

Discipling the New Generations



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Disciplining the New Generations

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Dedication & Acknowledgements

*To the One whose dreams are
always beyond us.*

We love You.

*We are truly grateful
for everyone behind the scenes whose
prayers and insightful feedback
shaped this book, along with those on the
front lines who piloted these lessons.*

*Thank you for your heart for
Jesus and His children.*

Note from the Authors

Jesus Christ loves you! He loved you before you loved Him. He made the first move to be in a daily relationship with you. He longs for you to find your peace, joy, love, purpose and your identity in who He is!

As you make new discoveries about Jesus every day from the written Word of God, He calls you to share what you have learned about Him to the new generations! You cannot keep Christ just for yourself.

Children and youth today need to know Jesus for themselves. They need to have their own individual relationship with Him. They need to personally experience the transforming power of His love, acceptance and grace!

Our prayer is that these lessons will be a tool in your hands to disciple the child or teen in your life to know Jesus Christ, to live for Him and to disciple others to know Him too!

“Now may the God of peace . . . that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” Hebrews 13:20-21.

Praying you believe this promise and live it as Jesus lives in you. May you pray impossible prayers and see them answered on this journey with those He brings to you.

How to Use This Book

This book of lessons is intended for anyone who wants to grow as a disciple of Jesus and a disciple-maker of children and teens. The lessons are created in a small group format. Groups of twelve or less are best. When groups grow too big, intentional discipling suffers. The group may focus more on the program instead of the people.

The first five lessons are for parents or anyone willing to be a mentor to the new generations. You cannot take a child on a journey with Christ that you are not on yourself! These five lessons call us back to live as a disciple of Jesus now.

The last twenty lessons are intended for parents/mentors, children, and teens. Each lesson begins with the group and leads to a priceless moment for the parent/mentor to talk with his/her child about what was just discovered in God's Word.

Here are some discipling tips for using these lessons to grow disciples for Jesus:

1. Be a daily disciple of Jesus yourself. Worship the Lord in His Word and in prayer. Thank Him. Praise Him! Confess to Him. Repent of the compromises that prevent Jesus from being your Lord. Ask for and receive the Holy Spirit so that He will transform your life and send you out to be a living witness for Jesus.
2. Pray daily for every parent/mentor, child, and teen in your small group. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless each one to receive the love and grace of Jesus, be

in God's Word, live His Word, and share the good news with others. Pray that God gives you a heart of compassion for each one.

3. Prayerfully read through each lesson in preparation for leading the small group. Prepare a short story or testimony from your life to share at the end of each lesson right before you share the challenge for the next week. Your small group will appreciate knowing what the challenge means to you personally before you give them the same challenge for the next week.
4. Prepare the room. Place the chairs in a circle. If possible, enjoy some healthy snacks either right before the lesson or right after the lesson. Some groups begin or end with a light meal. The main point is to create an environment that encourages fellowship. This informal time is an effective time to "share life" with your small group members. Listen to them as they share their joys, successes, losses, dreams, and fears.
5. Come early so you can personally welcome each person into the group. Learn each name as soon as possible. Welcome them by name!
6. Mentor someone younger than you to be your co-leader. Coach him/her to take part of the lesson each week. Grow him/her to be an effective small group leader with a heart to disciple people, not just get through material.
7. Lead the "Report" time in the lesson with much grace and also expectation. Ask your group what God helped them do with the last week's challenges. Ask with grace! Encourage them to be prayer

partners with another parent/mentor and child team, and then invite them each week to report to each other what God did in their lives as they lived the challenges from the last lesson. Do not be discouraged when some have nothing to report. Be patient and pray much for God to grow in each one the expectation that His Word always leads to living the truth by faith!

8. Encourage the parents/mentors to listen to the children and teens and focus during the “Discovery” time in the Bible on helping the young explore in the Word rather than having the adults (including you!) dominate the time.

