



THE BIG STORY

A JOURNEY THROUGH
GOD'S WORD!

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Presented by:

BC | BETHANY
COMMUNITY CHURCH

A NOTE FOR PARENTS

Thank you so much for setting out on this journey with your family. As the leadership of BCC planned the Big Story campaign we all came to the conclusion that there is nothing more important to establishing biblical knowledge than the presence of the Bible in the home. By “presence” we don’t just mean you have a Bible in your house or that you quote a few choice verses to your family, we mean that the Bible is read, studied, and celebrated as a family.

This study was designed to be read every night before bed and should take no more than 10 minutes, but it will be the best 10 minutes you spend with your child everyday. Reading God’s word as a family has several key benefits we set out to highlight in this story. Here are the goals we have for this family study

- 1) Establish the parents of the house as spiritual leaders to their children**
- 2) Give ALL parents the confidence to teach the Bible**
- 3) Clearly show God’s plan to bring Christ to man as the common theme running throughout scripture**
- 4) Encourage parents to “pastor” their children by fostering spiritual discussions and question**
- 5) Give parents and kids a fun and meaningful time of bonding**

Throughout this study there will be many questions that are asked. Give your kids time to answer them. Take breaks as you read. Dialogue with your kids. This study is just a guide for you. Every kid is different so don’t hesitate to simplify or expound on what is written in this study. What really matters is that you and your kid spend some time in God’s Big Story together.

It’s gonna be epic!

WEEK 1, DAY 1

OUR NEW WORLD

Revelation 21:1-4

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth disappeared, and the sea vanished. And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice speaking from the throne: “Now God’s home is with people! He will live with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared.”

Do you like it when you get hurt or injured? How about when you are sad or crying? Neither does God! The new world that Christ will bring is a world without pain, sickness, evil, or suffering. Heaven is the world where God lives and someday he is bringing heaven to earth.

GOING DEEPER

Heaven is the dwelling place of God

Matthew 6:9- “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.”

Deuteronomy 26:15a- “Look down from heaven, Your holy dwelling place.”

Heaven is the dwelling place of God’s angels

Luke 2:15a- “When the angels had left them and gone into heaven...”

Matthew 28:2- “an angel of the Lord came down from heaven...”

Heaven is the dwelling place of God’s saints from earth (Christians) who have died and now live in His presence.

Luke 23:43- “Jesus answered him, ‘I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise.’”

Heaven is a place of great joys and pleasures for His children (Christians)

Psalms 15:11b- “You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand.”

Memory Verse!

John 14:1-3: There are many rooms in my Father’s house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am.

WEEK 1, DAY 2

WHY WILL GOD MAKE A NEW WORLD?

Revelation 21:5-8

Then the one who sits on the throne said, “And now I make all things new!” He also said to me, “Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted.” And he said, “It is done! I am the first and the last, the beginning and the end. To anyone who is thirsty I will give the right to drink from the spring of the water of life without paying for it. Those who win the victory will receive this from me: I will be their God, and they will be my children. But cowards, traitors, perverts, murderers, the immoral, those who practice magic, those who worship idols, and all liars—the place for them is the lake burning with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

What is something you love to do? People who follow Jesus love to worship God! The New World is a place based on worshiping God forever. In The New World God has prepared for us it will be filled with people who want to please Jesus and love him with all their hearts. Unfortunately some will choose not love Jesus and be his child. Because he love us He is giving us time to get ready to spend forever together. It's our choice.

GOING DEEPER

God made the world we live in a good place! He created the universe and everything in it. He created every planet, tree, ocean, blade of grass, and every other natural wonder to show His glory (Psalm 19:1). He created people for fellowship with Him. (1 John 1:3).

If God made our current world good how did we get all this bad stuff in it, like pain and disobedience? Before God created people, He created angels. One of those angels, Lucifer, rebelled against God's perfect plan, (Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14). Lucifer persuaded 1/3 of the angels to follow him. God sent them to the place He created for them, to exist away from fellowship with Him. This place is hell. Hell was originally created for Satan and his followers (Matthew 25:41)

Heaven is God's dwelling place for those who are in fellowship with Him. (1 Corinthians 1:9)

Memory Verse!

John 14:1-3: There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am.

WEEK 1, DAY 3

THE NEW JERUSALEM: OUR FUTURE HOME!

Revelation 21:9-12

The Spirit took control of me, and the angel carried me to the top of a very high mountain. He showed me Jerusalem, the Holy City, coming down out of heaven from God and shining with the glory of God. The city shone like a precious stone, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates and with twelve angels in charge of the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of the people of Israel.

Revelation 21:2-3 tells us we will have a new home called “New Jerusalem”. Jerusalem means, “city of peace”. This New Jerusalem is massive! It will be about 1,500 miles wide, 1,500 miles long, and 1,500 miles high. (Revelation 21:15-16). That would make this huge city roughly the size of the moon! The city will have 12 gates with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel written on them. The foundation will be twelve layers to it with the names of the twelve apostles written on them. (Revelation 21:12-17)

And the entire city will be made of gold and jewels! The walls will be made of pure diamond and the city of pure gold – clear as glass (Revelation 21:18). The foundation will be filled with precious stones (Revelation 21:19-21). As God dwells in this city, the light from His glory will shine through these stones producing a brilliant rainbow of colors! Can you see this? Can you imagine such a sight?

GOING DEEPER

What will we even do in the New World God is making? We will worship God along with the angels and saints (Christians) from all over the world!

Revelation 7:9-10- After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” (the Lamb is Jesus.)

The New world will be a happy place. We will even have a party there with God (Revelation 19:6-9)! Here are things that will NOT be found in heaven: tears, death, sorrow, sin and pain. (Revelation 21:4).

Memory Verse!

John 14:1-3: There are many rooms in my Father’s house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am.

WEEK 1, DAY 4

WHO CAN GO TO THE NEW WORLD?

Revelation 21:25-27

The gates of the city will stand open all day; they will never be closed, because there will be no night there. The greatness and the wealth of the nations will be brought into the city. But nothing that is impure will enter the city, nor anyone who does shameful things or tells lies. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of the living will enter the city.

The saints, the forgiven, the redeemed, and the children of God are all other names for Christians. Those who have received Jesus as their Lord and Savior will go to be with Jesus in the New World and live in God's Holy City. The problem is that we cannot save ourselves. Only God is strong enough to do that. We all fail to make great choices all the time. We all make mistakes. We all do things that hurt God and the people we know. That is called "sin". Have you ever been naughty or disobedient? It's OK! God still loves you and has a plan to take your sin away.

GOING DEEPER

Isaiah 53:6 "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all."

The good news is that we can ask for forgiveness from our sins, and because of Jesus, who died on the cross for all of our sins, God will forgive us.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

You have a choice to make - God gave us the choice to live our lives for Him or to serve ourselves. You must decide who you will serve.

Memory Verse!

John 14:1-3: There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am.

WEEK 1, DAY 5

BEING WITH CHRIST IN THE NEW WORLD: OUR REWARD!

Revelation 22:3-4

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads.

More important than anything else is the fact that we will be with our Lord forever. From His throne flows the River of Life. It will be perfect, clear as crystal. And we will see Him face to face (Revelation 22:4). We shall worship Him and be His people and He will be our God.

When we see Christ face to face His presence will dominate heaven the same way the sun dominates the hot summer sky. If heaven had streets of gold, precious gems, and angels singing overhead but no Jesus then we wouldn't even notice those other things. Because just as the sun illuminates the summer sky, so the glory of Christ illuminates all of heaven.

We will be able to talk to Him, ask Him questions, and listen to Him speak. Imagine hearing His voice - the Bible says it will be "like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder (Revelation 14:2). Imagine the stories He'll tell, the lessons He'll teach, the love He'll share. When you get to the New World Jesus will smile, put His arms around you, and say, "All this I have prepared for you because I love you. Enjoy my fellowship!"

Then we will live happily ever after forever and ever with our God, Savior and Friend. How great! Do you want to be with Jesus forever? **Just follow these simple steps...**

A- Accept Jesus as your Savior (Romans 10:9)

B- Believe that Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins and to bring you back into fellowship with God. (Acts 16:31)

C- Confess your sins and ask for forgiveness.

Memory Verse!

John 14:1-3: There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am.

Now let's pray...

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I know You sent Jesus to be my Savior, and that He died on the cross to take the punishment for my sins. I know that Jesus rose from the dead and is coming back someday. I want to live my life for you, God, and I ask that Jesus come into my heart as I live my life serving You. Please forgive me for my sins and thank You for loving me and securing my eternity in heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen."

WEEK 2, DAY 1

THE BEGINNING

God made the earth and the sky for us to have a beautiful home and live together with Him. Genesis 1 tells us the story of how God made everything in our world. Let's read that story and do this fun activity at the same time! Below, let's describe or draw a picture of what God did on each day.

DAY 1

DAY 2

DAY 3

DAY 4

DAY 5

DAY 6

DAY 7 - God rested from all His work
(Genesis 2:2b)

Genesis 1:31 "God saw all that He had made,
and it was good."

Memory Verse!

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the universe.

WEEK 2, DAY 2

GOD'S PERFECT PLAN

Genesis 2:15

Then the LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it.

God created people to fellowship with Him. He placed them in the Garden of Eden which was a paradise here on earth. (Genesis 2:8) Adam didn't just sit around doing nothing in the Garden. He had many jobs to do! (Genesis 2:15). God knew tending to a garden would be hard so He made it easier for Adam. God created the garden to water itself (Genesis 2:10a). Also, Adam did not have to plant seeds or harvest crops for food. God provided food for him from the many kinds of trees He had placed in the garden, (Genesis 2:9).

Adam had to name all of the animals which God had brought to him, (Genesis 2:19-20). God created a wife for Adam to help him in his work in the garden and with the animals. Adam walked and talked with God. He had a personal relationship with God. That was God's perfect plan for mankind.

Below, draw a picture of what you imagine the Garden of Eden to look like.



Memory Verse!

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the universe.

WEEK 2, DAY 3

DA RULZ

Genesis 2:16

He told him, “You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, 17 except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day.”

With all of the beauty in the Garden of Eden, God established one rule - JUST ONE!

There were many different types of trees to eat from; God told them to eat from any tree in the garden, except for one - the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. That's it - only one rule! Don't eat from this one tree, but feel free to eat from all of the others.

Why did God put the tree there if He didn't want Adam and Eve to eat from it? God made us with the ability to choose what we want (free will). Just like salvation is a choice we must make, Adam and Eve had to make the choice to obey God's one rule, or not to.

Do you think Adam and Eve obeyed?

Do we always obey the rules in our own lives?

Do you think that obedience is important to God?

Memory Verse!

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the universe.

WEEK 2, DAY 4

THE FALL OF MAN

Genesis 3:8-12

That evening they heard the LORD God walking in the garden, and they hid from him among the trees. But the LORD God called out to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden; I was afraid and hid from you, because I was naked." "Who told you that you were naked?" God asked. "Did you eat the fruit that I told you not to eat?"

One rule - and they couldn't obey it. The serpent tricked Eve into eating the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. With all sin comes consequence. Adam and Eve were kicked out of the garden, and they were never allowed to return. There were also other consequences for their sin. (Genesis 3:14-24).

The serpent tempting Eve was not the sin. Temptation is never a sin. You can be tempted to do something, but resisting that temptation shows that you want to act in a manner that pleases God. (Philippians 4:8). It is only a sin when we give into the temptation, but have faith because the Bible says, "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

Through Adam & Eve's disobedience and lying, sin entered the world. They were removed from fellowship with God. Only confessed faith in Jesus Christ (salvation) and confession of sin restore the broken fellowship between God and people.

Memory Verse!

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the universe.

WEEK 2, DAY 5

KICKED OUT OF PARADISE

Genesis 3:22-24

Then the LORD God said, “Now these human beings have become like one of us and have knowledge of what is good and what is bad. They must not be allowed to take fruit from the tree that gives life, eat it, and live forever.” So the LORD God sent them out of the Garden of Eden and made them cultivate the soil from which they had been formed. Then at the east side of the garden he put living creatures and a flaming sword which turned in all directions. This was to keep anyone from coming near the tree that gives life.

Sin breaks God’s heart because it hurts us and separates us from him. God had given Adam and Eve a very happy life. Yes there was work but work can be fun. Their work was fun. Before sin came, Adam and Eve were not at all afraid of God. God wasn’t some big far away being they couldn’t know, but he would regularly come down and hang out with the. Now God was still going to be their friend but he couldn’t let them stay in the garden because they might eat of the “tree of life” and live forever without being his close friend. They were still going to work growing food and plants but not it was going to have to be much much harder.

Can you remember a time when things had to become much harder for you at home or at school because you disobeyed? Do you understand why your parents and teachers have to give you consequences for disobedience? The consequences of sin make our lives much more difficult than they need to be. Obedience to God and our earthly authority (parents, pastors, teachers, babysitters, etc.) is a much better choice for each one of us.

What things have you done to separate yourself from God?
What sins do you still need to ask forgiveness for?

Today’s activity:

Is there anything you have done that you know was wrong? Do you want God’s forgiveness? Below, write down something you would like forgiveness for. Repent (ask for forgiveness and ask God to help you not be tempted by that sin again).

Because God loves us He will always forgive us! Let’s close by praying and thanking God for forgiving us through Jesus Christ dying on the cross and rising from the dead.

Memory Verse!

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the universe.

WEEK 3, DAY 1

THE FATHER OF FAITH

Genesis 12:1,4-5

The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land that I will show you... When Abram was seventy-five years old, he started out from Haran, as the LORD had told him to do; and Lot went with him. Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the wealth and all the slaves they had acquired in Haran, and they started out for the land of Canaan.

Have you ever gone far away from home on vacation? Or moved here from somewhere far away? You may have been nervous about being far from the people you love and the places that are familiar to you. God asked Abram to move far from his family and homeland and to trust that God would take care of him. Not only did God ask Abram to leave, but God didn’t even tell Abram where He was going to.

Do you think Abram obeyed? He did! He chose to honor God and do the right thing. It must have been hard though. Abram was a good man with many servants and livestock (sheep and cattle). He and his wife Sarai did not have children, but Abram took his wife, his nephew Lot, and his servants and left his home when he was 75 years old.

Hebrews 11:8

“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”

If Abram did not know where he was going, then he had to completely trust God the whole way. That’s not an easy thing to do. We want to be in charge and in control of the things in our lives, but in order to serve God we have to let Him be in charge.

Memory Verse!

Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see.

WEEK 3, DAY 2

GOD'S PROMISE

Genesis 12:1-3

The LORD said to Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's home, and go to a land that I am going to show you. I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse those who curse you. And through you I will bless all the nations."

When God asked Abram to leave his home, God made a promise to him. He told Abram that He was going to make him a great nation and the he would be blessed. He also told Abram that the whole earth was going to be blessed because of him. God told him that he would be the "father of many nations."

Abraham was 99 years old and Sara was 89. How could he be the "father of many nations" when he did not have even one child?

Matthew 19:26 "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Genesis 17:17 "Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, 'Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?' Then God said, 'Yes, but your wife Sara will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac'."

Hebrews 11:11-12 "By faith Abraham, even though he was past age - and Sarah herself was barren - was enabled to become a father because he considered Him faithful Who had made the promise. And so from this one man...came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore." (This is how God blessed the whole earth through Abraham's faith.)

When Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old, they had a son, whom they named Isaac - as God had instructed!

What big things in your life do you have to bring to God and ask for Him to do something difficult or impossible? Have faith in God! He loves you and wants to bless you.

Memory Verse!

Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see.

WEEK 3, DAY 3

ABRAHAM'S BLESSING IS SHARED WITH EVERYONE!

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regards one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interest, but also the interest of others.

Abraham understood this concept. He was a wealthy man with silver and gold, many servants and livestock. Lot, his nephew, was also wealthy. The land they lived in could not support both of their households. Their servants were constantly arguing. Abraham did not want to argue with Lot, so he suggested that they separate and go different ways. Abraham let Lot chose first what land he wanted Lot looked around and saw that the plains of Jordan were well watered and he chose that land, the best of what was around. (Genesis 13:1-12).

Abraham had faith that no matter what land Lot picked, God would take care of him.

Lot selfishly chose the beautiful plain of Jordan. While it was a better piece of land, it also put Lot in close proximity to sinful places and people who made unwise choices. Sodom and Gomorrah were places of exceedingly wicked sins against God. (Genesis 13:13)

Unfortunately sin rubs off on you in small ways that you do not see it at first. In this type of situation people tend to make compromises and allow a little bit of sin in. Before they know it, they are comfortable with the environment they're in and they find themselves doing things they never thought they would do. Lot became more comfortable with these sinful people and eventually moved into the city.

Because of the cities' great wickedness, God sent two angels to destroy the two cities. God had told Abraham of this plan and Abraham pleaded for Lot's safety. Lot took the angels (who appeared as men) into his home to protect them from the people of Sodom. Abraham continued to intercede for his nephew. The visitors (angels) pulled Lot and his family out of the house and to safety. (Genesis 18:16-33 & 19:15-16).

While leaving the city, the angels told Lot and his family not to look back as God destroyed the city." Lot's wife, perhaps not wanting to leave her life there, looked back. She became a pillar of salt. (Genesis 19:26)

1 Timothy 6:11 "But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness."

Lot's life was spared when God sent the fire from heaven to destroy the cities of the plain, but he had lost everything. Sin always has consequences.

What types of thing are you watching or listening to that are not pleasing to God and are rubbing off on you in small ways?

Activity: List your 3 favorite TV shows. Answer the following questions:

1. How do the characters feel about authority (parents, teachers, policemen, pastors, God)?
2. Are these characters always demanding their own ways and getting it? Do they manipulate the authority in their life to get their way (lie, act innocent when they have made a mistake, make the authority feel guilty, fake cry...)
3. Do I find myself acting like this?
4. Is this show a good influence on me?

Memory Verse!

2 Corinthians 10:5: We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Psalms 101:3: I will set before my eyes no vile thing.

WEEK 3, DAY 4

ISAAC: “THE SON OF PROMISE!”

One day God asked Abraham to do a very difficult thing. So it happened that one day God came to Abraham and said, “Abraham, I want you to take your only son, whom you love, and go to a mountain I will show you. There I want you to sacrifice your son as a burnt offering to me.”

What was God thinking? How could He ask Abraham to do such a thing? Remember, Abraham had waited a long, long time for his son Isaac. It seemed impossible that he would ever even have a son. But God had promised, and God kept His promise. Now was God going to take away Abraham’s son?

Read Genesis 22:1-19

Hebrews 11:17-19 “By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promise was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.”

Isaac had to carry the wood for his own sacrifice, (Genesis 22:6). Jesus had to carry His cross before He was sacrificed, (John 19:17).

Today’s activity:

Spend some time in prayer. What do you have, if anything, that God may be calling you to give up for Him? It may not be a thing, but some time doing something else that you could be spending with Him. It may be a selfish attitude and He’s asking you to put other people first. Pray and ask God to reveal to you what He may be asking you to give up for Him.

WEEK 3, DAY 5

GOD PROVIDES A SACRIFICE

Genesis 22

Some time later God tested Abraham; he called to him, “Abraham!” And Abraham answered, “Yes, here I am!” “Take your son,” God said, “your only son, Isaac, whom you love so much, and go to the land of Moriah. There on a mountain that I will show you, offer him as a sacrifice to me.”

Early the next morning Abraham cut some wood for the sacrifice, loaded his donkey, and took Isaac and two servants with him. They started out for the place that God had told him about. On the third day Abraham saw the place in the distance. Then he said to the servants, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there and worship, and then we will come back to you.”

Abraham made Isaac carry the wood for the sacrifice, and he himself carried a knife and live coals for starting the fire. As they walked along together, Isaac spoke up, “Father!” He answered, “Yes, my son?” Isaac asked, “I see that you have the coals and the wood, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide one.” And the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place which God had told him about, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son and placed him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he picked up the knife to kill him. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!” He answered, “Yes, here I am.” “Don’t hurt the boy or do anything to him,” he said. “Now I know that you honor and obey God, because you have not kept back your only son from him.”

Abraham looked around and saw a ram caught in a bush by its horns. He went and got it and offered it as a burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham named that place “The Lord Provides.” And even today people say, “On the Lord’s mountain he provides.”

GOING DEEPER

God told Abraham to kill his son. Now that sounds scary and weird, because it was. In those days the people who lived around Abraham would give their children as offering to their evil false Gods. This was a horrible practice and something God hated, but to see if Abraham trusted him as much as those people around him trusted their false gods God asked him to kill his only son, Isaac.

WEEK 3, DAY 5 CONTINUED...

God didn't just want to see if Abraham trusted Him, He also wanted to show Abraham that he had a great big wonderful plan to forgive the world of their sins, a plan that was so much better than we could ever imagine! God was opposite God. He didn't say "Give me your son!" Instead God said "I will provide the sacrifice" Abraham was stopped just before he lowered the knife. God sent a ram (which looks like a sheep with big horns) and Abraham sacrificed the ram INSTEAD of Isaac!

Remember we told you that Abraham's obedience made it possible for Jesus to come and be our savior. Well that's just what happened! Many hundreds of years later, Jesus Christ, Isaac's relative, would come to the earth and go to the Cross to be the sacrifice for all the bad things everyone has done and will ever do. God sent Jesus to pay the price in all of our place so He could be our friends. That's how much God loves you!

Do you want to be God's friend? Abraham, this great man of faith, shows you and I that the only way to have a friendship with God is by obeying Him and by accepting the only acceptable sacrifice; God's son, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 11:17-19 says this:

It was faith that made Abraham offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice when God put Abraham to the test. Abraham was the one to whom God had made the promise, yet he was ready to offer his only son as a sacrifice. God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that you will have the descendants I promised." Abraham reckoned that God was able to raise Isaac from death—and, so to speak, Abraham did receive Isaac back from death.

What a "BIG STORY" the Bible is telling us about God's love for you and me!

Memory Verse!

John 15:14: If you love me, obey what I command.

WEEK 4 INTRO

GOD'S PEOPLE BECOME SLAVES IN EGYPT

From Abraham - Moses (approximately 250 years) God's people grew just like God said it would! God made a promise to Abraham that the whole world would be blessed through him. God established the same covenant with Isaac, Abraham's son.

Isaac married Rebekah and they had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Jacob was the father of twelve sons. God changed Jacob's name to Israel to show that Jacob belonged to God. Jacob's twelve sons became the Twelve Tribes of Israel. As we said, God changed Jacob's name, so "Israel" can refer to the man, {formerly Jacob}, or the country {named after this man}). Years passed and a huge famine swept Jacob's homeland. He decided to move his family to Egypt to escape famine.

When they arrive at Egypt Jacob and his sons reunite with his lost son Joseph. Jacob's entire family, which now includes many grandchildren and livestock, settle in Egypt in an area called Goshen.

Many years pass and the descendants of Jacob continue to live in Goshen. The nation of Israel (Jacob's family) grew and prospered there. There are over 2 million people Israelites living in Goshen! Wow! A new Pharaoh came to power and does not favor the Israelites like previous the previous king had. He was concerned that the children of Israel would join Egypt's enemies in war and rise up to defeat him. So the Pharaoh made the Israelites slaves in Goshen, forcing them to build their buildings and work their fields to make food. He treated them the Israelites very harshly.

Not only did Pharaoh enslave the Israelites he also told the midwives to kill every baby boy born into the Israelite/Hebrew homes. The midwives feared (respected) God and did not kill the baby boys. Because of this the Pharaoh came up with a new plan... He commanded that all baby boys would be thrown into the Nile River.

A woman, from the tribe of Levi, name Jochebed gave birth to a beautiful baby boy (Acts 7:20 TLB). She hid the baby from the Egyptians for three month. His name was Moses. God took this baby from slave to Israel's liberator! This week we will learn that baby's story.

Neat Fact- Besides Jesus, Moses is the only other person in the Bible that we know their story from birth - the end of their life here on earth. Pretty neat, huh?

WEEK 4, DAY 1

BABY MOSES - SAVED BY MORE THAN A BASKET

Exodus 2:1-4

During this time a man from the tribe of Levi married a woman of his own tribe, and she bore him a son. When she saw what a fine baby he was, she hid him for three months. But when she could not hide him any longer, she took a basket made of reeds and covered it with tar to make it watertight. She put the baby in it and then placed it in the tall grass at the edge of the river. The baby's sister stood some distance away to see what would happen to him.

God has a plan and a purpose for our lives. He puts people in our lives that help us. When we live in God's community good things happen. Let's look at the people God sent to help Moses as a baby. When we tell the story of Moses we tend to focus on the baby in a basket. Let's remember the people God put in Moses' life to protect him and keep him safe.

The Midwives - Shiphrah and Puah, the midwives, had the courage to defy the Pharaoh's order to kill baby boys. They defied that order and God blessed them with families of their own.

Jochebed - Moses' mother chose to hide her son from the Egyptian officials and therefore protected him from death. When she could no longer hide him she had the faith to release him into God's hands. She placed him in a waterproof basket and laid the basket in the reeds along the river's edge. In doing so, she was rewarded by God and given more time to be with her son. (Exodus 2:7-9). Imagine; God not only gave Jochebed her baby back, but she was paid to take care of him.

Mariam - When Jochebed placed the basket in the reeds, Mariam, Moses' sister, stood in the distance to watch what would happen. When Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to bathe Mariam, a slave girl, had the courage to approach the princess and speak to her. Mariam offers to find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby. She runs home and brings her mother to the princess.

The Pharaoh's daughter - Despite her father's edict to have the baby boys killed, the princess is happy to bring Moses into her home and adopt him into the royal family, gave him a great education, and he became a mighty prince and had power (Acts 7:21-22).

Who are the people God has put in your life? Make a list of people that are important to you. Over the next few weeks have an ongoing project to write a note, buy or make a card, send an e-mail or call them to tell them what a blessing they are!

Memory Verse!

Hebrews 11:27: It was faith that made Moses leave Egypt without being afraid of the king's anger. As though he saw the invisible God, he refused to turn back.

WEEK 4, DAY 2

MOSES' TEMPER GETS HIM IN TROUBLE!

Exodus 2:11-16

When Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his people, the Hebrews, and he saw how they were forced to do hard labor. He even saw an Egyptian kill a Hebrew, one of Moses' own people. Moses looked all around, and when he saw that no one was watching, he killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand. The next day he went back and saw two Hebrew men fighting. He said to the one who was in the wrong, "Why are you beating up a fellow Hebrew?"

The man answered, "Who made you our ruler and judge? Are you going to kill me just as you killed that Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and said to himself, "People have found out what I have done." When the king heard about what had happened, he tried to have Moses killed, but Moses fled and went to live in the land of Midian.

Moses grew up in the palace and lived the life of a prince, yet he still loved his Hebrew brothers. When he saw that they were being mistreated it angered him. He got even more angry as he watched the Egyptian beating the Hebrew slave. What did Moses do because he was angry?

Have you ever been mad at someone? Why?

When we are mad we sometimes do mean things back to the people that make us angry. This is not God's plan! Luke 6:28 says to "bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you." What does that verse mean? Well, it means that God wants us to be nice to everyone, even people that make us mad.

The good part for Moses is that God still loved him even though he made a mistake. God wanted to use Moses to free the Israelites from Pharaoh! Moses just needed to become humble. Being humble is when you know God is the boss and you aren't.

If you make a mistake or do something wrong you need to be humble too. God can use us to do great things too, just like He used Moses after he blew it.

Memory Verse!

Hebrews 11:27: It was faith that made Moses leave Egypt without being afraid of the king's anger. As though he saw the invisible God, he refused to turn back.

WEEK 4, DAY 3

BABY MOSES - SAVED BY MORE THAN A BASKET

Exodus 3:1-10

One day while Moses was taking care of the sheep and goats of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, he led the flock across the desert and came to Sinai, the holy mountain. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him as a flame coming from the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire but that it was not burning up. "This is strange," he thought. "Why isn't the bush burning up? I will go closer and see."

When the Lord saw that Moses was coming closer, he called to him from the middle of the bush and said, "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Yes, here I am."

God said, "Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." So Moses covered his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have seen how cruelly my people are being treated in Egypt; I have heard them cry out to be rescued from their slave drivers. I know all about their sufferings, and so I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them out of Egypt to a spacious land, one which is rich and fertile and in which the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites now live. I have indeed heard the cry of my people, and I see how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Now I am sending you to the king of Egypt so that you can lead my people out of his country."

Because Moses had murdered the Egyptian in anger over the treatment of his people, the Israelites, he ran away into the wilderness to hide. Have you ever tried to hide something bad you have done?

Even though he had sinned God still had a plan for Moses and called out to him from a burning bush.

Moses was not sure that he would be able to do what God was asking him to do, so he argued with God. Moses had a hard time talking in front of people so he was afraid to be a leader. God's answer to Moses was simple "I am with you." So Moses went and did as he was told.

Memory Verse!

Hebrews 11:27: It was faith that made Moses leave Egypt without being afraid of the king's anger. As though he saw the invisible God, he refused to turn back.

WEEK 4, DAY 4

THE PASSOVER

Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in Egypt: “This month is to be the first month of the year for you. Give these instructions to the whole community of Israel: On the tenth day of this month each man must choose either a lamb or a young goat for his household. If his family is too small to eat a whole animal, he and his next-door neighbor may share an animal, in proportion to the number of people and the amount that each person can eat. You may choose either a sheep or a goat, but it must be a one-year-old male without any defects. Then, on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, the whole community of Israel will kill the animals. The people are to take some of the blood and put it on the doorposts and above the doors of the houses in which the animals are to be eaten. That night the meat is to be roasted, and eaten with bitter herbs and with bread made without yeast. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled, but eat it roasted whole, including the head, the legs, and the internal organs. You must not leave any of it until morning; if any is left over, it must be burned. You are to eat it quickly, for you are to be dressed for travel, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. It is the Passover Festival to honor me, the Lord.

“On that night I will go through the land of Egypt, killing every first-born male, both human and animal, and punishing all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood on the doorposts will be a sign to mark the houses in which you live. When I see the blood, I will pass over you and will not harm you when I punish the Egyptians. You must celebrate this day as a religious festival to remind you of what I, the Lord, have done. Celebrate it for all time to come.”

On God’s command and with Jethro’s blessing, Moses takes his wife and son and heads back to Egypt. God told Aaron, Moses’s brother, to go out into the wilderness and meet Moses. Aaron obeyed and went out to find his brother. Moses told Aaron everything that God had told him. Together Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and asked him to let the Israelites go. Pharaoh said “No” and told the taskmasters to stop providing straw for the slaves to make the bricks. The slaves now had to gather their own straw and still produce the same amount of bricks each day. Not only did Pharaoh not release the slaves, but he made their work even harder. Moses and Aaron returned to Pharaoh multiple times. Each time Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go, God sent a horrible plague on Egypt. You can read all about these plagues in Exodus Chapter 7-12.

God saved the Israelites from the final plague, the death of the first-born son with the blood of a lamb. This is why the Israelites still celebrate “Passover” to this very day. It also reminds us that God saved us all from punishment through the blood of His lamb, Jesus Christ. God’s anger “passes over” all of us once He sees we are marked by the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ!

Memory Verse!

Hebrews 11:27: It was faith that made Moses leave Egypt without being afraid of the king’s anger. As though he saw the invisible God, he refused to turn back.

WEEK 4, DAY 5

GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE THE LAW

Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke, and these were his words: 2 “I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, where you were slaves. “Worship no god but me.” “Do not make for yourselves images of anything in heaven or on earth or in the water under the earth. Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am the Lord your God and I tolerate no rivals...” “Do not use my name for evil purposes, for I, the Lord your God, will punish anyone who misuses my name.” “Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy. You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to me. In six days I, the Lord, made the earth, the sky, the seas, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That is why I, the Lord, blessed the Sabbath and made it holy.” “Respect your father and your mother, so that you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you.” “Do not commit murder.” “Do not commit adultery.” “Do not steal.” “Do not accuse anyone falsely.” “Do not desire another man’s house; do not desire his wife, his slaves, his cattle, his donkeys, or anything else that he owns.”

Moses led the entire nation of Israel, approximately 3,000,000 people, out of Egypt. They did not leave empty handed. They had their household goods, livestock and gold. Yes, the slaves left with riches! (Exodus 12:31-36). Even though Pharaoh changed his mind and tried to stop them they still were protected by God.

God protected and blessed the Israelites. Has anyone ever done something nice or amazing for you? How did it make you feel? Hopefully grateful and happy. The Israelites did NOT feel grateful. They complained and wanted to go back to Egypt. This made God angry. The Israelites were in the wilderness for 3 months when they came to Mt. Sinai. Moses went up to the mountain to talk to God. He was up there for 40 days & nights. God sure had a lot to tell him! It was here that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

God didn’t just want to be His people’s rescuer from Egypt, He wanted them to love Him and listen to his direction and rules. He wanted to be their lord. God gave them commandments to show them how to love Him and how to love each other. Did you know that this is the whole reason the bible has rules? God wants to show us how to be good at loving Him and good at loving our friends, our families, and even the people we don’t like. God love’s love!

Memory Verse!

Hebrews 11:27: It was faith that made Moses leave Egypt without being afraid of the king’s anger. As though he saw the invisible God, he refused to turn back.

WEEK 5 INTRO

THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL!

God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, and after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, God had Joshua lead them into the Promise Land. When Joshua was old, he spoke to the Israelites and urged them to remain loyal to God.

There were still some Canaanites living in the land. After Joshua died, the Israelites did not drive out all of the Canaanites, who eventually became their friends. The Israelites began to worship the false Gods of the Canaanites. They turned from God after everything He had done for them. Because they were not loyal to God, He allowed the Israelites to be fearful, confused and frustrated. He allowed the Canaanites to defeat the Israelites.

God, because of His faithful love, raised up judges who would lead the Israelites back to victory. There were 12 judges who served the nation. Each time a judge died, the Israelites would again turn their backs on God until a new judge led them to victories. This was a very rough time in Israel's history, about 300 years when "everyone did was right in his own eyes." Judges 17:6.

After the book of Judges is the book of Ruth. Ruth became the grandmother of King David.

The people of Israel demanded that God give them a king because they wanted to be like all of the other nations. God told Samuel, the prophet, to give Israel a king and a warning. With a king would also come many hardships.

Saul was chosen to be Israel's first king. Saul started out to be a good king, but soon he began to disobey God. God sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint the person He had chosen to be the next king of Israel.

WEEK 5, DAY 1

THE CHOSEN KING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you go on grieving over Saul? I have rejected him as king of Israel. But now get some olive oil and go to Bethlehem, to a man named Jesse, because I have chosen one of his sons to be king.” “How can I do that?” Samuel asked. “If Saul hears about it, he will kill me!” The Lord answered, “Take a calf with you and say that you are there to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will tell you what to do. You will anoint as king the man I tell you to.” Samuel did what the Lord told him to do and went to Bethlehem, where the city leaders came trembling to meet him and asked, “Is this a peaceful visit, seer?” “Yes,” he answered. “I have come to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me.” He also told Jesse and his sons to purify themselves, and he invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Jesse’s son Eliab and said to himself, “This man standing here in the Lord’s presence is surely the one he has chosen.” But the Lord said to him, “Pay no attention to how tall and handsome he is. I have rejected him, because I do not judge as people judge. They look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart.” Then Jesse called his son Abinadab and brought him to Samuel. But Samuel said, “No, the Lord hasn’t chosen him either.” Jesse then brought Shammah. “No, the Lord hasn’t chosen him either,” Samuel said. In this way Jesse brought seven of his sons to Samuel. And Samuel said to him, “No, the Lord hasn’t chosen any of these.” Then he asked him, “Do you have any more sons?” Jesse answered, “There is still the youngest, but he is out taking care of the sheep.” “Tell him to come here,” Samuel said. “We won’t offer the sacrifice until he comes.” So Jesse sent for him. He was a handsome, healthy young man, and his eyes sparkled. The Lord said to Samuel, “This is the one— anoint him!” Samuel took the olive oil and anointed David in front of his brothers. Immediately the spirit of the Lord took control of David and was with him from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.

Have you ever been picked last for a game or felt left out of a playtime with your friends?. Maybe your teacher is asking the class for a special volunteer and you want to be picked SO BAD. When nobody picks us it can feel pretty crummy. You can start thinking, “Hey, what’s wrong with me?” It’s OK! That’s what happened to David too and God had a plan! Let’s read his story.

Samuel was going to Bethlehem, on God’s command, to anoint the next king. God sent him to the house of Jesse. Samuel looked at each one of Jesse’s sons that were there. Though some were handsome, some were strong, and some were tall, they were not the one God had chosen. Samuel thought for several of them, “Surely this is the Lord’s anointed one,” but God kept saying, “No, not this one.” Samuel, finding out Jesse had one more son, sent for the youngest. When David came in from tending the Sheep Saul heard God say “This is the one— anoint him!” (1 Samuel 16:12b) Many years later David would become King of Israel, even though no one believed in him.

David shows why it’s NOT so important to always be picked by your classmates or your teachers. It IS A big deal when you are picked by God. Being God’s choice is really amazing. Later we will read about another King named Jesus and how he was chosen by God. In the meantime learn a lesson from David about how not to worry about whether you are the most popular and powerful. God will always choose YOU!

Memory Verse!

Acts 13:36-37: For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

WEEK 5, DAY 2

THE GOLIATH TEST

Parents: Please tell 1 Sam. 17: 1-40 in your own words then read verse 41-54

1 Samuel 17:41-52

The Philistine started walking toward David, with his shield bearer walking in front of him. He kept coming closer, and when he got a good look at David, he was filled with scorn for him because he was just a nice, good-looking boy. He said to David, “What’s that stick for? Do you think I’m a dog?” And he called down curses from his god on David. “Come on,” he challenged David, “and I will give your body to the birds and animals to eat.” David answered, “You are coming against me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the Israelite armies, which you have defied. This very day the Lord will put you in my power; I will defeat you and cut off your head. And I will give the bodies of the Philistine soldiers to the birds and animals to eat. Then the whole world will know that Israel has a God, and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people. He is victorious in battle, and he will put all of you in our power.” Goliath started walking toward David again, and David ran quickly toward the Philistine battle line to fight him. He reached into his bag and took out a stone, which he slung at Goliath. It hit him on the forehead and broke his skull, and Goliath fell face downward on the ground. And so, without a sword, David defeated and killed Goliath with a sling and a stone! He ran to him, stood over him, took Goliath’s sword out of its sheath, and cut off his head and killed him. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they ran away. The men of Israel and Judah shouted and ran after them, pursuing them all the way to Gath and to the gates of Ekron. The Philistines fell wounded all along the road that leads to Shaaraim, as far as Gath and Ekron.

Do you know what a test is. A test is when you get to find out how much you know or what you can do. If you haven’t already, you will someday have to get up before a class of people and read. Some people sweat bullets at times like this. Well young David had a test one day and it was the “Goliath test.” The “Goliath test” was to find out if young David could trust God and be brave in the face of danger.

David was about 15 years old when God told Samuel to anoint him king. David did not take the throne for at least 7 years. David played a harp really well and King Saul would often invite him to play for him when he got depressed or afraid, (1 Samuel 16:23). Playing his harp was one thing but facing a dude who was 11 feet tall and wanted to kill him was a big time test. By the way, Goliath was taller than the ceiling in your room.

Young David, who would someday be “King David”, learned that God is bigger than Goliath. There’s no problem in our life that is greater than God, none. Every day we have battles we need to face. WE can face them knowing that we are not alone, “The battle is the Lord’s.”

WEEK 5, DAY 2

CONTINUED...

Jesus came to earth many years after David and actually came from David's family. In fact people sometimes called Jesus, "the son of David." Like King David Jesus passed all the test that were given to him. When there was a stormy sea, he walked on it, when there was a hungry crowd, he fed them with 5 loaves and 2 fishes. When they put him on a cross he rose again. When he say our sin, he defeated it. Jesus is like our King David teaching us to be brave when we face the giants and reminding us that he will always be brave for us.

Activity: Label the Armor of God.

Ephesians 6:13-18 The Armour of God
Drag the Spiritual armour to the correct label.

TRUTH
RIGHTEOUSNESS
THE GOSPEL
SALVATION
FAITH
THE WORD

Memory Verse!

Acts 13:36-37: For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

WEEK 5, DAY 3

THE HUMBLE KING

1 Samuel 26:1-25

Some men from Ziph came to Saul at Gibeah and told him that David was hiding on Mount Hachilah at the edge of the Judean wilderness. Saul went at once with three thousand of the best soldiers in Israel to the wilderness of Ziph to look for David, and camped by the road on Mount Hachilah. ... That night David and Abishai entered Saul's camp and found Saul sleeping in the center of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the troops were sleeping around him. Abishai said to David, "God has put your enemy in your power tonight. Now let me plunge his own spear through him and pin him to the ground with just one blow—I won't have to strike twice!" But David said, "You must not harm him! The Lord will certainly punish whoever harms his chosen king. The Lord forbid that I should try to harm the one whom the Lord has made king! Let's take his spear and his water jar, and go." So David took the spear and the water jar from right beside Saul's head, and he and Abishai left. No one saw it or knew what had happened or even woke up—they were all sound asleep, because the Lord had sent a heavy sleep on them all. Then David crossed over to the other side of the valley to the top of the hill, a safe distance away, and shouted to Saul's troops and to Abner, "Abner! Can you hear me?" "Who is that shouting and waking up the king?" Abner asked. David answered, "Abner, aren't you the greatest man in Israel? So why aren't you protecting your master, the king? Just now someone entered the camp to kill your master. You failed in your duty, Abner! I swear by the living Lord that all of you deserve to die, because you have not protected your master, whom the Lord made king. Look! Where is the king's spear? Where is the water jar that was right by his head?" Saul recognized David's voice and asked, "David, is that you, my son?" "Yes, Your Majesty," David answered. And he added, "Why, sir, are you still pursuing me, your servant? What have I done? What crime have I committed? ... Saul answered, "I have done wrong. Come back, David, my son! I will never harm you again, because you have spared my life tonight. I have been a fool! I have done a terrible thing!" ..., "God bless you, my son! You will succeed in everything you do!" So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

David continued to be a faithful servant and a successful warrior because God was with him. David was made a leader of Saul's army. Everyone liked David. Everyone except Saul...

Saul became very jealous of David's success and popularity. Saul became more jealous and angrier as time went on. He went CRAZY he was so jealous! He tried to kill David several times. God protected David in each of these attacks. David continued to be successful at whatever he did. Saul's anger and hatred toward David became so fierce that Saul asked other people to help him kill David. Jonathan told David to escape and hide from Saul. David and some of his men moved around the country and lived in caves to avoid Saul.

WEEK 5, DAY 3

CONTINUED...

Ever feel like you have to show people that they are not your boss? Ever say “Hey. You’re not my mom!” when someone hasn’t been very nice to us. What if you have a chance to really hurt them back for how they’ve hurted you. David shows us that how important it is to let God get even for us.

David’s descendant, Jesus, also got pushed around by mean people. Some bad men put him on a cross to die! Do you know what Jesus did instead of getting even? He prayed for the people that hurt him! Wow!

Jesus could have used his power to destroy all those people but He wanted to bring salvation to the world. A good king, and a good person, knows how to control their temper. Have you ever lost your temper with someone else? Let’s learn from our two humble Kings, David and Jesus, and let God be in charge. All we have to do is forgive!

Memory Verse!

Acts 13:36-37: For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

WEEK 5, DAY 4

WE HAVE TO WAIT TO BE GREAT

During a very fierce battle King Saul and his sons all died. This meant that it was now David's time to be king...

2 Samuel 1:1-4

After this, David asked the Lord, "Shall I go and take control of one of the towns of Judah?" "Yes," the Lord answered. "Which one?" David asked. "Hebron," the Lord said. So David went to Hebron, taking with him his two wives: Ahinoam, who was from Jezreel, and Abigail, Nabal's widow, who was from Carmel. He also took his men and their families, and they settled in the towns around Hebron. Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and anointed David as king of Judah.

Everyone of us wants to be good at something. All of us want others to realize we were good too. It's really frustrating to be sure your good something and have nobody recognize. Let's say you know you are the fastest runner in your school, but when they pick somebody to compete and run a race for the school, they pick somebody who's a lot slower than you. That really stinks, doesn't it? But stuff like this happens right? It's natural to let people know you are hurt and angry when this happens.

This is sort of what happened to David. He was more successful than Saul, but Saul kept running David away. One day Saul was killed. Now that was actually a bad thing and David was very, very sad about it. You know why David was sad? David was sad because he wasn't in a big hurry to show everyone how great he was. He was humble and he was patient. It was okay with David that sometimes we have to "wait to be great."

Think about how "King Jesus" is like David. Think of how patient Jesus is with you. Think of how patient he is with the whole world. How does that make you feel? How can you follow the example of David and Jesus. God has an amazing plan for each of our lives. He already knows the future. Stand firm in your faith and honor God with your words and your actions. He will take care of you.

Memory Verse!

Acts 13:36-37: For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

WEEK 5, DAY 5

DAVID AND THE FOREVER KINGDOM

2 Samuel 7:8-16

“So tell my servant David that I, the Lord Almighty, say to him, ‘I took you from looking after sheep in the fields and made you the ruler of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have defeated all your enemies as you advanced. I will make you as famous as the greatest leaders in the world. I have chosen a place for my people Israel and have settled them there, where they will live without being oppressed any more. Ever since they entered this land, they have been attacked by violent people, but this will not happen again. I promise to keep you safe from all your enemies and to give you descendants. When you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will make one of your sons king and will keep his kingdom strong. He will be the one to build a temple for me, and I will make sure that his dynasty continues forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him as a father punishes his son. But I will not withdraw my support from him as I did from Saul, whom I removed so that you could be king. You will always have descendants, and I will make your kingdom last forever. Your dynasty will never end.’”

Have you ever done something SO fun for amazing you never wanted it to end? Tell me about it.

God believes a good thing should last forever so he promises David’s kingdom will never end! It will be a forever kingdom! How is that possible? Obviously David didn’t live forever, so how could that happen? To understand this we have to fast forward in the bible to Luke...

Luke 1:30-33

The angel said to Mary, “Don’t be afraid, God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!”

Now doesn’t it make sense to call Jesus the “Son of David”? Through Jesus we have a never ending king and a never ending kingdom. Let’s take a few second and thank God that David was a good man God could trust and then say “thank you” to God that Jesus IS a wonderful king that WE can trust forever and ever and ever.

Memory Verse!

Acts 13:36-37: For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

WEEK 6, DAY 1

THE REASON FOR JESUS

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!" Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!" Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing that God cannot do." "I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

What a brave girl Mary was! How would you feel if an angel appeared before you? Mary also had a big responsibility. She was going to be Jesus, thing King of Kings, mom!

God has a big plan for all of us and He want's you to be part of it. Who knows? Maybe an angel will appear before YOU and ask you to do something great for God! Are we ready to say like Mary said "I am the Lord's servant, may it happen to me as you have said"? As Mary showed us, obeying God brings a blessing not just to you but also your friends and family.

Let's say a special prayer that God would us to tell our friends and family about Jesus and how he came to love us!

Memory Verse!

John 3:16: For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

WEEK 6, DAY 2

THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

Matthew 16:13-23

Jesus went to the territory near the town of Caesarea Philippi, where he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” “Some say John the Baptist,” they answered. “Others say Elijah, while others say Jeremiah or some other prophet.” 15 “What about you?” he asked them. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” “Good for you, Simon son of John!” answered Jesus. “For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven. And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.” Then Jesus ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. From that time on Jesus began to say plainly to his disciples, “I must go to Jerusalem and suffer much from the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law. I will be put to death, but three days later I will be raised to life.” Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “God forbid it, Lord!” he said. “That must never happen to you!” Jesus turned around and said to Peter, “Get away from me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my way, because these thoughts of yours don’t come from God, but from human nature.”

Messiah is a fancy word for “deliverer”. At this time the Jewish people Jesus was a part of were being controlled by the Romans so they thought Jesus was going to free them from the Roman rule. Jesus had a bigger and better plan in mind...

He wanted to save EVERYONE from the rule of sin!

Just like Adam brought sin into the world, Jesus wanted to bring freedom into the world! Freedom from the power sin had over us. He wanted show us how to be friends with God, just like Abraham and David were friends with God. The way to do that is following Jesus, just like His disciples. Do YOU want to be a disciple of Jesus too?

Memory Verse!

John 3:16: For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

WEEK 6, DAY 3

THE SUFFERING OF JESUS

Matthew 27:15-54

At every Passover Festival the Roman governor was in the habit of setting free any one prisoner the crowd asked for. At that time there was a well-known prisoner named Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to set free for you? Jesus Barabbas or Jesus called the Messiah?" He knew very well that the Jewish authorities had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous. ... The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask Pilate to set Barabbas free and have Jesus put to death. But Pilate asked the crowd, "Which one of these two do you want me to set free for you?" "Barabbas!" they answered. "What, then, shall I do with Jesus called the Messiah?" Pilate asked them. "Crucify him!" they all answered. Then they started shouting at the top of their voices: "Crucify him!" ... Then Pilate set Barabbas free for them; and after he had Jesus whipped, he handed him over to be crucified. Then Pilate's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace, and the whole company gathered around him. They stripped off his clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. Then they made a crown out of thorny branches and placed it on his head, and put a stick in his right hand; then they knelt before him and made fun of him. "Long live the King of the Jews!" they said. They spat on him, and took the stick and hit him over the head. When they had finished making fun of him, they took the robe off and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him... They crucified him and then divided his clothes among them by throwing dice. After that they sat there and watched him. Above his head they put the written notice of the accusation against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then they crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left... At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?" ... Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. Then the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split apart, the graves broke open, and many of God's people who had died were raised to life. They left the graves, and after Jesus rose from death, they went into the Holy City, where many people saw them. When the army officer and the soldiers with him who were watching Jesus saw the earthquake and everything else that happened, they were terrified and said, "He really was the Son of God!"

Memory Verse!

John 3:16: For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

WEEK 6, DAY 4

JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD!

John 20:1-20

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth which had been around Jesus’ head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.) Then the disciples went back home... It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord.

Have you ever had something happen that seemed like a bad thing but then you found out later it was a good thing? How did you feel about that? Excited? Happy? Relieved? We have to imagine the disciples felt the same way. They thought Jesus was dead and then he rose again, just like He said he would! How exciting!

Jesus Christ rose from the dead and lived with the disciples. He wanted to show them that God was bigger than death and that He truly was God’s son. He also wanted to give them more faith in God. He wanted to make them brave!

What does it mean to be brave? Being brave can be tough when you are scared so Jesus rose again and lived with the disciples so that they would know not to be afraid. When you have faith in God you don’t have to be afraid. you can be brave because Jesus is alive and He is with you too!

Memory Verse!

John 3:16: For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

WEEK 6, DAY 5

THE CHURCH BEGINS

Acts 1:2-11

Before Jesus was taken up, he gave instructions by the power of the Holy Spirit to the men he had chosen as his apostles. For forty days after his death he appeared to them many times in ways that proved beyond doubt that he was alive. They saw him, and he talked with them about the Kingdom of God. And when they came together, he gave them this order: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift I told you about, the gift my Father promised. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When the apostles met together with Jesus, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time give the Kingdom back to Israel?” Jesus said to them, “The times and occasions are set by my Father’s own authority, and it is not for you to know when they will be. But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After saying this, he was taken up to heaven as they watched him, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They still had their eyes fixed on the sky as he went away, when two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them and said, “Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven.”

After the angel spoke to the disciples they all met together and prayed. As they prayed fire appeared over their heads and they began to speak in languages they did not understand, telling people all around them from other countries about how Jesus died on the cross and then rose from the dead. This is how the church began. These Christians began going everywhere and telling everyone. They had faith in Jesus and were filled with bravery because of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus left the disciples and went back to be with His Father, but He also left the disciples a helper, the Holy Spirit! Jesus still lives to this day with His father in Heaven. He is waiting to return to us at just the right time, but we have His spirit living in us TODAY, just like the disciples did!

Memory Verse!

John 3:16: For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

