

God's plan is for you to be the primary spiritual nurturer of your child's faith. This resource is designed to allow your family to share time in God's Word **before** your child attends youth group. **HomeFront Weekly** is meant to inspire you toward a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ, equip you to be the primary person presenting these biblical concepts to your child, and support you as you connect and grow alongside your son or daughter.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY: SHARE & ASK

Faith flourishes in the context of healthy and intentional relationships. Start by sharing your life and then asking your child about hers. Without judgment, model honesty and let her know you want to hear what's going on in her life.

SHARE your story of how you came to follow Jesus with your life. In telling your story, keep the focus on what God has done and how He has been working in the your situations (not getting lost in story details).

ASK your son or daughter to share the story of how he or she came to follow Jesus.

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHILD'S LEADER

In this section, we will provide you with creative ways to inspire, equip, and support the leader(s) who are intentionally pouring into your child, guiding her to a closer relationship with Jesus. Your child's leaders should be leading with your encouragement and input.

One of the ways we can show love and care is through prayer. Be intentional this week in seeking out your child's leader and ask how you can be praying for her. Commit to praying for your child's leader and then follow up with her. Most importantly, be praying for her spiritual life. In order for your leader to lead well and pour into her students, her intimacy with Jesus is crucial.

SERIES FOCUS VERSES

During this series we're continually remembering the words of Jesus. Come up with a creative way to celebrate as a family when you memorize this Scripture.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1:17–18

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

JESUS IS THE MESSIAH

Mark 1:1–15 (**Fire Bible: Student Edition*, pp. 1342–1343)

Have you ever arrived midway through a movie and then not understood exactly what was going on? This is what it's like to read the gospel of Mark without the context of God's grand redemptive narrative. From the beginning, Mark makes it clear he is writing about Jesus the Messiah, or the "Promised One." To understand how Jesus is the Promised One, we need to go all the way back to the beginning. God's grand redemptive narrative starts in Genesis chapter 1 with God creating. The effects of sin on God's creation are catastrophic. Adam and Eve experience suffering, death, and decay. But God has a plan—a promised Savior. Throughout the rest of the Old Testament, Israel consistently gets glimpses of what this Messiah will accomplish, and they look forward to the day of His arrival with utmost anticipation. With the book of Mark, the Messiah, the long-awaited Promised One, has come!

DID YOU KNOW ...?

The gospel of Mark was most likely the first of the four gospel accounts to be written.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS love famous people. In a world where we can be "friends" with celebrities through social media like Twitter and Instagram, students can get an up-close look at the personal life of a famous person. People who once seemed so unreachable are now closer than ever, and students can often be more excited about these people than about Jesus. Look for opportunities this week to remind your child of how Jesus is truly worthy to be followed and encourage them to seek Him in God's Word.

BLESSING

A blessing can be a spoken prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance over your child. For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in HomeFront Magazine: A Spiritual Parenting Resource (www.HomeFrontMag.com).

(Child's name), as a chosen child of God, may you personally experience Jesus Christ, the Messiah, through the peace of knowing God's love. May you choose to follow Jesus with all your heart.