Let God’s Word be the last word in all discussions. When there is a difference of opinions, model to the group the importance of Scripture testing all things, including what you share. Show a profound reverence for what God says in His Word.

Let His Word be in the spotlight, not your insights.

9. During the “Live” section, invite the parent/mentor and child teams to pull their chairs away from the group and sit facing each other. Guard this time when these family units are sharing and exploring the faith of Jesus together! Go to the side of the room and intercede in prayer for each family unit during this time. Pray that the Holy Spirit will unite each family team in the faith of Jesus.

10. Share your own testimony right before you give the challenge. Share how you own the faith in your personal life before you challenge your group to do the same. Share how you have made mistakes, and learned from them, while implementing the challenge of this lesson in your own life. Share how

Jesus has practically made a difference in your life by living the challenge!

11. Depend on the Holy Spirit. He is the One who converts the heart, not you. He is the One who convicts, not you. Follow His lead. Add and subtract from what you have prepared as He directs you through the lesson.

12. Pray with confidence in Christ as you close each lesson. Pray for Jesus Christ to bless each one in living by faith in Him with the challenge ahead. As you conclude the lesson be available outside of the small group time for any Divine Appointments that God gives you to talk with someone and encourage him/her in His love.

CHAPTER ONE

Follow

Connect: Welcome everyone to the group. Introduce yourself and ask each one to share their first name and their city of birth.

Share in twos: What qualities does someone need to have before you would risk all to follow that person? Explain your answer.

Most of us can identify someone who has influence with us. This person may be someone in our home, workplace, school or neighborhood. The person may be someone we have never met and never talked with face to face . . . but someone we follow by social media.

When you think of Jesus, you may think of a teacher, carpenter, healer, preacher or a change-agent. Who He is in your life and how you respond to His teachings will have a great impact on how you lead your own children or other students who follow you.

You cannot lead a child on a journey you are not on yourself.

Today, discover Jesus' call to follow.

Discover:

1. Read Matthew 4:18-20
 - a. In the first century A.D., people interested in becoming a disciple of a rabbi would go to meet him wherever he was. He would not look for them. They would need to qualify to even be considered by the rabbi. What does this Bible passage tell you about Jesus?

 - b. What did Jesus call Peter and Andrew to do?

 - c. What did Jesus promise them? How does Matthew 28:18-20 help us understand His promise?

2. What could Peter and Andrew have known about Jesus before He called them by the Sea of Galilee?
 - a. Matthew 3:11,12
 - b. John 1:26-36
 - c. Matthew 4:17

3. What were these brothers doing when Jesus called them?

4. What did they do when Jesus called them? What do their actions tell you about these men?

Live: Jesus' call to Peter and Andrew is repeated down through time to all who will listen. What do you know about Jesus that moves your heart to follow Him?

Read Matthew 16:24. How do you respond today to Jesus' call for you to follow Him?

Ask: What will be your first steps in following Jesus?

** Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Matthew 1-7, a chapter a day. Discover something about Jesus in each chapter.

Live: Commit each morning to following Jesus wherever He leads.

Share: Tell someone about what Jesus' call to follow means to you personally.

Pray: Thank God for the joy of following Him. Ask for His help in taking your next step with Him.

CHAPTER TWO

Trust

Report: Welcome those who returned from last week and give a special welcome to those who are new. Invite everyone to share their name and favorite color.

Last week we received this 7 Day Challenge:

Read: Matthew 1-7, a chapter a day. Discover something about Jesus in each chapter.

Live: Commit each morning to following Jesus wherever He leads.

Share: Tell someone about what Jesus' call to follow means to you personally.

Ask everyone to team up in twos and ask their partner, "How did this challenge go for you this past week?"

Connect: Invite everyone to team up in fours. Give them two minutes to plan how they can act out something from everyday life that requires trust. Ask the group to try and guess what the activity is after each team acts it out.

