

Home Front

a spiritual parenting resource



OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE

"God transforms me when I step out in faith."

RESPONSIBILITY

"God has entrusted me with the things and people He created around me."

COURSE CORRECTION

"When I get off track, God offers me a path of healing."

LOVE AND RESPECT

"God fills me with His love so I can give it away."



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A Note From Michelle



Spring has a way of waking everything up. Green shoots push through soil that looked lifeless just weeks before. Every year creation quietly preaches the same sermon: resurrection is possible! That's why this season draws us back to the story at the very center of our faith.

In this issue, we slow down and walk intentionally through Good Friday and Easter, exploring creative ways to bring the meaning of Passover to life around your table so children can see, taste, and remember God's resurrection story. Because faith was never meant to stay inside church walls; it was meant to be lived in the everyday rhythms of home.

You'll also notice the spiritual environments we talk about so often—**OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE, RESPONSIBILITY, COURSE CORRECTION, and LOVE & RESPECT.** These aren't just parenting tools; they reflect the very heart of the Gospel. Jesus stepped toward us in love, carried what wasn't His to bear, and gently calls us to follow Him in grace and truth.

My hope is simple: that your home becomes a place where the story of Jesus isn't just told, but embodied around tables, in conversations, and in small acts of courage and forgiveness.

Resurrection didn't just happen long ago. It still happens in families today.

With blessing on the journey,

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DISCIPLESHIP STEPS AT NEW LIFE CHURCH

Parents are the spiritual nurturers of their children's faith and are the main disciplers in their lives. We are committed to engaging, empowering, and resourcing our parents and families to succeed in their God-given role. Time and resources make this role challenging in our busy world. At New Life Church, we have created a clear path of discipleship for our parents with convenient times and locations. We hope to see you there!

PARENT ORIENTATION A first step toward engaging in our ministry. Hear philosophy, meet staff, and learn how to be involved.

SPIRITUAL PARENTING A six-week class that dives deep into what God's Word says about parenting.

HOMEFRONT MAGAZINE A magazine designed to aid in successful community groups or family nights for your own family.

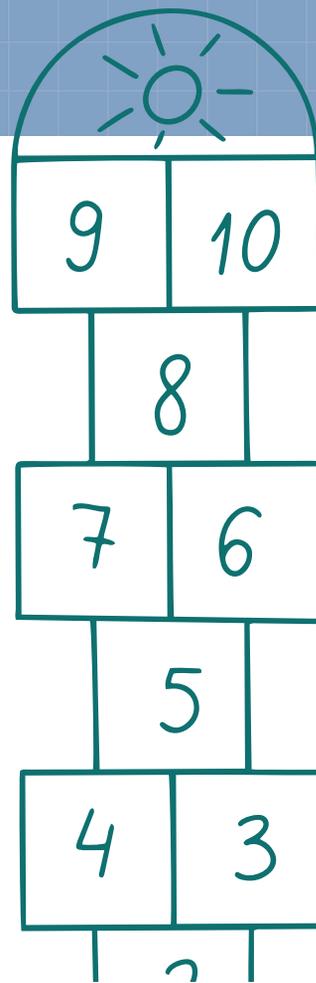
FAMILY NIGHTS/COMMUNITY GROUPS Families meeting in homes to do life together (as individual families or combined with other families) and growing in their relationships with God and each other.

PARENT DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES/EVENTS Throughout the year, we offer special courses and events tailored toward inspiring, equipping, and supporting you as you nurture your children's faith.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

We believe parents and grandparents are the primary nurturers of their children's and grandchildren's faith, and we want to inspire, equip, and support you in that endeavor. Individual Family Nights or Community Groups (families participating together in Family Nights) are an opportunity for you to gather with several other families who are in similar life circumstances and grow together. Your Community Group will gather for eight weeks each semester (Fall, Spring, and Summer). This is a time for you to share a meal, learn more about God, engage with each other, and bless your children.

You can still access previous editions of *HomeFront* magazine at homefrontmag.com. If you would like more information about Community Groups, or would like to sign up for a group near you, email parents@newlifechurch.org. *HomeFront* is the curriculum for our Community Groups, and each volume contains a full semester's worth of gatherings. We hope this magazine will serve as a practical guide for you as you seek to establish a spiritually-rich environment in your home. Thank you for investing in the spiritual health of your family.

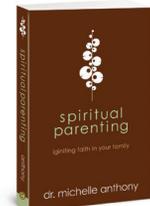


SPIRITUAL PARENTING

It is our prayer that homes and churches would create environments for children to live in so their faith will grow in a community of common language and practice. To learn more about creating environments that can ignite a transforming faith in your family, we suggest you read:

*SPIRITUAL PARENTING:
An Awakening for Today's Families*

BY MICHELLE ANTHONY
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A SUCCESSFUL START

Feeling prepared and ready can increase the quality of your Family Night or Community Group. Flip to the next page to find a supply list and the last page to find both FAMILY TIME Verses. The verses are designed to be cut off the magazine and framed or displayed in high traffic areas of your home. Scan the QR codes in the issue to watch helpful videos and hear our personalized Scripture song on Spotify or YouTube. Simply flip the cut out page before lesson five and enjoy "hiding His Word in your hearts" together.

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FAMILY NIGHT/COMMUNITY GROUP

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OUR MISSION

INSPIRE

parents with ideas to create fun, spiritually-forming times in the normal rhythm of everyday life.

EQUIP

parents to become the spiritual leaders of God's truth in their own households.

SUPPORT

families to engage their communities and change the culture around them.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each lesson helps you lead your family through four sections.

GOD'S WORD:

Spending time together in God's Word is a powerful way for your kids to learn who God is while instilling a love for the Bible from an early age. Take some time to read the passage above together, and then, read and answer the questions in the following devotional.

CREATE or GAME TIME:

Sometimes the best conversations happen around creating or playing together. Don't forget to make this time engaging and purposeful.

WORSHIP RESPONSE:

Worship Response is a time to respond in a posture and attitude of worship toward God. There are many ways that we can actively give our worship to God.

BLESS:

A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a Bible passage, or words of encouragement. Blessings can be spoken over a child for the purpose of declaring God's protection, joy, and wisdom over him.

RESOURCE

THINKING AHEAD

Let's make a plan and set your family up for a successful and stress-free family night or homegroup. Consider gathering all the materials needed for each week, placing them in a tote, and be ready to pull them out for the evening!

