

PEEPS

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

2023



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILDREN:

Asking the right questions is crucial! Get a sense of your child's Peeps experiences by asking questions that elicit more than a one-word response.

- Tell me about the best part of Peeps.
- What does **RISE** stand for?
Reach All - Include All - Stand Up For All - Embrace All
- What is your Memory Verse Challenge?
Each week you will have a take home page that discusses what Verse we are being challenged to memorize.
- Who did you play with today?
- What was the Story about?
Each week you will have a take home page that will help keep you up to date with the story and what devotional your family should be doing.
- What was your **BIG** Answer?
Each week you will have a take home page that discusses what BIG Answer we are being challenged to live out.

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

The BIG Answer:

I will trust God's Word.

Memory Verse Challenge:

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach
us what is true.

- 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) -

DAY 1:

Question of the Day: How do I know I can trust God's Word?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Romans 3:4

Have you ever had someone tell a lie about a situation you were involved in? You knew what the truth was and tried to argue your side just as if you were pleading your case in court. Even while the other person was lying, you were going through your head trying to think of ways that you could prove the truth of what actually happened so you could win your case and others would know and believe the truth.

The Bible says that God will be proved right in what He says because God is true. God doesn't make mistakes and He never lies. We can trust everything He says. His Word has been proven true over and over. It contains prophecies written over many years that have been fulfilled. Everything that Scripture says is true. No matter what anyone says, we can trust God's Word.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do the Scriptures say about what God says?

He will be proved right. (Romans 3:4)

Even if everyone else is a liar, what is God?

God is true. (Romans 3:4)

How does it make you feel to know God always tells the truth?

Answers may vary.

How have you seen God keep His Word to you in your life?

Answers may vary.

What is something God has said in His Word that you need to trust Him with more?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that You are faithful to Your Word and that You always speak truth. Help me to trust and believe everything Your Word says. Amen.

DAY 2:

Question of the Day: Where did the Bible come from?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Peter 1:20–21

There are many ways people can get a message from one place to another. They can write a letter, send a text or an email, make a phone call, or post on social media. If they wanted to be more creative, they could hire an airplane to write a message in the sky with smoke, send a carrier pigeon, or float a message in a bottle across the ocean! All these ways would work to send a message, and yet, that's not how God chose to send us the Bible.

God chose to use special people called prophets to write a lot of the Bible. Think of these people as God's special messengers. The Holy Spirit inspired them to write about His truth, giving them words that one day would be part of the Bible. Although each book of the Bible may show the writer's personal style, the content is what God told the writers to record. Because they were writing and speaking from God, the things they wrote about actually happened. We can trust that the Bible is God's Word and that every word of it is true!

TALK ABOUT IT:

Where did the prophecies in Scripture come from?

The prophecies came from God. (2 Peter 1:20–21)

How do we know the people who wrote the Bible didn't just write what they wanted to?

The Bible tells us this, and they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20–21)

How is the Bible different from other books?

Answers will vary.

How does knowing the Bible is God's Word change the way you read it and study it?

Answers will vary.

How does knowing the Bible is God's Word change the way you live after reading it?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for giving us Your Word. Help me to trust that what You say is true and that Your Word is for me. Help me to live every day according to Your Word and Your truth. Amen.

DAY 3:

Question of the Day: If the Bible was written so long ago, how do I know it's for me?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Isaiah 40:8; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

From creation long ago, God put the sun in place. Every day, the earth rotates on its axis making it so that we can see day and night because of the sun. There are times when the sky is cloudy and we are unable to see the sun but, we know that it is there and has been there from the creation. We trust that it is always working, and we know it is real.

When you trust God's Word, you are putting your trust in God who does not change from day to day. He is truth. He has always been true and will always be true. His Word has always been and always will be trustworthy. It is always at work in those who believe. You can trust God's Word. You can know that everything in His Word is true and is useful to draw you closer to Him and make you more like Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does God's Word do for those who believe in it?

It works in them. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

How long will God's Word last?

The Word of God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:8)

Where does God's message for us not come from?

Human ideas (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

What should you believe about the truth of God's Word?

You should believe and accept that the Bible is the very word of God. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

How can you allow God's Word to work in you?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that no matter how much time passes, Your Word stands true. I believe that the words in the Bible are Your words to me. Help me trust Your Word and allow it to work in my life to make me more like You. Amen.

DAY 4:

Question of the Day: How do I know if what someone is saying about God's Word is true?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 17:11

There's nothing quite like walking in your house and smelling homemade, freshly baked cookies! The smell fills the air, and you can almost taste the cookies before you even see them. Warm, homemade chocolate chip cookies are the best! However, there are some things that may mislead you into thinking chocolate chip cookies have been baked at home when they haven't. Store-bought cookies warmed in a microwave may be especially deceptive but even a scented candle can produce a similar smell. Until you actually see and taste the homemade cookies for yourself, you don't know for sure that they're homemade!

This is similar to how the people in Berea were with God's Word. They were eager and excited to listen to Paul's message and learn more about God's Word. However, they didn't just accept what Paul and Silas said. They studied God's Word for themselves to make sure that what Paul and Silas taught was truth. They didn't want something fake. They wanted real truth!

There are many people who can teach us what God's Word says: friends and family, pastors and leaders, and even great devotional books. However, it's important for us to study, know, and experience God's Word for ourselves so that we can make sure that what we are hearing lines up with the truth that is in God's Word!

THINK ABOUT IT:

How did the people of Berea listen to Paul's message?

Eagerly; they wanted to hear it. (Acts 17:11)

Where did they look to see if what Paul and Silas were saying was true?

They searched the Scriptures. (Acts 17:11)

How often did the people of Berea search the Scriptures?

Day after day (Acts 17:11)

How can I know God's Word for myself?

By reading it, studying it, and learning to live out what it says.

How can I know for sure if what others say about God's Word is true?

Compare what they say to God's Word.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that Your Word is always true. Help me to know and experience Your Word for myself. Amen.

THE BIBLE IS TRUE

The BIG Answer:
I will obey God's Word.

Memory Verse Challenge:

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach
us what is true.

- 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) -

DAY 1:

Question of the Day: How can I know right from wrong?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Have you ever tried playing a game with no rules? Or maybe everyone followed their own rules for the game? It's crazy and can be frustrating for everyone! It makes the game difficult to play and takes away the fun. When you buy a game, the rules are included to help you know how to play the game properly so that you can get the most fun out of it.

God's Word functions as our rulebook for life. It shows us how to live. God knows what's best for us, and He wants to equip us and to prepare us to live for Him. When we God's Word, we are obeying truth, and we can experience the full life that God has for us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Where does Scripture come from?

All Scripture is inspired by God. (2 Timothy 3:16)

What is God's Word useful for?

God's Word is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. (2 Timothy 3:16)

What does God use His Word to prepare and equip us to do?

To do good works (2 Timothy 3:17)

What areas of your life do you think God's Word is working to correct and change today?

Answers may vary.

What good works do you think God is preparing and equipping you to do?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for giving us Your Word. Help me to allow Your Word to correct the things in my life that are wrong. Help me to learn and obey all the things in Your Word that are right and true. Amen.

DAY 2:

Question of the Day: Why should I obey God's Word?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Timothy 3:14–15

“Brush your teeth at least twice a day to keep your teeth healthy.” “Don’t eat too much junk food or you’ll get a stomachache.” These are things that, hopefully, you have been taught since you were young. You know they are true because you can trust the person who taught them to you. And you understand the real consequences of not obeying them.

As you learn God’s Word, it’s important that you obey it and do what it says. God’s Word is true and can be trusted. We can count on all the good things God’s Word promises, and we can also count on the consequences of not obeying God’s Word. Remain faithful to the truths you are learning in God’s Word and follow them with all your heart.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does 2 Timothy 3:14 say we should do with the things we are being taught about God’s Word?

Remain faithful to them.

What happens when we learn God’s Word?

It gives us wisdom to receive salvation. (2 Timothy 3:15) Additional answers may vary.

What happens when we don’t obey God’s Word?

Answers will vary.

What is God saying to you about obedience?

Answers will vary.

How can you stay faithful to the truths you are being taught in God’s Word?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for speaking to me through Your Word. Help me to trust that Your Word is true and help me remain faithful to the things found in it. Amen.

DAY 3:

Question of the Day: Why should I obey God's Word first?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 33:4

Think about a time when someone told you they would do something, but then they didn't do it. How did it make you feel? (Allow responses.) It can be really frustrating when we trust someone to do something, and they don't follow through. People fail because people are human.

However, God is not like humans in that way. His Word is true and has been proven true over and over again. Because God cannot fail, we can trust His Word and everything He does. This should give us confidence when it comes to obeying His Word. We aren't just obeying the words of someone who might not follow through—we are obeying the one true God. And we should obey it in every part of our lives.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did today's Bible passage tell us about what the Lord says?

It is true. (Psalm 33:4)

How much of what God does can we trust?

Everything (Psalm 33:4)

How does it make you feel to know God can be trusted in all He does?

Answers will vary.

What parts of God's Word do you need help trusting?

Answers will vary.

What parts of God's Word do you need help obeying?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that Your Word is true and that You are always faithful to do what You say You're going to do. Help me to be obedient to Your Word and trust You with every part of my life. Amen.

DAY 4:

Question of the Day: How does obeying God's Word protect me?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Proverbs 30:5–6

Imagine for a moment that you're running an obstacle course while arrows are being shot at you. You're climbing walls, crawling under nets, and jumping barricades, and the arrows just keep flying. Imagine how hard it would be to complete the course while you worried about all the arrows.

Life is a lot like an obstacle course. Satan, our enemy, constantly shoots arrows at us to try to trip us up. However, because every word of God proves true, God is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. When we choose to obey God's Word, God covers us with His protection and helps us move through life the way He wants us to.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How much of God's Word is true?

Every word of God is true. (Proverbs 30:5)

What may happen if you try to say God said something that He didn't?

God can let others know that you are lying. (Proverbs 30:6)

What does God do for those who come to Him for protection?

He is a shield to all who come to Him for protection. (Proverbs 30:5)

How can obeying God's Word protect us?

Answers may vary.

What is one thing you can do today to be more obedient to God's Word?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, please help me to obey every part of Your Word. Thank You that Your Word is true and shields me from the attacks of the enemy. Amen.

THE BIBLE IS MY GUIDE

The BIG Answer:

I will follow God's Word.

Memory Verse Challenge:

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach
us what is true.

- 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) -

DAY 1:

Question of the Day: Why should I build my life on God's Word?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Luke 6:47–49

Imagine that you are on a beach on a warm and sunny day. It's a perfect day to build sandcastles. You gather your bucket and shovel and build the most beautiful sandcastle anyone has ever seen. Then, a giant wave comes crashing out of nowhere and demolishes your sandcastle, sweeping it bit by bit into the water with the following waves.

Now, think about this: What would have happened if, instead of building your sandcastle of sand, you had built it with big rocks using an even bigger rock as the base? A strong castle made of rocks isn't going to be knocked over easily by the waves. It's going to stand strong because it's stronger than the waves.

It's important for us to build our lives on something strong too—God's Word. When we spend time in God's Word and choose to follow Him, we can stand firm on the truths found in God's Word. When hard times come or when we are tempted to do something wrong, we can know that He will speak to us and guide us to help us make the right choices.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What happened to the house that was built on the rock?

It stood firm. (Luke 6:48)

What happened to the house that was not built on the rock?

The house collapsed. (Luke 6:49)

Why is it important to build your life upon God's Word?

Answers will vary.

What sometimes stops you from spending time with God?

Answers will vary.

What can you do during the week to help you find time to spend with God?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for Your Word that gives us direction and shows us how to live. Help us to not just read and listen to Your Word, but help us to follow it. May our lives be built upon the firm foundation that is Your Word. Amen.

DAY 2:

Question of the Day: How can I know which way God wants me to go?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Joshua 1:6–9

Have you ever been hiking? On a hike, you might take a map with all the directions you need to get to the end of the hike. You'll probably also see warning signs that give clear instructions to stay on the path. This is because if you leave the path that has been marked, you could easily become lost, find yourself in a dangerous spot, and not finish your hike at the intended destination.

God has given us a map with very clear instructions on how to follow the path He has planned for our lives. That map is His Word, the Bible. When we are careful to study His Word, we can understand and walk boldly in the path that He wants us to take. We can be strong and courageous and follow God's Word with all our heart!

TALK ABOUT IT:

How is being on a hike like following God's Word?

Answers will vary.

How often should we study God's instructions?

Continually (Joshua 1:8)

How can we prosper and be successful in life?

By studying God's Word, meditating on it, and obeying everything in it (Joshua 1:8)

When have you had a hard time being strong and courageous when it came to following God's Word?

Answers will vary.

What can you do to increase your courage?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for helping me be strong and courageous. Help me to follow Your Word and stay on the path that leads to You. I love You. Amen.

DAY 3:

Question of the Day: Why should I allow God's Word to guide me?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 119:101–105

A lighthouse is usually a tall tower built near a body of water. The lighthouse has a bright light that burns on top of it. Lighthouse lights are used in the dark of night to warn passing ships about dangerous rocks and cliffs or to help guide boats into a safe harbor.

Today's verses talk about how God's Word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path. Sometimes life can be dark, difficult, and filled with tough decisions and situations that we don't know how to handle. When we follow God's instructions and remain obedient to His Word, He will show us the path that leads to everlasting life with Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why are lighthouses important to boats on the water?

Answers may vary.

What two things does Psalm 119:105 compare God's Word to?

A lamp and a light.

How is God's Word working in our lives similar to how a lighthouse works?

Answers will vary.

What can happen when we don't allow God's Word's to guide our feet and light our path?

Answers will vary.

In what part of your life do you need to follow God's Word more?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, we thank You for Your Word that leads us and guides us into all the things You desire for us. Help us to follow You and be obedient to every instruction You've given us. Amen.

DAY 4:

Question of the Day: Why is it important to know God's Word?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 119:11

There are many movies and books that tell exciting stories about the ocean, ships at sea, and pirates who search for priceless buried treasure. These stories tell about the great lengths that pirates would go to for valuable treasure. The stories tell how pirates would do everything in their power to guard it, protect it, and keep it when they find it.

God's Word is a special treasure that He gives to us freely. We can guard ourselves from sin by treasuring and storing His Word in our heart and allowing it to change us into the person He wants us to be. When we hide God's Word in our heart by reading and studying it, it becomes part of who we are. We can follow it by living and doing what it says.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How is God's Word like a treasure?

Answers will vary.

Why should we hide God's Word in our heart?

So we don't sin against Him (Psalm 119:11)

How can we hide God's Word in our hearts?

By reading it, studying it, memorizing it, and thinking about it.

How can knowing God's Word help us when we are tempted to sin?

Answers will vary.

Why is it sometimes difficult to follow God's Word?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that Your Word is always true. Help me to know and experience Your Word for myself. Amen.

THE BIBLE IS MY WEAPON

The BIG Answer:

I will use God's Word.

Memory Verse Challenge:

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach
us what is true.

- 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) -

DAY 1:

Question of the Day: Why is it so important for me to use God's Word?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Ephesians 6:11, 17

Imagine trying to play basketball without a ball or a basketball hoop. Imagine trying to hammer a nail without a hammer. Imagine trying to go skydiving without a parachute. Proper equipment is necessary to be able to do each task efficiently and safely.

This is similar to how it works with God's Word. The devil constantly attacks us, trying to turn us away from God. The devil wants to mess up our life, turn us from God and keep us from experiencing all God has for us. The Bible says that we should put on the full armor of God so we can stand against the devil's schemes. The most powerful weapon we have to fight the devil is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. When we fill our heart with God's Word, we can use that as a weapon to fight the enemy's attacks.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why should we put on the full armor of God?

So we can stand firm against all strategies of the devil (Ephesians 6:11)

What is the sword of the Spirit?

The Word of God (Ephesians 6:17)

How does it make you feel to know God has given you a weapon, His Word, to fight the devil with?

Answers will vary.

How can you use the truths of God's Word to fight the devil?

Answers will vary.

In what part of your life do you need to be sure you're using this special weapon to fight the devil with?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for giving us everything we need to live a godly life. Thank You for Your Word that speaks truth and fights off the attacks of the enemy. Help us to make sure that we are putting on our armor every day and that we are always ready to use Your Word. We love You. Amen.

DAY 2:

Question of the Day: When should I use God's Word?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Timothy 4:2–4

A freshly baked cake is one of the greatest smells ever. What makes it ever better is when you get to be a part of it. A service dog is specially trained to help people who have disabilities. A guide dog can help someone who is blind or visually impaired know when it's safe to cross a street. A seizure dog can detect if the person it helps is having a seizure. Seizures can be very dangerous. The dogs are able to do these tasks because they've been trained to know what to do. These dogs are always ready, no matter what, to put that training into action.

The Bible tells us it's important to be prepared to use God's Word. No matter what time of day, no matter how we're feeling, and no matter what's going on, we need to be ready and willing to use God's Word. This is why it's important to know His Word and have it hidden in our heart. Then, when we need it, we can use it to live for Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT:

When should we use God's Word?

We should be prepared to use it at any time. (2 Timothy 4:2)

What is God's Word used for?

God's Word can be used to correct, rebuke, and encourage others. (2 Timothy 4:2)

Why should we always be prepared to use God's Word?

So we can live according to God's truth no matter the situation. Answers may vary.

What can happen when we no longer listen to or use God's Word?

We can become people who follow our own desires, reject the truth, and chase after things that are not of God. (2 Timothy 4:3–4)

How can you be ready to use God's Word in a situation that you are facing right now?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, help us to fill our hearts with Your Word. Help us to allow Your Word to teach us how to live so we can be ready to do whatever You want us to do and live for You. Amen.

DAY 3:

Question of the Day: How does using God's Word help me live a godly life?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Hebrews 4:12

One of the most important skills of a top chef is to be able to use a knife properly. Great chefs doesn't just go chopping away at a piece of meat to prepare it for cooking. Instead, they use a very sharp knife to cut away the pieces of meat that are not needed. They are careful not to ruin the good parts of the meat. Chefs must know precisely where to cut to get the results they want. A sharp knife in the hands of a master chef is a powerful tool that produces some amazing food!

Like a chef's knife, God's Word is very sharp. It is also alive and powerful. This means that the Holy Spirit can speak to us through God's Word and change us. God's Word is a powerful tool to help us get rid of the bad things in our life and to help us grow in the good things that God desires for us. Because God's Word is true and perfect, it can help expose the parts of us that don't align with God's Word. It also can help us fight temptation, selfishness, and lies from the enemy. When we use God's Word as a weapon to fight the bad things in our heart, God will help us get rid of those things so we can live a godly life.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How is the Bible different from any other book?

The Word of God is alive and powerful. (Hebrews 4:12)

What does God's Word help expose in us?

Our innermost thoughts and desires (Hebrews 4:12)

How can God's Word help us fight the bad things that we sometimes allow in our life?

By showing us the truth and helping us know what things we need to get rid of. Answers may vary.

What parts of your life do you need to use God's Word in to make you more like Him?

Answers will vary.

How can you use the Word of God to help you grow in the things He wants you to have?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for Your Word that is alive and powerful. Help me to allow Your Word to expose the deepest parts of my heart and life and use it to make me more like Jesus. I love You. Amen.

DAY 4:

Question of the Day: How can I use God's Word to help others?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 18:24–28

The Bible calls Apollos an “eloquent speaker.” That means that he was educated and able to speak to others well. He had studied the Scriptures, and he knew them well. Apollos traveled around telling others about Jesus. But sometimes, he came across people who would argue with him about the truth. Have you ever had someone argue with you about what the truth is? It can be frustrating when you know the truth, but they don't understand. Because Apollos had studied and learned the Scriptures so well, he was able to use the truth from God's Word to help people understand who Jesus is.

God's Word is powerful because it is given to us directly from God and it teaches us what is true. When we take the time to study and learn it, we can know how to apply it to our own life. Also, we can share it with others to help them know the truth for themselves.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did Apollos use to prove who Jesus was?

The Scriptures (Acts 18:28)

Did Apollos stop learning and growing in God's Word when he knew a lot of it?

No, Priscilla and Aquila helped him understand more about God, and he continued to learn. (Acts 18:26)

How can you learn more about God's Word for yourself?

By spending time reading it, memorizing it, and studying it. Answers may vary.

When could you use God's Word to help someone understand who Jesus is?

Answers will vary.

Who in your life needs to know the truths that are in God's Word?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, I want to be a student of Your Word, and I want to know the truths that are found in it. Please give me wisdom to know how to use Your Word to share those truths with others. Amen.

GOD IS THE ONE TRUE GOD

The BIG Answer:

My God is the one true God.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord.
“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.”

- Isaiah 55:8 (NLT)

DAY 1:

Question of the Day: When have you felt God's presence?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Daniel 3:14–18

Have you ever had such a bad sunburn that your skin blistered? What did that feel like? How is getting burned by the sun different from being burned by touching something that is hot? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were willing to honor God with their lives even if that meant being burnt in a fiery furnace.

Even though they faced a terrible punishment, they stood up to the king and trusted God to help them. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that God is the one true God. They knew God had the power to rescue them. This is an incredible reminder today that in our life, we can have faith, and trust God to be with us in all circumstances!

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did King Nebuchadnezzar respond to reports that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had not obeyed his orders?

He questioned them and offered them another chance to obey. (Daniel 3:14–15)

How do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego felt when the king confronted them?

Answers may vary.

What did King Nebuchadnezzar say that might mean he thought he was more powerful than God?

"If you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?" (Daniel 3:15)

What do you think about how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego responded to the king?

Answers will vary.

When do you think Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego felt God's presence?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for showing us in the Bible that You are the one true God and that You are always with us. I may go through some hard experiences, but I can have faith and trust in who You are. God, as you were with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, I know that You are with me. I praise You, God, and thank You for who You are. Amen.

DAY 2:

Question of the Day: What can we learn about God from His creation?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Isaiah 45:18

What is something that you love a lot? It could be a person, place, or thing. Do you know who created that person, place or thing? The first chapter of the Bible, Genesis 1, talks about how God created our world. The Bible mentions God as Creator in other places too.

Isaiah 45:18 says God created the heavens and earth. Have you ever stopped and looked at the world God has created? It's pretty amazing when you look at it. God created every single star, every grain of sand, every bird, every flower, and He even created you! He knows you by name and loves you. When you stop and look at creation, you can truly know that God is the one true God and there is no one else like Him!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is your favorite thing God created?

Answers will vary.

How does creation show us that God is the one true God?

Answers will vary.

Where do we find the story of creation?

Genesis 1

Why is the story of creation important?

Answers will vary.

If God created the world, what does that say about His ability to help you?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for showing us in creation that You are the one true God. There is no one like You, God, and we give You praise for You are amazing. I love You. Amen.

DAY 3:

Question of the Day: What does it mean to have other gods?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Exodus 20:3

The Ten Commandments are rules God gave people. We find them in Exodus 20 in the Old Testament. The first one says, "You must not have any other god but me." We know that our God is the one true God.

We might not be tempted by false religions, but sometimes we may allow things to take the place of God in our life. The things we allow in our life can become a problem. If they take away from the time we spend with God, negatively change how we act, or we let them rule over us in a way only God should, they are a problem. The second commandment says, "You must not make for yourself an idol." This means that we should not worship or give something a higher value or regard than God. It's important that we put God first in our life and have a close relationship with him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Where in the Bible are the Ten Commandments found?

Exodus 20

What is the first commandment?

"You must not have any other god but me." (Exodus 20:3)

Why do you think God put this commandment first?

Answers will vary.

Why is it important to keep our relationship with God as the most important one in our life?

Answers will vary.

Is there anything you sometimes put before God?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that You are the one true God! Thank You that You loved me so much that You sent Jesus to the world to die in my place and forgive my sins so that I can experience forgiveness and love. God, thank You for being who You are in my life, and I choose to put You first. Amen.

