to minister wherever he leads us! **Go Team Jesus!**

LESSON 1

This is My Son - Listen to Him

Parent's Passage: Matthew 17:1-9

Family Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

Key Verse: Mark 9:7

"This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

As we leave the excitement of the summer months and move into the structure of the school year, it seems like a fitting time to shift our focus. We are on Team, Jesus! But, who exactly is this Jesus?

The Gospels tell the story of the amazing transformation of their Rabbi. (Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9:28-36)

Jesus came clothed in our humanity. His baptism gives us the first glimpse of the reality of His true identity:

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

- Matthew 3:16-17.

This marks the beginning of his earthly ministry. He spent the next three years teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven and training his disciples.

Near the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus revealed His true identity to three of His disciples:

"After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them.

His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light." - Matthew 17:1-2.

John describes Jesus in the same manner in Revelation. John describes Jesus as dazzling white light. His only response was to fall at his feet.

In these passages, describing Jesus in His glorified body, Jesus has the same response - He reaches down to touch His disciples and tells them not to be afraid.

God's response at the Transfiguration of his son is similar to his response at Jesus' baptism - ***"This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"***

The majority of the four Gospels describe Jesus in his earthly form, and that is often how we remember Him. But I believe it is wise to also talk and teach about Jesus in his glorified identity. This is the Christ, who will return at the end of the age. This is **the One** who stands at the Father's right hand to intercede for us. This is **the One** who sent letters to the churches with warnings and encouragement. God, the father's words are ***"Listen to him!"***.

As the church and as families, we need to make it our priority to regularly listen to the words of Jesus."

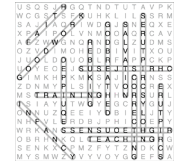
The Unfolding of the Revelation of Jesus Christ			
Matt. 3	Matt. 17:4-6	Matt. 24-25	Rev.1:11-20
<i>"This is My Son"</i> Verse 17	Jesus' Transfiguration Verse 5 - The Voice of God said: <i>"Listen to Him."</i>	Olivet Discourse Verse 4 - Jesus answered: <i>"Pay attention."</i>	John's Discourse Jesus answered: <i>"Write down what you see and send it to the churches."</i>

Activity 1

"... from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Find the words from 2 Timothy 3:15-17 in the Word Search activity below.

ANSWERS:



LESSON 2

Learn From Me

Parent's Passage: Jeremiah 6:16
Family Reading: Philippians 2:5-8
Key Verse: Matthew 11:29

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. "

I was thinking about all of the ways we learn today. We watch YouTube, scroll through Instagram and TikTok, read Threads or posts in X and FaceBook, and so much more! And oh yeah! We go to school! There is so much information at our fingertips all the time and anytime we want (as long as the Wi-Fi is good).

Sometimes all this information seems like so much noise. Whether we recognize it or not, it can wear us out both physically and perhaps even down to our very souls.

What does God say about learning? Let's break down our key verse:

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me . . ."

A yoke is something that farmers used to keep two very powerful animals together so they could work toward a common purpose, such as oxen plowing a field.

In our key verse, Jesus uses the yoke to give us a picture of partnership and shared labor. It's not because we are just as strong as Jesus or we deserve to be His partner, but because He loves us enough to walk by our side and guide us. He has gifted us with the Bible so that we can learn about Him and know Him better. With this yoke, He is calling us to follow and learn from

Him - not from a distance, but in relationship with Him.

"... for I am gentle and humble in heart ..."

This is exciting! Jesus is not a know-it-all. Don't get this confused with knowing it all (because Jesus does!), but He doesn't teach us as though He's talking down to us or belittling us. He desires to teach us by example. Philippians 2:7 tells us that Jesus ***"made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."***

What about you? Here are some questions to think about: How do you respond to someone who is angry with you? ***Do you meet their shouting with shouting louder? Is it more important that you have the last word? Do you focus on how you're right and that other person is wrong?***

Don't worry, my friend! You are in good company! This is why we have more to learn. The next very important question to consider is: Aren't you glad that Jesus doesn't treat us that way?

"... and you will find rest for your souls."

First of all, what is your soul? In simple terms, it's your inner-most being created by God.

George MacDonald (a minister, author, and poet born in 1824) once said, ***"You don't have a soul. You are a Soul. You have a body."***

When we are yoked to Jesus, our creator, our key verse tells us that we are at rest. If you're young, this might make you yawn and feel bored. You don't want to be at rest! You want to play and have fun!

Well, that isn't the kind of rest our verse is talking about. It isn't nap time, but a time when we don't have to feel shame. There is no need to be embarrassed or worried. Anger and bitterness are no more. Remember our lesson on the fruits of the spirit?

This is what we have to look forward to when we are in line or yoked with Jesus:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” - Galatians 5:22-23

Activity 2

Together as a family, think of ways you can set aside time to learn from Jesus. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Read a chapter aloud together every day *This might be a good bedtime activity or something you could do after dinner together.*
- Make a commitment to take notes at church and in Sunday School. After church, take turns talking about what each of you learned.
- Choose a verse each week and spend time memorizing it. At the end of the week, recite it aloud to one another. *(Perhaps share a small treat together for learning the verse.)*

What other ideas do you have?

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LESSON 3

Be Prepared

Parent's Passage: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Family Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16a

"All scripture is God breathed."

Paul had known Timothy and his family for many years (2 Timothy 1:5). Now Paul is imprisoned in Rome for his faith. He is not likely to be released. He writes a letter to Timothy to encourage him in his ministry.

We also can take courage in our ministry by taking to heart Paul's admonition to Timothy.

In Paul's final charge to Timothy, he tells him to ***"continue in what you have already learned"*** -2 Timothy 3:14a.

Paul had spent time with Timothy. He had taught him how to minister as a pastor. Timothy had helped Paul at Ephesus and then stayed there to continue working with the church while Paul went on to plant new churches.

Timothy had been taught the Scriptures from a young age. (2 Timothy 3:15) Now Paul wants him to put into practice all he has learned.

Paul gives Timothy confidence with these words, ***"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching ..."*** (2 Timothy 3:16)

Paul went on to say that Scripture is very helpful for teaching,

(Continued next page)

rebuking, correcting and training. He wanted Timothy to have confidence in his ministry and to be thoroughly equipped for every good work that the Lord led him into. (2 Timothy 3:17)

These instructions are also for us who are ministering in the church. Our ministry may happen at home, at work, or in our community.

Wherever we shine the light of Jesus, we can be confident that the scripture will help us.

Take these steps as a family to be thoroughly equipped for the ministry God brings your way:

- 1) ***Continue in what you have already learned.***
- 2) ***Families, teach the Word from an early age.***
- 3) ***Know that all scripture is God-breathed.***

Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to be Prepared for the ministries you have planned for us.

Help us to Listen to Jesus, and Learn from Him by Studying His Words.

Help us to Value the Bible and hide the Words of Jesus in our Hearts.

In the Name of Jesus, Your Son, we pray.

Amen.



THIS IS A RESOURCE PRODUCED BY FIRST CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE IN DES MOINES, IOWA.
ALL MATERIALS AND CONTENT ARE INTENDED FOR INFORMATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.
THEY ARE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE YOUR FAITH JOURNEY.
PLEASE USE THEM RESPECTFULLY AND ACKNOWLEDGE FIRST CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE, DES MOINES, IOWA
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