Following Jesus as He leads each day requires trust. We either trust Him or

we don't. Jesus is either big enough to handle our situations or He is not. Our children watch with wide-eyed wonder to see who we trust.

Trust is pivotal in growing as a disciple of Jesus. When we trust Him, our faith grows as we step out of our comfort zones and rely on Him. Our children watch to see how we trust Jesus with our finances, stresses in our family relationships, health challenges, and unexpected difficulties. The level of our trust in Jesus silently teaches our children what they can or cannot trust with Jesus.

Discover what it means to trust Jesus completely.

Let's pray!

Discover:

1. Read Matthew 14:22-33.
 - a. How would you describe Jesus in this story? Link your descriptions with a particular text in this passage.

 - b. How might the previous event in Matthew 14:13-21 have impacted Peter's picture of Jesus?

 - c. What does this story tell you about Peter? Note which texts give you the description you share.

2. Read Matthew 14:33 again. How did the disciples in the boat react to Jesus' power over the storm?

Live:

Jesus' call to Peter to come out of the boat echoes down through time to you and to me. We always have to leave some comfort to go where Jesus is. For Peter, it was the boat.

The boat was Peter's security. Peter knew fishing boats inside and out. He knew what kind of wind and storm they could take and still hold together. He knew the boat. He did not know what it meant to walk on water.

Jesus invites you today to trust Him completely with whatever storm or challenge you face. What do you choose to trust with Jesus now?

Ask:

Team up in twos. What will be your next steps in trusting Jesus right now? Share with your partner.

** Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read:

Matthew 8-15, a chapter a day. Discover a new reason to trust Jesus in every chapter.

Live:

Every morning, trust your whole life with Jesus. Practice trusting Jesus with whatever comes to you in the day.

Share: Tell someone this week about how Jesus has shown Himself to be worthy of your trust.

Pray: Thank God for being trustworthy! Ask Him to increase the way you trust Him.

CHAPTER THREE

Repent

Report: Welcome everyone. Ask everyone to describe their past week with one word that best summarizes the week.

Partner in twos and ask each other: “How did last week’s challenge go for you?”

Read: Matthew 8-15, a chapter a day. Discover a new reason to trust Jesus in every chapter.

Live: Every morning trust your whole life with Jesus. Practice trusting Jesus with whatever comes to you in the day.

Share: Tell someone this week about how Jesus has shown Himself to be worthy of your trust

Connect: Share in twos: “Describe a time in your life when you ended up doing exactly the opposite of what you had planned . . . and you are grateful!

Have you ever hiked downhill on a path and had a growing suspicion that you were headed the wrong way? You may have kept hiking anyway for a while -

hoping you did not have to return up the very trail you just descended.

Sometimes, even when you know you are on the wrong trail, you might tell yourself, *Maybe it will get better around the next bend.*

Turning around requires humbling yourself, admitting you are on the wrong path, and physically turning yourself away from the wrong way and stepping forward on the correct path. If we are leading a group, it requires more humility and courage to say, “We took the wrong path! We have to turn around and go back.”

The children in our lives watch to see if what we teach them about God is the same as the way we live. When our life’s path does not match our teaching, it leads our children to be spiritually confused and question the validity of both their faith and ours. When we live our faith, it strengthens the new generations to believe and live out the faith of Jesus!

Discover today what it means to repent, turn around from any path of compromise, and live for Jesus Christ fully.

Pray!

Discover:

1. Read Luke 22:31-34.
 - a. What warning did Jesus give Peter?
 - b. What encouragement did Peter receive?

- c. What does this passage tell you about Jesus?

 - d. What does Peter's response tell you about himself as a disciple?
2. Read Matthew 26:69-75.
 - a. How did Peter's denials of Jesus progress in strength?

 - b. What was significant about the way Peter responded after he remembered Jesus' words?
3. Read John 21:15-17.
 - a. How was Jesus giving Peter a way to make things right?