DAY 4:

Question of the Day: When has God helped you?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Hosea 13:1–6

In the verses we just read, we learned that some of God's people sinned by worshipping a fake god. They turned from only worshipping the true God. They also started making silver idols and worshipping calf idols. God reminded the people about how He had been with them, had delivered them out of Egypt, and how He had protected them.

Have you seen God do something in your own life? As time goes by, you may forget what God has done. When God does something in your life, it is important to write it down in a journal or create a place where you can hold all those memories. Then, when you look back, you can see all the times God has helped you. Reflecting on what God has done will help you remember who God is!

TALK ABOUT IT:

God brought the Jewish people out of what land?

Egypt (Hosea 13:4)

Why were the people being reminded that God had brought them out of Egypt?

They had forgotten about Him.

What is God asking the people to do?

Worship only Him. (Hosea 13:6)

Why is it important for us to remember times that God has been with us in the past?

It helps us remember who God is.

How can you make sure you put God first?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for all the times that You have been faithful to me. I know You are the one true God and You are always with me. Show me if anything has tried to take your place in my life.

GOD IS IN CONTROL

The BIG Answer:

My God is in control.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord.
“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.”

- Isaiah 55:8 (NLT)

DAY 1:

Question of the Day: Who decides what you make with play dough?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Jeremiah 18:1–11

Have you ever created anything with play dough? It's fascinating to watch people mold and shape play dough. The process begins with a lump, but may end with something incredible.

Today we are talking about God leading Jeremiah to a potter's shop and speaking to him there. As Jeremiah watched the potter, the potter saw that his creation was flawed, so he started over.

In our life, sometimes things keep us from being what God wants us to be. Maybe it is the choices we make, the people we hang out with, or fear. When we don't allow God to shape those areas in our life, we fail to meet what God wants for our life. Today, we are reminded that God is in control, and we can trust Him with every area in our life. We need to turn from the things that hold us back and follow God's plan for us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

In the verses we read, who did the Lord give a message to?

Jeremiah (Jeremiah 18:1)

Where did God tell Jeremiah to go?

A potter's shop (Jeremiah 18:2)

What did the potter do to the jar that wasn't turning out like he wanted?

He smashed it and started over (Jeremiah 18:4)

What did God say about the nation of Israel?

Israel was in His hand just as the clay was in the potter's hand. (Jeremiah 18:6)

What might keep you from being everything God planned you to be?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for molding and shaping me. I trust You, and I know You have an amazing plan for me. Lead me and direct my path. Help me be the person You want me to be. God, I give You every area of my life, and I trust You. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: When should I be scared?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 118:6–7

When has someone been really mean to you? When have you been afraid? Fear can make us feel anxious. When we feel afraid or anxious, we can find comfort in Psalm 118:6–7. These verses tell us God is for us, and He will help us.

That means we don't have to be afraid. When we learn to listen to God and to trust that He is in control, we can remember that God is with us, no matter what happens. And He can bring something good from any situation.

TALK ABOUT IT:

According to Psalm 118:6, who is the Lord is for?

For me (Psalm 118:6)

What do you think "The Lord is for me" means?

Answers may vary.

How does knowing God is with you make you feel?

Answers may vary.

When has God helped you?

Answers will vary.

When you feel afraid, what can you do?

Pray, read the Bible, talk to another believer. Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for being with me and helping me. God, help me to trust You to bring good from every situation. May I find hope and peace in who You are. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What does God want us to know?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 23

When we read Psalm 23, we find the Lord described as our “shepherd.” A shepherd takes care of his sheep. He knows all of them, and his goal is to keep them safe.

When you watch sheep, you can see the special bond they have with their shepherd. The sheep know the shepherd’s voice, and they know the shepherd will protect them, guide them, and meet their needs. The sheep know they can trust the shepherd.

That is what God desires from us. God wants us to know that we can trust Him to protect us, to guide us, and to meet our needs. He wants us to know that we are safe when we listen to and obey Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

In Psalm 23:1, it says that “The Lord is my shepherd.” What is the second part of that verse?

“I have all that I need.” (Psalm 23:1)

Which part of these verses stands out to you the most?

Answers may vary.

In Psalm 23:4, what do the shepherd’s rod and staff do?

Protect and comfort me (Psalm 23:4)

How should Psalm 23 affect our life?

Answers may vary.

What does it mean to “live in the house of the Lord forever”?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for being my shepherd and for leading and guiding me. God, help me listen to Your voice and trust You. Thank You that You are giving me rest, guidance, protection, comfort, and strength. I love You. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: Do you need to understand what's happening?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Isaiah 55:8

Close your eyes and imagine that you are sitting at your kitchen table and it is covered with puzzle pieces. As you start putting the puzzle together, the image begins to emerge. Finally, you finish putting the puzzle together, and you can see the complete picture.

Life can be like that puzzle. Over time, God reveals your life to you piece by piece. Eventually, you see how the pieces connect and how beautiful the final result is.

It is important to trust God even when you don't understand the things that are happening in your life. God can see, think, and work in ways you can't understand. He can make any situation work with His plan for your life

TALK ABOUT IT:

When has God worked in your life?

Answers will vary.

When have you struggled to trust God?

Answers will vary.

How did you handle struggling to trust God?

Answers will vary.

When have you seen God's faithfulness?

Answers will vary.

How does knowing that God's thoughts are "far beyond anything we could imagine" impact your relationship with God?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, You are good! Thank You that I can trust You even when things don't make sense to me. I do trust You. Help me to follow Your leading every day. Amen.

GOD CARES ABOUT ME

The BIG Answer:

My God cares.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord.

“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.”

- Isaiah 55:8 (NLT)

DAY 1

Question of the Day: How does God show love?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Kings 20:1–11

In 2 Kings 20, we read that King Hezekiah was really sick. Hezekiah pleaded with God, and God added fifteen years to his life and rescued Jerusalem from the king of Assyria. God made the shadow on a sundial go backwards ten steps to show Hezekiah that he would be healed.

From this story, we can see that God is always with us, He cares for us, and He listens when we pray. Sometimes, He answers our prayers the way we ask. Sometimes He answers our prayers differently from what we anticipated. But, no matter how God answers our prayers, He loves us, and we can trust in His goodness.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who spoke to King Hezekiah from God?

The prophet Isaiah (2 Kings 20:1)

How many years did God add to Hezekiah's life?

Fifteen years (2 Kings 20:6)

Did Hezekiah ask for the sundial shadow to move forward or backward ten steps?

Backward (2 Kings 20:10)

How did God adding years to Hezekiah's life show that He cared for Hezekiah?

Answers will vary.

How has God shown you that He cares for you?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that You care for us and love us. God, we know that You are always there for us, and You hear our prayers. God, thank You for using the Bible to show me how much You love me. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: How much does God think about me?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 139:16–18

Imagine you are sitting on a beach and someone asks you to count every grain of sand there. That's an impossible task, right?

Psalm 139:18 says that God's thoughts about you outnumber the grains of sand on the beach. How amazing is that? He cares. He loves you, and He is always thinking about you. In fact, He had every day of your life planned before you were even born.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is something you imagine God thinks about you?

Answers will vary.

How do you know God cares about you?

Answers will vary.

How can you remind yourself that God loves you?

Answers will vary.

How can knowing that God loves you help you live your life?

Answers will vary.

How much does God think about you?

God's thoughts about me are more numerous than the grains of sand. (Psalm 139:18)

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for showing me Your love and care. Help me to always remember how much You love me, and help me to love others every day. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: Who knows you best?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 139:1–6

Do you have a best friend—someone you share everything with? They know your favorite color, favorite movie, what type of pet you want, what you struggle with, and where you dream of going. They know you because they spend time with you. Does your best friend know everything about you? No, probably not. You can hide things from them because they aren't with you all the time.

But God is different.

God is always with you and He knows everything about you. He knows when you are happy and when you are sad. He knows when you are awake, and He knows when you are asleep. He knows everything about you because He is always with you and He knows your thoughts. Even though He knows all of this, He wants to be your very best friend and someone you can turn to no matter what you need.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does God know about you?

Everything (Psalm 139:1)

Why does God know everything about you?

He is with you all the time, and He knows your thoughts. (Psalm 139:2–5)

Verse 5 says, “You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.” What does this mean to you?

Answers will vary.

When has God gone before you?

Answers will vary.

When has God covered your back?

He will forgive us. (Matthew 6:14)

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for always being with me. Help me to turn to You in everything that happens, and help me know how much You care about me. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: What makes someone pay close attention to small details?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 139:13–14

When you get ready to leave home for the day, do you stop and look in a mirror? As you brush your hair, do you know how many hairs are on your head? Do you know how many freckles are on your face? Or how about how tall you will be when you finish growing? Every time you look in a mirror is a chance to think about how much God cares about you!

When we read Psalm 139:13–14, we can see how much God loved us even before we were born. When God created each of us, He designed us to be unique and special. He knew what our strengths were going to be and what our weaknesses were going to be. He knew if we were going to be tall or short. He even knew the number of hairs we would have.

God, the Creator of the universe, planned each of us, even the smallest details. He made us to be masterpieces and He loves us!

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who created each one of us?

God (Psalm 139:13)

Verse 14 says God made us “wonderfully complex.” What does that mean?

Answers will vary.

What does God’s knowledge of you in the womb say about Him?

Answers will vary.

What is something unique and special about you?

Answers will vary.

How closely do you think God watches over the beginning of a person’s life?

Very closely (Psalm 139:14)

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for making a way for me to receive forgiveness. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again. Dear God, I love You. Thank You for caring about me before I was born. Thank You for creating me. Thank You for being part of my life and for loving me. Amen.

GOD IS ETERNAL

The BIG Answer:

My God is always with me.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord.
“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.”

- Isaiah 55:8 (NLT)

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What do people do before they give instructions?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Exodus 3:1–15

Can you imagine being Moses and seeing a bush that looked like it was burning, but it wasn't actually burning?

God used that fire to grab Moses's attention. God then told Moses that He had seen the suffering that Pharaoh had caused His people. God planned for Moses to have a role in ending that suffering. He told Moses to go to Pharaoh and to lead the people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. This was a big job. Moses wasn't sure he could do it, but God promised to be with him as he did his job.

Do you know that God is with you too? When you face tough times, ask for His guidance and trust His advice. When you follow His instructions, you can be sure God is with you just as He was with Moses.

THINK ABOUT IT:

What did Moses see?

A bush that appeared to be completely in flames but didn't burn up (Exodus 3:2)

Why did God tell Moses to take off his sandals?

Moses was standing on holy ground. (Exodus 3:5)

God told Moses that He had come down to do what?

Rescue His people from the Egyptians and to lead them to their own land (Exodus 3:8)

God told Moses, "I am who I am" (verse 14). Who is God to you?

Answers will vary.

How do you know God is near?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for being with me. Even when times are tough, I know that You are right there with me every step of the way. I know that You care for me and are always with me. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: If you could go back in time, what year would you go to?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Revelation 1:8

When we read the Bible, we can see who God is. Scripture shows us many examples of God protecting people and healing people. We also see God answering prayers and leading His people. As we read the Bible, we get to know the character or personality of God.

Revelation 1:8 says that God is the beginning as well as the end. This is a special way of telling us that God has always and will always be around. He will always be with us, too. We know that if God led, protected, guided, and healed back in Bible times, that He will still lead, protect, guide, and heal us today.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the end of Revelation 1:8 call God?

The Almighty One

When is God the same?

Yesterday, today, and forever (always); in the past, today, and in the future.

How does knowing that God does not change help us today?

Answers will vary.

How can we learn more about who God is and what He does?

Read the Bible. Listen to Bible teachers and leaders.

Revelation 1:8 says God is the beginning and the end. What does that mean?

God always has been around, and He always will be around.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for all that You have shown us in the Bible. You haven't changed. Because of what I read in the Bible, I know You are my Healer and Protector. I know You love me and I can trust You. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What is your favorite memory?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Isaiah 46:9–10

When has God worked in your life? It could be in a very big way, or it could be in a very small way. It is important to share stories about how God has helped us because sharing those stories reminds us of God's faithfulness.

Sometimes we may worry about the future. When we start to worry, we need to talk to God about the situation and our fears. He is always with us, and He knows what is happening. We also need to remind ourselves of the times He has been faithful in the past. That helps us trust Him with the future.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why should we remember what God has done in the past?

It helps us trust Him.

Is there anyone like God?

No! (Isaiah 46:9)

Who has the power to know everything that will happen in the future?

Only God (Isaiah 46:10)

If we begin to worry, what should we do?

Talk to God about our concerns and remember how He has helped us at other times.

Why should we bring our cares and concerns to God?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for all the times You have helped me. When I feel anxious, please help me to remember those times and to trust You with tomorrow. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: What is something you have learned from your family?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 90:1–2

Have you ever talked with your grandparents or another much older family member about how things have changed in their lifetime? Even though some things, like technology and clothes, change from one generation to another, God remains the same. He has been with your grandparents the same way He has been with your parents, and the same way He will be with you.

Psalm 90:1–2 says every generation has found a home in the Lord. It's amazing to see God's faithfulness from one generation to the next. And it's important to take time to listen to stories from our family about times God has helped them.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What changes from one generation to another?

Answers will vary.

What does it mean to describe God as a “home”?

Answers will vary.

How will God be with you?

The same way He has been with your parents and grandparents.

How does knowing God was there before creation make you feel?

Answers will vary.

How can you hold onto the stories of times God has helped your family?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for Your faithfulness to my family. Thank You for the stories of how You have helped us. I know You are near and that I can trust You. Amen.

JESUS IS LORD

The BIG Answer:

I will follow Jesus.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“For this is how God loved the world; He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

- John 3:16 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: Who is Jesus?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 16:13–20

When Jesus came into the world, many people didn't understand who He was. The Jewish people were waiting for the Messiah. Most Jews thought the Messiah would be someone who would save them from the Roman government.

Jesus did not come in the way they were expecting the Messiah to come. He showed a different kind of power than what the rulers of that day had. The salvation He offered was not the salvation many of the Jewish people were looking for. Yet, as Jesus' disciples followed Him, God showed them that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. When we follow Jesus, we get to know Him more. He changes us and shows us the life He has for us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who did Simon Peter say that Jesus was?

Simon Peter said, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)

Who showed Simon Peter who Jesus was?

God the Father (Matthew 16:17)

How was Jesus different from the Jewish people's expectations for the Messiah?

Answers may vary.

How does following Jesus help you learn more about who He is?

Answers will vary.

Who do you say that Jesus is?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for coming to the world to save us. I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. Help me to follow You and to know You more. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: How do you react when things don't go your way?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: John 13:12–15

Have you ever played a game of CopyHavecat? Someone is chosen to be the leader and everyone else copies everything the leader says and does. If you have a sibling, they may have done this to annoy you, or you may have played copycat to annoy them! However, in these Scripture verses, Jesus said He wanted His followers to copy Him: "I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."

Jesus lived a perfect life and showed us exactly how we should live. He led by example and gave us His Word to show us what to do. When we say yes to following Jesus, it doesn't mean that we're going to live perfectly. It simply means that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are going to do our best to copy everything Jesus did and live our life the way He lived here on earth. When we live the way Jesus did, we are able to show others who He is and the great love that He has for them!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What was Jesus showing His disciples an example of?

He washed their feet and showed them how to serve and love others. (John 13:12–15)

Did Jesus just use words to tell us how to live?

No, He showed us by His actions how we should live. (John 13:15)

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

Answers will vary.

Why is it sometimes hard to follow Jesus' example?

Answers will vary.

What is one area of your life that you want to follow Jesus better in?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for showing us the perfect example of how to live. Help us to follow You in every part of our life. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: Why should I follow Jesus?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: John 8:12

Different religions around the world worship different people and things. Some religions worship things in nature, like trees or the sun. Some religions worship ancestors and people who lived and died long ago. Some people even worship things like money, sports, and entertainment. They walk in spiritual darkness because they worship false gods.

Jesus said He is the Light of the World. Whoever follows Him will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. Jesus is the only way to eternal life. When we follow Him and worship Him alone, we walk in the light and truth of who He is. Following anything or anyone other than Jesus leads only to spiritual and eternal darkness.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who did Jesus say does not have to walk in darkness?

Those who follow Him (John 8:12)

What did Jesus say you would have if you follow Him?

You will have the light that leads to life. (John 8:12)

How is Jesus different from any other religious figure that people follow?

He is the only way to eternal life. Whoever believes in Him can have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Why do you think some people worship and follow things other than Jesus?

Answers will vary.

Why is following Jesus different from following anyone or anything else?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for being the Light of the World. I believe that You are the only way to eternal life. Help me to follow and worship You alone. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: How can I follow Jesus?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 7:21–23

Who is the most famous celebrity you can think of? Maybe it's a famous sports player, an actor or actress, or a musician. You may seem to know a lot about the person: their name, what they're famous for, their favorite food, and what they do in their free time. However, knowing these things doesn't mean that you know them personally.

Following Jesus isn't just about knowing His name or things about Him. Following Jesus is about making choices that line up with His Word. It's about having a personal relationship with Jesus. To do that you spend time with Him and worship Him in all that you do. When you follow Jesus, you come to know Him deeply because He is your personal Friend, your Savior who knows you better than you know yourself!

TALK ABOUT IT:

Based on these verses, who will be allowed to enter heaven?

Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter." (Matthew 7:21)

What's the difference between knowing about a person and actually knowing someone?

Answers may vary.

What are some things you have learned about Jesus because you spend time with Him and know Him?

Answers may vary.

How is following Jesus different from just knowing about Him?

Answers may vary.

How can you know Jesus better and follow Him more closely?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You that I can have a personal friendship with You and not just know about You. As I follow You, help me to draw closer to You and to know You more. Amen.

JESUS IS THE PERFECT SACRIFICE

The BIG Answer:

Jesus loves the world.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“For this is how God loved the world; He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

- John 3:16 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: Why did Jesus sacrifice His life?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: John 3:16–17

Think for a moment about the best gift you've ever received. Maybe you received a shiny new bike for your birthday. Or, perhaps you received the coolest new video game for Christmas. Or, maybe, someone gave you surprise trip to a place you wanted to go. Who gave you this special gift? It was probably given to you by someone who cares about you and loves you very much.

God loved the world so much that He gave us a special gift. He gave His Son Jesus who willingly sacrificed His own life so we could receive the gift of eternal life. This gift is available to everyone in the world! The Bible says that those who believe in Jesus and live to honor Him will receive the gift of a relationship with God the Father and eternal life with Him. That is, for sure, the best gift you will ever receive!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What gift did God give to the world in the Bible verses you just read?

God gave His one and only Son (John 3:16)

How can we receive the gift of eternal life?

By believing in Him (John 3:16)

Why did God send His Son into the world?

So that the world, through Him, could be saved (John 3:17)

How is the gift of God's Son, Jesus, and the gift of eternal life different from any other gift you've ever received?

Answers may vary.

What can you do to tell others about this special gift that God has made available to all people?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for loving us so much that You were willing to give Your Son Jesus. Thank you for making a way for the world to be saved from sin and for giving us the gift of eternal life. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: What happened after Jesus died?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:3–8

Can you imagine what it might have been like to see Jesus after He was raised from the dead? Some of the people these verses talk about had seen Jesus on the cross, watched Him die, and had seen His tomb. Yet, just as the Scriptures had promised, three days later He was raised from the dead! Hundreds of people saw Him after He came back to life. What an incredible event to be able to witness! There must have been feelings of shock and surprise, feelings of hope and feelings of joy when people saw that Jesus had defeated death. These people told others about this incredible event whenever they could.

We can experience the same type of hope and joy that the people who saw Jesus experienced. Jesus rose from the dead and was victorious over death, the grave, and sin! Out of love for us, Jesus sacrificed His life so that we could be victorious over sin and have the hope and joy of eternal life with Him forever.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How many of Jesus' followers saw Him after He was raised from the dead?

More than five hundred (1 Corinthians 15:5–6)

How does knowing Jesus is victorious over death and sin make you feel?

Answers may vary.

In what area do you need Jesus' help to overcome sin?

Answers may vary.

How does knowing Jesus died for you and then returned to life make you feel?

Answers may vary.

Who in your life needs to know what Jesus did?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for sacrificing Your life and defeating death and sin to give us eternal life. Help me to live my life sharing with others about the hope and joy that comes from a relationship with You! Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: How is living as a Christian like a race?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Hebrews 12:1–3

Have you ever seen someone after they've run a long race? Typically, they look like they could just collapse at any moment. They have put every bit every bit of energy they have into finishing as high in the standings as they can. Often, they are out of breath, sweating heavily, tired, and hungry.

When Jesus sacrificed His life on the cross, He gave everything He had to do what was required to pay for our sins. He didn't care what He looked like or what it cost Him. He willingly sacrificed His life for us because He loves us. He knew that because of His sacrifice, we would be able to have a relationship with God and have eternal life with Him in heaven. Knowing that should keep us pressing on to finish the race that God has set before us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who is the champion of our faith?

Jesus (Hebrews 12:2)

What did Jesus have to endure when He was living here on earth?

The cross, hostility from sinful people (Hebrews 12:2–3)

What does "run with endurance" mean to you?

Answers will vary.

What are some things that slow you down or trip you up in your relationship with God?

Answers will vary.

What do you need to do to take off those things and run the way God desires?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for living a perfect life and being an example for us of how to live. Help me to run the race You've set before me with everything in me. Help me to get rid of the things in my life that slow me down and trip me up. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: How is Jesus' sacrifice an example of how we should live?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Romans 12:1–2

Something amazing happens when you add Mentos® candy to a bottle of soda. As soon as you drop the candy into the soda, a change happens. Soda begins to shoot out of the bottle. If you put enough Mentos in the bottle, you can make the soda go superhigh.

Something more amazing happens when people accept Jesus as Savior and allow Him to change the way they think and live.

Jesus was willing to give up everything so we could have eternal life with Him. The Bible says that the true way to worship Him is to give Him all of us—to sacrifice our own desires and will to please Him, and follow His desires and His will. When we turn away from the things of the world, give ourselves to God, and allow Him to transform our life, we become more like Jesus and learn to walk in the perfect will of God. Then God takes our life and uses it to change those around us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did Jesus sacrifice himself for us?

He gave His life for us by dying on the cross for our sins.

How can we sacrifice ourselves for God?

We can be a “living and holy sacrifice” by giving control of our life to God (Romans 12:1)

How does God help us live differently from the rest of the world?

When we let God transform us into a new person, He changes the way we think so we can know God's will for us. (Romans 12:2)

When you think of all that God has done for you, how do you want to respond?

Answers will vary.

Who in your life needs to know about the change that can happen because Jesus sacrificed himself for us?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for all that You have done for me by sacrificing Your own life. Help me to live my life as a “living and holy sacrifice” and worship You in all that I do. Amen.

JESUS IS GOD

The BIG Answer:

Jesus is alive.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“For this is how God loved the world; He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

- John 3:16 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: How did Jesus come to earth?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 1:18–24

What is the most surprising thing that has ever happened to you? Maybe someone gave you a surprise birthday party or jumped around a corner and surprised you when you didn't know they were there. Surprises can be good or bad. Either way, you will have feelings associated with the surprise.

When Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, we can only imagine how he must have felt. This was probably the biggest surprise of his life. The woman he planned to marry was carrying the Son of God—Jesus, the promised Messiah, the One who would save His people from their sins. Jesus willingly left heaven and came to earth as a baby for one purpose: to save us. He came to earth, full of love for us, knowing that He would end up giving His life to cover the penalty of our sins. But, He also knew that three days later He would rise again. Jesus is alive right now and is actively working in our life when we trust in Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Whom did Joseph plan to marry?

Mary (Matthew 1:18)

Who appeared to Joseph and told him that Jesus was going to be born?

An angel of the Lord (Matthew 1:20)

Why did the angel tell Joseph to name the baby, Jesus?

He was to name Him Jesus because "He will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

How does knowing that Jesus came to earth to save people from their sins make you feel?

Answers will vary.

How does knowing that Jesus is alive change the way you live?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for having a plan to come to earth to save us from our sins. Thank You for being willing to leave heaven, die on the cross, and rise to life again. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: Why did Jesus take our place?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Peter 2:21–25

In baseball, coaches use a pinch hitter as a substitute for another player, usually a weaker hitter, who is due up to bat. Jesus covered our weaknesses by becoming a substitute for us.

Jesus is the only person who never sinned. Because of this, He is the only one who could be our substitute by taking the punishment for our sins. Jesus is fully God and fully human. His death and resurrection show His power to heal us spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically. When we trust Jesus and follow His ways, He will lead us and guide us to the full life He has planned for us. We will see His power in our life.

Talk about It

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why was Jesus the only one who could take our place?

Honor them. (Exodus 20:12) He is the only person who ever lived a perfect life without sin.

How did Jesus pay the punishment for our sins?

He died on the cross. (1 Peter 2:24)

Why can we be healed in every part of our life?

Jesus' death and resurrection proves His power to heal and make every part of our life whole. "By his wounds, you are healed." (1 Peter 2:24).

How does knowing that Jesus took your place make you feel?

Answers will vary.

In what part of your life do you need Jesus to show His power in your weakness?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for coming to take my place and taking the punishment for my sins. Thank You for being more powerful than any weakness I face. Help me to trust You and allow You to show Your power in my life. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: Where did Jesus' power come from?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: John 1:1–5, 14

It's hard for us to imagine before "the beginning," because for us, everything has a starting point. But, the Bible says that "in the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God." The Bible is referring to Jesus before He came to earth, and it calls Him "the Word." Jesus is God and was with God the Father even before the beginning. He was never created. He simply always has been. Doesn't that just blow your mind? Through Jesus' power, He gave life to everything that was created. And when He came to earth in human form, His life brought light and life to all who believe in Him.

When you look in a mirror, you see a reflection of yourself. It's the same person, but it's as if two different people are standing there. The mirror reveals to us what we look like and reflects who we are. Jesus, the Word, reveals and reflects who God is. Jesus is fully God, but came to earth and experienced everything humans face. But, He lived without sinning. Then, after He gave His life to pay for our sin, He showed the power of God by raising from the dead. He did all of this so we could have a relationship with God the Father and experience for ourselves the life that Jesus brings.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who created Jesus?

No one. In the beginning the Word (Jesus) already existed, He was with God and was God. He existed in the beginning with God. (John 1:1–2)

What did the Word (Jesus) give life to?

The Word gave life to everything that was created. (John 1:3)

What did His life bring when He came to earth?

His life brought light to everyone, light that shines in the darkness. (John 1:4–5)

How do these verses show the power that Jesus, the living God, has?

Answers may vary.

What situation do you need Jesus to bring life and light to?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, when I think about Your power and the life You bring, it blows my mind! There is no one who compares to You! Thank You for making it possible for me to have a relationship with God the Father and for bringing life and light to my life. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: What does Jesus have power over?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Hebrews 1:3

Casting is an art form that makes a duplicate sculpture of something. An artist will mix a special powder with water and place it around a person's hands until the mold is set. Their hands are removed from the mold. Then a mixture of plaster of Paris is poured into the mold and given several hours to dry. Once dried, the mold is removed to reveal an exact replica of the person's hands. The cast, down to the very tiny details, is the exact imprint of the person's hands.

The Scripture we read today talks about how Jesus expresses the very character of God. He allowed people to see the radiance of God's glory. All the power of God, Jesus has because Jesus is God. After Jesus rose from the dead, He ascended to heaven and is now seated "at the right hand" of the Father. Jesus is alive and because He holds all power, He wants us to trust Him with our life. Jesus, the living God, has power over everything we face. Because He loves us, He is willing to work and move for us!

TALK ABOUT IT:

Whose character and glory does Jesus show?

God (Hebrews 1:3)

Where is Jesus now?

Jesus is seated at the right hand of God (Hebrews 1:3)

What words would you use to describe Jesus' power?

Answers will vary.

How does knowing that Jesus has power over everything make you feel?

Answers will vary.

Why do some people trust their own ways instead of trusting Jesus, who is alive and has power over everything?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, I believe that You are God and are all-powerful. Help me to trust You, no matter what situations I may face. Amen.

JESUS IS MY SAVIOR

The BIG Answer:

Jesus forgives.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“For this is how God loved the world; He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

- John 3:16 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: How has Jesus saved us?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Romans 5:8–9

In a courtroom, when someone is on trial for something they are accused of doing, there is a prosecutor and a defense attorney. The prosecutor tries to prove that the accused person is guilty, while the defense attorney tries to prove the accused person's innocence or at least ensure they have a fair trial.

If this were the case when we were standing before God, and, if Jesus had not come, we would be proven guilty every time because of our sin. But, because of God's great love for us, even while we were sinners and guilty of sin, God sent His Son to die for us and pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus took our place and our punishment. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we can be made right with God and saved from eternal separation from Him. Jesus saves us and makes it possible for us to have eternal life in heaven with Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did God do for us while we were still sinners?

He sent Christ to die for us. (Romans 5:8)

Who makes us right in God's sight?

Jesus (Romans 5:9)

How does knowing that God loved you even while you were living in sin make you feel?

Answers will vary.

What part of your life do you need Jesus to make right?

Answers will vary.

How can you worship Jesus and thank Him for saving you?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You that even when we mess up and make mistakes, You still love us. Thank You for taking the punishment for our sins and saving us. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: What is grace?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Ephesians 2:8–9

Have you ever had a stinky attitude all day? Maybe throughout the day you intentionally made many wrong choices. Yet, at the end of the day you were still offered a trip to go get an ice cream cone. You didn't earn it and you certainly didn't deserve it, but it was given to you as a gift from someone who loves you.

This is a bit like the way it works with Jesus. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we've done and we certainly have done nothing to deserve it. Yet, because of God's great love for us, He sent Jesus to be our Savior and His salvation is given to us as a gift. This is grace. When we choose to believe and obey, we can be saved and we can receive the grace that Jesus offers.

TALK ABOUT IT:

When do we receive God's grace?

When we believe (Ephesians 2:8)

Can we earn salvation?

No. "Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." It is a gift from God. (Ephesians 2:9)

Why do you think God shows us grace and offers us forgiveness?

Because He loves us

When is a time that you have been shown grace by someone?

Answers will vary.

How can you share this gift of God's grace with someone else?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for Your gift of salvation and grace that You give to me freely. Today, I choose to believe and accept that gift for myself. Help me to be ready and willing to share Your gift with others. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: How is it possible for us to be saved?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 4:11–13

Peter and John were bold followers of Jesus, and they knew how important it was for everyone to know about Jesus. In our Scripture reading today, they were telling members of the council about Jesus and His power to save people. Although people may look to false gods, illegal drugs, or bad behavior, none of those things can help. The Bible says that there is no other way for us to be saved except through Jesus. Without Him, we would be lost and there would be no way to have a relationship with God. Jesus' work on the cross made it possible for us to be saved.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Who is salvation found in?

Jesus. "There is salvation in no one else!" (Acts 4:12)

Did Peter and John have special training to tell the council members about Jesus?

No, they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. (Acts 4:13)

What did the council members notice about Peter and John?

They recognized them as men who had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13)

What kinds of things do people search for salvation in other than Jesus?

Some people look to false gods, illegal drugs, and bad behavior.

How does knowing that Jesus is the only way to be saved make you want to live your life?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for giving Your life for us and making it possible for us to be saved. I believe that You are the only way to be saved and I want to live my life to honor You in all that I do. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: Who does God want to be saved?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Timothy 2:1–6

There are things in the world that are reserved just for people who meet certain guidelines. Only kids can play on a kids' sports team. Referees in a football game are the only ones who wear a black and white striped shirt on a football field during a game. Only those who meet a certain height requirement can ride most roller coasters at theme parks. These are only for certain people. However, the saving grace of God's love doesn't work like that.

God wants everyone to be saved and to understand that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. There is no one excluded from that love of God. Jesus gave His life to purchase forgiveness for everyone. There's no special requirement on who can be saved. Anyone who comes to Jesus, accepts Him as their Savior, and follows Him can be saved.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who is the only One who can repair the relationship between God and people?

Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5)

How was freedom from sin purchased for everyone?

Jesus gave His life. (1 Timothy 2:5).

Is anyone excluded from God's offer to be saved?

No, God wants everyone to be saved. (1 Timothy 2:3–4).

Is there anyone in your life you think can't be saved by Jesus?

Answers may vary.

Who in your life needs to know that Jesus can be their Savior, and that God loves them?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You that you came to save everyone and that You have made it possible for everyone to be free from sin. Help me to be willing and ready to share Your love with everyone around me. Amen.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

The BIG Answer:

The Holy Spirit lives in me.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

- Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: When have you lied about something?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 5:1–11

Have you ever told a lie? After you told the lie, how did you feel? Normally there can be a few different feelings we have after we lie. One feeling is a sigh of relief for a moment because you got away with something. But then you start feeling guilty and thinking that everyone is going to find out. Eventually you admit the truth. Another thing that could happen is that you immediately feel guilty and admit the truth. Or, you could get caught in the lie.

In the Bible reading, we read about two people who thought that they could lie, and God would never find out. The thing they forgot is that God is omniscient. Omniscient is a really big word that means that God is all-knowing. He knows everything.

Ananias and Sapphira did something that seemed to be good. The reason for their actions was wrong, but they thought it would be okay. Their hearts were not right, and they were sinning.

It is important to be honest and to make sure our heart is right. God loves us. When we struggle with having the wrong reasons for doing something or with wanting to lie, we can ask God for help. The Holy Spirit helps us to know we need to ask God for help.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who were the two people who lied in the Bible story we read?

Ananias and Sapphira

What did they lie about?

After selling a piece of property, they kept some of the money for themselves and said that what they were giving to the church was the full sales amount. (Acts 5:2)

Why is it sometimes hard to be truthful?

Answers will vary.

What should we do if we are struggling with being truthful?

Answers will vary.

What does the phrase “God is omniscient” mean?

God is all-knowing; He knows everything.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that You are with us always and that You know all things. Help me to overcome anything that keeps me from doing Your plan for me. Help me be honest in what I say and do, and help me to do things for the right reasons. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: Who is your best friend?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Do you remember when you asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Best Friend? That moment is super special. It is when you are no longer separated from God by things you've done wrong. That happens when God forgives your mistakes because you asked Him to.

In the Scripture verses today, you learned that, after you choose to follow Jesus, your body becomes the “temple of the Holy Spirit,” and He lives in you. He is with you always and helps you every single moment of every single day. Do you know how amazing that is?

It is incredible to think about that and how special that is. It is also important. We should honor God in all we say and do. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us so that we can be forgiven of our sins. He paid the highest price because of His love for each one of us. We should show our love of God through our actions.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does knowing that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit make you feel?

Answers will vary.

How can you honor God with your actions?

Answers will vary.

How do you feel about God sending Jesus to die in your place?

Answers will vary.

What is your response to God's love for you?

Answers will vary.

How does the Holy Spirit's presence impact you?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You so much for sending the Holy Spirit and for being with me every day. Help me to honor You with my actions. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What is one thing God says about you?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Ephesians 4:30

What is the most valuable thing you own? Did you know that God sees you as far more valuable than the item you just thought of and even more valuable than the most valuable object in the world?

Ephesians 4:30 talks about how God has called all Christians "his own." You are a child of God, and He loves You! He has forgiven you of your sins and you have been given freedom and salvation through Him. The gift of salvation is the most amazing and valuable gift you will ever receive.

As you choose to live for God and daily grow in Him, there may be some things in your life that need to change. Your life should reflect God's love for you and for all people. As you live for God, you turn away from the things that produce bad fruit in your life and you turn toward things that produce the things listed in the Faith Verse.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What are some things that we do that could cause the Holy Spirit to be disappointed or sad?

Answers will vary.

How has God identified you?

As His own (Ephesians 4:30)

What will you be saved from?

Your sins and/or separation from God.

What are some things we find in God?

Freedom, love, joy, peace, etc. Answers will vary.

Why is it important to live for God?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for freedom and forgiveness. Thank You that You call me Your own and I am Your child. I love You!
Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: What is the biggest mistake you have ever made?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: John 3:17–21

Have you ever done something and had to sit in a time-out? Choices and actions have consequences. Everyone has experienced this. The Bible says “everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard” (Romans 3:23). We all make mistakes, it’s part of the consequences from when Adam and Eve sinned and ate the fruit in the Garden. However, we can be forgiven of our sin because of what Jesus did on the Cross.

Those who reject Jesus and choose not to accept God’s goodness and who He is can’t receive His forgiveness because they are choosing to turn away from God. They don’t accept what Jesus did on the Cross, so they have no way to be forgiven for their sins. To receive forgiveness for your sins, you must accept Jesus paying the price for your sins and ask Him to come into your life. Then you’ll receive the gift of salvation.

It is okay to have questions and to ask the Holy Spirit to help you when you are struggling with doubt. When you have questions, it is important to ask those around you to help you find answers in the Bible. The Holy Spirit lives in you and He is there to help you discover the truth about the goodness of God.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is a sin that can be a struggle for you at times?

Answers may vary.

Who can you turn to when you are struggling with a sin?

God (Answers like parents/guardians or Christian leaders are also acceptable.)

How do you receive forgiveness for your sins?

By asking Jesus to forgive my sins and to come into my life.

What is a question you would like to ask God someday?

Answers may vary.

When you have questions about God and the Bible, who can you talk to?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for Your Holy Spirit living me in. Thank You for loving me although sometimes I do things that I shouldn’t do. God, when I have questions about my faith help me to turn to You and to the Bible for the answers. Amen.

THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS

The BIG Answer:

The Holy Spirit fills me with power.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

- Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: When have you helped someone?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 10:1–8

Cornelius was following God. The Bible says that he was a “devout, God-fearing” person and so was everyone in his household.

One day Cornelius saw an angel who gave him a message from God. Can you imagine being Cornelius that day? The angel told Cornelius to send men to Joppa to find a man named Simon Peter.

Cornelius listened to God’s messenger and followed the instructions. There are many times in our own life when God will speak to us. When God speaks, we must listen and obey.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What was the name of the Roman army officer in today’s Bible reading?

Cornelius (Acts 10:1)

At what time did he have a vision and who did he see?

About 3 o’clock in the afternoon; an angel of God (Acts 10:3)

Who did the angel tell Cornelius to send men to go see?

Simon Peter (Acts 10:5)

In what city was Simon Peter staying?

In Joppa (Acts 10:5)

Cornelius was said to be a “devout, God-fearing man.” What does that mean to you

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for who You are and for the leading of the Holy Spirit in our life. When You speak to us, help us to hear You and to obey. Help me become the person You have designed me to be. I love You. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: When has God spoken to you?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 10:19–23, 44–48

Peter received a vision from God and didn't understand what it meant. He got the message three times, so he knew it must have been very important. After this, the men that Cornelius had sent found where Peter was staying. When the men arrived, the Holy Spirit told Peter the men were looking for him and he was to go with them.

After Peter arrived at Cornelius's house, Peter learned a valuable lesson: God's good news is for all people. As Peter began to teach about Jesus, something amazing happened. The Holy Spirit fell on the people who were listening. This Bible story shows that the Holy Spirit is for everyone who believes.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who told Peter that the men Cornelius sent were downstairs?

The Holy Spirit (Acts 10:19)

What was Peter's response to the message the men shared?

He invited the men to stay the night. He left the next day with them to go to Cornelius's house. (Acts 10:23)

What happened when Peter was preaching the good news?

The Holy Spirit fell on the people in Cornelius's house, and they started speaking in tongues. (Acts 10:44–45)

What is something you can take away from this Bible story?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for the power of the Holy Spirit and for speaking to people. God, I thank You that Your Word shows us the Holy Spirit is meant for everyone who believes in You. Use us to tell others about You. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 1:6–9

Have you ever had exciting news that you couldn't wait to share? Just before He went back to heaven, Jesus shared some big news. He told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come and would give power to Jesus' followers.

When we have the gift of the Holy Spirit, we can have power to pray and see God do miracles. The Holy Spirit is really special and He is with us all the time. He can give us guidance, and He can help us to be witnesses by giving us boldness to tell other people about Jesus. That was the task Jesus left the disciples with and that is also what He wants us to do. But He didn't leave us to do it on our own! He gave us the Holy Spirit to empower us and to be there with us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

According to Acts 1:8, when do you receive power?

When the Holy Spirit comes upon you (Acts 1:8)

What does the word witnesses mean in this verse?

People who know Jesus and tell others about Him.

Why is it important to tell other people about Jesus?

Answers will vary.

How can you tell other people about Jesus?

Answers will vary.

What does verse 8 tell us about who we should tell about Jesus?

We should go to the ends of the earth so that everyone can hear about Jesus.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for the gift of power from Your Holy Spirit. Help me to receive everything You have for me and help me to tell others about Your power and love working in my life. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: What is a dream you have had?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 2:16–18

The Holy Spirit lives in all Christians. Sometimes we need to pause and simply listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying. Life can get super busy, but it is important to stop every day and spend time with God to hear what the Holy Spirit may be speaking to you.

Today's verses talk about how God promised to pour out His Spirit on all people. This pouring out of the Spirit has a special name. It is called the baptism in the Holy Spirit. A person must be a Christian before he or she can be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit works in those who are older, and He works in kids too. The Holy Spirit is for everyone who follows Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT:

In Acts 2:17, who did God say He is going to pour out His Spirit on?

All people (Acts 2:17)

In Acts 2:17, God said that “your sons and daughters” will do what?

Prophesy (Acts 2:17)

In the same verse, He said that “young men will” do what?

See visions (Acts 2:17)

Have you ever felt God speaking to you?

Answers may vary.

Why is it important that this verse talks about young and old, sons and daughters?

Because the Holy Spirit is for everyone.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Thank You, God, for the Holy Spirit and for the dreams You have placed in my heart. God, please guide every move I make and every word I say. Use my life to bring glory to You. Amen.

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS ME GROW

The BIG Answer:

The Holy Spirit helps me.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

- Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What is the kindest thing someone has ever done for you?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 9:36–42

Tabitha (also called Dorcas) was a woman who was always doing kind things and helping those who were in need. She got sick and died. People who had been helped by Tabitha were really upset. When the believers at Joppa heard that Peter was near, they asked him to come.

Peter prayed for Tabitha and God healed her.

Each of us has a chance to be like Tabitha and make a difference for those we encounter. Whether at home, school, or at the grocery store, we need to tell others about Jesus. The most effective way to reach others with the good news about Jesus is to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our words and our actions.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How do you think the people felt when Tabitha died?

Answers will vary.

What can we learn from the example of Tabitha?

Answers will vary.

Why is it important to show kindness to others?

Answers will vary.

Who can you show love and kindness to?

Answers will vary.

How can the Holy Spirit help you love others?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for showing us the importance of showing kindness to others. I ask that the Holy Spirit would guide and direct me every day to share Your love and to make a difference in the life of every person I meet. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: What is your favorite type of fruit?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Galatians 5:22–23

In Matthew 7:16, Jesus said people can be identified by their actions, just as trees can be identified by their fruit. The apostle Paul used a similar idea in Galatians to show the difference between a life controlled by sin and a life controlled by the Holy Spirit.

A life controlled by sin will be prone to outbursts of anger, hostility, envy, quarreling, jealousy, and other bad behaviors. The life controlled by the Holy Spirit will be different.

As we allow the Holy Spirit to help us, people should see that our actions are good. That means people can see the change God is producing in us by seeing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in our life. This means that we are living in a way that brings positive attention to God.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is the fruit of the Spirit?

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23)

Why do you think the fruit of the Spirit is important?

It shows we are living the way God wants us to; it shows we are becoming more like Jesus, etc.

What part of the fruit of the Spirit do you need the Holy Spirit to help you grow most in?

Answers will vary.

How does the fruit of the Spirit show up in our everyday life?

Answers will vary.

What are some things we do to help our life produce good fruit?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for helping me grow to be more like Jesus each day. Help me become the person You want me to be and help me show others Your love by what they see in my life. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: Is it enough to know what is right?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:4–7

In 1 Corinthians 13, we learn about the importance of love, what love is, and what love is not. These verses help us know how much God loves us, how God sees love, and how we should show love to others.

We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us grow in love for others, to help us offer forgiveness when someone hurts us, and to always respond with love. Sometimes things happen that make us want to respond in a way that does not show love. In those moments, it is important to take a step back and ask God to help us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What are some qualities of love?

Patient, kind, rejoices when truth wins (1 Corinthians 13:4–7)

What are some things love is not?

Love is not jealous, not boastful, not proud, etc. (1 Corinthians 13:4–7)

What do you think the Bible means when it says that “love never gives up or loses faith”?

Answers will vary.

What does love mean to you?

Answers will vary.

How do you show love to others?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank you for loving me. Help me be kind and patient to those around me and to show Your love to everyone. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: How have you shown someone you care about them?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 John 4:16

God sending His one and only Son, Jesus, is the greatest example of love. God loves you so much that He didn't want to be separated from you because of sin. Because of what Jesus did on the Cross, we can experience God's love for us.

We experience God's love every day of our life, and it is important for us to share that love with others. Have you ever thrown a rock into water? When you do, the water ripples out and the ripples keep going. When you choose to show someone love, it can create a ripple effect: As that person experiences love, they sometimes reach out to another person, and so on. Every day we can impact the world by allowing the Holy Spirit to help us show God's love to others.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does today's Bible verse say we put our trust in?

God's love (1 John 4:16)

How has God shown us His love?

By sending Jesus to die for us

How else has God shown His love to you?

Answers will vary.

Why is it important for us to show love to others?

Answers will vary.

In what areas do you need to grow in showing others love?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for Your love for me. Help me show love to everyone so that those who don't know You will come to know Your love. Amen.

THE HOLY SPIRIT EQUIPS

The BIG Answer:

The Holy Spirit teaches me.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

- Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What is a language you would like to learn?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 8:26–40

The Holy Spirit spoke to Philip in our Bible story and told him to walk alongside the carriage of the Ethiopian man. As Philip did this, he noticed that the man was reading Scripture. Philip asked the man if he understood everything he was reading. The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” Philip then taught the man about the good news of Jesus and baptized him in water too!

This encounter happened because Philip obeyed instructions from God when the angel of the Lord and the Holy Spirit spoke to him. In our life, God is going to give us opportunities to help people and opportunities to tell them about Jesus. It is important to follow the Holy Spirit's leading because He knows exactly what we need to do and say.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did the Holy Spirit tell Philip to do?

“Go over and walk along beside the carriage.” (Acts 8:29)

How did Philip help the Ethiopian man?

Talked with him, taught him, and baptized him in water (Acts 8:30, 35–38)

Verse 39 says that Philip and the Ethiopian official never saw each other again. What can we learn from that?

When the Holy Spirit speaks, we should act immediately and make the most of every opportunity we are given.

Why is it important to tell other people about Jesus and help them hear the good news about Jesus?

Answers will vary.

What is something you can teach someone this week?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for the Holy Spirit and for helping to guide and direct my steps. Help me to be obedient when You tell me to do something. Help use me to teach others about the good news of Your love. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: What is one thing you have learned from an adult?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Romans 8:14–17

One of the really cool things about God is that He is our Father. The word Abba in our Scripture reading means “father.” When a little kid sees their dad, they lift up their arms because they want to be picked up. They want to be picked up because they find comfort in his arms, and they feel safe. This is an important part of how God wants us to see Him.

God is our Protector, and we can follow Him. We can trust in who He is and that He has called us His own. He has promised that He will always be with His children, and that we can turn to Him no matter what. The Holy Spirit can help teach us to become more and more like God every day. Just as a child learns and grows by what their dad teaches, we can learn and grow by what our Father teaches us through the Holy Spirit.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who should be leading us in our daily life?

The Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14)

What does the word Abba mean?

Father (Romans 8:15)

Why is it important to obey the Holy Spirit?

Answers will vary.

How does being a child of God make you feel?

Answers will vary.

In what areas has the Holy Spirit helped you?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for loving me and for giving me the gift of the Holy Spirit. I love You, and I know that You are a good Father and that You have called me Your own. Help me to clearly hear Your voice and follow You. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What is the best gift you have ever received?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Ephesians 2:8–9

When you believe in Jesus dying to take your place and forgive your sins, you are forgiven of your sins and receive the most amazing gift you will ever receive. This is the gift of salvation. None of us deserve this gift, there is nothing we can do to earn this gift, and yet God loves us so much that He freely gives it to us. This gift of salvation is only possible because of Jesus' work on the Cross.

These verses are an amazing reminder that we cannot earn our way into heaven. The only way we can receive salvation and go to heaven is because of what Jesus did on the Cross. When we accept His gift of salvation, our sins are forgiven and we are saved. How amazing is that!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did God save us by?

Grace (Ephesians 2:8)

When did He save us?

When we believed (Ephesians 2:8)

What makes salvation possible?

Jesus' work on the cross.

Why do you think the Bible says that salvation is not about the good things we have done?

So that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:9).

How does knowing salvation cannot be earned impact you?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You so much for the gift of salvation and for loving me. I know that I still make mistakes and I can't earn Your love, but You freely give it to me and forgive me. I know I can put my trust and faith in You. I love You. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: What is your favorite sports team?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:10

Can you imagine being part of a team made up of people who don't get along and who all think they should be the one in charge? That would make it almost impossible to get anything done, and the team would most likely go nowhere. The team would fall apart.

First Corinthians 1:10 talks about the importance of getting along with other believers. We need the Holy Spirit to teach us and help us to love one another and work together. Because we are part of God's team, we need to be working together, supporting one another, sharing the good news about Jesus. This is the mission of the Church, and it helps the body of Christ to grow.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the phrase to "live in harmony" mean to you?

Answers will vary.

How can the people in the church sometimes get divided?

Answers will vary.

What can we do to help keep the church united?

Answers will vary.

What is the mission of the Church?

Sharing the good news about Jesus.

How can you help serve the church?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for all my friends who follow You. Help us to work together and love each other so that more people can come to know You. Amen.

I PUT GOD FIRST

The BIG Answer:
I put God first.

Memory Verse Challenge:

**“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,
and he will give you everything you need.”**

- Matthew 6:33 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: How can I put God first?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Deuteronomy 6:4–7

Professional athletes work hard to be 100 percent committed to their sport. They are careful to get up in the morning to exercise their body. They take great care in what they eat and drink, making sure to eat enough protein, vitamins, and minerals. They spend their days practicing drills, going over plays, and working to get better. If they fail to practice or do not train their body properly, they will likely not play well and could have to find a new profession.

An athlete's level of commitment to the sport is similar to the level of commitment to God that the Bible says Christians should have. How we talk and what we do should always reflect a wholehearted commitment to God.

As you live for Him in every part of your life and love Him with all your heart, soul, and strength, He will help you and make sure that you have everything you need to live for Him!

TALK ABOUT IT:

How should we love God?

We should love God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our strength. (Deuteronomy 6:5)

How should you commit yourself to God's commands?

"You must commit yourselves wholeheartedly." (Deuteronomy 6:6)

How often should we talk about what God expects of us?

"When you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." (Deuteronomy 6:7)

What is one thing you can do to help you live wholeheartedly for God?

Answers will vary.

What is something in your life that may be keeping you from living wholeheartedly for God?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Father God, I believe that You alone are God. I want to love You with all my heart, all my soul, and all my strength. Help me to be fully committed to You in every part of my life. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: Why should I put God first?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 13:44–46

The verses in today's passage are two of Jesus' parables that compare the kingdom of heaven, or God's Kingdom, to things here on earth. The treasure hidden in a field and the choice pearl were both things of great value. They were so valuable that everything else was sold in order to gain them.

This is how it is with being a part of God's family. Being connected with Jesus is more valuable than anything we have here on earth. Our life on earth is temporary. It won't last forever. Yet, sometimes we live our life as we want, instead of putting God first. When we live our life for God, we are willing to give up anything we need to give up to gain the most valuable treasure of all, eternal life and a relationship with Him forever.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did the man do when he found the treasure in the field?

He hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. (Matthew 13:44)

What did the merchant do when he discovered a pearl of great value?

He sold everything he owned and bought it. (Matthew 13:46)

Why are eternal life and our relationship with God more important than anything else here on earth?

Our relationship with God and eternal life will last forever. Most things in this world will not last forever.

How is my relationship with God the most valuable treasure of all?

Answers may vary.

What are some things in my life that I need to get rid of to ensure that I can have that treasure, a relationship with God?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for making it possible for me to have a relationship with You. Help me to value that relationship more than anything else here on earth. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What is most important to me?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 6:19–21

Have you ever been in an attic filled with boxes and trunks? Many times these boxes and trunks are filled with things people valued at one time. They placed items they thought were treasures inside the trunks. But, after years in the attic, dirt, dust, rust, and moths have damaged or destroyed things that were once important.

The Bible clearly tells us not to store treasures on earth where things can be destroyed, stolen, broken, or discarded. But, rather, our treasure should be in heaven. Jesus wasn't saying we couldn't have nice things, but that we need to make sure that what we most care about and put first in our life is God. When we treasure our relationship with God more than anything else, He becomes the desire of our heart, and what He has for us is better than any treasure we could have here on earth.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What can happen to your earthly treasures?

They can rust. They can be destroyed, and they can be stolen. (Matthew 6:19)

What can happen to your treasures in heaven?

They cannot rust, be destroyed, or stolen (Matthew 6:20)

How is the location of your treasure related to your heart's desires?

"Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." (Matthew 6:21)

When have you chosen to put God first?

Answers will vary.

How is putting God first better than putting any earthly treasures or possessions first?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, You are more important to us than anything else in this world. May every word we say, every thought we think, and every action we take show that You are number one in our life. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: What is keeping me from putting God first?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 John 2:15–17

Have you ever seen someone place a cookie on a table in front of a child, and then say to the child, “I need to step out of the room for a minute. If that one cookie is still there when I come back, I will give you a second cookie.”

It’s interesting to watch what the child does. Sometimes the child gobbles up the cookie. In that case, the child may enjoy the cookie but misses out on getting a second. But, when you see a child refuse to eat the cookie in order to get a second cookie, it just makes you want to jump up and cheer because they got something so much better!

Sometimes it can be difficult to choose the things of God over our immediate desires. When we have friends or family who do things that look like fun, but go against God, it can be difficult to say no to that temptation. However, when we honor God in the choices we make and choose to put Him first, we receive something far better than the short-term pleasure of a sin that leads to destruction. We must be willing to sacrifice the things in our life that distract us from God’s very best for us, because “anyone who does what pleases God will live forever” (verse 17).

TALK ABOUT IT:

In these verses, what does the Bible warn us not to love?

“Do not love this world nor the things it offers you.” (1 John 2:15)

What does the Bible tell us about the things of the world?

“This world is fading away, along with everything that people crave.” (1 John 2:17)

Why is what God wants for us better than what we may want for ourselves?

Answers may vary.

How does putting God first help us to receive God’s very best for us?

Answers will vary.

What are you allowing in your life that is distracting you from putting God first?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that what You desire for me is so much better than what I could ever imagine. Help me to always choose You and Your ways. I want to put You first in every part of my life. Amen.

I PURSUE GOD

The BIG Answer:

I can talk to God.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,
and he will give you everything you need.”

- Matthew 6:33 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: How can I talk to God when I've made a mistake?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Luke 15:8–10

This is how God feels about us. He knows that we have all messed up and sinned. We have all walked away from what He desires for us. However, because He loves us, and because we are so valuable to Him, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a cross to ensure that we could have a relationship with Him. No matter how far we feel like we've strayed or how bad we think we've messed up and sinned, He wants us to come and talk with Him about it and ask Him to help us!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is something that was lost that you spent a long time looking for?

Answers will vary.

How did you feel when you found the item that had been lost?

Answers may vary.

How is God like the woman in today's Scripture passage?

Answers may vary.

What is the connection between how hard you search for a lost item and how important that item is to you?

Answers may vary.

How does coming to God after we've messed up help us grow closer to Him?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that I can come and talk with You even when I've messed up. Help me to always be quick to turn to You and to come back to You when I've sinned. Thank you for always being willing to forgive me and help me live for You. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: How should I talk to God?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 6:5–8

Can you imagine what it would be like if you were required to speak with big fancy words every time you wanted to talk to an adult? What would happen if you didn't know the right words? Or what do you think it would sound like if you spoke only in one monotone voice like a robot when you tried to talk to them? It wouldn't allow for a whole lot of real conversation, right?

When we talk with God, He wants us to be ourselves. We don't have to use memorized prayers or big fancy words. We shouldn't try to impress others when we pray, and we shouldn't say words that are memorized without actually meaning what we're saying. God wants us to talk to Him with our own words, and say exactly what we're thinking and feeling, in a respectful way. He sees us and knows us and simply wants us to come to Him because He loves us and desires a relationship with us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How do these verses describe the way hypocrites pray?

They love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. (Matthew 6:5)

Why do you think verse 7 says not to “babble on and on”?

Answers will vary.

What kind of prayer does this passage say that God the Father rewards?

Private prayer (Matthew 6:6)

Why do you think God wants real and personal conversations with you instead of fancy words you don't understand or memorized prayers you don't mean?

Answers may vary.

How do you feel about being able to go to God just as you are?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for seeing me, knowing me, and loving me. I come to You just as I am. Help me to always have real and personal conversations with You so that our relationship can always be growing. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: Why should I take my needs to God?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: James 5:13–16

Do you know that when you pray, you are talking with the one and only living God? Do you know that when you pray, you are talking with the only One who has power over everything in the universe? He is the One who has power to heal, power to forgive, and power over everything. When we have a relationship with God, when we pray and rely on Him, He uses His power to help us because we are His children.

Because He is the God who desires a relationship with us, we can go to Him at any time with any need that we have. This doesn't mean that we should just go to God with a big wish list of everything we want, like a new car and a million dollars, and assume He will give us everything. It does mean though, that because He loves us, He wants us to come to Him with our needs, in faith, and trust Him to take care of us. When we pray, God responds and things that would otherwise be impossible can happen as a result of our prayer.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do these verses say to do when you're sick or going through hard times?

Pray and ask for prayer (James 5:13–14)

How does James 5:14 describe one way to pray for the sick?

"Call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord."
(James 5:14)

What's different about praying to the one and only God instead of someone or something else?

God exists. He cares and He has power to help.

How does knowing that you can talk with God about everything, including your problems, make you feel?

Answers may vary.

What situations are you or someone you know facing that you want to talk with God about?

Answer will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that You have all power and all authority and yet You still desire a relationship with me. Help me to be faithful to come to You every day. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: How close should my relationship with God be?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Take a moment and place two fingers on the side of your neck where you can feel your pulse. Your pulse is your heart beating, pumping blood throughout your body. It's constant and it's absolutely vital for living. Without your heart beating, you could not live. There's no way to separate your heart beating and you from living.

God wants His relationship with you to be as consistent as your pulse. Conversations with God should be as easy as breathing, as easy as your heart pumping blood. They should be a natural part of who we are and what we do. God wants you to be so close to Him and in such a deep, personal relationship with Him, that you wouldn't feel right if His presence were taken away. As we grow closer to God, we begin to understand more of who He is and how He works. We begin to walk confidently in every situation we face, and we can be joyful and thankful no matter how difficult the circumstance because we've come to rely on God in every part of our life. We know that He will be with us through our difficulties.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do these verses say is God's will for those who belong to Christ Jesus?

God's will is that we are to be thankful in all circumstances. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

What is something that you don't think you could live without?

Answers will vary.

How does your answer to Question 2 compare to trying to live without a relationship with God?

Answers will vary.

How can having a relationship with God help us be joyful and thankful in all circumstances?

Answers will vary.

How can you "never stop praying"?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for loving me the way You do. Help me to always be pursuing You, every day of my life. There's nothing else in this life that I want, except You. Amen.

I GIVE GENEROUSLY

The BIG Answer:

I give generously.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,
and he will give you everything you need.”

- Matthew 6:33 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What kind of attitude should I have when I give?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6–8

Have you ever seen a farmer planting a field? If the farmer is stingy and plants just a few seeds in a field, the field will yield a small, sparse crop. However, if the farmer uses a generous amount of seed, the land will yield a generous crop. Which do you think is better?

God wants us to give generously out of what we have. He also cares about our attitude when we give. God doesn't want us to give with a bad attitude and because we feel like we have to; He wants us to give with a cheerful heart, remembering that all we have comes from Him and He will always take care of us. When we remember how generously Jesus gave to us, it makes it easier for us to give generously in return out of a heart of love for God.

TALK ABOUT IT:

When the farmer plants only a few seeds, what kind of crop will he get in return?

He will get a small crop (2 Corinthians 9:6)

When a farmer plants seeds generously, what kind of crop will he get in return?

He will get a generous crop (2 Corinthians 9:6)

What kind of attitude does God want us to have when we give?

He doesn't want us to give reluctantly or in response to pressure. God loves a person who gives cheerfully. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

How has God been generous in what He has given to you?

Answers will vary.

What are some ways that you can give generously back to God?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for everything You've given to me. Help me to always be willing to give generously and with a heart that honors You. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: How much should I give to God?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Luke 21:1–4

Imagine that a friend comes to visit you and they have a dozen cupcakes with them. These are the kind of cupcakes that are perfectly soft with just the right amount of icing on top of them. When they offer to give you one of their twelve cupcakes, it's going to make you feel good and of course you would appreciate the gift. However, imagine another friend coming to visit you and they have one freshly baked, warm brownie. It's the only one they have and yet they are willing to give it to you because they love you. Which friend actually gave you more—the friend who still had eleven other cupcakes after giving you one or the friend who gave you their one and only brownie?

Giving to God like the friend who was willing to give their only brownie or the woman who gave her two small coins is the most powerful giving. Sometimes it's difficult for us to be generous in our giving, especially if there's something else that we want for ourself. However, when we are willing to give all we have to God for Him to use, He can take that gift and do something incredible with it.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did Jesus feel about how much the woman gave?

He said that she had given more than all the rest of them even though it was only two small coins. (Luke 21:2–3)

Why did Jesus say that the widow's gift was worth more than the rich people's gifts?

The rich people gave only a tiny part of their surplus, but the woman, even though she was poor, gave everything she had. (Luke 21:4)

How does God feel about how much we are willing to give to Him?

Answers may vary.

Why is it sometimes difficult to give generously?

Answers may vary.

How does God honor our willingness to give generously?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, everything I have is Yours. I choose to put You first and give You all of me even when it's difficult. Please take what I have and use it however You want to! Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: How can I give generously to those around me?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:1–5

There's something really cool that happens when we wrap our head around how much God has given us. When we begin to think about how much love and patience He has with us, how much grace He has given us, plus all the physical things He has given us like a home, family and friends, and food on our table, it can blow our mind! Even when we are going through difficult times or we have a problem or we can't do some things that other people get to do, we are still incredibly blessed.

The churches in Macedonia were struggling and the people were going through some difficult times. However, even though they didn't have much, they were willing to give, even beyond what they could afford, in order to help other people. When we give generously in love and with the right kind of attitude, God will use us to bless those around us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What was special about the generosity of the churches in Macedonia?

Even though they were going through trials and were very poor, "they are also filled with abundant joy, which overflowed in rich generosity." (2 Corinthians 8:2)

How were the churches in Macedonia a blessing to others?

They were willing to give to other believers in Jerusalem and help them. (2 Corinthians 8:3–4)

When was someone generous to you?

Answers will vary.

How does being generous show our love for God?

Answers will vary.

How can you be generous to someone now?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, help me to never forget how much You have given to me. I want to share Your love with others by always being generous. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: Why should I trust God with what I have?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Timothy 6:17–19

What would you do with a million dollars? Maybe you would want to buy a new house or a beautiful new car. Perhaps you would like to go on an exciting vacation to a remote island and relax on the beach for a few weeks. Or, maybe you'd buy the latest and greatest video game system with every video game that was made for it. It would be really easy to rely on that money and to feel like you did not have to worry about how much things cost. That is, at least until the money was gone and you're right back to where you started.

Even though you probably don't have a million dollars to spend as you wish, the Bible does warn against trusting earthly things like money. Instead, you should trust God. He is the One who gives you money, talents and skills, and everything else you have. When you use those things for God's plans and purposes, it is an act of worship to Him and you can experience life in the way He planned for you.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why should we not place our trust in money or earthly things?

They are unreliable. (1 Timothy 6:17)

How should we use the things God has blessed us with?

We should use our money to do good and be rich in good works and generous to the needy. (1 Timothy 6:18)

What resources do you have that you can use to serve God?

Answers will vary.

How can you use what God has given you to do good?

Answers will vary.

How do we experience true life when we generously give out of what God has given to us?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, I put my trust in You alone. Help me to honor You and worship You by generously giving to others. Amen.

I SERVE OTHERS

The BIG Answer:

I serve others.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,
and he will give you everything you need.”

- Matthew 6:33 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: Why should I show my faith with my actions?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: James 2:14–18

How would it make you feel if someone told you over and over again that you were their best friend, and yet, they never wanted to spend any time with you? What if you told your brother or sister every day how much you love them, but you also yelled and said mean things to them every day? Do you think they would have a hard time believing that you really love them?

The Bible asks the question, “What good is it, ... if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions?” God doesn’t want us just to say we love Him or say we love others; He wants us to do something about it. If we aren’t willing to serve others and treat them the way God wants us to treat them, how is anyone going to know that we are really followers of Jesus? God doesn’t want other people to know we’re Christians only because we tell them; He wants us to show them.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Is faith by itself enough?

No; unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. (James 2:17)

How can we show our faith?

We can show our faith by our good deeds. (James 2:18)

When has someone said they were going to do something and followed through?

Answers will vary.

How did knowing that you could trust their word because they proved it by their actions make you feel?

Answers will vary.

How can we tell others about God with more than just our words?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, help me to tell others about You with my words and with my actions. Help me to share my faith by how I live for You. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: How can serving others show them God's love?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 John 3:16–18

A lifeguard's job is to stand or sit by a body of water and carefully watch for people who are having trouble swimming. Once the lifeguard spots someone struggling, they immediately dive in to rescue the person. What good would lifeguards be if they just looked like lifeguards but did nothing to help those in danger of drowning?

Jesus is kind of like our lifeguard. He left heaven and gave His life for us. This shows us what real love is. There's no doubt that He loves us, because He showed us by His actions. He wants us to show others the kind of love that He showed us. Jesus said that people would recognize His disciples by the love they show each other (John 13:35). When we show others we care by serving them, we are showing them an example of the kind of love that God has for us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How do we know what real love is?

Jesus gave His life for us. (1 John 3:16)

How does God's compassion for us help us show compassion to others?

Answers will vary.

How can we let others know we love them without just saying it?

We can show love through our actions.

How can we make sure we are always watching for people we can serve?

Answers may vary.

How do you think showing love by your actions helps people understand the kind of love God has for them?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for showing me what real love is by giving Your life for me. Help me to always be ready and willing to show Your love to those around me by how I live. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What kind of attitude should I have when serving others?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 20:26–28

Even though Jesus is God, He was willing to leave heaven to come to earth and to be born. He could have demanded the best room in town and the most beautiful clothing money could buy. He could have lived His life on earth as a king, with money and riches and people waiting on Him hand and foot. But, He chose to hang out with all kinds of people. Some of those were outcasts, and He humbly lived His life here serving others and showing them God's love.

Serving isn't always fun. Sometimes it means doing things that we don't really want to do, like scrubbing the toilets or letting someone else get the first pick. Serving requires putting others before ourself and having the kind of heart that wants others to have the best, even if it costs us. When we choose to put others first, we are showing them who Jesus is and our actions are showing them an example of Jesus' love.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the Bible say a leader must do?

A leader must be a servant. (Matthew 20:26)

How did Jesus show us the ultimate example of serving?

"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."
(Matthew 20:28)

Why is it sometimes difficult to serve others by putting them first?

Answers will vary.

When has someone put your needs ahead of their own?

Answers will vary.

How do you think people feel when a leader takes on the role of a servant?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, help me to have the kind of attitude that puts others first. Give me opportunities to serve others and show them who You are. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: Why should I serve people who are difficult to love?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Luke 6:27–36

Loving your enemies and praying for people who hurt you seems like a crazy thing to do, right? Sometimes, people are just plain mean, and they do things that are wrong and hurtful. When you think about it, who really wants to be kind to someone who is mean? And yet, in the Bible verses today, Jesus said to do exactly that.

The Bible says that when we do good to others, without expecting anything in return, our reward in heaven will be great. The way Jesus wants us to treat people is very different from how others react to being wronged and hurt. It can be shocking to our enemies. And it can make them wonder what is different about us. That may give us an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does the Bible say we should treat those who treat us poorly?

“Love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.”
(Luke 6:27–28)

Why should we be compassionate to others?

Because God the Father is compassionate (Luke 6:36)

Why is it difficult to serve those who treat us poorly?

Answers will vary.

How do you think serving others, even our enemies, can help them see and understand who Jesus is?

Answers will vary.

How can you show God’s love to someone who treats you poorly?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for loving me even when I don’t treat You the way You should be treated. Give me a heart to serve those around me who are difficult to love. Help me to be an example of the love You have shown to me. Amen.

WE GROW TOGETHER

The BIG Answer:

We grow together.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

- Matthew 18:20 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: Who encourages you to be the best person you can be?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Proverbs 27:17

Who is your best friend? Best friends are pretty special. A best friend is someone you can talk to, someone who will always be there for you. You love spending time with them, learning about their interests, and sharing life with them.

Proverbs 27:17 says that friends sharpen each other. What that means is that our best friend can help us grow closer to God. Not only should our best friend do that for us, but we should do that for them too. God gives us people in our life to help us, and we need each other!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do you think the Bible means by, “a friend sharpens a friend”?

Answers will vary.

How should this verse impact the way we choose our friends?

Answers will vary.

How do you help your friends grow closer to God?

Answers will vary.

Why is helping each other grow closer to God important?

Answers will vary.

Who is a friend you could encourage this week?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for my friends and for the people in my life who want the best for me and challenge me to grow. God, help me to be a friend and encourage my friends to grow closer to You. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: How have you shown love to others this week?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Romans 12:9–10

Have you ever seen someone do something nice because they wanted something in return? In life, you are going to experience that sometimes. It may be hard to know if someone's actions are sincere. Romans 12:10 says to love others with "genuine affection." When we love others, we shouldn't just love them for what they can do for us, but we should love them because God loves them.

Also, we should honor and encourage each other. When someone is in need, we should look for ways to help, even if that might be inconvenient at times. We can show love in our everyday life by how we interact with and care for others.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do you think the phrase "genuine affection" means?

Answers may vary.

How do you know if someone's actions are genuine?

Answers may vary.

How do you show honor to someone?

Answers may vary.

When dealing with others, why is it important to "hold tightly to what is good"?

Answers may vary.

How can you ensure that you have "genuine affection" for others?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You so much for loving me. Help me share Your love with others. Help me to follow the Holy Spirit's direction in showing love to others. Help me love others as You do. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: When has someone encouraged you?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Hebrews 10:24–25

Here is a special job just for you: you need to fold one thousand paper airplanes. That would take a very long time. Now imagine having ten friends help you by each folding one thousand paper airplanes. That seems like a lot more fun. When one of you gets tired or wants to give up, someone is there to encourage them to keep going. Also, you can complete the task faster if you have help.

Living as a Christian is like this too. Spending time together, laughing, talking, and learning are all important. Christians need each other and these experiences help us bond. Then, we have people we can look to for help when life gets hard. It is important for us to have people who love us, encourage us, and help us grow in our faith.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why is meeting together with other believers important?

Answers may vary.

How can you encourage another Christian?

Answers may vary.

How can Christians motivate each other “to acts of love and good works”?

Answers may vary.

What does it look like when you get together with other Christians?

Answers may vary.

What kind of encouragement do you need?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for my church and for my friends at church. God, help me and my church friends to grow together in our walk with You and help us encourage each other. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: How are you unique?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:18–26

The human body is incredible. Many different parts come together to make your body. All of those parts work together to do simple tasks like sitting, raising your hand, or eating your favorite snack.

The Church, also called the body of Christ, is like that, too. God has given each of us different gifts and talents, and we need to work together. No gift or talent is greater than another, but when Christians work together it creates something beautiful.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What happens when people don't work together?

Answers will vary.

In the church, what are some different gifts and talents that a person might have?

Answers will vary.

What are some things that can be done only when Christians work together?

Answers will vary.

How can you encourage someone who has a different gift or talent than you?

Answers will vary.

How can you help someone who is going through a hard time?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for our different gifts and talents and how we all need each other. Use me to encourage others to use their gifts for You. Help me grow in the gifts and talents You have given me. Amen.

WE CELEBRATE WATER BAPTISM TOGETHER

The BIG Answer:

We celebrate together.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am
there among them.”

- Matthew 18:20 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What is your favorite way to celebrate?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 16:11–15

When something amazing happens, don't you want to go and tell everyone about it? It's so much fun when good news spreads fast and people join you in celebrating. In the Bible story, we read about a woman named Lydia who believed in God. After hearing Paul's message, she wanted to be baptized in water. Not only did she get baptized that day, but other members of her household were baptized that day too!

When God does something in our life, it's important for us to share it with others. Not only can we tell others about what happened, but we can celebrate together!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did Lydia sell?

Expensive purple cloth (Acts 16:14)

What happened as Lydia listened to the message?

"The Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying." (Acts 16:14)

What do you think the phrase "the Lord opened her heart" means?

"The Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying." (Acts 16:14)

Why do you think Lydia invited Paul and his companions into her home?

Answers may vary.

When God does something in our life, why is it important to tell others about it?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You so much that we, as Christians, can celebrate together when You do something amazing in someone's life. God, thank You for all the times You have moved in my life. I love You. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 28:18–20

Matthew 28:19 is known as the Great Commission. Jesus challenged His disciples to go to all the nations and share His message. This challenge goes beyond just those disciples there that day to all disciples, to everyone who is a Christian. We are called to go and tell others about Jesus.

Not only are we called to tell others about Jesus, but to celebrate with them when they make a public declaration of their faith by being baptized in water. When someone decides to follow Jesus and get baptized, they show other people that they plan to live for Jesus every day. It is a special moment when people put their faith in Jesus!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is the importance of Matthew 28:19?

Known as the Great Commission, the verse shows God's desire for His followers to share the gospel throughout the world.

In whose name should Christians be baptized?

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

Who needs to hear about Jesus?

Everyone

Why should we celebrate when someone puts their faith in Jesus and decides to be baptized in water?

Answers may vary.

Who is someone God wants you to tell about Jesus?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You so much that we can find grace, love, forgiveness from sin, and so much more in You. God, help me to share Your love with others. Help me to fulfill the Great Commission, and help me to be willing to go wherever You want me to go. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What does being part of a family mean?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Galatians 3:26–29

Do you want to know something amazing? When God looks at You, He sees you as His child and He loves you so much! You are special in God's eyes.

When we make the choice to ask Jesus to come into our life and forgive our sins, we become part of the family of God. In the Early Church, people were baptized in water soon after their decision to follow Jesus. Water baptism involves being briefly let down into water as a sign of faith in Jesus. Then you are lifted up out of the water.

Water baptism symbolizes the death of our sinful nature and a new life in Jesus. In Galatians 3:27, Paul wrote that those who are "united with Christ in baptism" have put on Jesus, "like putting on new clothes." Think about it this way: Jesus is as close to you as your clothes. And Jesus is what people should see when they look at you.

It's amazing to think about all the people who are a part of God's kingdom. It doesn't matter what you look like or where you come from. The only thing that matters is choosing to follow Jesus!

TALK ABOUT IT:

How do we become children of God?

Through faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26)

What does verse 27 say is a part of being baptized?

We are united with Jesus Christ.

What does it mean to be baptized?

To be baptized is to be briefly let down into the water as a sign of your faith in Jesus and then lifted out.

How does knowing you can be a part of God's family make you feel?

Answers will vary.

How can you show others that you are a child of God?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You so much for being our Heavenly Father. God, help me to live in a way that encourages others and reflects Your love for them. Thank You that You love me and call me Your own. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: What is something you can thank God for this week?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Have you ever had a really, really bad day, when nothing went right and everything went wrong? Did you know that even on a bad day you can still have joy?

When we know that we belong to God, we can find strength and hope even in tough times. Even when we may not feel like rejoicing or giving thanks, there is always something to be thankful for.

What is something you can be thankful for today? No matter how big or small it might seem, give thanks for it! What is something you can rejoice over today? What is something you can pray about today?

Verse 17 is a great reminder that God is always with us, and we can always turn to Him for help with anything that concerns us. Paul advised the Philippians that instead of worrying, they should pray about everything, telling God what they need and thanking Him for His actions on their behalf (Philippians 4:6). “Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

TALK ABOUT IT:

How should our circumstances affect our thankfulness?

Our circumstances shouldn’t keep us from being thankful. We should be thankful in all circumstances. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

When should we be joyful and when should we pray?

Always (1 Thessalonians 5:16–17)

What happens when you tell God what you need and thank Him for what He has done?

You will experience peace which exceeds your ability to understand.

How can you use Paul’s instructions on prayer?

Answers may vary.

How might being at peace in a stressful situation help those around you?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for being with me even in difficult circumstances. Thank You for all You have done in my life and all that You continue to do. Help me to be thankful and help me to pray all the time about everything. Guard my heart and mind, and help me to always live for You. Amen.

WE SHARE COMMUNION TOGETHER

The BIG Answer:
We share together.

Memory Verse Challenge:

**“For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am
there among them.”
- Matthew 18:20 (NLT) -**

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What is your favorite memory?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 26:17–19, 26–30

Jesus knew His death was quickly approaching. One of the last things Jesus did was meet with His disciples and share a very special meal with them. While they were eating, Jesus explained to them what each part meant and its significance. We remember this night through something we call Communion. When we take Communion, we remember what Jesus said and how He gave His life on the Cross.

It is powerful when a group gathers and stops what they are doing to reflect on what Jesus has done for them. His body was broken and His blood was shed so that every person could receive eternal forgiveness. Jesus modeled what Communion would look like with the disciples and how it can be shared together with all believers today. Communion reminds us of what Jesus has done for us, and it looks forward to His return.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What was the name of the festival that Jesus and the disciples were celebrating?

The Festival of Unleavened Bread and Passover (Matthew 26:17)

What did the bread symbolize?

Jesus' body which was broken for us (Matthew 26:26)

What did the cup symbolize?

Jesus' blood which was shed for us (Matthew 26:27)

Why is Communion important?

It reminds us of what Jesus has done for us and looks forward to His return.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us the pattern of Communion to remind us of what You have done. Thank You that Communion also looks ahead to Your return. Jesus, I love You and thank You for dying on the Cross so that my sins could be forgiven. Thank You for loving me. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: What foods spark memories of people or events?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

Has a smell ever made you remember something special? Maybe the smell of cookies fresh from the oven makes you think about Christmas time. Or maybe you tasted something, and it made you think of someone? Grilled hamburgers make you think about your grandpa. Sometimes smells and tastes have a way of doing that. They can remind us of things from our past.

When we take Communion, we stop and think about what Jesus did on the Cross for all of us and how much He loves us. Jesus died on the Cross so that we can be forgiven of our sins. Every time we take Communion, we have a chance to remember how much He loves us. We should also remember to tell others about Him so that they can experience His love and forgiveness too.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What are some emotions you may feel when you take Communion?

Answers may vary.

How does knowing Jesus died for you change your life?

Answers may vary.

How would you explain the significance of Communion bread to someone?

It represents Jesus' broken body. (1 Corinthians 11:24)

How would you explain the significance of the Communion juice to someone?

It represents Jesus' blood. (1 Corinthians 11:25)

How does taking Communion help us remember Jesus' death?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear Jesus, thank You for Your promise of salvation and for dying on the Cross for my sins. I am so thankful for the love and grace You showed to each one of us. I love You. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: When do you spend time with Jesus?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: John 6:43–59

Spending time with Jesus is important. When we spend time reading the Bible and in prayer, we grow to know more and more that Jesus is the Source of everything we need. We see in these verses that He talked about being the Bread of Life. Only through Jesus can we experience eternal salvation, grace, and forgiveness of our sins.

Jesus came to earth to die on the Cross for our sins. We can't earn forgiveness or earn God's love. He freely gave it to us through Jesus. When we ask Jesus to come into our life and forgive our sins, we experience that grace and love. We experience the gift of new life through Christ Jesus, and it is one of the greatest things we will ever experience. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and only through Him can we be saved.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do you think Jesus meant when He called himself “the bread of life”?

Answers will vary.

What did Jesus say about anyone who believes?

They have eternal life. (John 6:47)

How do you think you would have reacted to these words: “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you”?

Answers may vary.

What is God saying to you today from this devotion?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that You are my Source and that everything I need comes from You. Thank You for loving me enough to send Jesus to die for me. Help me not take what Jesus did for granted. I love You, God. I choose every day to follow You and to put You first in my life. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: When have you received healing?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Isaiah 53:5

This text written by Isaiah was written hundreds of years before what Jesus did for us. What He did is beyond incredible. Jesus never did anything wrong. Yet because of His love for us, He took upon himself the sins of the world. He was made fun of, laughed at, beaten, broken, and died on the Cross so that we could experience the gift of grace and forgiveness from sin.

But He didn't stay dead. Three days later, He defeated death and rose from the grave. He conquered not only sin, but also sickness and pain, making physical healing part of the Atonement. Atonement is a big word that means Jesus' sacrificial death could make our relationship with God complete and good. Jesus rose from the dead and when He rose He was victorious over death and sin.\

Because of what Jesus did on the Cross and because He rose again and defeated sin, death, and sickness, we can experience eternal life through Him. We can experience not only forgiveness from sin, but also healing. It's amazing to think of what Jesus did for each one of us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does knowing Isaiah wrote this text hundreds of years before Jesus was crucified impact your faith?

Answers will vary.

How would you define the word atonement?

Jesus' sacrificial death made our relationship with God complete and good.

How does knowing what Jesus suffered make you feel?

Answers will vary.

How did Jesus suffer so people could be healed?

He was whipped and beaten. (Isaiah 53:5)

When have you seen God heal someone?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear Jesus, thank You for suffering and dying on the Cross for my sins so that I could have healing and peace. Please lead and guide me each and every day, and help me tell other people about Your love for them. Amen.

WE SERVE TOGETHER

The BIG Answer:

We serve together.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

- Matthew 18:20 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: If you could have any type of lunch box, what kind would you have?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: John 6:1–15

Imagine being the little boy in this story about Jesus. You give your lunch to Jesus and then watch Him take your lunch and feed thousands of people. That must have been a crazy and amazing experience.

Jesus took the small amount of food and did something incredible with it. Jesus has not changed. When we give what we have to Jesus and allow Him to use it, He is able to do amazing things. It may sometimes seem like we don't have a lot to give, but when we are open to allowing God to use what we do have, He can do more than we ever could imagine.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did Jesus ask Philip about feeding the people who had gathered?

He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. (John 6:6)

How did Philip respond?

"Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!" (John 6:7)

Who noticed the boy with his lunch?

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother (John 6:8)

What did Jesus do after He took the loaves of bread and the fish?

He gave thanks to God and then distributed it (John 6:11)

Why did Jesus have the disciples gather the leftovers?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that You can take what I have and make something amazing from it. Help me have a heart like the little boy and be willing to give everything I have to You. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: How have you served someone this week?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Mark 10:45

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be a king or a queen living in a big castle with servants just waiting to do whatever you tell them? That would be pretty amazing, right?

We know Jesus is God's Son which makes Him the Son of God and the King of kings. And yet when Jesus came to the earth, He was born as a baby in a manger. Because He came as a human, Jesus is identified as the Son of Man. He didn't have a fancy castle or servants waiting on Him all the time. He came to earth to serve others and to die on the Cross so that our sins could be forgiven. Jesus showed us what it means to put other people before ourself. We can learn how to serve one another as we study what Jesus did for us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who is the Son of Man?

Jesus

What did Jesus come to do?

Jesus came to serve and to give His life as a ransom. (Mark 10:45)

Why did Jesus give His life?

So that we could be forgiven.

How can you serve others?

Answers will vary.

Why is it important to serve people?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear Jesus, thank You for dying on the Cross for me. I love You, and I am so grateful for Your love. Please help me to have a heart that chooses to follow You and to serve others with love and kindness. Help me to put others' needs ahead of my own. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What is a talent that you have?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Peter 4:7–11

What are some things that you are really, really good at? Maybe it's drawing, sports, encouraging people, or cooking. We all have abilities that sometimes are referred to as gifts or talents. These are things we're really good at. Did you know that God can give you gifts too? You should use those gifts and talents to help serve others.

The Bible says we should use whatever talent or gift we have been given to serve other people. We should serve others not because we have to, but because we get to. We can serve others with a heart that shows them God's love.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How should we love each other?

Deeply (1 Peter 4:8)

How do you think love covers sin?

Answers will vary.

Why should we use the gifts God has given us to serve others?

The Bible teaches us to do so. (1 Peter 4:10)

Why do you think God gives people different gifts?

Answers will vary.

How can you use your gifts to serve others this week?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for the gifts You have given me. I pray that You would show me how to use my gifts so that others can learn about You and know how much You love them. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: Who is your neighbor?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Galatians 5:13–17

Who is your neighbor? When you think of this, you might think of the person who lives right next door to you. But did you know that your neighbor is more than just the person who lives next door to you? Your neighbor is pretty much anyone you come in contact with. We are told to “love your neighbor as yourself.” That means we are supposed to treat everyone we meet with the love and kindness we would like to receive.

Sometimes when we start comparing ourselves with others, judging, or allowing little things to get in the way, we can build up a heart that becomes resentful to other people. In those moments, we need to pray to see our neighbors the way God sees them, as His children. We need to find ways to serve them and share God’s love with them. When we serve and love one another, we become unified!

THINK ABOUT IT:

Why do you think God wants us to love others as much as we love ourselves?

Answers will vary.

What might get in the way of your efforts to show love to others?

Answers will vary.

Why is showing love to your neighbor important?

The Bible tells us to. (Galatians 4:14).

How can we treat others, even those who mistreat us, properly?

“Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves.” (Galatians 5:16)

What are some ways that you can love your neighbor this week?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for my neighbors and the people I see every day. Help me show love and kindness to them and help me share Your love with others. Amen.

GOD HELPS ME WITH SUFFERING

The BIG Answer:

God helps me when bad things happen..

Memory Verse Challenge:

For I can do everything through Christ, who
gives me strength.

- Philippians 4:13 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: Where can I find comfort?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Corinthians 1:3–7

When bad things happen or when people are sad, they search for comfort in many places. Some may cuddle up with their favorite blanket. Others may go for a walk or a run. Some may listen to music or talk to a friend. Although these things may be of some value, none of them can compare to the comfort God provides.

God is the source of all comfort. He has a plan and purpose for our life, and, sometimes, for reasons only known to Him, He allows bad things to happen. He uses these times to draw us closer to Him and to strengthen our faith. He also uses these events in our life to give us opportunities to encourage others who may face similar situations. We can receive comfort from God, and we can direct others to Him to receive the comfort they need.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How do you respond when you're sad or when bad things happen?

Answers may vary.

Who is the source of all comfort?

God, our merciful Father (2 Corinthians 1:3)

How can God use us to bring comfort to others?

"He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." (2 Corinthians 1:4)

When you are going through a difficult time, why should you go to God for your comfort?

God is the source of all comfort. (2 Corinthians 1:3)

How may God want to use you to comfort those around you?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for the comfort You bring. Thank You for always being there for me. Help me to always share Your comfort with those around me. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: Why should I care about other people suffering?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:25–27

In the middle of the night, you decide to get out of bed and walk to the kitchen for a drink of water. All the lights are out and it's completely dark in your house. As you stumble through the living room, "Bam!" Your toe smashes into something. Immediately, your whole body reacts. Your mouth says, "Ouch!" Your back bends and your hand grabs your throbbing toe.

The church should operate like that when someone hurts. When people suffer, the church body should react to support them and to care for them. God expects His people to care for each other and support each other through both good and bad times.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why should I care when another person is suffering?

Because if we are part of God's family, it's natural for us to feel pain when another part of the family is suffering.

How can I treat others as I'd like to be treated during hard times?

Answers may vary.

How does another person's suffering affect me?

When one part of the body suffers every part suffers. (1 Corinthians 1:26)

How does God want me to help those who are going through hard times?

Answers may vary.

Why do you think it is important to care for those who are suffering and rejoice with those who are rejoicing?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, help me to be mindful of those who are suffering. Help me care for them and encourage them. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: Does Jesus understand my suffering?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Hebrews 2:16–18

Have you ever tried telling a funny story to someone who didn't see the event as it happened? They may have found the story mildly amusing, but not nearly as funny as those who saw it. Or maybe you've tried describing something incredible to someone, but they just weren't getting it because they didn't experience it with you.

Jesus understands what we're feeling when bad things happen because He suffered when He lived here on earth. He endured the emotional pain of being misunderstood by His family (Mark 3:20–21), unfair public criticism including death threats, betrayal by close associates, and a wrongful conviction and death sentence. Physically, He endured hunger, travel over long distances in harsh conditions, being physically beaten, and being publicly executed in a slow, brutal manner. He is no stranger to pain and heartbreak, so who better do we have to go to when we face difficulties ourselves? Suffering is a part of life, and, at some point, everyone faces trouble. However, God is merciful and is always faithful to help us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Through what special job does Jesus show us mercy?

High priest (Hebrews 2:17)

What trouble did Jesus experience as a human?

He was misunderstood, unfairly criticized, betrayed, beaten, and executed.

How does Jesus understand my suffering?

Because He himself suffered when He was here on earth, He can help us when we face difficult times.

(Hebrews 2:18)

What connections do you see between things you are facing and things Jesus faced?

Answers may vary.

How can knowing Jesus understands what you're going through change how you face and react to difficult situations?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for coming to earth and sharing in our suffering. When I face difficulties, help me to always turn to You knowing that You love me and want the best for me. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: How does God help me face bad things that happen to me?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Philippians 1:27–30

Do you know how lions hunt other animals? Lions target animals that are separated from their herd, isolated and alone. The lions stalk their target, stealthily creeping closer until they are within striking distance. It's important for herds to stay strong together to survive.

Satan, our enemy, would like us to feel as if we are going through something unique and there's no one we can talk to. This is a trick, a lie to separate us from other believers who can provide support and encouragement. Even when we suffer, we can trust Jesus to always be there for us and to understand what we are facing. He knows how we feel because He, too, has suffered. When we share our struggles with other believers, they can encourage us, pray with us, and help us keep our focus on God. They can also tell us how God has helped them through something like what we're facing.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How can having other believers around us when we are going through hard times be helpful?

They can provide support and encouragement. They can tell us how God helped them through something like what we're facing.

Who will ultimately save us regardless of difficult times?

God (Philippians 1:28)

What kinds of struggles can you share with other believers?

Answers may vary.

Who points you to God in your difficult times?

Answers may vary.

How can you encourage others who are going through difficult times?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You that I am never alone, not even in difficult times. Help me to reach out to other believers when I am struggling and help me to give godly support to those who reach out to me. Amen.

GOD HELPS ME WITH TEMPTATION

The BIG Answer:

God helps me make good choices.

Memory Verse Challenge:

For I can do everything through Christ, who
gives me strength.

- Philippians 4:13 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: How can I resist temptation and make the right choice?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 119:11; Matthew 4:1–11

It's always interesting to see celebrities and important leaders, like the president, doing normal, everyday things such as walking their dog or grabbing a hamburger at a fast-food restaurant. It's easy for us to forget that they do regular things just like we do.

When Jesus came to earth, He was both God and human. Jesus experienced all the things that come with normal life including the temptation to do wrong things. In fact, the devil tried to tempt Jesus multiple times! Jesus never gave in to temptation. He overcame His desire to do wrong things by using the Word of God.

Like Jesus, we will face temptation because that's part of living in this world. However, Jesus showed us how to make the right choice. When we fill our heart with the Word of God and listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit, we can resist temptation and follow the plan that God has for us!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What was Jesus doing before He was tempted?

He was fasting. (Matthew 4:2)

What are some ways you might experience temptation in your life?

Answers may vary.

What did Jesus use to help Him resist temptation?

He used the Word of God.

Why is it important for us to know God's Word?

When we have memorized God's Word, we can use it to help us overcome temptation to sin. (Psalm 119:11)

When you are being tempted, what steps can help you make the right choice?

Ask for God's help, remember what God's Word says, and listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Additional answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that I am never alone when I am being tempted. Help me to remember that I can resist temptation and make the choices that You want me to make through Your Word and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: What should I do when I'm being tempted?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Have you ever seen a movie in which the main characters have to go through several puzzles to get out of the difficult situation? They may have to step on the right tiles to avoid spears being thrown at them. Or, they may find themselves in a room where all the walls are closing in. In the moment, it seems like there's no way of escape. But then, right at the last second, they escape.

Many times this is how temptation feels. It can seem as if temptation is closing in to crush us and doing right can be extremely difficult. However, the Bible says that we can trust that God won't let us be tempted beyond what we can handle. When we are tempted, He will always show us a way out. When we are having a difficult time making the right choice, we can call out to God and He can give us the strength to resist the temptation.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How much temptation will God allow us to endure?

Only as much as we can handle

What does God's Word promise He will do when we are being tempted?

He will show us a way out so that we can endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

What kinds of temptation do you face?

Answers may vary.

How do you feel knowing that others face the same kinds of temptations?

Answers may vary.

How does knowing that God is ready and willing to help you escape temptation make you feel?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for being faithful to help me when I'm tempted. Help me to make choices that honor You. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: How does God help me when I'm tempted?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Mark 5:27–29

Tug-of-war is a game that is played with a long rope with a knot in the center and two teams holding the rope on opposite sides of the knot. The goal is to pull the opposition to your side of the center line. It's important that you don't yield or let up, because doing that gives the opposing team a better opportunity to win.

Our life is like a game of tug-of-war. As we follow Jesus, our enemy, Satan, tries to pull us in the other direction. However, God is like an immovable anchor at the end of the rope. He can't be moved. And as long as we are connected to Him, we can't be moved either. He is the One who will give us the strength to resist temptation and make choices that honor Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does it mean to yield to temptation?

To yield to temptation means to give in to it.

What should we ask of God when we are tempted?

We should ask God to keep us from giving in to temptation and to rescue us. (Matthew 6:13)

What are some of the temptations you have faced recently?

Answers may vary.

How is struggling with temptation like a tug-of-war?

Answers may vary.

How does knowing that you can ask God to rescue you from temptation make you feel?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for every time You've rescued me from the evil one. Help me to always turn to You for strength when I am being tempted. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: What can I do if I give in to temptation?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Hebrews 4:14–16

In the Old Testament, the main role of the high priest was go to God on behalf of the people to offer sacrifices for the wrong choices they had made. Jesus came and died for our sins and then rose again. He is our high priest. When we give in to temptation, we can go to God, confess our sins, and receive forgiveness and cleansing (1 John 1:9). Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross makes this possible.

The Bible says that we can approach God's throne of grace boldly, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Jesus understands our weaknesses because He was tempted, and yet He never sinned. We are human and there will be times we don't make the right choice. We'll have to face the consequences of those choices. Even when we make the right choice, there may be challenges that we have to face. God wants us to honor Him by making the right choice, even if the right choice brings challenges (1 Samuel 15:22). But, we can always look to God for His mercy and His grace, and He will always be there to help us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does Jesus know what it's like for me to be tempted?

Jesus faced the same testing we do, yet He did not sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

How does God help us when we have sinned?

When we go to God, we will receive His mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it most and we will be forgiven and cleansed. (Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 1:9)

How is Jesus like the high priest in the Old Testament?

Both the high priest and Jesus offered sacrifices to God on behalf of the people.

Why do potential challenges sometimes make it difficult to make the right choice?

Answers may vary.

Why should you make the right choice even when there may be challenges?

God wants us to honor Him with the right choices.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for being our High Priest and for making it possible for me to go to God. May I always come boldly to the throne of God to receive mercy and grace to help me when I need it most. Amen.

GOD HELPS ME WITH LONELINESS

The BIG Answer:

God helps me when I feel alone.

Memory Verse Challenge:

For I can do everything through Christ, who
gives me strength.

- Philippians 4:13 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: Where can I find God's presence?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 139:1–10

Take in a long, deep breath. Think about the air that you breathe every day. As you inhale, air fills your lungs. Oxygen from the air is absorbed into your blood and moves through it to every part of your body. Did you know we can't survive without oxygen? We can't last long if we aren't close to a supply of oxygen. Thankfully, we don't usually have to travel far to find oxygen because the air around us is full of it. We simply have to breathe it in.

In the same way, God is always close to us. We can never escape from His Spirit. When we turn away from God and sin, the Holy Spirit brings conviction to turn us back to God. Wherever we go, whatever we're doing, God is always there. We can always call on Him. There are times in our life when we may feel lonely, like everyone has left us or let us down. In those times, we can talk to God about how we're feeling and know that He is just as close as our next breath is. Our Heavenly Father cares for us and loves us more than we can ever imagine.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does God know about you?

Everything (Psalm 139:1)

If God knows everything about me, why should I talk to Him about how I feel? According to the Beatitudes, who gives these blessings?

Because God cares for you, He wants you to share everything with Him, including the way you're feeling.

Where can I find God?

God is everywhere; no matter where you go, He is always there! (Psalm 139:7–10)

How does knowing that God is always there for you make you feel?

Answers may vary.

What do you need to talk about with God?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for knowing me and loving me the way that You do. Thank You that Your presence surrounds me wherever I go, and that I can always talk to You about what I'm thinking and feeling. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: Does God ever leave me alone?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Romans 8:31–39

If you were working on an art project, you might take two different paint colors and combine them to make one new color. Or perhaps you might take two different colors of play dough and mash them together until they combine and make one color. When these things are combined, it would be impossible to ever separate them again into what they once were.

This is much like how God is with us. In this life, Christians will face times that are difficult, and we may feel lonely. However, God's Word promises that, when we go through those times, we can be confident in the love that God has for us. Nothing, except our own desire, can ever separate us from His love. No matter what we face, we can remember that God is for us, and we can trust Him with every part of our life.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does God's gift of His Son say about other things He might give to us?

He is very generous and will give us other good gifts.

What are some things that can be separated from each other?

Answers may vary.

What can separate us from God's love?

Nothing! Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love! (Romans 8:38–39)

How does knowing that God is for you and loves you help you face difficult situations?

Answers may vary.

How do you think sharing the truths found in today's Bible verses could help others?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that nothing can ever separate me from Your love for me. Help me to remember this promise whenever I'm feeling alone. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: How can I find hope in my loneliness?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: John 16:32–33

In today's verses, Jesus was talking to His disciples about something that was about to happen. Jesus knew He was going to die. He also knew that, before His death, His friends would abandon Him because they were afraid. Even though Jesus experienced the heartbreak of His earthly friends leaving Him, He knew that God the Father was with Him. Jesus experienced being alone during a hard time. We can feel alone sometimes, too. However, Jesus didn't end the conversation with being lonely. He told them that, they too, would face trials and heartbreak in this world, but not to worry because He had overcome the world.

Each of us will face times when we are lonely, and we will feel like everyone has forgotten us. We may feel like our friends have left us, or that our family doesn't understand how we feel. However, Jesus promised that when we go to Him in these times of loneliness, we can find peace in Him. Through our darkest moments, we can turn to Him knowing that He will help us and carry us through. The difficult things we face are only temporary. He has overcome the world.

THINK ABOUT IT:

How did Jesus experience loneliness?

He knew that His friends were going to scatter and leave Him alone at His death. (John 16:32)

Who was with Jesus even after others left Him?

God the Father (John 16:32)

What hope do these verses give us for the times we face loneliness and difficulty?

We can have peace in Jesus and know that the trials and sorrows we have here on earth are only temporary. Jesus has overcome the world. (John 16:33)

How does knowing that even Jesus had moments when He was left alone make you feel?

Answers may vary.

How does knowing God is with you change the way you face difficult situations?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for the promise that even in my loneliness, I can find peace in You. May I never forget that You have already overcome all the trials and sorrows in this world. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: How can I help others even when I feel alone?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Isaiah 41:10

Can you imagine what it might feel like to be lost in the woods at night? Being alone and not knowing where to go or what dangers could be lurking in the shadows might cause you to be very fearful. At a time like that, it would be comforting to have a friend by your side that you could talk to and be with. Simply knowing that you are not alone could calm your fears and give you confidence.

This is what God does for us. He is our ever-present Friend. He reminds us to not be afraid or discouraged. He will strengthen us and uphold us. But He also wants to use us to be a friend to others who may be lonely or hurting. Sometimes, out of the hurt and pain we feel ourselves, God can speak through us to help others. Don't allow yourself to be swallowed up by loneliness, but allow God to strengthen you and to use you to reach out to others who may be hurting too.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Why does God tell us not to be afraid?

Because He is with us (Isaiah 41:10)

Why does God tell us not to be discouraged or dismayed?

Because He is our God (Isaiah 41:10)

How can we be a friend to others the way that God is a friend to us?

Answers may vary.

Who is someone in your life that may be feeling lonely and hurting?

Answers may vary.

What kinds of things might make you feel afraid or dismayed?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that I never have to be afraid or discouraged because You are with me. Help me be an encouragement to others who may be lonely and hurting. Amen.

GOD HELPS ME WITH FEAR & ANXIETY

The BIG Answer:

God helps me when I am afraid.

Memory Verse Challenge:

For I can do everything through Christ, who
gives me strength.

- Philippians 4:13 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: How does God protect us?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 91:1–5

When a mother bird has a nest filled with eggs or baby birds, she will perch herself on top of that nest to be a covering for her babies. She will cover and protect those babies from the storms or predators looking to attack them.

The Bible uses this illustration to help us understand how God covers and shelters us. He can be trusted and offers protection to us. We don't have to be afraid of anything we may face because God is a faithful guardian for us to hide in. We can rest in the comfort of knowing that whatever comes our way, He will be our covering, our protection that will never fail.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Where can we find shelter and refuge from the storms of life?

We can go to God, and He will cover us and shelter us. (Psalm 91:4)

How do today's verses describe God's protection?

He is our refuge, our place of safety, He will rescue us and protect us, He will cover us and shelter us. His promises are armor and protection. (Psalm 91:2–4)

How can hiding yourself in God help you overcome your fears?

Answers may vary.

What do you personally know about God that can help you face your fears?

Answers may vary.

How can trusting God's promises give you peace when you're afraid?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for being a refuge and a shelter for me when I face difficult times. Help me to trust You in every situation and to allow You to settle my fears. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: What should I do when I'm afraid?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Philippians 4:6–7

Have you done something that made you anxious or afraid? Maybe you were nervous about starting a new school year. Or maybe you moved to a new place with new neighbors and new friends. Maybe you were afraid to go to a doctor or dentist. All of us face times when we are anxious about something.

But God tells us that there's a different way that we can live. God wants us to talk to Him about the things that worry us. When we begin to thank God and remember what He has already done in our life, we can have peace from God that we can't understand. That peace will guard our heart and mind.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the Bible say we should do instead of being anxious or worrying?

We should pray about everything and tell God what we need. Then we should thank Him for all He has done. (Philippians 4:6)

What happens when we give our needs and worries to God?

We will experience His peace that exceeds anything we can understand, and that peace will guard our heart and mind. (Philippians 4:6–7)

When has God been faithful to you?

Answers may vary.

How can remembering what God has done in the past help us face our current difficult situations?

Answers may vary.

In what situations do you need peace from God?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for being faithful and for always helping me. Today, I choose to give You my fears and anxiety. Help me to allow Your peace to overwhelm me and guard my heart and mind as I follow You. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: How can I be free from my fears?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 34:4–5

Imagine that every fear you have is a chain strapped around you. Maybe you're afraid of speaking in public, or maybe you're afraid of something that might happen. Each fear is a chain keeping you bound up. When you allow fear to control your actions, you can sometimes miss out on good things that God has for you. The longer you live in fear, the easier it is to become more bound up in those chains when what God truly desires for you is to be free from fear.

It's important for us to fill our heart and mind with the truth of God's Word. Then, when we face difficult situations, the Holy Spirit will bring that truth to mind and help us stand firm and be strong. When we surrender our fears to God and allow the truth of His Word to fill our heart, we will overcome fear. God frees us from all our fears because He is bigger and stronger than anything we may face.

THINK ABOUT IT:

What can happen when we talk to God about our fears?

He can answer us and free us from all our fears. (Psalm 34:4)

What can happen when we look to God for help?

He can help us and fill us with joy. (Psalm 34:5)

How can God's Word help me fight my fears?

It can fill our heart with truth and help us to stand firm and be strong. Answers may vary.

What are some fears that I have allowed myself to be bound up in?

Answers may vary.

How can I be free of those fears?

Surrendering them to God, asking Him for help and filling our heart with the truth of God's Word. Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that you are bigger and stronger than anything I face. Help me to surrender every fear to You. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: Who can I talk to about my fears and anxiety

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Peter 5:7–9

When something exciting happens in your life, who is the first person you want to tell? When you are frustrated, who do you look to for comfort and understanding? When you are worried or afraid of something, who do you tell about your fears?

God wants to be the One you go to in every situation. The Bible says that we can give all our cares and worries to God because He cares for us. God cares for us and can take care of us like no one else can. He is big and strong and can handle any situation we face. When we choose to hold on to our fears and worries, Satan can use that to try to deceive us and keep us bound up in suffering. We must stay alert to these tricks of the enemy and instead go to God and put our faith in Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why should I give all my cares and worries to God?

Because He cares about us (1 Peter 5:7)

How do today's verses describe Satan, our enemy?

The enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

How can we stand firm against the attacks of the enemy in difficult situations?

We can stand firm by being strong in our faith, trusting God to take care of us and remembering that we are not alone in our suffering. (1 Peter 5:9)

How can you make sure you go to God first when you are worried or afraid?

Answers may vary.

What sometimes holds you back or keeps you from giving all your cares and worries to God?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, I trust You with all my fears. Help me to come to You in every situation I face. Amen.

I BELIEVE FOR MIRACLES

The BIG Answer:

I believe God can do miracles.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done.”

- John 14:12 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: Have you ever asked God to do something impossible?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Kings 17:1-6

God told Elijah that there would be no rain for a few years. Can you imagine? No rain at all sounds impossible! How would people drink and eat? God told Elijah to hide by a small stream of water, and ravens would bring him food. Elijah believed and obeyed God, and he went where God told him to go. And you know what? There was no rain, and birds brought Elijah food, just like God said!

Have you ever had a time in your life when God has told you to do something and you trusted in Him? That is what Elijah did. He knew that God would be true to His word and do what He said. As Elijah camped out, twice a day the ravens brought him food to eat, just as God instructed them to do! That sounds impossible, but it's true: God is a miracle-working God. Being obedient to do what He tells us to do is one of the best ways to see Him work a miracle.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did Elijah tell King Ahab about the dew and rain?

"There will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!" (1 Kings 17:1)

Who commanded the ravens to bring Elijah food?

The Lord (1 Kings 17:2)

What did the ravens bring Elijah each morning and evening?

Bread and meat (1 Kings 17:6)

Where did Elijah drink from?

The brook (1 Kings 17:6)

When was a time that God has provided for you?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for all that You do in my life. Thank You for daily providing everything that I need. Even when things seem impossible, I know that You will always be there, God. I trust in You. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: What is something you need every day?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Philippians 4:19

What is something you could thank God for when you wake up every morning? Do you know that every day you have a reason to give thanks to God? Sometimes those reasons can be big things God has done. Other times it could be seemingly small things such as having food, water, air to breathe, and a place to call home. Every day contains some amazing miracles from God, but sometimes we forget to look around and appreciate how much He has provided for us. Take time today and think of the things you need every day and how God has provided them for you.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What are some things God provides for us each day?

Answers may vary.

In what ways has God supplied for all your needs?

Answers may vary.

How does knowing God supplies all your needs help you in your daily walk with Him?

Answers may vary.

According to Philippians 4:19, how does God supply all your needs?

“From His glorious riches” (Philippians 4:19)

Why did Jesus die for us?

He considers us His friends. (John 15:13).

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You so much for daily providing for me. In You, I can find everything that I need. God, thank You for food, clean air, water, and shelter. Thank You for my family and friends. Please help me live with gratitude today for everything You have blessed me with. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: Who does God use to perform His miracles?

READ ABOUT IT:

John 6:9–14

When we read the Bible, our heart is encouraged to learn and know the goodness of God and see the miracles that happened. So many times in the Bible, we can see when Jesus did the miraculous and the crowds were amazed. We can also see times when Jesus used His followers to be a part of a miracle. In John 6, we see how Jesus used a boy and his lunch to feed more than five thousand people. The disciples didn't see much possibility of a boy's lunch of five small loaves of bread and two small fish feeding that many people. But Jesus chose to show God's power through this young boy's offering of his lunch.

Want to know something cool? God can use you! He can use your gifts, talents, and resources to do a miracle in your life or for someone else! If God can use a young boy's lunch to feed so many people, imagine the incredible ways that God could use you. The young boy probably had no idea that Jesus would do something mighty with his lunch that day, but he was willing to let Jesus use his lunch to do a powerful miracle.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What are some miracles found in the Bible?

Answers may vary.

What did Jesus do with the loaves and fish?

He gave thanks and distributed them. (John 6:11)

How do you think the boy felt giving his lunch to Jesus?

Answers may vary.

What did the people say when they saw Jesus do the miracle?

"Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!" (John 6:14)

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that You still do miracles today. Thank You that we can see in the Bible when You used ordinary people to do miracles. Everything we have is Yours. We ask that You use us to do Your miraculous works in this world. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: How is Jesus far better than any superhero?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: John 6:16–21

Do you have a favorite superhero? If I were a superhero, I would want to have a superpower that no one else has. Maybe I would like to fly or control the weather or have superhuman strength. One of my favorite things about superheroes is how they usually go back to their ordinary life when they take off their suit.

Unfortunately, superheroes don't exist outside of comic books and movies. But Jesus is better than any superhero. When we read about Jesus with His disciples, there were a lot of things He did that were very ordinary. It can be easy to forget that even though Jesus was fully man, He was also fully God! In the Bible, many of the stories begin with some ordinary event, and then Jesus showed up. Jesus always shows up and saves the day. We see Jesus perform miracles to help others, and sometimes He does them just to show the world how great God is. Read about the miracles of Jesus; it's a good way to remind yourself just how powerful and mighty God is.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What happened right before Jesus arrived?

A gale swept down upon them and the sea grew very rough. (John 6:18)

What miracles happened in this passage?

Jesus walked on water and they immediately arrived at their destination. (John 6:19, 21)

How do you think the disciples felt in the boat?

Answers may vary.

What can you learn from this story about Jesus?

Answers may vary.

What is something you've learned about God from the miracles in the Bible?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that we can trust in who You are. I know that You can do miracles, and I believe You are still doing them today. Help my life be an example of faith to others so that they can know You and Your love for them. Amen.

I HAVE BOLD FAITH

The BIG Answer:

I believe God can do great things.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done.”

- John 14:12 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What does the word faith mean to you?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Kings 2:9–12

Both Elijah and Elisha had incredible faith. As we read in the Bible story, we can see that God moved in their lives in an incredible way. Just before these verses, God used Elijah to do a miracle when he took off his coat, hit the river, and the water split so the two men could walk across. Elijah was a prophet, meaning he spoke God's words to people. God told him that he would go to heaven and Elisha would replace him. So, Elisha asked for something extremely difficult: he asked for the supernatural gift of carrying on Elijah's work with great power. What a big request!

Elisha was bold in his request, and you know what? He received the blessing that he asked for. God gave him this gift! It's a reminder to us that we can be bold in our requests to God and bold in believing for what sometimes may seem impossible.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did Elijah ask Elisha that showed he cared for him?

"Tell me what I can do for you before I am taken away." (2 Kings 2:9)

What did Elisha ask Elijah for?

"Let me inherit a double share of your spirit and become your successor." (2 Kings 7:9)

What happened as they were walking along and talking?

A chariot of fire appeared, drawn by horses of fire, and Elijah was taken to heaven by a whirlwind. (2 Kings 7:11)

What is a prophet?

Someone who speaks God's word to people.

What does this story teach us?

We can be bold in our requests to God and bold in believing for what may seem impossible. Other answers are possible.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, help me to have bold faith in You and in who You are. Help me to live a life that allows people to see You living and moving in me, and help me be brave in telling others about You. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: When is a time you have promised something to someone?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Hebrews 11:1-3

God has shown His faithfulness repeatedly in the Bible. Hebrews 11 is a perfect place to go if you need a reminder of Bible people who were faithful to God. Each story shows how people did what God told them to, even when they did not know why. They had faith that God would do what He had said. Each of the examples in this chapter teach us how to live in faith. Has God given you a promise? Are you still waiting for it to come true? Hold on to that promise and be faithful in serving, loving, and growing in your relationship with God. The God of the Bible is faithful to you. Allow your life to be an example of having faith in the Creator of all things.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does faith show us according to Hebrews 11:1?

“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

What does Hebrews 11:3 mean to you?

We know that God is powerful because He created everything. What we can see came from nothing that existed before it. Answers may vary.

Why do you think Hebrews 11 shares so many stories of faith found in the Bible?

Answers may vary.

What did the faith of the people earn them?

A good reputation (Hebrews 11:2)

How should we respond to God’s promises?

Hold on to that promise and be faithful in serving, loving, and growing in your relationship with God.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for showing Your faithfulness over and over again in the Bible. Thank You for always knowing what is best for me and for creating me for more than I can ever imagine. Please keep me faithful to You. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What is something you can trust God with?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 21:21–22

When we read these verses, we might think they mean that we can ask God for anything: even if we ask for a million dollars and just believe, it will happen! The truth is that when we pray and ask God for anything, we can trust that He hears us and that He gives us what we need. We can trust that He is God our Father and loves us so much. Although we may not get specifically what we ask for, we know that He will never let us down and that He will give us far more than we need. We can have faith and trust in His goodness. Let's pray that our heart will line up with what He desires for our life and be filled with trust in who God is.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does Jesus say we need to have in Matthew 21:21?

Faith (Matthew 21:21)

What can we pray for?

Anything (Matthew 21:22)

Does God always answer our prayers the way we want?

No, but He always knows best and we can trust in Him.

What is something you can do when you are struggling with doubt?

Answers may vary.

Who is someone in your life you trust and can talk to about the Bible and God?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that I can pray to You about anything. God, give me faith to know that although sometimes things may be different from what I think they should be, I can trust that You always know what is best. You are amazing, God! Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: What does the word faithful mean to you?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Timothy 1:3–5

Think about your family for a moment. Have your parents or your grandparents been Christians for a while? Maybe you are the first person in your family to accept Jesus into your life and are changing your family's history. There is power in creating a line of believers in your family and in praying for the next generation coming up. Did you know that even today, you can be investing in the future of your family by praying that God will use each member of your family and speak to them in a powerful way? God wants your family to love and follow Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What type of faith was talked about in 2 Timothy 1:5?

Genuine faith

Today's Bible reading was written first to Timothy. Whose faith did Timothy share?

The same faith as his grandmother Lois and mother, Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5)

How often does Paul remember Timothy in his prayers?

"Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers." (2 Timothy 1:3)

Why is sharing faith with the next generation important?

Answers may vary.

In what ways can you begin investing in the next generation now?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that I can learn and grow from people You have placed in my life. I pray that I will listen to their advice and follow in their footsteps. God, I pray that even now You will begin to use my life to encourage kids who are younger than I am, so that they will follow You. Amen.

I GO TO GOD FOR HEALING

The BIG Answer:

I believe God can heal.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done.”

- John 14:12 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What is something you need or have needed healing from?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Kings 5:1–14

Has God ever asked you to do something, but you wanted to do things your own way instead? In today's Bible verses, a strong and mighty warrior named Naaman suffered from a disease and he wanted to be healed. He went on a mission to find someone who could heal him, and he found the prophet Elisha. The prophet gave him simple instructions: Go wash seven times in the Jordan River. However, the warrior responded in anger. He didn't want to do what Elisha said because he wanted Elisha to heal him in a big way. When his soldiers encouraged him to simply obey what Elisha had said, Naaman finally did and was completely healed.

There will be times in our life that God tells us to do something, and we may not want to do it. In those times, we need to have faith, trust in what God says, and ask Him for help to obey.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did Naaman suffer with?

Leprosy (2 Kings 5:1)

Whose house did Naaman go to for his healing?

Elisha (2 Kings 5:9)

How many times was Naaman to wash in the Jordan River?

Seven times (2 Kings 5:10)

How did Naaman respond at first to what Elisha had said?

He went away in anger. (2 Kings 5:11–12)

What happened after Naaman did what Elisha had told him to do?

He was completely healed. (2 Kings 5:14)

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that You still heal people today. I pray that when You tell me to do something, that I will respond in obedience and not in anger. God, help me keep my heart in tune with what You are saying. I thank You that even when we respond in anger, You still offer us healing if we choose to follow You. God, help me to obey Your voice always. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: When have you stopped what you were doing to help someone?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 14:13–21

Jesus was getting in a boat so He could go somewhere to be alone, but then He saw a large crowd of people behind Him who had followed Him from several towns. Many of these people knew that Jesus had the power to heal them. In that moment, Jesus could have continued on to a place to be alone, but He stopped to help people who were in need. He got out of the boat and healed those who were sick. Later in this story, Jesus performed one of His most famous miracles and fed more than five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish.

The beauty of this miracle of healing is that Jesus stopped what He was doing to be with the people and meet them where they were. As believers, we know that Jesus is always with us through the Holy Spirit. When we are sick or hurting, we can turn to Him and find He is already with us and wants to meet our need.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What was Jesus originally going to do in this story?

Get on a boat to be alone in a remote area (Matthew 14:13)

What did Jesus do when He got off the boat?

He had compassion toward the people who had followed Him and He healed the sick. (Matthew 14:14)

Why do you think Jesus had compassion toward the people?

Answers may vary.

When did you need to stop what you were doing to help someone?

Answers may vary.

How can you respond to people the way that Jesus responds to them?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that You are never too busy for people. Thank You for Your heart of compassion toward those who seek You. Thank You that you meet us where we are. God, help me respond to others in that same way. Thank You that whenever I need You, You are already right there. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: When was a time that you didn't know what to say when you prayed?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Romans 8:26

Have you ever had a time where you had no clue about how to pray for someone or something that had happened? Maybe you found out someone was sick, or maybe something really scary or bad happened. Everyone experiences those times. That's when you can trust God's Holy Spirit to lead you, direct you, and even pray for you! Although we may not know what to pray for, God does, and we can turn to Him. Let's choose to always pray to God and trust in who He is.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Have you ever had a time when you didn't know what to pray for?

Answers may vary.

Who can we rely on during those moments?

God's Holy Spirit.

Did you know that you can allow the Holy Spirit to pray for you? How does that make you feel?

Answers may vary.

What is something you can ask the Holy Spirit to pray with you for right now?

Answers may vary.

When was a time God has helped you when you didn't know what to do?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that in times when I don't know what to do or say that I have the Holy Spirit as my Helper. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: Have you ever prayed for someone to be healed?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Peter 2:24

When Jesus died on the Cross, He didn't die only so that our sins can be forgiven. He died on the Cross to overcome death and sickness also. Jesus did that for each one of us because He loves us so very much. Nothing is stronger than He is! When we pray to Jesus, we can ask Him to heal us or anyone else. We can believe that Jesus will heal them because of what He overcame on the Cross.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Can we experience healing today?

Yes

How can we experience healing?

Answers may vary.

Besides healing, what else did Jesus' death on the Cross do for us?

Made a way for our sins to be forgiven (1 Peter 2:24)

When have you prayed for someone and Jesus healed them?

Answers may vary.

How do you feel knowing Jesus' death on the Cross provides healing for us?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear Jesus, thank You for dying on the Cross so my sins may be forgiven and I may experience the gift of healing. I know that You overcame death and sickness when You rose again. Thank You that today we can experience Your power of healing. Amen.

I TRUST THAT GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS

The BIG Answer:

I believe God can answer prayer.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done.”

- John 14:12 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What prayers do you need God to answer?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Kings 6:14–23

The prophet Elisha believed God could—and would—answer his prayers. In the Bible story, Elisha prayed for three miracles and God did each one. First, an enemy army found Elisha's hiding place, and Elisha prayed his servant would see God's army protecting them. Next, the enemy attacked, and Elisha prayed they would go blind. Finally, Elisha led the enemy to Israel's king and prayed that they would be able to see again. God answered all his prayers! Elisha told the king of Israel to have mercy on the captured soldiers, feed them, and send them home.

Elisha could have been scared when a whole army came to his city looking just for him. Instead, he was brave, because he knew he could ask God for help. God can answer our prayers too!

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why was Elisha's servant scared when he went outside early in the morning?

"There were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere." (2 Kings 6:15)

What did Elisha's servant see after the Lord opened his eyes?

"The hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire." (2 Kings 6:17)

Why did Elisha ask God to make the enemy soldiers blind?

So they would not attack and Elisha could lead them safely to the king of Israel.

What does this story teach us?

God answers prayer. We can ask God for specific things. God is protecting us in ways we can't see. Other answers are possible.

What is one prayer you need God to answer?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for loving me so much that You hear and answer my prayers. Help my faith to grow, and open my eyes to Your miracles all around me. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: How has God used you to help someone?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: James 2:14–17

Sometimes God allows us to see people's needs so that He can use us to help them. Imagine seeing a kid at school who has torn-up clothes, no food for lunch, and holes in his shoes. You think, "I feel sorry for this kid." But then you do nothing to help him. What good is it if you see a need but don't do anything about it? That's what these verses in James are talking about.

Our faith in God should lead us to pray for people and to see people where they are. God may also place it on our heart to help people. We can believe God will answer our prayers for other people, and sometimes we are part of His answer! Listen and be open as the Holy Spirit leads you.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What are the two things verse 15 talks about a person not having?

Food or clothing (James 2:15)

What happens when we see a need but don't offer to help someone in need?

Answers may vary.

When was a time God spoke to you to help someone?

Answers may vary.

When was a time God used someone to help you when you had a need?

Answers may vary.

Who may God use you to help this week?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that my life can be used to be a blessing to someone. God, let me see people the way You do and let me listen for You to lead me to help. Give me a heart of compassion that leads to action and helping others. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: Who is someone you pray with?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 18:19–20

When we read Matthew 18:19, we might think that when we pray with other people for something, God is going to answer with exactly what we want. But when we pray and ask God for things, we want to be sure we know God is good so that even if He answers us differently from what we expect, we still trust in Him.

These verses talk about the importance of having people in our life to pray and believe with us that God can answer our prayers. We know that there is power in prayer and in encouraging one another to trust in God together. Together, we can agree that God is with us and never leaves or forsakes us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Where is God when His followers gather?

He is there among us. (Matthew 18:20)

Who are some people in your life you turn to when you need prayer?

Answers may vary.

How are you encouraged when people pray with you?

Answers may vary.

What are some ways you can encourage others in prayer?

Answers may vary.

What is something you are trusting and believing God for?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for people in my life who I know will pray with me. Please continue to place good friends in my life who will encourage me to trust in You. I thank You that You hear us when we pray. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: Where is a place you like to spend quiet time in prayer?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 6:5–8

Although the Bible doesn't use the word missionary, the idea of taking the gospel message to all the people of the Prayer is talking to God; it's not a public performance. Sometimes when we pray, we get so concerned about what others may be thinking that we forget to focus on the One we are talking to. God doesn't care if you use fancy words or if you speak loudly. He doesn't care if everyone in the room is looking at you because you drew their attention.

God looks at your heart. When you pray, you are talking to Him as your best friend. He wants you to come to Him not so others can see you, but because you trust in who He is. You can pray in a large group setting with others around, but it is just as important to pray on your own and spend quiet time with God. No matter where you are or who's around, you can believe God will hear and answer your prayer.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the Bible say about the people who like to pray loudly for everyone to hear and see them?

They are hypocrites (Matthew 6:5).

Should we only pray in public places?

No, we should also pray on our own. (Matthew 6:6)

Where is a place that you can spend quiet time with God?

Answers may vary.

Does God know everything we need?

Yes (Matthew 6:8)

What does your prayer time look like?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that I can come to You anytime and talk to You about anything on my heart. Please help me to care less about what others think of me and more about growing in my relationship with You each day. I pray that I will have a heart that is focused on You and that I will grow in my walk with You. Amen.

I RESPOND TO GOD DAILY

The BIG Answer:

God has plans for my life.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

- Matthew 28:19 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: Why should I trust God's plans for my life?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 9:11–13; Romans 8:28

Many times our parents or other grownups will tell us to do something that doesn't always make sense. Maybe it's to go to bed early, eat vegetables, or wait for something we really want. Sometimes they tell us to do things that might be difficult for us or things we don't want to do. Most of the adults in our life are great people. We may not know about the plans they have set up for us, but we can trust the plans that good people have for us even though we may not understand.

In our Bible story, Ananias wasn't sure about God's plan at first. God had told Ananias to go and visit a man who he thought could choose to hurt him. However, Ananias trusted that God was good and His plans are good. Because of Ananias's obedience, God used him to heal Saul.

God has plans for our life that don't always make sense and can be confusing or difficult. But, because we know who

God is, we can trust that His plans for us are good. That's why we can trust His plans for our life! When we follow His leading every day, we can experience everything He has planned for us, and it will be better than anything we could imagine on our own.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How many things does God cause to work together for our good?

God causes everything to work together for our good. (Romans 8:28)

Whose purposes are we called to?

We are called to God's purposes and plans. (Romans 8:28)

What kinds of things have your parents or grownups told you to do that you didn't understand at first but figured out later?

Answers may vary; could include looking both ways before crossing the street, not giving up, etc.

What are some things that God may be telling you to do that don't make sense right now?

Answers may vary.

Why should you trust God's plans and purposes for your life?

Answers may vary; can include God's trustworthy character.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You that Your plans for me are good and that You are working all things together for my good as I follow You every day. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: Why are God's plans better than my own?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 33:11

As people get older, they often create something called a will. A will is a document listing what someone wants to happen after they die. It can have instructions on what to do with that person's money, house, other belongings, and even medical decisions to be made after they are too sick to say what they want on their own. Wills are very serious. When we die, we can only hope that what's stated in the will is carried out as we planned.

There's only so much control we have over things after we die. Even when we make plans, situations can come up that we didn't expect, and things can happen that we didn't plan for. However, God sees and knows all things. That's why we can trust that His plans are better than our own! He created time and has plans and purposes in place forever. Even though our life is only for a certain time here on earth, God has plans in place for generation after generation. We can trust that His plans are best. As we choose to follow Him daily with the time that He has given us, we can be part of carrying out His perfect plans here on earth.

TALK ABOUT IT:

When was a time that you made plans that fell apart?

Answers may vary.

Why do our plans sometimes fail?

Answers may vary, but the bottom line is that we can't see all the other things that can affect our plans

How long do the Lord's plans last?

"The Lord's plans stand firm forever." (Psalm 33:11)

Why should you trust God's plans for your life?

Answers may vary, but the fact that God knows everything, is all powerful, and loves us should be part of the biblical answer.

Has God shared some plans with you that He is waiting for you to respond to? What are they, and what can you do about them?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, I believe that Your plans are better than my own. I trust that You have a purpose for my life. Help me every day to choose to follow the good plans that You have designed for me. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: How do I understand God's plan for my life?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Ephesians 2:10

A composer, or a person who writes music, can write music for an orchestra—a big group of many different types of instruments. In an orchestra, each instrument has a specific part to play. The drums may have a rat-a-tat-tat that keeps the beat while the flutes play the whistling high notes. The tubas play the low bass parts, and trumpets may blast the melody. On their own, the part that each instrument plays may not make much sense. However, when every instrument plays together, the music becomes a beautiful song. It finally makes sense.

God is like a composer who writes different parts for each instrument to play. He has one big plan to bring people into a right relationship with Him, and each of us has a part to play in it. When we think about the plans God has for us, we might get confused as to how it all makes sense. In these times, we can remember that each of us plays one small part in God's big plan—and that helps things make more sense! God designed us to do the good things that He planned for us long ago.

When we choose to follow Jesus, we are choosing His plans over our own. We are saying that we trust the plans and the part He given us to play, even though we may not understand it. As we allow God to use us, He works through us to share His love with others and bring Him honor and glory.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Whose masterpiece are we?

God's masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10)

What were we created to do?

"The good things he planned for us long ago" (Ephesians 2:10)

What are some of the details you have right now about God's plan for your life?

Answers may vary.

What part is God asking you to play right now that you are having a difficult time playing?

Answers may vary.

What are some amazing things that could happen when we choose to follow God's plan?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for creating me with purposes to fulfill. Help me to understand the part I play in Your big plan. Please use me and work through me to draw others to You. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: How do I follow God's plan for my life?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 22:12–21

In our Bible reading today, the apostle Paul was speaking. He had just been attacked by an angry crowd, and he was telling them about how God had changed his life. He explained how God had called him to be a witness for Jesus. Paul obeyed by believing in Jesus and being baptized in water.

But even after saying yes to following God, Paul still had some difficult situations. He had to continue listening for what God wanted him to do, where God wanted him to go, and who God wanted him to talk to.

Paul is a great example of what it means to follow God. God is always guiding us and helping us know what He wants us to do. However, not everything in life is easy or fun or comfortable. But when God calls us to do something, even if it's hard, we can trust that He has already prepared the way for us. He will empower us and equip us to do what He's telling us to do, but we must be willing to follow Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What are some things God chose Paul to do?

Know God's will, see the Righteous One, hear him speak, be his witness, and tell everyone what he has seen and heard. (Acts 22:14–15)

What are some ways that God speaks to you and shows you His plan?

Answers may vary, but could include through His Word, through dreams and visions, and through other people.

Do you remember a time that you listened to God and saw how He worked in your situation? Tell us about it.

Answers may vary.

Even though it's sometimes difficult, why should you trust God's plans?

Answers may vary.

In what part of your life is God telling you to follow Him more closely?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for leading and guiding my life. Help me to always be ready and willing to say yes to You in anything You tell me to do. Amen.

I SHARE MY FAITH

The BIG Answer:

I will tell others about Jesus.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

- Matthew 28:19 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What should I say when I tell others about Jesus?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 71:14–17; 1 Corinthians 2:1

Do you know what the word cattywampus means? How about the word bumfuzzle? These are long, interesting words that you might not know or use unless you grew up hearing or studying them. Words like this aren't typically a part of our everyday conversations, and you don't really need to use them to have a meaningful conversation.

Do you ever wonder what words you should use to tell people about Jesus? Maybe you are searching for some big, long, important words before you speak. Sometimes we feel like we can't tell others about Jesus because we don't know the right words to use. We may feel like we're not smart enough or we don't know all there is to know about God. Somehow this keeps us from telling others about who He is.

Here's the good news, though: We don't have to be skilled with words or know everything there is to know about God. We simply need to be willing to allow God to use us and speak through us to share about Jesus and what He's done in our life. Psalm 71:15 says, "All day long I will proclaim your saving power, though I am not skilled with words." The Bible is telling us that we can still talk about God's power even if we're not good with words! When we are willing to share Jesus' story in everyday conversations, God will use us to draw people to Him. And they may want to have a relationship with God because of what we've told them.

TALK ABOUT IT:

When can we have conversations with others about God?

All day long (Psalm 71:15)

Why don't we need to use fancy words to tell others about Jesus?

Answers may vary but should include that the Bible tells us this.

What kinds of things can we tell others about Jesus?

Answers may vary, but can include that He loves us, lived, died, and was raised from the dead to show His love for us.

What are some things that Jesus has done in your life?

Answers may vary.

Who are some people you can tell about what God has done for you?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, I praise You for who You are and for all the things You've done. Help me to always be willing to share with those around me what You have done for me. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: Whom should I tell about Jesus?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 17:32–34; Romans 10:13–17

Have you ever missed a birthday party because the person forgot to invite you? If you had known about it, you would have made sure you were there! That's because birthday parties are fun.

God has invited us to be part of His family—the best invitation we could ever receive! The invitation is for everyone, but some people don't know about it yet. They could go their whole life missing His invitation, and that's worse than missing any birthday party. That's where we come in. Jesus told us in Matthew 28:19 to make disciples of all nations—and that means His invitation is for everyone! But how will they receive this invitation?

That's the question Romans 10:13–17 asks us: How do people receive God's invitation to be part of His family? Because we invite them! Think about it: Someone invited you to be part of His family, too! In our Bible story, God used Paul to invite the people of Athens into God's family. Some of them even accepted His invitation!

God is looking for people who are willing to go and share the good news of Jesus with people who don't know and have never heard. There are many people in our life—family, neighbors, friends at school, people we see around town—who don't know who Jesus is. When they hear about how good God is and what He has done in our life, they may want to know more and want to know the love of Jesus for themselves.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How can someone believe in Jesus if they have never heard about Him?

They are waiting for someone to go tell them. (Romans 10:14)

Today's Scripture reading says faith in Jesus comes from what?

"Hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ" (Romans 10:17)

Who are some people in your life who don't know Jesus?

Answers may vary.

What are some places where there are people who don't know Jesus?

Answers may vary.

How is God wanting to use you to tell people in your life about Jesus?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, help me to be part of telling others about You until the whole world hears. I will go wherever You send me and say whatever You want me to say. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What keeps you from telling others about Jesus?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Psalm 40:9–10

Fear can keep us from doing many things. Maybe being afraid of spiders can keep us from walking barefoot. Being afraid of meeting new people can keep us from making new friends at school. Being afraid of what other people may think can keep us from telling other people about Jesus.

God knows that we have fear—and He is ready to help us. When we know Jesus, we have one of the greatest gifts that other people need to know about! We can't allow fear to keep us from speaking about what God has done in our life. So, go on, be bold, and tell everyone around you about the good news of Jesus!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What are some things you're afraid of?

Answers may vary.

If you had no fear, what would you do?

Answers may vary.

According to our Scripture reading today, what can we tell people about God?

That He is just, faithful, able to save, powerful, and loving (Psalm 40:9–10)

What may keep you from telling others about Jesus?

Answers may vary.

Have you asked God today to help you not be afraid? Why or why not?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, I want others to know who You are and what You have done. Help me to not be afraid to tell others about You. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: How can I tell others about Jesus?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Peter 3:13–16

If you were trying to learn how to play a new sport, what would be the easier way to learn: have someone yell the rules at you or have someone show you how to play? Obviously, it would be the second option!

The world is watching how we live if we claim to be a follower of Jesus. At times, they may ask us why we do things differently or why we believe in Jesus. It's important for us share about Jesus in gentle and kind ways, being an example of Jesus' love for them. As we make daily choices that follow Jesus and show His love by the way we treat others, they will be able to see Jesus in us.

God will use our life as a living example of Jesus' love and others will want to know about the hope we have.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Are people always going to accept the truth of Jesus when we tell them?

No, they may make threats or we may suffer for it, but we don't need to worry or be afraid. (1 Peter 3:13)

When someone asks about the hope we have, what should we say?

We should be ready to explain it. (1 Peter 3:15)

Why should we tell others about Jesus in a gentle and respectful way?

Answers may vary.

What are some things you can do that will tell others about Jesus?

Answers may vary.

Who may be watching how we live our life and need to know about Jesus?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, help me to always represent You well. May I always be prepared to tell others of the hope I have found in You. Amen.

I DISCIPLE OTHERS

The BIG Answer:

I will lead others.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

- Matthew 28:19 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What kind of leader should I be?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Corinthians 11:1–2

Have you played the game Follow-the-Leader? In the game, one person is the leader, and everyone in the group must copy everything the leader does. For instance, if the leader walks backward around the room while patting her head and rubbing her elbow, everyone else does the same thing. You win if you never stop following the leader.

In our Scripture today, Paul was writing to Christians in Corinth, where he had started a church. He was one of their leaders, and he was telling them to follow him while he was following Jesus Christ. The Corinthian Christians' leader was Paul, and Paul's leader was Jesus! Paul wanted them all to follow Jesus together.

We can learn from this that we should all be leaders who follow Jesus. It's important for us to have people in our life who we can follow as they live for Jesus. They may make mistakes, but we can learn and grow in our relationship with God by watching their walk with God. In the same way, we can be an example to others and be a leader who leads people to Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Whose example do good leaders follow?

God is all-powerful. Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:1)

How can we be a leader who helps others grow in their walk with God?

Answers may vary, but can include passing on to others the things we've learned about God. (1 Corinthians 11:2)

What are some things about your relationship with God that you've learned from someone else?

Answers may vary.

What are some things about God that you have taught and passed on to others?

Answers may vary.

What is something you can do to encourage others to imitate Jesus?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Jesus, thank You for being the greatest Leader. Help me to follow You in the way I live my life so I can help others grow in their relationship with You. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: When can I lead others?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Timothy 4:12

There are many things you can't do when you are younger. You can't have a driver's license. You can't have a full-time job. You can't register to vote. All of these things require you to be a certain age to do them. Can you think of more things that you want to do but have to wait until you're older? There is one thing that doesn't have an age requirement, and you can do this right now, even if you're young. You can live your life to follow Jesus and be an example to those around you.

No matter your age, people are watching your life and the choices you make. Is the way you're living your life pointing people to God, or is it pointing people away from God? He can use you, no matter what age you are, to influence those around you. Your life makes a difference!

TALK ABOUT IT:

Does it matter to God how old you are when He's looking for someone to help lead others to Him?

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young." (1 Timothy 4:12)

What are five ways that today's Bible verse says we can set examples for those around us?

We should be an example by what we say, the way we live, our love, our faith, and our purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

What can happen when we aren't a good example?

Answers may vary.

Who may be watching your life that needs a good example to point them to Jesus?

Answers may vary.

What is one area that you need God's help in to be a better example to others?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, help me to always be mindful of other people watching my life. May the way I live my life lead others to You. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: Why should we have friends who help us grow in our faith?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Timothy 3:10–11

In order to get to know someone, you have to spend time together. It's not good enough just to have a quick conversation in the hallway at school or send them a quick text every few months. To get to know people, you have to spend time with them. And to get to know God, you have to spend time with Him—and other people who love God.

As we spend time with people who love Jesus, we can learn from them and help one other grow to be more like Jesus. Your friend may go through a hard time, and you can encourage him because you've gone through something hard, too. Or maybe you have some questions about God, and your friend has asked the same questions. She may have some help to share with you. As we spend time in relationship and friendship with other Christians, we can help to encourage each other in our relationship with God.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How do you think Timothy knew so much about Paul?

Timothy had spent time with Paul.

What are some things Timothy got to know about Paul?

What he taught, how he lived, what his purpose in life was, his faith, his patience, his love, his endurance, and the persecution and suffering he had endured (2 Timothy 3:10–11)

Why do we need friends who will encourage us and lead us toward Jesus?

Answers may vary.

How can we be the kind of friend who leads others to Jesus?

Answers may vary.

Who are some friends that you can talk with about Jesus?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, help me to surround myself with people who are leading me to grow in my relationship with You. Help me to be that same kind of friend to others. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: How can I help make disciples of all the nations?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Timothy 1:5–7, 13–14

Before firetrucks were used to put out fires, people came together to form what was called a bucket brigade. When there was fire, people grabbed empty buckets and formed a line that started at a water source and ended at the fire. Carefully, buckets of water would be passed down the line until the last person in the line threw the water on the fire to put the fire out. Everyone in the line had to work together to make sure that water was not spilled, buckets weren't dropped, and that water got to the fire as quickly as possible.

Think of Jesus as water and your life as a bucket. God wants us to bring His water, Jesus, to others—so we must keep sharing about Jesus with them! Jesus is our greatest treasure, and God wants for us to tell others about Him so they can choose to follow Him. We can pass on the truths of God's Word from person to person. As we all pass it on, the people of the world will have a chance to hear about Jesus. There will be growing disciples of Jesus who will continue to pass on His good news to others until He comes again.

TALK ABOUT IT:

In our Scripture reading, which two people passed on their faith to Timothy?

Timothy's grandmother Lois and Timothy's mother Eunice, who passed their faith on to Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5)

If you're nervous about telling others about Jesus, what are the three things God has given us to help us?

Power, love, and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7)

Can you name someone who has taught you about Jesus?

What are some of the ways that person taught you?

Answers will vary.

What are some ways you can teach the truth to those around you?

Answers may vary.

Who helps us guard the truth, and where does He live?

The Holy Spirit who lives within us (1 Timothy 1:14)

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for the people in my life who taught me about You. Help me carry Your truths to those around me and be part of making disciples of all the nations. Amen.

I SEND OTHERS

The BIG Answer:

God has a plan for me.

Memory Verse Challenge:

I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

- Philippians 3:14 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What will I face because of my faith?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Timothy 3:10–12

Some people are confused and think that being a Christian means that everything in your life should be perfect and easy. Do you believe that? It sounds really good, doesn't it? If that were true, there would be a line of people out the door of every church, wanting to be saved. But, when you read the Bible, you find examples of the opposite being true. Jesus never promised that following Him would be easy, but He did say that it would be worth it.

Paul's life was probably easier and more comfortable before he became a Christian. He probably had money, people knew who he was, and people respected him. When he became a Christian, he dealt with people rejecting him, throwing him in prison, and even trying to kill him. Why would he consider facing all of those things? His faith in Jesus was worth any cost to him. Paul knew that there was something far greater than he could ever find on earth in heaven—Jesus and the reward that comes to anyone who lives for Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who was Paul writing to in this passage of Scripture?

Timothy (2 Timothy 3:10)

In verse 10, what did Paul say that Timothy knew about him?

"What I teach, how I live, what my purpose in life is, ... my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance."

(2 Timothy 3:10)

Which three places did Paul mention that he was persecuted in?

Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra (2 Timothy 3:11)

Who will suffer persecution?

"Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:12)

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for giving me the opportunity to live for You. Help me to be willing to face anything for my faith just like Paul. Amen

DAY 2

Question of the Day: What is the most important truth?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Timothy 3:13–14

Knowing the truth is very important in our world today. There are a lot of confused people out there! And for Christians, the most important truth is everything God has said. Sadly, there are people who want to deceive you by making you not trust God's Word. This isn't new. The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were deceived by a snake into not trusting and obeying what God had said. And because they chose not to obey what God had said, they lost the wonderful life God had planned for them.

In today's Bible reading, Paul wrote to a young pastor named Timothy about the kinds of people who try to deceive others. He was telling Timothy, and all of us, to be faithful to God's truth. Timothy knew the truth because he grew up learning from God's Word in the Scriptures. The same can be true for us! One of the best ways we can know the difference between the truth and a lie is by knowing God's Word.

TALK ABOUT IT:

To what young pastor did Paul write two letters which are books of the Bible?

Timothy

Who did Paul say would flourish (prosper or succeed)?

Evil people and impostors (2 Timothy 3:13)

What will evil people and impostors do?

"They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived." (2 Timothy 3:13)

What did Paul tell Timothy to remain faithful to?

The things he had been taught (2 Timothy 3:14)

Why should Timothy have known that the things that he had been taught were true?

He could trust those who had taught them to him. (2 Timothy 3:14)

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for reminding me to be aware of the things and people who are distracting me from You. Help me to put the distractions aside and spend time in Your Word every day. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What can we learn from God's Word?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Timothy 3:15

The obvious answer to the Question of the Day is, everything we need to know. But let's dig deeper into what Paul had told Timothy he had learned from Scripture. Timothy had the privilege of being taught "from childhood" about the holy Scriptures. What about you?

Paul was reminding Timothy of how fortunate he was to have been taught about God's Word his entire life. Timothy probably had wisdom and knowledge that other people his age didn't have because he had spent his whole life learning the Word of God.

If you have been taught God's Word for as long as you can remember, you are like Timothy. Don't decide that reading the Bible isn't as fun or interesting as other things you might have to do like sports, reading, playing video games, or just spending time with your family and friends. Don't take for granted the privilege you have to be taught and spend time in God's Word now. God's Word has everything you need, but you have to make the time to read it and learn what it says.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How long had Timothy been taught the holy Scriptures?

From childhood (2 Timothy 3:15)

What gave Timothy wisdom?

The holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:15)

What did Timothy have the wisdom to receive because he had been taught the holy Scriptures?

Salvation (2 Timothy 3:15)

Who did Timothy trust in?

Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15)

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for giving us Your Word to help us. Help me to spend time reading or listening to Your Word and learning the truths found in the Bible every day. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: What makes the Bible so important?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Have you ever thought about why the Bible is so important? Take a moment and imagine trying to be a follower of Jesus without the Bible. Did you know that most people in the Bible didn't have Bibles in their homes? They may have had some of the Scripture we have today, but they would go to places of worship and to be taught the full Scripture. Some of the Bible was still being written.

Imagine if the people who lived in Bible times knew that one day there would be free access to the Bible on phones and devices that go with us everywhere. They would be so jealous!

But there may be days we forget to even look at our Bibles for a few minutes.

The Bible is literally God's message to us. Verse 16 tells us that all Scripture is inspired by God. That means every word in the Bible is there because God caused it to be there. The Bible is important because it's how we get to know God. We can't have a face-to-face conversation with God like we can with a school friend, but reading the Bible is pretty close. If your best friend wrote a book, would you read it? If you did, you would probably learn something new about the friend. We can learn new things about God and grow closer to Him by spending time reading His Word. That sounds pretty important.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is inspired by God?

All Scripture. (2 Timothy 3:16)

Why is Scripture useful?

It teaches us what is true and makes us realize what is wrong in our lives. (2 Timothy 3:16)

When does Scripture correct us?

When we are wrong (2 Timothy 3:16)

How does God use Scripture?

To prepare and equip us to do every good work (2 Timothy 3:17)

PRAY ABOUT IT:

God, thank You for showing me the importance of Your Word. Please help me to know when I am doing something wrong and give me the courage to do what is right. Amen.

JESUS IS COMING BACK

The BIG Answer:

Jesus is coming back.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”

- 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: How do you feel when something happens that you don't expect?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 24:35–44

If you knew the day or time that something was going to happen, like a birthday party or even something bad, like a weather disaster, you would be prepared and ready for it. As believers in Jesus, one of the biggest things we are waiting for is Jesus coming back. We should be so excited about this! We know that Jesus has promised that He will come back someday, but no one but His Father knows the day or time.

Because we don't know the day or time, what should we do while we wait for that day? We should make sure we are doing everything we can to tell other people—our friends, family, and neighbors—about Jesus and His gift of salvation. We need to be ready for Jesus to come back. We should make the most of our time until then, growing closer in our relationship with Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why should you be ready for Jesus to return at any time?

Because He may come when you're not expecting it, and you need to be ready (Matthew 24:44)

According to the Scripture we read, how will the day that Jesus returns be like "Noah's day"?

In Noah's time, people didn't realize what was coming. Then when the Flood came, it was too late because they weren't ready. (Matthew 24:37–39)

What would a homeowner do if he knew exactly when a burglar was coming?

He would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. (Matthew 24:43)

What can we learn from the homeowner example?

We also must be ready all the time for Jesus to return. (Matthew 24:44)

What are things we should do daily as we wait for Jesus to come back?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for the promise that someday Your Son Jesus will come back to earth. While I'm waiting for His return, I pray that I will grow in my walk with You. God, I pray that I will be wise and not like the people of Noah's day. Help me to become the person You have called me to be. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: What is something you do when you wait for something?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Peter 3:8–13

Only God the Father knows what day and time Jesus will come back, but we have the promise that Jesus will come back someday. Some people say that Jesus won't ever come back. But we know that God's Word is true, and it gives us the promise of His return. While we wait for His return, we have the job of telling others about Jesus. Second Peter 3:9 says God is patient because He wants all people to hear about Jesus and have the opportunity to accept Him as their Lord and Savior.

TALK ABOUT IT:

If someone says that Jesus is too slow in returning, what can you tell them?

"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent." (2 Peter 3:9)

What can you answer when someone says that Jesus is not going to return at all?

Answers may vary. You can tell them about your relationship with Him that is built on trust and on what He has done in your life.

What can you do while we wait for Jesus to return?

Tell others about Jesus!

What are Christians looking forward to, according to 2 Peter 3:13?

"The new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13)

Who is someone you can tell about Jesus this week?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for the promise of Your Son Jesus' return. God, there are so many people who don't know about You. I pray that while we wait for Jesus to come back, that we will do our part in telling others about You. May more and more people hear about You and choose to follow You. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What do you think heaven is like?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

These verses are filled with hope. They tell us how to think about other Christians who have died: We'll see them again when Jesus comes back! Because Jesus died and was raised back to life, He defeated death. This means we can trust God for life with Him after death. People who put their faith in Jesus get to spend eternity with Him after they die. This is why we can have hope that we will see them again. These verses tell people to encourage each other with these words—and there is much to be encouraged about today.

TALK ABOUT IT:

When believers die and we are sad, we can still have hope. Why?

From childhood (2 Timothy 3:15) Because we will see them again (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14)

What will happen to believers who have died?

They will be with Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

What are some things that 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says will happen when the Lord returns?

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

How long will the believers be with the Lord?

Forever (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

What do you think that day will be like when Jesus returns?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for the promise that we will see our loved ones who are believers again. I thank You that Jesus overcame death. God, I thank You for the hope we find in You alone. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: Have you told someone that Jesus died for them?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:50–58

Did you know that nothing you do for Jesus is ever useless? These verses explain why: Jesus is still alive! He defeated death so that we can live with Him forever. Death can seem like a loss, but it will not be a loss for people who know Jesus. It will be a victory, because then we get to live with Him forever in new bodies that don't die. We can have faith that this will happen because we know that Jesus has already defeated death. So we can be strong because victory is on the way. We can tell other people what Jesus did for them. Then they can know true victory, too!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does 1 Corinthians 15 say will happen to our bodies?

They will be changed into ones that can live forever. (1 Corinthians 15:51–53)

How can we have victory over both sin and death?

By accepting Jesus' death for our sins and His victory over the grave (1 Corinthians 15:57)

What challenge for us is found in 1 Corinthians 15:58?

To be strong and immovable and to always work enthusiastically for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Why is nothing we do for the Lord useless?

Answers may vary.

How can the Lord use you?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for giving us ultimate victory in Jesus and in what He did on the Cross. I pray that You will use my life so that others will come to know who You are. Amen.

JESUS WANTS ME TO FINISH STRONG

The BIG Answer:

Jesus wants me to be ready.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”

- 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: Did you ever forget to prepare for something important?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: James 1:19–21

God wants us to do things to prepare for when Jesus comes back. It may seem like Jesus is taking a long time to return, just like the bridegroom took a long time to show up in today's Bible story. Half of the bridesmaids were prepared, and half were not. The ones who weren't prepared couldn't go to the feast because they were still getting ready.

Jesus told us this story so we would not be like that. Even when it feels like we're waiting a long time for Jesus to come back, we can still be ready. We can be ready by having a relationship with God and growing closer to Him. We do that by reading our Bible, talking to and listening to God, and going to church. And we do all that to know God and tell others about Him so they can know Him too! That way they will be ready when Jesus comes back to take us to be with Him forever.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why were the five bridesmaids foolish?

They didn't take enough oil for their lamps. (Matthew 25:3)

What happened when the foolish bridesmaids left to buy more oil?

The bridegroom came, and they missed him.

Are you ready for when Jesus returns?

Answers may vary.

What does Jesus say about the day or hour of His return?

No one knows when it will happen. (Matthew 25:13)

What can you do to prepare for Jesus' return?

Answers may vary but could include spend time with other Christians, read the Bible, and pray.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, I pray that in this time of waiting, You will prepare my heart and help those around me come to know You more and more. I thank You for the promise that Jesus is coming again. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: What is something you want to do in life?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Hebrews 12:1–3

Think of the Christian life like a long race. If you want to win a race, you'll avoid tripping over things and wearing too heavy clothing, right? But sin tries to make us lose the race: It trips us up and weighs us down. So what do we do? Hebrews 12:1 tells us to strip off the weights and not get tripped up. Another way to say that is we need to say no to sin. How do we do this?

Hebrews 12:1 tells us we're surrounded by a "huge crowd of witnesses"—people who have lived for God and are now in heaven, cheering us on. We can remember that many people have said no to sin and yes to God, and that can encourage us to keep saying yes to God. God has a plan and a purpose for your life. He wants you to make the choice to be close to Him and to enjoy all the good things He has planned for your life.

One of the things that will help us stay on the path that He has set before us is to make the daily choice to keep our eyes on Jesus. So align yourself with what God is speaking to you in the Bible and in prayer and follow Him. It is one of the best choices that you can make!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is one weight that slows us down in our Christian life?

Sin (Hebrews 12:1)

How does sin slow us down?

It trips us up. (Hebrews 12:1)

Who are people in your life who do a good job of saying no to sin?

Answers will vary.

How do you choose daily to keep your eyes on Jesus?

Answers may vary.

We won't become weary and give up when we think of what Jesus endured. What does Hebrews 12:2 say He endured?

He endured the Cross, disregarded its shame, and is now seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. (Hebrews 12:2)

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to live as my example, die for my sins, and live forever. I know that when I focus on Jesus, I won't give up. Help me to remember what He did and remember that many people have said yes to You. Then I will be encouraged to keep running my race for You! Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: What is a faithful person?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: 2 Timothy 4:5–8

In these verses, the apostle Paul says he remained faithful. Do you know what the word faithful means? It means that you stick with something, and you keep doing and believing it. You may have a favorite sports team, and you might be a faithful fan of that team, even when they lose. You may have a favorite breakfast cereal that you faithfully eat every day and never get tired of it.

God wants our faithfulness to Him through all of life, in good times and bad. When you are walking through a hard time, it is important to draw closer to God. You can know that He is right there with you and that you can turn to Him. He is with always with you. He never leaves you and you can always turn to Him. Like 2 Timothy 4:8 says, the crown of righteousness is the prize for everyone who lives faithfully for Jesus. But the prize is also Jesus himself; faithful people eagerly look forward to when He comes back!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does it mean when Paul said he had “fought the good fight” and “finished the race”?
His life was almost over and he had been faithful to follow Jesus. (2 Timothy 4:7)

Who will Jesus give an award for faithfulness?

Paul, and all who eagerly look forward to Jesus' appearing (2 Timothy 4:8)

In what ways can you stay faithful in your walk with God?

Answers may vary.

When was a time you struggled in your walk with God?

Answers will vary.

Who are Christians you know who have fought the good fight, finished the race, and remained faithful to Jesus?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, I pray that in the good times and bad times that I will choose to follow You. I thank You that You are with me always, and I thank You for giving me examples of faithfulness in the lives of Paul and others. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: How important is it to you to know Jesus?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Philippians 3:10–14

Paul, the author of these verses, had a life with many adventures and did many things, good and bad. But here he wrote that everything in his life was worthless compared to knowing Christ Jesus, his Lord. Paul didn't let his past hold him down. He knew his future with Jesus was so much better! God's greatest gift is the gift of salvation. Not only will we get to know God in the future in heaven, but we can know Him now!

Paul said that knowing Jesus was the most important thing in his life. We can know Jesus today by talking to Him, reading His Word, and listening to what He says to us so we can share it with others. Even if we have a life of adventure like Paul, we know that no adventure is better than knowing God!

TALK ABOUT IT:

How can focusing on our past keep us from knowing God in the future?

Answers will vary.

What does it mean when Paul said he was “looking forward to what lies ahead”?

He knew where his future would take him—to be with Jesus eternally.

What “race” are believers in?

Life

What do you think “heavenly prize” is referring to?

Eternity with God

In what ways does God want you to know Him more?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You that nothing and no one is better than You. Thank You that I can leave my past behind and follow You every day. I pray that I will know You more and more. Amen.

JESUS WILL JUDGE ALL PEOPLE

The BIG Answer:

Jesus gives me a choice.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”

- 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: If Jesus asked if you believe in Him, what would you say?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: John 5:24–30

The most important decision you will ever make is choosing to follow Jesus and asking Him to forgive your sins. That's because everyone will stand before Jesus someday. Bible verses like John 5:28–29 tell us this. Jesus will ask each person if they believed in and followed Him. That means He will ask you, too! What's your answer?

Jesus said that those who believe in God will live eternally with Him. They will live doing good things because they know and love God. When they die, they will live with Him forever in heaven. God loves us so much that He has given us the choice to accept His gift of salvation. What will you choose? No one can choose for you. Your parents can't, your pastor can't, only you can. God can help you make the right choice. Just ask Him!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What will happen to those who listen to and obey what Jesus says and believe in God?

They will have eternal life. (John 5:24)

Who is the Son of God mentioned in these verses?

Jesus

Who will hear the voice of the Son of God?

Everyone, including people who have died (John 5:28)

What authority has God given to Jesus?

The authority to be the judge of everyone (John 5:27)

Why is our choice to follow God important?

Where we will spend eternity is determined by our choice.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You Lord for the gift of salvation. Thank You for loving me so much that You sent Jesus to die for me so that my sins can be forgiven, and I can have eternal life through Him alone. God, I pray that my life will reflect Your love for me to others so they can know You. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: Why do you think God sent His Son into the world?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: John 3:16–21

Have you ever played Hide and Seek in the dark? It's tough to find people who are hiding, but in the dark it's even more of a challenge. When you find someone, they have to come into the light. They're not supposed to stay in the dark forever.

Jesus is like a seeker. He finds people all over the world who are hidden in the darkness of sin. Our Bible reading today is about Jesus coming into our world to bring light from God. The world was dark without Him. People who live without Jesus spend their life in the darkness of sin. And when they die, they will not live forever with Jesus. That is real darkness!

Today's Scripture shows that we have a choice in what we do with the light of Jesus. Some people hate His light because they are afraid that the bad things they do will be found out. Other people love His light and are doing what God wants. What's your choice? We have all done bad things, but when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, His light comes into our life. Remember that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people. Let His light in today!

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who brought the light of God into the world?

Jesus

John 3:17 says that God didn't send His Son into the world to judge it but to do what?

"God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:17)

Why do you think some people don't want the light of Jesus?

Answers may vary.

Have you told Jesus that you want His light to guide your life?

Answers may vary.

Who can you tell about the light and love of Jesus this week?

Answers may vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, I thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to bring Your light to the world. Jesus, thank You for showing how much You love everyone by dying for our sins. I choose to live in Your light today so that I can live with You now and forever. Help me to share Your light with people around me who are in darkness. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: Have you made the choice to follow Jesus?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Revelation 21:22–27

In the New Testament, Jesus is often called the Lamb of God because He took away the sins of the world by dying for us. When we believe in and follow Jesus, our name is written in His Book—called the Lamb’s Book of Life. If we choose not to believe in and follow Jesus, our name is not in the Book of Life. People whose names are not written in it will not spend eternity with God. This Scripture shows us how truly important that decision is. If your name is in this Book, you will live with God in a city He has made just for His people! Can you imagine living in God’s city? These verses tell us it will be amazing. Choose to follow Jesus!

TALK ABOUT IT:

When Revelation 21 describes God’s city (the place where God will live with humans in eternity), why is there no temple—a place for people to meet God?

Because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple (Revelation 21:22)

Why does God’s city not need the sun or moon?

Because the glory of God illuminates or shines light in the city, and the Lamb is its light (Revelation 21:23)

Who will not be allowed to enter this city?

People who practice shameful idolatry and dishonesty—people who practice evil whose names are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Revelation 21:27)

Is your name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life?

“Everything is peaceful and secure.” (1 Thessalonians 5:3) Answers will vary.

Who can you tell about Jesus and the Lamb’s Book of Life?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for creating a city where You will live with us! We can’t wait to live with You forever. When we struggle with doubt or fear, please remind us that our name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. And please give us courage to tell others so they can choose to believe in Jesus and have their name in the Book of Life, too. Your promises are too good to miss out on. We love You. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: Why do you think God made the world the way He did?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Acts 17:24–31

This passage talks about who God is and why He made the world the way He did. The verses tell us that He made everything and everyone. He knew where people would live, which countries would be made, and what their borders would be. Why did He do this?

Verse 27 gives us the answer: “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God.” Did people do this? Not often. Verse 30 explains how it is now: “Now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him.” The choice is still ours. We can come to God or say no to following and obeying Him. He always gives us that choice. How can we know that Jesus is the right choice? Because He died for our sins and rose from the dead. He is alive and promises to live with us forever.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Is God far away from any one of us?

No, He is not far from any of us. (Acts 17:27)

What does God tell us to do, according to Acts 17:30?

To repent of our sins and turn to Him

Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins?

Answers will vary.

Acts 17:31 says God will have Someone who has risen from the dead judge the world. Who is that?

Jesus

God created everything and everyone so that they would seek Him. Who can you tell about Jesus?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for creating everything and everyone so that we would seek You. Thank You that Jesus made a way for us to find You! Thank You for sending Jesus to die for our sins. We ask You to forgive our sins and live with us now and in eternity. Amen.

JESUS WILL REWARD HIS PEOPLE

The BIG Answer:

Jesus rewards His people.

Memory Verse Challenge:

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”

- 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT) -

DAY 1

Question of the Day: What does it mean to judge someone?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Matthew 7:1–5

Have you ever judged anyone before? That means that you think they are wrong or have done something bad. Maybe you judged someone who hurt you or is different from you in the way they look or the way they do things. The Bible tells us that if we judge others, we'll receive that same kind of judgment back on us. Would we like that? Only if we made a good judgment about that person!

The Bible teaches us that we should treat others the same way that we want to be treated. Even if someone does something wrong, we can respond with love and compassion, just like Jesus looks at our actions. Jesus is patient with you when you sin and teaches you about turning away from sin. And that's the way you should treat other people. The more we listen to this Bible passage, the more we can show His love to others.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What happens when you judge others?

You will be judged the same way. (Matthew 7:1–2)

How should you treat others?

The same way you want to be treated (Matthew 7:2)

When was a time you have judged someone?

Answers will vary.

Tell about a time when someone judged you.

Answers will vary.

How can you choose to love others?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, I pray that You help me see people the way that You see them and to love them as they are. I ask for forgiveness of my own sins so that I have understanding and patience when other people sin. Help my life reflect Your love to everyone I meet. Amen.

DAY 2

Question of the Day: Do you ever get tired of doing good?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Galatians 6:7–10

Have you ever planted seeds for fruit or vegetables? If you have, you know that the seed you plant is the type of food that will grow. You won't plant apple seeds and get carrots!

These Bible verses tell us the same thing: If you have asked Jesus to forgive your sins and your everyday actions please God, at the end of your life you will receive eternal life with Him and His people. If you haven't asked Jesus to forgive your sins and your everyday actions are selfish and don't show love for God and others, you won't live with God in eternity. It's impossible.

So, if you ever get tired of doing good, of living for God, remember that you are still planting seeds of good things that will one day grow into eternal life. So don't give up! Your good choices are never wasted.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do you think "you will always harvest what you plant" means in Galatians 6:7?

It means doing good things leads to receiving good things, doing bad things leads to receiving bad things.

In what ways do you see people living only for themselves?

Answers may vary.

What will you reap if you don't give up on doing good?

"A harvest of blessing" (Galatians 6:9)

How can you "do good to everyone" today?

Answers will vary.

How can you encourage people who are tired of doing good?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for giving us these verses for when we are tired of doing good. Thank You for promising that what we plant, we will harvest—much good and eternal life! Please help me see others the way You see them so that I can share Your love with everyone I meet. Amen.

DAY 3

Question of the Day: Do Christians ever make mistakes and sin?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: Romans 14:7–13

God tells us through these verses that what we do matters to Him—and to other people. Have you ever fought with another Christian? God tells us not to do that because it shows that we've forgotten that we're on the same team: we are both following God. If you're on a sports team, you shouldn't fight with your teammates, right? It doesn't help your team if you do that.

Romans 14:10 asks, "Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God." Christians are all teammates with God as our Coach. We can't be the coach in someone else's life. We must all listen to and obey God. When we don't, we've made a mistake.

Christians can make mistakes. They're human! Instead of making the mistake of fighting with another Christian, we can ask God to help us both. Romans 14:13 says: "So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall."

We have choices on how we should live our life. We can live our life bringing pain and hurt to others, or we can live our life so that others can experience God's love and grow in their walk with Him. How we treat others is important. God rewards our good choices with more peace in our relationships and with eternal life with Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Christians don't live or die for themselves. For whom do they live or die?

The Lord (Romans 14:8)

Why did Christ die and rise again?

"Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead." (Romans 14:9).

Instead of condemning and looking down on other believers, how should we live instead?

"Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall." (Romans 14:13)

How can we trip another Christian and make them stumble and fall?

Answers may vary, including with hurtful words.

If there's a Christian you're fighting with right now, how can you change your behavior?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for reminding me that other believers and I are on the same team—Your team. Please help me not to trip others with my words and actions. Help me instead to encourage them to be more like You! We will all give account of our life to You, and I'm so thankful that Jesus died in my place. Help me to be more like You in the way I treat other people. Amen.

DAY 4

Question of the Day: What does mercy mean and when was the last time you showed mercy to someone?

READ ABOUT IT:

Read: James 2:8–13

The word mercy shows up many times in the Bible, so we need to know what it means. Mercy is the kindness we show to others when they do something wrong to us. Mercy means not getting back at people. If someone pushes us down and we don't push back, we are showing mercy. If someone steals our school supplies and we don't steal their things, that's mercy.

Do you know why the Bible talks about mercy so often? It's because God showed mercy to us—and to everyone on earth! Our Scripture today starts out by telling us one of God's oldest laws: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (James 2:8; Leviticus 19:18). That means to treat other people as we wanted to be treated. When someone hurts us and we hurt them back, we're actually breaking God's law!

Everybody has broken God's law. But God showed mercy by offering us another chance at life. He knew that our wrongs deserve punishment, but instead of punishing us right then, Jesus came to our world and died for us! That is the most mercy anyone can ever give. When we show mercy, God rewards us by showing us more mercy. So, let's show mercy today.

TALK ABOUT IT:

When has someone shown you mercy (not punished you for something wrong you did)? How did that make you feel?

Those who accept Christ [Jesus] as Savior and whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life
Answers will vary.

Is it hard for you to show mercy to others?

Answers will vary.

How have we already received mercy from God?

Jesus died for our sins.

What does James 2:13 say God will do if we have been merciful to someone else?

"But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you."

Who can you show mercy to today?

Answers will vary.

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Dear God, thank You for showing me and the whole world so much mercy. Please help me to show mercy to others. I could never show anyone as much mercy as You have shown me! I pray that more people will accept Your mercy and will love their neighbors as themselves—just like You have told us to do in the Bible. I love You. Amen.

