

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 a teaching of Jesus that's often hard for you to submit to, accept, or believe. When have you initially found it difficult to submit to Jesus' teachings, but you later saw God incredibly blessing you in that situation?

ASK what teachings of Jesus are hard for you to submit to or believe?

LEAD THE WAY

As parents, we should be willing to participate in what we ask of our children. This section will empower you to lead your family in spiritual formation—Christ forming in you.

In Mark 2, Jesus reveals that He is God. As God, He has ultimate authority, yet at times we attempt to rule over Him. This manifests itself in various ways: trying to control our own lives, not submitting to God's truth, ignoring the leading of the Spirit, etc. Spend a few minutes with the Lord and ask Him to reveal your heart. If desired, incorporate the following text.

God, where in my life do I need to give You more authority? What commands of Yours can I more fully submit to? Where can I trust You? God, thank You that submission to Your authority brings the forgiveness of sins and healing. Help me trust You and submit to You, give me a heart that wants to follow You all my days.

FAMILY CHALLENGE Tape a few teachings of Jesus in a high-traffic area of your home, such as the refrigerator or the main door, as a way of saying, "God, we want to be a family who puts ourselves under Your authority. Help us believe these truths and submit to You."

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

Mark 2:1–12 (*Fire Bible: Student Edition, p. 1344)

A group of tenacious friends lowered a paralyzed man through the roof of an overcrowded house, placed him at the feet of Jesus, and eagerly awaited His healing touch. "Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5). As we read this story in Mark 2, the oddity of Jesus' response is striking. A story that seems to be all about the healing of a paralyzed man is actually about something entirely different. Jesus' declaration of forgiveness immediately divided the crowd and caused controversy. The crowd understood that if Jesus claimed to have the authority to forgive sins, then He was in fact claiming to be God. To prove His claim, Jesus performed the hoped-for miracle. Jesus is more than a rabbi and much more than simply a miracle worker. He is God—the God—who has all authority, even the authority to forgive sins. As Jesus displays His authority, He calls everyone to submit to Him. In this invitation He offers the greatest gift we could ever hope for: the pardoning of our sins.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

By calling Himself the "Son of Man," Jesus is claiming to be the fulfillment of the messianic prophecy found in Daniel 7:13–14.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS don't really like authority. In their minds, someone who has authority over them is a killjoy and is on a mission to destroy all things good in their lives. Take the opportunity this week to show your child that Jesus' authority is different from what they experience from others. Jesus has an authority accompanied by the greatest love the world has ever seen.

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), **our heavenly Father loves you. May you be empowered by the Holy Spirit to believe this truth in your heart, submit to Jesus as God, and trust Him as Lord and Savior.**