

Family Together Time

For families with children ages 3 to 6

Lesson 1

David Plays for Saul: 1 Samuel 16:14-23

Family Talk

Working together is a GREAT way to encourage children to tackle their jobs with enthusiasm.

Demonstrating how to help one another is a powerful teaching tool. Affirming a "job well done" goes a long way to encourage children to do their best work.

Resist the temptation to compare the quality of work of two or more family members. Instead, encourage each individual to do the best he can do. Allow reasonable amounts of time for jobs to be completed. Remind family members that doing the best they can do is part of making right choices. God is pleased when we make right choices and help others!

Daily Talks with God

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

God, I want to be Your special helper.

Thank You, God, for friends who help me.

God, help me to help others as David did.

Bible Memory FUN

Proverbs 17:17

Find this verse in a family Bible. Read the verse together. Draw pictures displaying the meaning of the verse, and share your pictures with one another.

This week, help your child remember:

God wants us to help others.



Family Fun...

Special Helper. Write kid-friendly jobs on slips of paper, such as "Get the mail," "Help with dinner," or "Put clothes away." Fold the slips of paper and place them in a container. Give each child an opportunity to draw out a "special helper" job each day. Find small ways to reward jobs completed. At the end of the week, discuss how you can look for opportunities to be special helpers.

Articles by
Wendy Wagoner



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Lesson 2

David Meets Goliath: 1 Samuel 17:1-24, 31-50

Family Talk

Preschoolers typically have many fears. Such fears can range from nonexistent monsters under the

bed to very real fears of Mommy and Daddy being mad at each other. All fears need to be acknowledged. Encourage children to share what they are afraid of, and then come up with ways to not be so fearful.

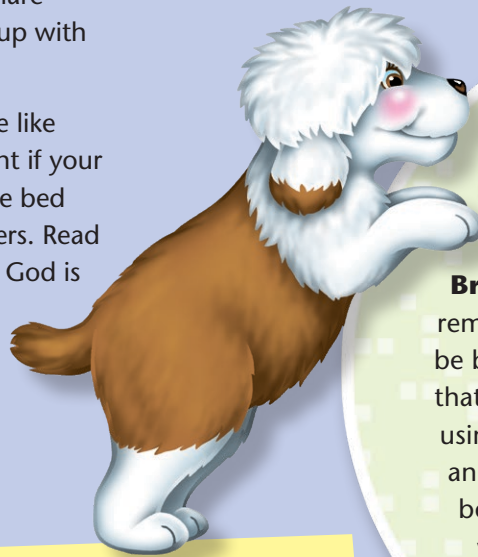
Explain that God can help us to be brave like David. Provide a flashlight or a night-light if your child is afraid of the dark. Look under the bed together to see that there are no monsters. Read Bible verses and reassure your child that God is always with us.

Bible Memory FUN

Proverbs 17:17

Find this verse in a family Bible. Write the Bible verse on a cutout paper heart. Place the heart in different locations. Each time the heart is spotted, shout the Bible verse.

This week, help your child remember:
God helps us to be brave.



Family Fun...

Bravery Stone. Create a visual reminder of how God helped David to be brave. Hunt for a midsize stone that can be decorated. Paint the stone using bright colors. Share a story about an experience when God helped you to be brave. Connect the story of David with the decorated stone. Place the stone where it can be a constant reminder of God's power to help us be brave.

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 us!
God, help me to be brave like David.
Thank You, God, for David's example
in the Bible.

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Lesson 3

David and Jonathan: 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:1-4, 11-31, 35-42

Family Talk

In today's Bible Time, your child learned about the deep friendship

between David, a shepherd, and Jonathan, the son of a king. Your child is becoming more social and is learning to participate with other children in group activities. He is beginning to understand the concept of friendship.

Share with your child how valuable friendships are. Tell him that you are sending a get-well card to a friend who is sick. Together, take food to a family you know who is in need. Explain that you are doing this because you want to show friendship and demonstrate your care. Your actions and words can reveal to your child the blessings of friendship.



Bible Memory FUN

Proverbs 17:17

Find this verse in a family Bible. Help your child think of a friend he can tell the verse to. Write or say the Bible verse to that friend.

This week, help your child remember:

God wants us to be good friends.

Family Fun...

Day at Play. Allow your child to invite one of his friends to come and play for the day. Think of fun activities to do together. For example: go to the park, make a special snack, play water games. During a quiet time, read the story of David and Jonathan from the Bible. Thank God for your special friend.

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).

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Lesson 4

David and Mephibosheth: 2 Samuel 9

Family Talk

Kindness is a "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22, 23) to be

practiced by all followers of Jesus. Your child will watch you and "catch" you practicing kindness—or not practicing it. Will she catch you being kind to family members? neighbors? friends? strangers?

In our fast-paced world, it is easy to overlook words and acts of kindness. Kindness requires an investment of time and energy. Developing the habit of demonstrating kind acts and using kind words is an important part of your child's growth process. Remember, a family focus on kindness will benefit your family for a lifetime!

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 David's example of kindness in the Bible.

God, help me show kindness to others.

Bible Memory FUN

Proverbs 17:17

Find this verse in a family Bible. Roll a ball back and forth with your child, repeating the Bible verse as the ball goes from one set of hands to the other.

This week, help your child remember:

God wants us to be kind.



Family Fun...

Family Kindness. Brainstorm a family project through which you can show kindness to someone in your neighborhood, church, or school. Think of people who would benefit from kind actions. Is there an elderly neighbor who needs help with yard work, a family with an illness who needs a meal, or a community project to get involved in? Explore the possibilities to see how your family can spread kindness to others.

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Lesson 5

David Sings to God: 2 Samuel 22:1-3, 50; Psalms 4:1, 8; 5:3; 23; 100; 122:1; 150

Family Talk

Today
your child
learned
how King
David

loved God very much. King David taught the people in his kingdom to sing to God. It is important for us to encourage our children to praise God and Jesus through song too.

Play children's praise CDs often at home and in the car. Sing praise songs with your child while taking a walk or doing a chore. Make up your own tunes and teach your child to sing words of praise such as, "God, I praise You. You are powerful." Sing and thank God for answered prayers. Together rejoice as King David did with songs of praise to God.

Bible Memory FUN

Deuteronomy 6:5

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

This week, help your child remember:

We can sing to God.



Family Fun...

Sing-Along. Pick a time during the week to have a family sing-along. Tell each family member to think of his favorite song to sing to God. During the sing-along, take turns leading in favorite praise songs. Between songs, share sentence prayers, thanking and praising God. Have fun as a family singing to God!

Daily Talks with God

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

God, I love to sing to You!

Hooray to You, God! You are great!

Thank You, God, for being so good to me.

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Lesson 6

Solomon Prays to Know What Is Right: 1 Kings 3:4-15; 4:29-34

Family Talk

King Solomon could have asked God for anything he wanted, but he

made the choice to ask for wisdom. God cares about the choices we make. Think about how you and your family make choices. Do you spend time as a family asking God to help you know right from wrong?

Involve your entire family in asking God for help in making right choices. Lead your child to ask for God's help in the daily choices she is making. Seeking God's help with daily family choices will demonstrate to your child that you depend on God just like Solomon—a wise, rich, and famous king!

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 be wise like Solomon.

Thank You, God, for hearing me when I pray.

Help me, God, to know right from wrong.

Bible Memory FUN

Deuteronomy 6:5

Find this verse in a family Bible. Mark a spot at the dinner table with a paper heart. The family member with the heart can lead in saying the Bible verse.

This week, help your child remember:

We can ask God to help us know right from wrong.



Family Fun...

Right or Wrong? Take turns acting out family situations that display right or wrong choices. Examples: brushing teeth (right choice), hitting a friend (wrong choice), sharing with a sister (right choice), writing on the wall (wrong choice). Have the rest of the family guess what action is being done. Show thumbs-up if an action displays a right choice or thumbs-down if the action is a wrong choice.

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Lesson 7

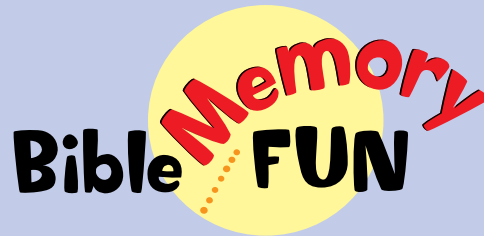
Solomon Builds the Temple: Selected verses from 1 Kings 5–8



Praising and thanking God are important ways to

honor God. They are expressions of our love and respect for Him. Children can honor God when they sing to Him, make statements about Him, and pray to Him.

Plan to have family devotional times. Set aside time in the morning, at mealtimes, or before going to bed. Read from a children's devotional book or a children's Bible. Include praise sentences, prayers, and songs. Spend time together as a family reading God's Word and praising Him. Such activities will help your family build strong foundations.