 - b. How did Peter respond?
4. Read Acts 4:7-13.
 - a. How did Peter's response to the high priest contrast with the way he handled accusations on the night he denied Jesus?

 - b. How would you describe Peter's level of repentance?

Live:

Jesus preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17. To repent is to turn away completely from what compromises our

faithfulness to Jesus. To repent, ask Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to give you a spiritual heart surgery as promised in Ezekiel 36:26,27. Jesus supplies both the motivation and the power to repent! What is your response to Jesus' call to repent?

What are your next steps in repenting fully from whatever compromises your faith in Jesus?

** Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

- Read:** Read Matthew 16-22, a chapter a day. Discover something new about Jesus every day.
- Live:** Practice daily repenting, turning around and walking away from whatever God convicts you is compromising your relationship with Him.
- Share:** Ask God with whom you should share your testimony. Share how God has helped you repent and be free from something that compromised your relationship with God.
- Pray:** Thank God for sending His Spirit to call us to repent. Pray that we will live each day with a free heart of repentance.

CHAPTER FOUR

Invest

Report: Welcome everyone. Invite everyone to share what animal they would choose as a pet if they could choose any animal in the world.

Partner in twos and ask each other:
“How did last week’s challenge go for you?”

Read: Read Matthew 16-22, a chapter a day. Discover something new about Jesus every day.

Live: Practice daily repenting, turning around and walking away from whatever God convicts you is compromising your relationship with Him.

Share: Pray about who needs to hear about the gift of repentance. Go share this good news with them!

Connect: Partner in twos. Answer this question: Who has made a great investment in your life? Please describe how this person invested in you.

Our greatest investments in life are not houses, lands, precious metals, or

stock in a growing company. These investments may have little impact on the next generation. Our children are the treasures that outlive us.

Jesus loves our children! He often was an advocate for them! One time, mothers were bringing their children to Jesus so that He could bless them. His disciples rebuked the mothers. “But Jesus called for them, saying, ‘Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’ ” Luke 18:16

Discover how Jesus challenged Peter to invest in children. Rediscover your calling as a parent or mentor to disciple the next generation for Christ!

Pray!

- Discover:
1. Read John 21:15-17 again. Last week, we read this passage to see how Jesus gave Peter a public opportunity to declare his loyalty to his Savior. Now we read this passage to see who Jesus calls Peter to invest in with his ministry.
 - a. Jesus tells Peter to care first for a certain type of animal. What is this animal? What group of people would be represented by this animal? Jesus tells Peter to care for this group first. Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

b. What is His second group of people Jesus is telling Peter to care for?

c. This is one of the very last conversations Jesus had with Peter face to face. What does that fact tell you about Jesus?

2. Peter did not forget this calling to children. At Pentecost, he boldly quoted Joel 2:28. Read Acts 2:17.

a. What did Peter say would happen in the last days? Look for three points that would include the new generations.

b. Based on this passage, what are our children supposed to be involved with in these last days?

3. To see our own children become a living fulfillment of Acts 2:17, what must happen in our own homes?

Read Malachi 4:5,6.

a. What is God passionate about doing in our families now?

b. Why do you think God mentions fathers in particular? Would this prophecy also apply to mothers today? Why or why not?

4. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.
 - a. What does God call His people to do first before mentioning our calling to our own children?

 - b. What does God command parents to do in their own homes for their children?

Live:

Jesus repeatedly was a champion for children. He valued each one! He taught that His kingdom belonged to children! This same Jesus continues to call us today to invest our lives in discipling our children to follow Him.

How do you respond to Jesus' call to invest your life in discipling your child to Him?

What are your next steps in:

1. Turning your heart back to your children?

2. Discipling your children to follow Jesus?

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Matthew 23-28, a chapter a day. On the seventh day, read Matthew 28:18-20 again. Discover something new about Jesus every day.

Live: Do one thing this week to invest in

building a stronger relationship with your children.

Every day, pray with your children and take a few minutes to help them discover Jesus in His Word.

Share: Pray about who needs to hear about Jesus' calling for parents. Go share what you are learning about investing spiritually in your own children.

Pray: Pray that God will help each one invest their time in mentoring their children for Jesus.

CHAPTER FIVE

Receive

- Report:** Welcome everyone. Ask everyone to share how many times they have moved from where they live. Partner in twos and ask each other: “How did last week’s challenge go for you?”
- Read:** Read Matthew 23-28, a chapter a day. On the seventh day, read Matthew 28:18-20 again. Discover something new about Jesus every day.
- Live:** Do one thing this week to invest in building a stronger relationship with your children.
- Every day, pray with your children and take a few minutes to help them discover Jesus in His Word.
- Share:** Pray about who needs to hear about Jesus’ calling for parents. Go share what you are learning about investing spiritually in your own children.
- Connect:** Share in twos. Share a time from your childhood when someone gave you a very meaningful gift that made a

difference in your life. What made it meaningful?

Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the challenge of helping your children develop their own relationship with Jesus? Do you feel sometimes like you have done everything you can do for your children and you have nothing more to give? Where can you find help?

Jesus told His disciples, “. . . it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.” John 16:7.

Jesus did return to heaven after He died and rose from the dead. The Helper Jesus promised us is the Holy Spirit.

Discover the Gift of the Holy Spirit and the difference He makes in your heart and in your home.

Pray!

Discover:

1. Read Acts 1:4,5,8.
 - a. What did Jesus promise about the Holy Spirit?

 - b. This is the last thing Jesus talked about before returning home to heaven. What does this passage reveal to you about Jesus?

2. Jesus promised that His disciples would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Read Mark 1:9,10. How was Jesus baptized? What words in this passage describe to you how Jesus was baptized?

3. Read Acts 2:1-4,14. Did Peter receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit? Support your answer from Scripture.

4. How can you receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit, so you can have His help to be the mother, the father, the mentor your child needs?

- | | |
|-----------------|----|
| a. Luke 11:13 | 1. |
| b. John 7:38,39 | 2. |
| c. Acts 2:38 | 3. |
| d. Acts 5:32 | 4. |
| | 5. |

5. Read Acts 2:39. Who is this promise of the Holy Spirit for, and what does it mean for us today?

6. What are some of the blessings the Holy Spirit brings that are such a help to busy parents and mentors?

- a. Read Ezekiel 36:26. What does He do for our heart?

b. Read Galatians 5:22,23. What does He do for our character?

c. Read Acts 1:8. What does He do so that we can be a witness right where we are – in our own homes?

Live:

You do not need to disciple your child to Jesus alone. You do not need to be overwhelmed with the challenge of mentoring your child. Jesus promises you the Gift of the Holy Spirit to help you.

What is your response to Jesus' promise?

What are your next steps in making the Holy Spirit your daily Helper in all you do for your child?

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Acts 1-7, a chapter a day. Discover something new about Jesus every day.

Live: Ask for the Gift of the Holy Spirit every day. Believe you have received this Gift as He promised. Live by His power according to the written Word of God.

Share: Pray that God shows you who needs to hear about this Gift. Go share what difference this Gift of the Holy Spirit is making in your own life.

Pray: Pray that each one will ask for and receive the Holy Spirit every day of their lives!

LESSON ONE

Know Jesus

Report: Welcome, everyone. Today we are beginning an adventure to grow as a disciple of Jesus. Every week, we will discover more about Jesus from the Bible. We will have an opportunity to explore what this truth means to us personally. Each week, we will be sent out with a challenge to live this truth about Jesus in our lives. Beginning with next week, we will start each discipling session with a report from each student and parent/mentor. You will have a few moments to share how you lived the truth studied in the last lesson throughout your week.

Connect:

Activity: Invite every parent/student team to think of one of their favorite animals. Team up with another parent/student team. Act out what your favorite animal is and see how quickly the other team can guess it. Count the number of guesses each team had to make.

Debrief: Which animal was the most difficult to guess? Why?

Introduction: How difficult was it to guess the other's person's favorite animal? Sometimes getting to know someone can take a long time. With others, we can spend a few moments and feel like we have known them forever!

Today, we will discover more about the identity of Jesus. Remember that what you discover today God invites you to apply to your life today, tomorrow and forever!

Pray: Pray for God to send the Holy Spirit to help each one discover Jesus from the Word.

Discover:

1. Read Luke 1:26-38. How would you best describe Mary? How do you think she felt when the angel told her she would have a son she would name Jesus?
2. Read Luke 1:26-38 again. How many specific things do you discover about Jesus from this passage of Scripture? (Look for at least 10.)
3. What made Jesus different than ordinary children?

4. Compare the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 with Matthew 1:22-25. What is special about this name for Jesus? How was the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 fulfilled?

Live: Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share your convictions of who Jesus is with your student. Share what makes Jesus special to you and how you discovered Him in your life.

Ask your student who Jesus is to him/her. Discuss evidence from God's Word that proves to you that Jesus is God.

Ask: Call the parent/mentor/student teams back to the larger group. Ask if anyone has questions from the lesson. Answer if time permits and/or encourage further study for next week.

** Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge: Challenge the whole group to:

Read: Read Luke 1-6, a chapter a day. Split up Luke 1 into two days. Make one discovery about Jesus every day.

Live: Practice telling Jesus every day one new discovery you made about Him.

Parent/Mentor & Student Lessons

Share: Share the discoveries you are making about Jesus with someone else.

Pray: Pray for each one to make a new discovery of Jesus daily.

LESSON TWO

Jesus Calls You

Welcome: Which day of this past week was your favorite? Say the days of the week one at a time and invite participants to stand up on their favorite day and share why it was the best. They can then sit down.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Luke 1-6, a chapter a day. Split up Luke 1 into two days. Make one discovery about Jesus every day.

Live: Practice telling Jesus every day one new discovery you made about Him.

Share: Share the discoveries you are making about Jesus with someone else.

Connect:

Activity: Divide all the participants into two teams with equal numbers. Make two parallel lines 30 feet apart. Have each team stand facing the other team as they stand

behind one line. Number off each person on both teams starting with number one.

Place any soft object in the middle space between the two teams. Instruct the teams that when you call out a number, or numbers, the people with those numbers must run out quickly and try to grab the object on the floor and get back across their line before any one from the other team catches you!

Call out numbers until everyone has had at least one chance.

Debrief How did you feel when you were waiting to be called? How did you feel when your number was called?

Introduce: While he was here on earth, Jesus had a group of twelve friends that everyone called his disciples. Today, he calls each one of us to be a disciple!

Pray: Pray in your same groups for surrendered hearts and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Pray that each person will hear God's call to be a disciple.

Discover: 1. Read Matthew 4:18-22.
 a. How would you describe Jesus from this story?

b. What invitation did Jesus give Peter and Andrew? What did He promise them?

c. What did Peter and Andrew leave behind to follow Jesus? What did James and John leave?

2. Read Mark 3:13-16. What reasons does the Bible give us for why Jesus called the twelve disciples? What kinds of people did Jesus call?

3. Read John 15:16. How has he chosen us? What is our purpose?

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share about Jesus' call in your life. If you have answered Jesus' call to follow him, when did that happen and how? If not, what does Jesus' call mean to you personally?

Ask your student: Would you like to say 'yes' to Jesus' invitation to follow him? Why or why not?

Ask:

Invite all the teams back to the larger circle.

What could it mean to be a disciple of Jesus in everyday life today? What would happen in your life if you said 'yes' to following Jesus every day?

** Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Luke 7-13, a chapter a day. Make one discovery about Jesus every day.

Live: Every morning, tell Jesus you choose to follow Him.