Week One

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A blanket or sheet
- Paper
- Markers
- Picture Frame

Week Two

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Brown paper bags
- White pom poms
- Sweet treats to fill each bag
- Paper, pen, and hole punch to make tags
- Scissors, string, and glue
- Masking tape or sidewalk chalk
- Small object for each person

Week Three

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Paper
- Markers or Crayons
- Scissors
- Family-friendly last supper



Week Four

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Paper
- Pen
- Tape or String

Bunny Bait



Week Five

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Tray to set small household items on
- Tea towel to cover the tray
- Deck of cards
- Small stone
- Bunny bait ingredients



Family Friendly Last Supper

pg. 14



Week Seven

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A note card and envelope per participant
- One stamp per participant
- A friends address
- Bible

Week Eight

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A few empty plastic jugs
- Scissors
- Sharpie
- Push pen



TRADITIONS PG.18

Gather these ahead of time!

LESSON ONE

OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE

"God transforms me when I step out in faith."

GOD'S WORD

Ask Accordingly

Green buds are beginning to push up through the ground, and Spring is just beginning to come alive.

Over the next few weeks, you'll see a lot of changes to nature around you, and as you work through the lessons of this issue, you'll begin to grow too.

Growing can be uncomfortable as it requires stretching and expanding, but it's worth it. Read 1 John 5:11-15 aloud and think about the hope it holds. Because Jesus stepped out of His comfort zone, became a man, lived a sinless life, and willingly laid it down to pay for sin, you have eternal life if you believe in Him.

GOD STATEMENT: God Hears

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 5: 11-15

As a bonus, you are welcomed by God to ask anything according to His will. **When you find yourself in a difficult growing moment, call out to God for help.** He will transform your life into eternal beauty.

DISCUSSION

1. What confidence do we have according to 1 John 5:14?
2. How does it make you feel to know your Heavenly Father listens to your prayers?

GAME TIME

Spunky Monkey!

Are you a good listener? Our Heavenly Father is! This fun game helps you remember how great He is to hear our prayers. Have fun trying to figure out which spunky monkey is talking to you!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- One fake tail. A blanket or sheet is perfect.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Have everyone sit in a circle.
2. Pick one player to stand in the middle of the circle. They are the 'spunky monkey', and they put their hands over their eyes.
3. Have the monkey hold their tail in one hand, and drape it over their shoulder so that it goes down their back.
4. Then, silently pick another player to stand up, creep over, and shake the tail whilst saying 'spunky monkey'.
5. Then, they sit back down.
6. The spunky monkey will then wake up, open their eyes, and have three guesses for who said 'spunky monkey'.
7. Once they guess correctly, the player who shook the tail becomes the spunky monkey.





WORSHIP **Power of Prayer**

SCRIPTURES:

- 1 John 5:14-15
- Psalm 17:6
- Mark 11:24

Prayer invites us to pause, refocus, and bring our needs before God with confidence. Scripture assures us that God hears us and is always at work—even when we cannot see it.

This worship response encourages your family to practice asking God boldly and trusting Him together.

Pause and Ask

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Paper, markers, and a picture frame

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Decorate a page with the words: "I'm Believing God For..."
2. Write down your prayers, hopes, or needs that your family wants to bring before God.
3. Place the page in a frame and display it where your family can pause and pray together.

PRAY

Close your time together by praying:

JESUS, THANK YOU THAT YOU HEAR OUR PRAYERS. HELP US TO TRUST YOU AS WE WAIT AND WATCH FOR YOUR WORK IN OUR LIVES. AMEN.

BLESS **Use Your Voice**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 17:6

BLESSING:(Child's name), may you call upon the Lord. He will hear your words and is ready to help. May you also pray for others who need His kindness and restoration power in their lives. He is faithful to answer you!

LESSON TWO

OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE

"God transforms me when I step out in faith."



GOD'S WORD

Praying For Others

GOD STATEMENT: God Answers Prayer
SCRIPTURE: 1 John 5: 11-15

The previous lesson reminded you to pray when you are **OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE**. This lesson highlights the importance of praying diligently for others who may be stepping out in faith in obedience to Christ or may be stepping out in faith to accept Christ as their Savior.

Read the following scriptures and take a moment to discuss what it looks like to pray for others.

PRAY FOR OTHER'S SALVATION

Read: 2 Peter 3:9

Pray: Father, Your Word says You are patient and want all to come to repentance. We pray now for the Holy Spirit to convict (persons name) of their need for You and lead them in the path of Salvation.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Read: James 5:13-15

Pray: Gracious Father, You allow us to pray for the healing of others. Today, we ask in the name of the LORD for the healing of (persons name), We believe You are the Great Physician and will care for them.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOCK YOU

Read: Job 42:7-10

Pray: LORD of all creation, (persons name) has spoken against you without knowledge of who You are. We pray for their repentance and restoration to You. Thank You for Your loving kindness.

PRAY FOR LEADERS

Read: 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Pray: Mighty God, we pray for our leader (persons name) to have wisdom in all decisions made. We are thankful for their leadership and are honored to lift them up in prayer and petitions.

PRAY FOR LOVED ONES

Read: Colossians 1:9

Pray: Loving Father, You are so good. Thank you for Your generous love. I ask You to fill (persons name) with the knowledge of Your will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.

CREATE

Bunny Bags

Have you noticed the cute bunny decoration starting to peek out from store shelves and displays? Some are covered in moss while others are standing in cute yet frozen stances. These adorable creatures remind us of the quiet beauty of Spring. They can scurry almost silently through the yard, busily taking care of the day's chores, unless you are looking intently, they are almost invisible.

Prayers can be like this too. They are often quietly spoken on behalf of others and can go undetected. They become special moments shared between Maker and man.

Sometimes though, it is encouraging to learn someone is praying for you. This week, fill these fun bunny bags with a sweet treat and attach a simple note telling the recipient, "I'm praying for you". It will brighten their day!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A package of brown paper bags
- White pom poms for each "bunny" tail
- Sweet treats to fill each paper bag
- Paper, pen, and hole punch to make tags
- Scissors, string, and glue

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Decide how many bunny bags to make
2. Cut enough strips of paper to tag each bag
3. Write "I'm praying for you!" on each strip
4. Punch a hole in the tag
5. Cut a v shape out of the top half of a folded paper bag to form "bunny ears" and glue a pom pom near the bottom of bag for the "tail"
6. Fill bag with sweet treats and tie right below "ears"
7. Attach the prayer tag and plan to give them away this week!

Hop to It

SCRIPTURES:

- Mark 1:35
- Luke 6:12
- John 17:1-26

Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus regularly withdrawing to pray. Prayer was not passive for Him—it was active, intentional, and life-giving. Prayer shapes our hearts, connects us to God, and helps us become more like Jesus.

This worship response invites your family to move, pray, and engage together as you lift one another before God.

Hopscotch Prayers

WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- You’ll need masking tape (or sidewalk chalk), a marker, and a small object for each person.

WHAT YOU’LL DO

1. Create a hopscotch grid on the floor or sidewalk.
2. Write the name of a family member in each square. Use extra squares for friends, neighbors, or others you want to pray for.
3. Take turns tossing your marker into a square, hopping to it, and leading a prayer for the person named.
4. Continue until every name has been prayed for. You may add new names or prayer topics and repeat.



Close your time together by praying:

LORD, THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS LISTENING AND FOR MEETING US WHEN WE PRAY. TEACH US TO STAY CONNECTED TO YOU EACH DAY. AMEN.



BLESS

Richly Blessed

SCRIPTURE: Luke 6:12
BLESSING:(Child’s name), may you desire a rich prayer life. May you look for ways to be alone with the LORD and hear His heart for others. May you grow as a mighty prayer warrior for the Kingdom of God.



LESSON THREE

Palm Sunday

RESPONSIBILITY

"God has entrusted me with the things and people He created around me."

GOD'S WORD

Riding On A Donkey

There once was a real man who owned a donkey and her young colt. He was responsible to feed them and care for their needs. These tasks may have seemed routine, unimportant, or insignificant, but these two animals were going to be a special part of the Easter story. For one day, two of Jesus' disciples arrived and announced, "The Lord has need of them". It was the moment an Old Testament prophecy found in Zechariah 9:9 was fulfilled. The owner knew it. He immediately sent the pair to Jesus.

Are you wondering why Christ would choose a donkey's colt as His triumphal entry mode of transportation? Most leaders and kings of ancient times are pictured as riding on a mighty war horse. **But did you know, when a leader came in peace, he would ride on a donkey?** Jesus took this symbol a step further by riding on a colt. No one had ridden the young donkey before, this seat belonged to Jesus alone. By riding a colt, He was displaying the purpose

GOD STATEMENT: Jesus is Humble
SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:1-11 and John 12:15

of His coming, to humbly bring salvation, something only He could do.

Read the story found in Matthew 21:1-11 and John 12:15 as a family. As you read, think about the donkey's owner and the disciples. See if you hear any other characters using what they had as a way to worship Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. Then, discuss the questions below.

DISCUSSION

1. Did you notice the crowd spreading their coats on the road for Jesus to enter on?
2. Do you treat your possessions as though they may be used for the Lord one day?
3. Think about the things God has entrusted you with. Pray and ask God what way you can use these gifts to worship Him. Share your thoughts with one another.



GAME TIME

Get Your Colts Ready

Time for a little fun! When owning a horse was too expensive, these Europeans used what they had and made a fun, yet challenging sport. Use the QR code to watch the short video explaining "hobby horse sport". Now, look around your house and creatively think of items to be used for a silly colt race. A spatula? Maybe a broom stick or old ruler? Anything goes in this "use what you have" kind of game. As you laugh and play, remember, Jesus can use anything to bring Him glory. Will you let Him?

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- One "racing colt" per player
- Start and end line



WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Have each player choose their race colt and gather at the designated start line.
2. On the count of three, race toward the finish line.
3. Add obstacles for an extra twist.
4. First one to the finish line wins!

Welcoming the King

SCRIPTURES:

- Matthew 21:8-9
- Zechariah 9:9
- Psalm 118:26

Palm Sunday tells the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem as a king—but not the kind people expected. Instead of arriving with power and force, He came riding on a donkey, gentle and humble. Crowds waved palm branches and shouted praises, celebrating Jesus as their long-awaited Savior. Yet many didn't fully understand the kind of King He truly was.

This worship response invites your family to slow down and ask an important question: How do we welcome Jesus into our lives today?



Close your time together by praying:

JESUS, WE WELCOME YOU. BE KING OF OUR HEARTS, OUR HOMES, AND OUR LIVES. AMEN.

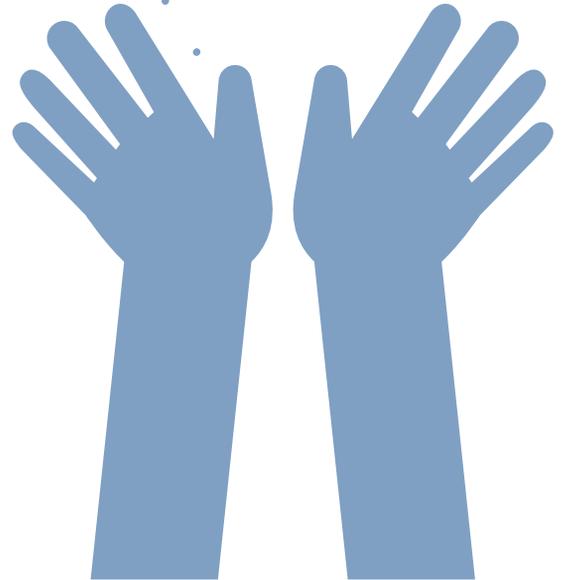
Create a Palm of Praise

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Paper, crayons or markers, and scissors

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Trace your hand on paper and cut it out. This will be your "palm branch."
2. On the palm, write or draw words that describe who Jesus is to you—King, Friend, Savior, Peace-giver.
3. On the fingers, write ways you can welcome Jesus this week: showing kindness, forgiving someone, choosing patience, praying, or praising Him even when things are hard.
4. When complete, turn on a worship song such as "Hosanna" by Hillsong United or "Hosanna Rock" by Yancy, and have your own celebration of worship using your "palm branches".



Freely Rejoice

SCRIPTURE: Zechariah 9:9

BLESSING: (Child's name), may you daily offer what you have to the Lord. May He give you creativity to see what is available each day that you might use to worship the King. Let your worship be full of rejoicing and adoration of the One who came to set you free.





A Family-Friendly LAST SUPPER



On Thursday of Jesus' Christ's last week, He attended a Passover meal with His apostles. This was also known as the Last Supper since it would be His last meal before He went into the Garden of Gethsemane and then later, was arrested. Jesus showed great humility as He washed His friends' feet. He also introduced the Sacrament of what we now call "communion" with the wine and bread. Consider having a family Last Supper to talk about this event and what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane after their meal together. This family-friendly meal is easy to prepare and uses foods that Jesus may have eaten that night. **Scan the QR code above to print and use the Last Supper Cards to read Scripture and to enjoy a family conversation about this important part of our faith story.**

Adapted from resources on SOFESTIVE.COM





LAST SUPPER 1

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

- Matthew 26:17

And he said, 'Go into the city to such a man, and say to him, My Master says, My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples'.

-Matthew 26:18



LAST SUPPER 2

And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the Passover.

-Matthew 26:19

Now when the evening had come, he sat down with the twelve disciples.

-Matthew 26:20

LAST SUPPER 3

"And as they ate, he said, Truly I say to you, that one of you will betray me.

- Matthew 26:21

And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and began every one of them to say to him, Lord, is it I?

- Matthew 26:22

And He answered and said, He that dips his hand with me in the dish, is the one that will betray me.

-Matthew 26:23



LAST SUPPER 4

The Son of Man goes as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.

- Matthew 26:24

Then Judas, who betrayed him, answered and said, Master is it I? He said to him, You have said it.

- Matthew 26:25

SCAN THE QR CODE ON PAGE 12 TO PRINT ALL 12 LAST SUPPER CARDS.

Prepare for the Meal

TIPS

- **Pick a simple menu.** Favorite items include slow cooker lentil soup, chicken kabobs, pita bread, hummus, nuts, raisins, grapes, oranges, olives sparkling cider.
- For a memorable dinner, spread a blanket on the floor and eat there!
- **Scan the QR Code** on the previous page and download the Last Supper cards to guide you through the events of the Last Supper.
- If you want to get really into it, have family members dress up in robes or head wraps.
- **Eat by candlelight.**

LAST SUPPER MENU AND RECIPES

- lentil soup
- chicken kabobs
- olives
- grapes
- oranges
- nuts
- crackers
- fish or fish sticks
- carrots
- prunes
- figs
- dates
- sparkling cider
- pita bread
- hummus
- artisan bread
- couscous
- quinoa
- raisins
- dried apricots
- lamb chops
- saltine crackers
- small potatoes

ROSEMARY RANCH Chicken Kabobs

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup ranch dressing
- 3 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 Tbsp rosemary, dried
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp white vinegar
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1 Tbsp white sugar
- 5 boneless skinless chicken breasts, cubed

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Mix all ingredients together in a bowl and let sit for 5 minutes.
2. Add in chicken and stir to coat well. Let the chicken marinate for 30 minutes or longer.
3. Put on metal skewers or soaked bamboo skewers.
4. Cook on the grill for 6-10 minutes on each side.

SLOW COOKER Lentil Soup



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 1 cup mixed beans/lentils
- 3 1/2 cups chicken broth
- 1 can diced Italian tomatoes (or plain and add spices)
- 1/2 C sautéed onions
- 1 C chopped carrots
- 1 C sliced celery
- 2-3 minced garlic cloves

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Sauté onions, carrots, celery, and garlic for a few minutes until tender but not fullycooked.
2. Put everything into a Crockpot on low for 8-10 hours or high 4-5 hours.

Enjoy the Meal

Invite each family member to take their place at the blanket on the floor or low coffee table. After everyone has sat down, begin with dinner and reading the verses found on the Last Supper cards.

PARENT SAYS:

"The Passover was a traditional Jewish celebration that celebrated the miraculous exodus from Egyptian slavery.

As the Scripture says, Christ desired to keep the Passover with His disciples. He sent Peter and John to prepare the meal, and then later, gathered with all 12 apostles in an upper room in Jerusalem to have the Passover meal.

A typical Passover meal consisted of wine, vegetables dipped in saltwater, bitter herbs, and sometimes fish, soup, salads, and desserts.

Even though this isn't a traditional Passover feast, we will be eating some of the same things that the Savior might have eaten.

We have unleavened bread (pita bread), olives, grapes, and lentil soup. They did not have electricity back then, so we will eat by candlelight.

Let's start the meal with a prayer."

Invite one child to bless the food. Throughout dinner, take turns reading the 12 Last Supper cards.

Scan the QR code on the previous page and print and distribute one or more to each family member before the dinner.

LESSON FOUR

Good Friday

RESPONSIBILITY

"God has entrusted me with the things and people He created around me."

GOD'S WORD

Two Were Responsible

GOD STATEMENT: Jesus Saves
SCRIPTURE: Luke 23:33-56

Christ entered Jerusalem on Sunday, shared the Last Supper with His disciples on Thursday, and now Friday had arrived. The full weight of this earthly mission rested on His heavy shoulders. Weary and wounded, our Warrior willingly became the perfect sacrifice, and two men knew it.

These two men used what God had entrusted to them to acknowledge Jesus as LORD. The thief on the cross took responsibility for his sin by confessing he deserved death. Even in His suffering, Jesus was ready and willing to save this man and compassionately assured him of Paradise.

After Jesus gives up His life and breathes His last, Joseph, a Council man who owned a tomb, quickly gave it for Jesus to be buried. **Joseph may not have completely understood what just happened, but He took responsibility for the body of Christ and treated it with reverence and tenderness.**

Read the true story from Luke 23: 33-56 as a family. Are you in awe of what Jesus gave for you? Will you respond like the thief and Joseph and submit what you've been given to Him for His glory? Use the questions below for further discussion.

DISCUSSION

1. Compare the two thieves on either side of Jesus. How are they the same? How are they different?
2. Notice how courageous Joseph had to be. Do you think it was scary to ask Pilate for the body of Christ?
3. Both men took responsibility in the moment. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you clarity and courage the next time He asks you to be responsible.

CREATE

Preparing Your Heart

Good Friday is somber, but Resurrection Sunday is coming! Take a few moments to read through the Traditions mentioned on the next page. Choose a few your family would like to try, then make a plan to do them in the space provided below.

TRADITION WE WANT TO TRY

WHAT WE NEED TO PREPARE

WHEN WE WILL TRY THIS

TRADITION WE WANT TO TRY

WHAT WE NEED TO PREPARE

WHEN WE WILL TRY THIS

Love That Sacrifices

SCRIPTURES:

- Luke 23:33-46
- Isaiah 53:5
- John 15:13

Good Friday is a quiet, heavy day. It reminds us that Jesus chose to suffer—not because He had to, but because He chose to because He loves us. The cross shows us a love that sacrificed, even when it hurt, even when it cost everything.

This worship response invites your family to sit with the seriousness of the cross and reflect on Jesus’ great love

WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- two strips of paper (or sticks), a pen, and tape or string

A Cross of Gratitude

WHAT YOU’LL DO

1. Form a cross with the two strips and secure them.
2. On the vertical strip, write words that describe what Jesus gave: Love, Forgiveness, Mercy, Life.
3. On the horizontal strip, write quiet prayers or thank-you words to Jesus.
4. Sit silently for a moment or while listening to a worship song such as “Thank you Lord” by New Life Kids Worship, to remember His sacrifice.

PRAY

End by reading Isaiah 53:5 together and take turns praying.

JESUS, THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME AND SACRIFICING FOR ME...ALL THE WAY TO THE CROSS. AMEN.

Lay it Down

SCRIPTURE: John 15:13

BLESSING: (Child’s name), may you remember the love of the Lord, that He laid down His life for you. Knowing you are a great treasure to Him, may you be willing to lay down what you have for His kingdom use. May it be a great delight to watch Him use what you have in big ways.



7 FUN CHRIST-CENTERED, EASTER TRADITIONS

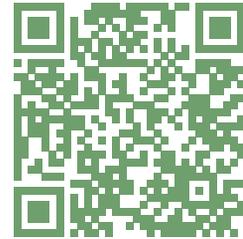
To Celebrate with the Family

By Emily Elling

1

Kitchen sunrise service. Regardless of the day of the week, my kids are up at the crack of dawn. One of my neighbors says her family holds an informal “sunrise service” in the kitchen as they get ready for the day. They listen to Handel’s Messiah on the CD player, read the Easter story in the Bible, and then follow up with a children’s book such as *The Story of Easter*. You can make an Easter sunrise breakfast of Empty Tomb Rolls, made of crescent rolls, marshmallows, and brown sugar - these recipes are all over Pinterest or you can find one on WomenLivingWell.org.

Handel's Messiah



*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

2

A new Sunday outfit. Stemming from a tradition my mother started with my sisters and I when we were little girls, every Easter Sunday every child receives a new outfit for church. One of my friends says she does the same thing, buying new dresses for her girls, but incorporates an important note of scripture with the gift.

3

Prepare the food and set the table with prayer. My friend, Ginny, says that when she’s preparing the food (for instance, peeling a 10 pound bag of potatoes), instead of grumbling about the monotony of the task, she uses the time to pray to Jesus for each person that will be sitting around the Easter table. You can encourage your kids to do this too and pray for your guests as they help set the table for any family Easter gatherings!



4



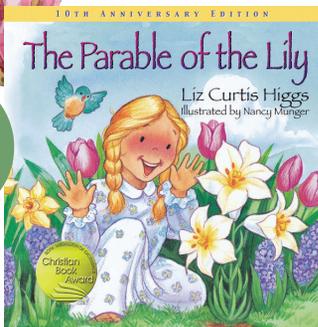
Organize a neighborhood pitch-in lunch. We don't have family in town, and we don't travel for Easter because we really like to attend our own church on this holiday. For years now, my friend and neighbor, Katie, has opened up her home as a gathering place for a pitch-in lunch for anyone who might not have family in town to celebrate with on this special resurrection day. If you're not getting together with neighbors, share your Easter meal with someone who might spend it alone and use that time to tell them about the reason we celebrate Jesus on Easter!

5

Skip the eggs filled with only candy and sweets. My kids love games, so the traditional Easter egg hunt is something they really look forward to. But instead of only sugary treats hidden in the eggs, they also will find a small piece of paper with a redeeming scripture verse hand-written on it. After the hunt is done, we sit together as a family and each child reads aloud the verses they found in their eggs.



6



Read The Parable of the Lily and plant (or force) a lily bulb. *The Parable of the Lily* is the sweet story of a little girl named Maggie who one day opens the package to find a bulb buried in a crate of dirt. This was not what Maggie expected. She had hoped for a doll or a game, not a bulb that would one day become a plant. When spring comes, she finds the bulb in the cellar and tosses the lifeless thing into the garden, never to think of it again . . . until she walks outside on Easter morning and finds the most beautiful lily she has ever seen. Through the unique gift of a bulb, Maggie discovers the true meaning of Easter.

7



Make Resurrection Eggs to tell the Easter story, as described step-by-step by Tara Ziegmont.



LESSON FIVE

COURSE CORRECTION

Resurrection

"When I get off track, God offers me a path of healing."

GOD'S WORD

Remember His Words

They had buried Jesus' body and hurried home to prepare spices and perfumes to complete His burial, but the Sabbath had arrived. The women rested according to the commandment. All day they thought about the task ahead. Early the next morning, as the sun barely begun to rise, they rushed to the tomb with the spices they had prepared, desperate to honor the body of Christ.

When they arrived, intending to carry out the course they had set out on, something miraculous happened. Two men, in dazzling clothes, stood near them and spoke wonderful news. News that changed their course. **Jesus was not dead-He had fulfilled scripture and was alive!**

GOD STATEMENT: Jesus is Alive
SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:1-10

The women left the spices and hurried to tell the others. Their mourning had turned to gladness. Today, we have the same joy. **When we long to be near Jesus, He compassionately welcomes us and offers a path to healing.** Read Luke 24:1-10 to hear the story before discussing the following questions.

DISCUSSION

1. How did the angels help correct the course these women were on?
2. What did they ask the women to remember?
3. When you get off track, what can you remember to help you find the truth again?

GAME TIME

Memory Master

Want to strengthen your brain? Check out the two following brain games to practice using your noggin. As you play, think about the value of memory. God gave you this gift as a way back to Him. Have fun discovering the memory master in your family!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- common things, such as pencil, key, marble, fork, penny, etc.
- A tray

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Place common the gathered items on a tray.
2. Cover the tray with a cloth or paper.
3. Display items on the tray for one minute (or whatever time is age-appropriate for the players).
4. Cover the tray again and have the players write a list of the items on the tray.
5. Player with the most items correct wins the game.
6. A good way to break a tie is to take away one thing and ask what has been removed.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A deck of playing cards

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Lay out the 52 cards in four rows of thirteen each. If you wish, you may include the jokers in six rows of nine cards each.
2. Players take turns choosing two cards, placing them face up. If they are of the same rank and color (for example, six of diamonds and six of hearts) that player wins the pair and plays again.
3. If the cards are not of the same rank and color, the player returns the cards to the board face down and play passes to the player on the left.
4. The game ends when a player picks the last pair. The winner is the person with the most pairs. Players may end up in a tie for first place.



Sunday

WORSHIP

God's Love Is Strong

SCRIPTURES:

- Matthew 28:5-6
- Romans 6:4
- 1 Corinthians 15:57

The story of Jesus' death and resurrection is the heart of our faith. The cross reminds us of great sacrifice. The empty tomb reminds us that death did not have the final word. Together, they tell a powerful truth: God's love is stronger than sin, fear, and even death.

This worship response invites your family to move from sorrow to hope

A Stone of Hope

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A small stone (or paper cut into a stone shape) and a marker.

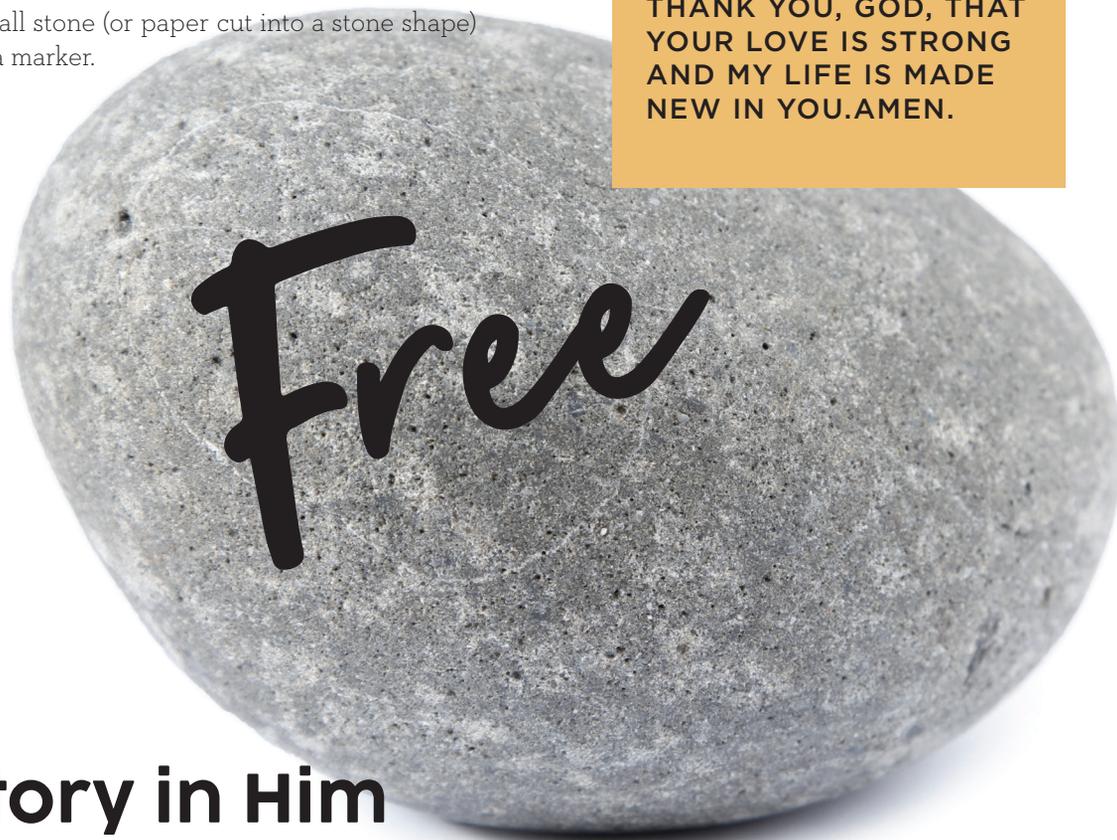
WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Hold the stone quietly and talk about how Jesus' friends felt—sad, afraid, unsure.
2. On one side, write something heavy you want to give to God.
3. Turn it over and write a word of hope: New Life, Forgiven, Loved, Free.
4. Place the stone somewhere meaningful as a reminder of resurrection hope.

PRAY

Close your time together by praying:

THANK YOU, GOD, THAT YOUR LOVE IS STRONG AND MY LIFE IS MADE NEW IN YOU. AMEN.



BLESS

Victory in Him

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:57

BLESSING: (Child's name), may you remember the victory God has given you through Jesus Christ. As Lord of your life, He has conquered fear and death. He alone is able to offer you healing that is forever. May you accept His gift and know the work is finished. You are safe in Him.

BUNNY BAIT TRAIL MIX



Make this fun and delicious Bunny Bait Trail Mix for Easter from the [Together as Family blog](#)! An assortment of cereal and snack foods are covered in a white chocolate glaze, and then the trail mix is decorated with pastel M&M candies and Easter sprinkles. It's a sweet, salty, and crunchy texture perfection!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 3 cups Rice Chex cereal
- 2 cups Honey Nut Cheerios
- 2 cups kettle corn
- 1 cup crispy chow mein noodles
- 1 bag (11 oz) white chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup bunny graham crackers
- 1 cup pastel Easter M&M's
- 1-2 tablespoons Easter or pastel colored sprinkles

WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Prepare a cookie sheet (12"x18") by lining it with parchment paper or wax paper.
- In a large mixing bowl, stir the Rice Chex cereal, Honey Nut Cheerios, kettle corn, and chow mein noodles. Set aside.
- Melt the white chocolate chips in a microwave safe bowl for 1 minute. Stir well, and continue heating in 30 second increments until smooth and melted. Pour the chocolate over the dry snack mix and stir gently until everything is coated in white chocolate.
- Pour the white chocolate coated snack mix on the prepared pan and spread it out evenly. Try to get it in a single layer as much as possible. Allow it to set for 30 minutes at room temperature.
- Once the mixture is hardened and dry, break up the snack mix and place it into a bowl. Sprinkle the powdered sugar over it and gently mix to combine.
- Add the bunny grahams, M&M's, and sprinkles. Mix to combine everything together. Enjoy!

Together AS family
RECIPES FROM MY FAMILY'S KITCHEN TO YOURS

Picture and recipe from: [togetherasfamily.com](#)



Stepping Out of the Comfort Zone

CONSIDER MAKING EXTRA BUNNY BAIT TO FILL SMALL CELLOPHANE BAGS FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS. ATTACH AN INVITATION ASKING THEM TO JOIN YOUR FAMILY FOR EASTER SERVICE.



LESSON SIX

COURSE CORRECTION

"When I get off track, God offers me a path of healing."

GOD'S WORD

A Mindful Rest

When you experience something difficult, it takes a toll on your heart. God knows this and is full of compassion. The previous few lessons have been heavy. Think of how Jesus' followers might have felt after spending three intense years with Christ during His earthly ministry, witnessing His painful crucifixion, and experiencing the incredible joy of His resurrection.

They were excited to carry the good news to the world and also in need of the loving kindness of God. Acts records that before Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and the Church was born, He gathered the disciples and commanded them to wait until Pentecost. They needed this time of rest. In this

GOD STATEMENT: God Has Compassion

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 103:1-5; 11-14

lesson, take time to rest and let the good news of Jesus wash over you.

Read Psalm 103:1-5; 11-14 aloud and listen for the words **compassion, loving kindness, heals and mindful**. Then, discuss the questions that follow.

DISCUSSION

1. What words did you hear that describe how God cares for you?
2. It is because of Jesus we are pardoned, healed, redeemed, and crowned with loving kindness. Take a moment to thank Him.



GAME TIME

Freeze

Have you ever seen the movie "A Night at the Museum?" It's a fantastical plot where the characters found in the museum stay frozen all day and roam free at night. Pausing from regular activity has been God's plan for us from the beginning. He instituted a weekly rest so we could spend time with Him and stay on course. This fun game will help you think about "freezing" all activity for a moment and remembering to wait on the LORD.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Open Space

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Designate a "night watchman".
2. All other participants are statues.
3. Every time that the night watchman turns around (away from the participants), the participants can move.
4. Once the night watchman looks back towards the participants, they must freeze without getting caught moving.
5. The night watchman calls out a theme for the museum (for instance, dinosaurs) and the participants freeze and move like that theme as the watchman tours the museum.
6. Once a participant is caught moving, they are out.

Picture This

SCRIPTURES:

- John 20:11-31

Imaginative prayer helps us slow down and meet Jesus in Scripture by picturing the scenes we read and listening for what God may want to show us. When we engage our imagination, we bring our whole selves—mind, heart, and senses—before God.

This worship response invites your family to step into the resurrection story and experience the truth of Scripture through sight, sound, emotion, and reflection, trusting the Holy Spirit to meet you there.

Imaginative Prayer

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Bible

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Read John 20:11-18. Imagine it is early morning. The garden is quiet. Mary is crying. Ask: What does the air feel like? What do you smell? Where are you standing? Then read: "Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'" Imagine Jesus saying your name. How do you feel when He speaks it?
2. Read John 20:19-23. Imagine you are with the disciples behind locked doors, feeling afraid. Hear Jesus say, "Peace be with you." What does His voice sound like? How do you feel as He speaks peace into the room? Ask Jesus, "Where do I need Your peace right now?"
3. Read John 20:24-29. Imagine arriving with Thomas. How do you feel when you finally see Jesus? What do you notice about Him? What do you want to say?



PRAY

Close your time together by praying:

JESUS, THANK YOU FOR MEETING US AND SPEAKING PEACE TO OUR HEARTS. HELP US TO KNOW YOU AND EXPERIENCE YOU MORE EACH DAY. AMEN.



Revere

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 103:17-18

BLESSING:(Child's name), may you have reverence for God all your life. Remember the LORDS' kindness is from everlasting to everlasting. He can always reach you and His goodness extends to all generations.

LESSON SEVEN

LOVE AND RESPECT

"God fills me with His love so I can give it away."

GOD'S WORD

Consider One Another

Have you ever thought about the word consider?

It means to think about. It may sound funny to think about thinking about, but that is exactly what the writer of Hebrews 10:24 tells us to do. We are to think about the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ and help however we can. This act stirs up love and good deeds in others! It's like a chain reaction that keeps prompting more love and good deeds.

In order to care for others, it's important to be in regular fellowship with them. Small group members, play dates, neighbors. These are all people you spend time with and know best.

Read Hebrews 10:24 and Philippians 2:4. Then, discuss the questions below to consider ways to stir up love and good deeds to others.

GOD STATEMENT: Jesus gives fellowship

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 10:24 and Philippians 2:4

DISCUSSION

1. How can spending time with other believers provide you with encouragement and accountability?
2. How can you be a spiritual encouragement to those you are with most often?
3. Do you think about others needs often?
4. Pray and ask God to help you stir up love and good deeds.

CREATE

A Letter To Encourage

Do you like getting a letter in the mail? It's so fun to open the envelope and read the words someone wrote to you specifically. During this create, take time to write a letter to a person you want to encourage.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A note card and envelope per participant
- One stamp per participant
- A friends address

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Write a simple encouraging note to a friend.
2. Promptly address the envelope and place a stamp on the front.
3. If you wait until later, you may forget. Make every effort to complete the letter and drop it in the mailbox today!

PRAY

Close your time together by praying:

FATHER, THANK YOU FOR YOUR POWER AT WORK IN OUR FAMILY. HELP US TO WALK IN LOVE, COURAGE, AND FAITH AS WE FOLLOW YOU. AMEN.

WORSHIP

Laying On of Hands

SCRIPTURES:

- 2 Timothy 1:6-7
- Matthew 19:13-15
- Deuteronomy 6:6-7

As parents and caregivers, God has given us the privilege of praying boldly for our children.

Scripture reminds us that God's Spirit brings power, love, and self-control—not fear. Jesus Himself welcomed children and laid His hands on them.

This worship response invites your family to practice praying with intention and blessing one another through the laying on of hands.

Praying With Laying on of Hands

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Bible

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Create a calm space and gather together.
2. Turn off distractions.
3. Talk about why we lay hands on one another by reading 2 Timothy 1:6-7.
4. Parents, begin by gently laying hands on your child and praying specifically for him.
5. Invite children, if willing, to pray and lay hands on others as well.

BLESS

Be Uplifting

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 10:25

BLESSING: (Child's name), may you love gathering with other believers. May you be intentional with your words and actions that they might know the goodness of God more each time they are with you. May you be known as an encourager to all.

LESSON EIGHT

LOVE AND RESPECT

"God fills me with His love so I can give it away."

GOD'S WORD

When Everything Changes

Over and over, personal accounts recorded in the New Testament reveal a powerful truth: an encounter with Jesus changed the person. They never left the same. Some left angry or unsettled, but many left full of love and hope. So full, their whole life was changed!

Read Luke 5:1-11 and see how many changes you can spot in the story. Then, use the discussion questions below to focus on a few of the major transformations.

DISCUSSION

1. Verses 3-5 use the name Simon for this future disciple. What change do you notice in verse 8? That's right! Simon Peter is used. Simon

GOD STATEMENT: Jesus Makes Us New
SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:1-11

means "God Hears" and Peter means "Rock". Peter was the first to confess Jesus as Messiah, and this is the foundation for new life in Him. Jesus gives us a new identity.

2. Now look at verses 4 and 10. What is different? Jesus masterfully changes the purpose of these men's lives and made them fishers of men.
3. Finally, read verses 4 and 8. What about Peter's posture changed? Yes! He fell down at Jesus feet, indicating his respect for the power of Christ.

Something New

Jesus saw people not as they were, but as they would be. He is the ultimate Transformer. This create offers simple and fun ways to take what once was trash and give it a new purpose. Which one will you choose?

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A few empty plastic jugs
- Scissors
- Sharpie
- Push pen



WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Scan the QR code and have fun transforming!



CREATE

Trust in the Lord

SCRIPTURES:

- Matthew 4:18-22
- Proverbs 3:5-6

When Jesus called His disciples, He invited them to leave what was familiar and trust Him completely. They didn't know where the journey would lead—but they followed anyway.

This worship response invites your family to reflect on what it means to trust Jesus with every part of your lives.

Open Hands Prayer

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Ask: What might be holding you back from fully trusting Jesus?
2. Hold your hands in tight fists as you think about those worries or doubts.
3. Pray honestly, asking the Holy Spirit for help.
4. Slowly open your hands and say together, "Jesus, I trust You."

PRAY

End your time by reading Proverbs 3:5-6 and praying:

LORD, WE CHOOSE TO TRUST YOU WITH OUR LIVES. LEAD US AS WE FOLLOW YOU. AMEN.

A Wonderful Plan

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 3:5-6

BLESSING: (Child's name), may you be quick to open your hands to Jesus in trust. May you recognize how wonderful His plans are for you. He has named you with purpose and identity and is powerful to lead you on the straight path.

10

ENVIRONMENTS

The order of the 10 Environments listed coincides with the monthly distribution of this resource.



1 STORYTELLING

“God has a big story, and I can be a part of it!”

The power of The Big God Story impacts our lives by giving us an accurate and awe-inspiring perspective into how God has been moving throughout history. It is the story of redemption, salvation, and hope and tells how we have been grafted into it by grace. It further compels us to see how God uses every person's life to create a unique story that deserves to be told for God's glory.

2 IDENTITY

“I belong to God, and He loves me!”

This environment highlights who we are in Christ. According to Ephesians 1, we have been chosen, adopted, redeemed, sealed, and given an inheritance in Christ - all of which we did nothing to earn. This conviction allows children to stand firm against the destructive counter-identities the world will offer.

3 FAITH COMMUNITY

“God's family cares for each other and worships God together.”

God designed us to live in community and to experience Him in ways that can only happen in proximity to one another. The faith community serves to create an environment to equip and disciple parents, to celebrate God's faithfulness, and to bring a richness of worship through tradition and rituals, which offer children an identity. Our love for each other reflects the love we have received from God.

4 SERVING

“Asks the question, ‘What needs to be done?’”

This posture of the heart asks the question, “What needs to be done?” It allows the Holy Spirit to cultivate a sensitivity to others and focuses on a cause bigger than one individual life. It helps fulfill the mandate that as Christ-followers, we are to view our lives as living sacrifices that we generously give away!

5 OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE

“God transforms me when I step out in faith.”

As children and students are challenged to step out of their comfort zone from an early age, they learn to experience a dependence on the Holy Spirit to equip and strengthen them beyond their natural abilities and desires. We believe this environment will cultivate a generation that, instead of seeking comfort, seeks a radical life of faith in Christ.

6 RESPONSIBILITY

“God has entrusted me with the things and people He created around me.”

This environment captures the ability to take ownership for one's life, gifts, and resources before God. A child must be challenged to take responsibility for his or her brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as for those who are spiritually lost. Our hope is that the Holy Spirit will use this environment to allow each child to understand that God has entrusted His world to us.

7 COURSE CORRECTION

“When I get off track, God offers me a path of healing.”

This environment flows out of Hebrews 12:11-13 and is the direct opposite of punishment. Instead, biblical discipline for a child encompasses a season of pain, the building up in love, and a vision of a corrected path for the individual with the purpose of healing at its core.

8 LOVE AND RESPECT

“God fills me with His love so I can give it away.”

Without love, our faith becomes futile. This environment recognizes that children need an environment of love and respect in order to be free to both receive and give God's grace. Innate to this environment is the value that children are respected because they embody the image of God. We must speak to them, not at them, and we must commit to an environment where love and acceptance are never withheld due to one's behavior.

9 KNOWING

“God knows me, and I can know Him.”

Nothing could be more important than knowing and being known by God. We live in a world that denies absolute truth, and yet, God's Word offers just that. As we create an environment that upholds and displays God's truth, we give children a foundation based on knowing God, knowing His Word, and having a relationship with Him through Christ. God is holy, mighty, and awesome, and yet He has chosen to make Himself known to us!

10 MODELING

“I see Christ in others, and they can see Him in me.”

Biblical content needs a practical living expression in order for it to be spiritually impacting. This environment serves as a hands-on example of what it means for children to put their faith into action. Modeling puts flesh on faith and reminds us that others are watching to see if we live what we believe.

April
FAMILY TIME VERSE

Praise be to the
God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In His great mercy
He has given us

new birth into a
living hope
through the
resurrection of
Jesus Christ

from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

HomeFront



March
FAMILY TIME VERSE

THE
LORD YOUR GOD

Is with you, THE

MIGHTY WARRIOR

who saves.

HE WILL TAKE

GREAT DELIGHT *in you.*

IN HIS LOVE HE WILL NO LONGER
rebuke you.

BUT WILL

REJOICE OVER YOU

with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17

HomeFront