Deuteronomy 6:5

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

This week, help your child remember:

We can worship God.



Church Helpers. Choose a family project that can be done to help take care of your church building. Plant flowers outside the building. Pull weeds in flower beds. Pick up trash around the property. Offer to wash windows. (Be sure to clear your act of service with the person in charge of facilities.)

While cheerfully working together, thank God for a place to worship with family and friends.



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

Thank You, God, for the church who meets to worship You.

God, help me to show others how special You are.

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Family Together Time

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Lesson 8

Jehoshaphat Asks for God's Help: 2 Chronicles 17:1-6; 20:1-21, 30

Family Talk

Today your child learned that God heard King Jehoshaphat's

prayer when he was afraid, and God protected him. Everyone wants and needs to feel safe and protected, especially young children.

One of your main roles as a parent or caregiver is to provide a home that is full of love and where your child always feels protected. Think about the tone and volume of your voice. Strive for gentle actions (even when you need to be firm). Be full of reassuring words. Model to your child how to ask for God's protection.

When your child feels protected and trusts you, it will be easier for her to trust God also.



Bible Memory FUN

Deuteronomy 6:5

Find this verse in a family Bible. Clap your hands together in different rhythms and recite the Bible verse together.

This week, help your child remember:

We can ask God for His help.

Family Fun...

King Jehoshaphat. Find items around the house that could be used to dress up like a king—a dark-colored bathrobe, play jewelry, a crown made of aluminum foil. Help your child dress to look like King Jehoshaphat. Read the Bible story from 2 Chronicles 20:18-22. Talk about how Jehoshaphat was a good king who asked for God's help.

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 Your help.

Help me, God, to trust You and not be afraid.

Thank You, God, for loving me.

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Lesson 9

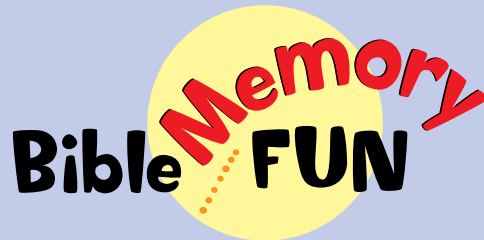
Josiah Reads God's Word: 2 Kings 22:1-10; 23:1-3, 25



As a follower of Jesus, it is important to listen to God and

learn what He wants for your life. As a parent, it is important to help your child understand that the Bible can help us know the will of God.

Be sure your child sees you spending time reading God's Word. If your child asks "What are you doing?," share with him that you are reading the Bible and learning what God wants you to do. Your child will remember your example throughout his lifetime.



Deuteronomy 6:5

Find this verse in a family Bible. Help your child point to the words in the Bible. Read or say the verse together.

This week, help your child remember:

We can listen to and read God's Word.



Story Time. Have each family member take turns sharing a favorite Bible story. Read from the Bible or retell each story selected. Share with each other why a particular story is your favorite. Talk about what you can learn from the Bible stories.

Be sure to thank God for the lessons written in God's Word, the Bible.



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

Thank You, God, for the Bible!

God, help me to be careful when I hold the Bible.

Help me, God, to obey Your teachings in the Bible.

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Family Together Time

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Lesson 10

Elisha and a Widow's Oil: 2 Kings 4:1-7

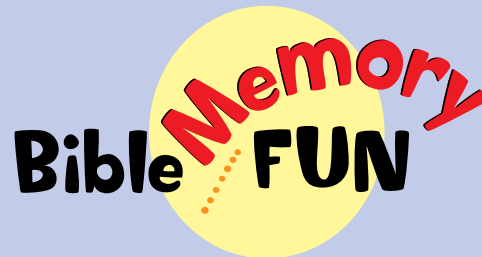


Preschool children are wonderfully curious and love to ask *why*? You

can use that God-given curiosity to help your child understand more about following God.

Ask you child, "Why should we follow God?" Let her answer in her own words. Listen to what she thinks. Tell your child why you follow God.

Next ask, "Why does God want us to help others?" Jesus taught that loving God first and then loving others are the two most important rules for godly living. (Read Mark 12:30, 31.) Talk about how God wants us to help others because we are following Him. As you help your child answer these simple questions, you will lead her to a lifetime of love.



Psalm 124:8

Find this verse in a family Bible. Take turns saying the Bible verse to one another, creatively using different voice inflections and volumes each time.

This week, help your child remember:

God wants us to help others.



Secret Helpers. Designate this week as "Secret Helpers Week." Write the names of family members on separate pieces of paper. Put the papers in a bowl, and have everyone pull out one slip of paper. During the week, each family member should try to be a secret helper for his or her chosen person. At the end of the week, thank God for allowing you to help and be helped.



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

God, I want to be a helper for You!

Thank You, God, for people who teach me how to be a helper.

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Lesson 11

Elisha and a Shunammite Family: 2 Kings 4:8-17

Family Talk

Sharing can be a difficult concept for young children to learn. God

wants us to teach our children that giving to others is an important expression of His love for us. During the week, look for opportunities to encourage sharing with others. Create sharing opportunities and guide your child to know how to share in these situations. At the end of each day, talk about the situations in which sharing occurred and how your child felt.

Always affirm family members who are cheerfully sharing with one another. In doing so, you will soon notice that sharing will become part of your child's (and family's) behavior as well.

Daily Talks with God

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

God, I love You for sharing Your love with me.

Thank You, God, for (name) who shared with me today.

God, help me remember to share with others.

Bible Memory FUN

Psalm 124:8

Find this verse in a family Bible. Pick a regularly traveled street and name it "Bible Verse Lane." Every time you and your child travel down that street, say the Bible verse.

This week, help your child remember:

God wants us to share with others.



Family Fun...

Memory Magnets. On individual slips of construction paper, write the words of Psalm 124:8, one per slip. Cover the papers with clear adhesive covering and then place a strip of magnet on the back of each paper. Put the word magnets on your refrigerator and help your child place them in the right order to say the Bible Memory. After saying the Bible verse, name ways God helps you.

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Lesson 12

Elisha and the Shunammites' Son: 2 Kings 4:18-37



In our Bible story today, your child learned how God worked through Elisha to make a dead boy live again. The abstract idea of death may

not seem very real to a child, unless she has recently experienced the death of a pet or perhaps a grandparent.

Don't be afraid to discuss death with your child. Share what the Bible says about death and life. Acknowledge and respect your child's feelings. Emphasize that when someone who is a Christian dies, the person will go to Heaven. Share how much God cares for all people.

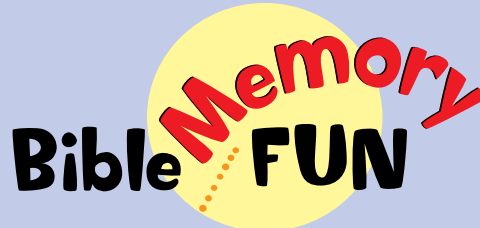
Most importantly, share how God is more powerful than death—He raised Jesus from the dead! Help your child grieve appropriately, and remember to pray together.



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

Thank You, God, that I can learn stories about Your power from the Bible.

I love You, God. You have the power to help me!



Psalm 124:8

Find this verse in a family Bible. Do a simple helping job (picking up papers, drying dishes) as you say the Bible verse together.

This week, help your child remember:

God has power to help us.



Bandage Prayers. Buy a box of adhesive bandages. Using a permanent marker, write on the bandages the names of people who are ill. Pray for each person. Attach the bandages to a piece of poster board. Place the bandage board where it will remind you to pray for the people named on the board. Remove the bandages when the people are well. Thank God for His power to heal.

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Family Together Time

For families with children ages 3 to 6

Lesson 13

Elisha and Naaman: 2 Kings 5:1-15

Family Talk

Today your child learned how God showed His power by

curing Naaman of a terrible skin disease. Think of how you respond when a family member becomes ill. Going to God in prayer should be one of the first things you do.

Your child will learn much from your example of depending on God's power. When someone you love has a sickness, guide your child to pray for the person who is ill. Continue praying for the person throughout the illness. And, like Naaman, remember to worship and thank God when the loved one is feeling better.



Bible Memory FUN

Psalm 124:8

Find this verse in a family Bible. Make a prayer card with the Bible verse written on it. During family prayer time, thank God for the Bible and say the Bible verse together.

This week, help your child remember:

God wants us to worship Him.

Family Fun...

Water Game. Set up an outdoor sprinkler for your child and friends to play under. Organize games that include the number 7. For example, jump through the sprinkler 7 times, run around the sprinkler 7 times, blink your eyes 7 times while standing under the sprinkler. As children dry off, tell the Bible story of Naaman following Elisha's direction to wash in the Jordan River 7 times.

Daily Talks with God

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

God, You are great and very strong.

Thank You, God. You have power to help me grow.

God, thank You for loving me every day.

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