Share: Share your daily discoveries about Jesus with the same person each day of this week.

Pray: Pray for God's blessings on each one in following Jesus' call to be His disciple.

LESSON THREE

Talk with Jesus

Welcome: Welcome everyone.
Ask: If you could talk to anyone on earth for five minutes, who would you pick? Why?

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Luke 7-13, a chapter a day. Make one discovery about Jesus every day.

Live: Every morning, tell Jesus you choose to follow Him.

Share: Share your daily discoveries about Jesus with the same person each day of this week.

Connect:

Activity: Invite the whole group to make a circle. Each person needs to think of a common sound from everyday life that he/she can imitate. Turn your backs away from each other and hold hands. Ask for a

volunteer to begin. Whoever guesses first shares his/her imitation next. Share until everyone has had a chance.

Debrief: What sounds were most difficult to recognize? What sounds were most familiar? How does God know your voice when you talk with Him? Do you recognize His voice when He talks with you? Why or why not?

Introduce: Jesus loved to talk with God in Heaven! Discover what this means for you today. Jesus wants you to know you can communicate directly with your Father God every day! God wants to talk with you!

Pray: Pray that God will encourage each one to enjoy conversations with Him.

Discover:

1. Read Mark 1:35.

a. What do you discover about Jesus from this text?

b. When did Jesus like to pray? Why do you think He liked to pray at that time?

2. Compare Mark 1:35 with Mark 6:45,46, and Luke 5:16. Where did Jesus like to pray? Why was it important for Him to find that kind of place?

3. Read Isaiah 50:4. What does God promise to do each morning for us? Why does He want to do this for us?

4. Read Psalm 18:1-2, 13:1, 51:1-7. What example does David give us for talking with God?

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share with your student what it means to you to talk with God. Share an experience from your life when prayer was very meaningful to you.

Explore with your student:

** Where can you find a special place to talk with God in our home where you will not be distracted?

**When would be a great time each day for you to talk with God . . . even though you can talk any time with Him?

Ask:

Invite the teams to join the larger group. Ask if anyone would like to share what special place he/she has or would like to have in his/her home to pray. Ask what time of the day works best for them to pray without rushing.

** Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

- Read:** Read Luke 14-20, a chapter a day. Discover something new about Jesus every day.
- Live:** Thank God every night for His promise to you in Isaiah 50:4. Invite God to wake you up every morning to have unrushed time alone with Him to talk with Him and to read about Him in the Bible.
- Share:** Share God's promise in Isaiah 50:4 with someone and share what you are learning about talking with Him.
- Pray:** Pray that God will help each one to have a special time to talk with Him every day.

LESSON FOUR

Be Sure

Welcome: Welcome everyone. Ask everyone, “On a scale of one to ten, how was your week?” Share around the circle.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Luke 14-20, a chapter a day. Discover something new about Jesus every day.

Live: Thank God every night for His promise to you in Isaiah 50:4. Invite God to wake you up every morning to have unrushed time alone with Him to talk with Him and read about Him in the Bible.

Share: Share God’s promise in Isaiah 50:4 with someone and share what you are learning about talking with Him.

Connect:

Activity: Ask for one volunteer to leave the room. While he/she is gone, the rest of the play-

ers will agree on one characteristic they will all share. Example: everyone works at the zoo, everyone has a big test to study for, everyone is thirsty, etc. Once they decide, they will invite the person back in. The group will act out the characteristic with motions or talk with each other without specifically saying it or being too obvious. The volunteer has three guesses to correctly identify what they have in common.

Debrief: Have you ever had a time when you had to find out something about somebody that he/she was not telling you? Share your experience in twos.

What kinds of things do we all have in common that we may not talk about?

Introduce: Sometimes it is hard to know what is really happening in someone else's life, but all of us struggle with the same problem: sin. Today, we are going to discover the amazing rescue plan God provides for every sinner.

Pray: Invite the group to kneel. