

Together Time

God Made a World for People: Genesis 1:1-25

Family Talk

This week your child learned about God's creation of the world and

everything in it. Your child learned that we can worship God for who He is and what He has made.

God looked at what He had made and said, "It is good." We can say that too. Take time this week to look at God's creation and share with one another how good God is. Point out beautiful sights in nature and talk about God's amazing creation. Share vocally how thankful you are for a sunny day or needed rain. Take advantage of teachable moments while riding in a car, eating breakfast, and venturing out to get the mail.



Bible Memory FUN

Psalm 139:14

Find this verse in a family Bible. Write the Bible words on white paper. Using washable ink, collect each person's

fingerprints on the paper. Say the verse together.

This week, help your child remember:

God made the world.

Family Fun...

Animal Charades. Children love to role-play. Let one person silently act out any animal he chooses. The other family members have to guess the animal. Whoever guesses right gets to go next. Remind children not to speak or make animal sounds—just move their bodies like the animals. Thank God for the wonderful things that He made in the world!

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God made the world, and it is good!

God, thank You for making the bright sun to light the daytime.

Thank You, God, for making tall trees.

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



Together Time

God Made Adam and Eve: Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7, 8, 18-23

Family Talk

This week your child learned about God's special creation of people. God wants

us to take good care of the bodies He made for us. Choose healthy snacks during the day and teach your children why they should try to eat foods that are good for them.

Children also need to be taught to value their bodies by getting enough sleep and exercising regularly. When it is too cold to play outside, play praise songs and exercise or dance together. Sing "Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes," while motioning to the named body parts. Keep singing, speeding up each time, until you can't keep up any longer.

Thank God daily in prayer for your health and the health or healing of others.



Bible Memory FUN

Psalm 139:14

Find this verse in a family Bible. As a family, brainstorm hand motions to symbolize selected words of the

Bible verse. Say the verse as you do the motions.

This week, help your child remember:

God made people.

Family Fun...

Surprise Birthday Party. Surprise the family with a birthday party after dinner one evening. Make a cake, display balloons, and show baby pictures of each family member. Have fun recalling special birthdays and memories. Share how you felt when you first saw how God created your child. Close the party by thanking God for making each person in your family.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

Thank You, God, for making people!

God, thank You for making our ears so we can listen.

Thank You, God, for giving us eyes to see.

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



Together Time

God Made My Senses: Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:8, 15, 16; Proverbs 20:12

Family Talk

Praising and thanking God is an important way to honor

God. It is an expression of our love and respect for Him. Young children praise and honor God when they sing to Him, when they make statements about Him, and when they pray.

During a family devotional time include praise sentences, prayers, and songs. Spend time thanking God for creating each family member. Share how God has made each family member special and unique.

Encourage everyone to name ways they are alike and different. Praise God for making people with such wonderful and varied interests, looks, feelings, and abilities. Celebrate the uniqueness of God's special people!

Bible Memory FUN

Psalm 139:14

Find this verse in a family Bible. Trace and cut out a paper hand. Place the hand at a table setting. The hand will mark who leads the quoting of the Bible verse.

This week, help your child remember:

God made people special.



Family Fun...

Family Fun Night. Invite family members and friends to join in a Family Fun Night. Play table games, venture to a local park, or play backyard ball games. Take a small break during the fun to share how thankful you are for both family and friends. Thank God for giving special people who can enjoy fun activities with you.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

Thank You, God, for being my friend.

Help me, God, to be a good friend.

Thank You, God, for my friend (name).

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



Together Time

God Made Me Special: Genesis 1:26-31; 2:19, 20; Psalm 8; 139:13-16; Matthew 10:30

Family Talk

Remember when your child discovered her hand for the first time? Those big

eyes realizing, as the hand moved, that it was attached. Children have a natural curiosity about the world. It is not long before sharp, young minds can begin to understand that God made each of us special.

Children soon notice differences in eye color, hair color, skin color, and so on. Take advantage of informal opportunities when children are exploring their world to talk about God the creator.

During the early years, you can have a significant impact on your child's appreciation of people and our wonderful creator. Look for times when you can reinforce your child's knowledge of God's presence, goodness, and power.



Bible Memory FUN

Psalm 139:14

Find this verse in a family Bible. Using the words to the verse, create a rhyme or rhythm you can

repeat together throughout the week.

This week, help your child remember:

God made each of us special.

Family Fun...

Mirror, Mirror. Gather your family around a wall mirror or provide a handheld mirror. As everyone looks in the mirror, point out likenesses and differences. What color are each person's eyes? hair? Is the person short or tall? Which family members have family traits, such as a dimple in the chin? Ask each person to look in the mirror and show a look of heartfelt gratitude as you thank God for making that person special.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

Wow! God made me special!

Dear Lord, thank You for making me.

I praise You, God, in my own special way.

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



Together Time

Moses Is Born: Exodus 2:1-10

Family Talk

A child experiences faith and trust as his needs are

met by loving caregivers. Ultimately this knowledge of faith and trust leads to an understanding of who God is.

Have you ever considered how essential God is to every aspect of life? Children need to have their deepest needs met by knowing that God made them and loves them. All the challenges they will ever encounter in their lifetimes can be faced with the knowledge of God's presence in their lives. Treasure those valuable moments when you can share with your children how much God loves them and cares for them each and every day.



Bible Memory FUN

Psalm 105:1

Find this verse in a family Bible. Create a prayer card with the Bible verse written on it. During family prayer times,

thank God for the Bible and recite the verse together.

This week, help your child remember:

God cares for us.

Family Fun...

Family Banner. As a family, think about all the ways God cares for you.

On a piece of poster board, have each family member draw pictures illustrating the ways that God cares for him. Share the pictures and thank God for all the ways He cares for your family. Display the family masterpiece in a spot where it can be seen as a daily reminder of God's constant and wonderful care.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God cares for me!

Thank You, God, for caring for baby Moses.

God, help me remember that You are always with me.

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



Together Time

Moses Leads God's People: Exodus 3:10; 7-12; 13:17-22

Family Talk

We have all heard how important praise and encouragement

are to children. As children grow, they need to hear frequent positive messages from others to gain a balanced and healthy self-worth and to know what is right and good about the choices they make.

Sometimes being a good encourager takes practice. Try using these phrases with your children: "You can do it. I believe in you!" "You tried hard, and that is important." "Let's try that again—together." How refreshed we feel when someone comes alongside of us and says positive words that motivate and encourage us in our choices. Let's commit ourselves to doing the same for our children.



Bible Memory FUN

Psalm 105:1

Find this verse in a family Bible. Toss a ball or beanbag back and forth. Whoever catches the ball, can recite the Bible verse.

This week, help your child remember:

God is always with us.

Family Fun...

God Cares. Children (of all ages!) love creative activities where they can express themselves. Prepare an area on a table with a protective covering. Provide paper, paints, glitter, and so on. Ask each family member to create a picture that shows a way God cares for your family. After the pictures dry, hang them as reminders that God always cares for us.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God helped Moses and the people!
 God, thank You for being with Moses.
 Thank You, God, for always being with us.

Articles by
 Wendy Wagoner



Together Time

God's People Cross the Red Sea: Exodus 13:17, 18; 14; 15:1, 2, 20, 21

Family Talk

Children usually believe that almost anything is possible for

them to do. They sometimes say "I can do it" when the task is actually beyond their physical capabilities. A child's enthusiasm to take on a difficult task might put the child at risk, but that same enthusiasm can also motivate the child to learn and accomplish great things.

What a wonderful moment it must have been for the Israelites to watch the waters of the Red Sea part! What seemed impossible to the people, God could do. God cared deeply for the people of Israel, and God cares for us too. Talk to your child about God's care and His power. Encourage your child to do all that he can with God's power working through him.



Bible Memory FUN

Psalm 105:1

Find this verse in a family Bible. Sit in a circle. Have family members pop up and tell why they are thankful to God. After

each thanks, shout together the Bible verse.

This week, help your child remember:

God helps us when we are afraid.

Family Fun...

Red Sea Bottle. Start with a clear plastic soda bottle. Using a funnel, fill the bottle half full of water. Add a few drops of red food coloring and several drops of baby oil. For additional effect, add glitter or metallic confetti shaped like fish. Screw on the lid and shake to mix. Secure with duct tape. Turn the bottle sideways or upside down to make "waves." Talk about how God helped the Israelites cross the Red Sea.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

Thank You, God, for helping the people of Israel.

God helps me when I am afraid.

God, You are great and very powerful!

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



Together Time

God Provides for His People: Exodus 16:1-8, 13-17, 31, 35; 17:1-6

Family Talk

Every child needs a place where she can feel safe and

secure—both physically and emotionally. Children must have their daily physical needs met—food, shelter, clothing. They need to feel safe physically from ghosts, darkness, and kidnapping. Children also need to feel safe emotionally from the rejection or belittling of others.

God recognized these same needs in the Israelites when He provided for their daily needs—meat and bread from the sky, water from a rock, and so forth. As you provide for your child's needs, rest assured that God will provide for your needs. Teach your child that she can trust you because you trust God.



Bible Memory FUN

Psalm 105:1

Find this verse in a family Bible. Pick a street or road that is commonly used during the week and name it "Bible Verse Lane." Every time you and your

child travel down that street, say the Bible verse together.

This week, help your child remember:

God gives us what we need.

Family Fun...

Blessings Collage. Have each family member find and cut out pictures from magazines that represent items we need and which God provides for the family. Glue the pictures onto a piece of poster board. Display the family masterpiece and thank God for all the ways He blesses your family.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

Thank You, God, for food to eat.

God, thank You for giving us
(list needed items).

God provides for me!

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



Together Time

God Gives 10 Rules: Exodus 19:1-9; 20:1-18; 24:12, 15-18; 32:15, 16

Family Talk

This week your child learned that God gave to Moses

and His people 10 good rules to obey. Ask your child why God gave us rules. Talk about how God's rules help us remember that God is to be first in our lives. Obeying God's rules keeps us safe and happy.

Discuss the rules you have for your children. The rule about holding an adult's hand to cross the street is to keep your child safe. Rules about eating fruits and vegetables or taking vitamins are to keep his body healthy. Help your child understand that following rules is a good thing to do.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God, help me to obey Your words in the Bible.

Thank You, God, for people who teach me good rules to obey.

I will obey God's rules!

Bible Memory FUN

Psalm 105:1

Find and mark this verse in a family Bible. Begin each family prayer time this week by reciting the Bible verse together.

This week, help your child remember:

God gives us good rules to obey.



Family Fun...

Obeying Role Plays. Brainstorm rules from God and household rules we are to obey. Examples: "Share with my sister"; "Wash hands before dinner"; "Use God's name only with respect." Write each rule on a separate piece of paper. Place the papers in a paper bag. Take turns drawing out slips of paper and acting out the rules. (This can be fun if Mom or Dad selects a paper that states one of the children's rules!)

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



Together Time

Joshua and Caleb: Numbers 13–14:9

Family Talk

When you were a child was there something you were afraid of?

Were you afraid of the dark, certain animals, or shadows in the closet? How did you respond to those fears?

As a parent, you will need to help your children understand and grow in their ability to overcome fears. Recognize a child's fears no matter how silly or small those fears seem to you. Read stories of other children who have experienced similar fears.

The Bible talks about fear and reminds us that perfect love drives out fear. Love and encourage your children so that they become confident of God's love and care for them.



Bible Memory FUN

Joshua 24:24

Find this verse in a family Bible. Make a door sign that includes the verse. Each time you walk through the door, recite the Bible verse.

This week, help your child remember:

God is powerful. He will help us.

Family Fun...

Fear Not! Gather your family and talk about circumstances that make individual family members afraid—the dark, a storm, big dogs, and so forth. After each fear is named, draw a picture to illustrate the fear. Make a circle by holding hands and place the pictures in the center of the circle. Say together, "We have the Lord. Don't be afraid." Read from the Bible, sing a praise song, and pray to demonstrate how God is with us when we are afraid.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

Thank You, God, for helping me.

The Lord is powerful!

The Lord is with me. I will not be afraid!

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



Together Time

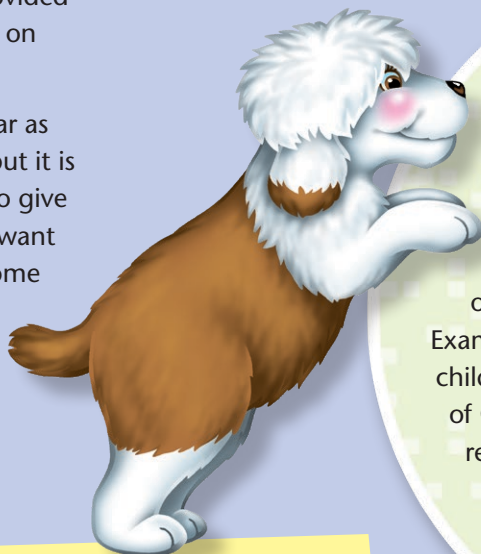
God's People Cross the Jordan River: Joshua 1:1-11; 3:5-4:24

Family Talk

In the Old Testament, we can read of many moments of victory and

treasured assurances from God that were marked by piling stones as altars. The altars were testimonies of what God had done, both for the people of that time and for their children to come. The altars provided opportunities for the people to focus on God's greatness and love.

You may not celebrate around an altar as people did in Old Testament times, but it is important for your family to gather to give thanks for God's provision. You may want to set aside a special place in your home where your family can gather for prayer. Teach your children how to word simple prayers of praise to God.



Bible Memory FUN

Joshua 24:24

Find this verse in a family Bible. Help your child find the verse in his own Bible and then state the verse together.

This week, help your child remember:

God is powerful. He is with us.

Family Fun...

Memory March. As a family, march from room to room in your house. Look around and find things that remind you of how God has been with your family.

Examples: a child's bed reminds you of the child's birth; a medicine cabinet reminds you of God's healing a sickness; the kitchen stove reminds you of safety from a grease fire.

Praise God because He is with you.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God, thank You for helping Your people cross the Jordan River.

Thank You, God, for always being with us.

God is powerful!

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



Together Time

The Fall of Jericho: Joshua 6:1-16, 20

Family Talk

What might the soldiers of Israel have been thinking as they marched from day to day around

the city of Jericho? Do you think they truly trusted Joshua's leadership in the battle? Did they question or complain? How did they feel when the walls of Jericho fell after those seven long days of wearisome marching?

Parenting can be a tough battleground. Often we must march into the battle without understanding God's direction. But God has promised that He will not give us more than we can handle. Demonstrate throughout your day how you are a faithful follower of Jesus. The daily trudge of battle is worth it when those little feet march in step with you, following God's truths.



Bible Memory FUN

Joshua 24:24

Find this verse in a family Bible. Walk around the house or neighborhood seven times, each time saying the Bible verse together.

This week, help your child remember:

God is powerful. We should obey Him.

Family Fun...

Act It Out. Act out the directions God gave to Joshua for the fall of Jericho. Instruct each family member to creatively find or make a pretend trumpet. Then like the Israelite soldiers, march around a room seven times. Count, "1-2-3-4-5-6." When you reach "7," the trumpets sound and everyone can shout. Fall to the ground, representing the wall of Jericho falling. Sit together and talk about how the Israelites obeyed God.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God helped the people of Israel take the city of Jericho!

Thank You, God, for Joshua's example to obey.

Help me, God, to obey and make good choices.

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



Together Time

Joshua Talks to God's People: Joshua 24:1-27

Family Talk

Preschool children are beginning to notice what is

happening in the world around them. Their conscience is beginning to develop. They know that it is right to share. It is wrong to hit. They love to please, so they are beginning to identify with the values of important people in their lives.

Now is the time when you can begin to make God and His Word relevant to your child's life. Regularly read Bible stories to your child. Plan projects that will help your child understand caring and loving and serving God and others. Like Joshua, you can be the one to lead your household to be one of praise and service to the Lord!



Bible Memory FUN

Joshua 24:24

Find this verse in a family Bible. Take a walk with your child. Every couple of steps, stop and recite the Bible verse.

This week, help your child remember:

God is powerful. We can serve Him.

Family Fun...

Family Stone. Find a large, flat stone to represent a rock solid foundation.

Together, paint on the stone the Bible words, "We will serve the Lord our God." Decorate and write each family member's name on the stone. Talk about how God is the faith foundation for your family. Place the stone outside near the entrance of your home. All who enter will see that your family serves the Lord God.

Daily Talks with God

Use these thoughts at mealtimes, bedtimes, or other times when you pray with your child this week.

God, You are powerful.

Thank You, God, for helping me to be strong.

I will do my work to please God and help others.

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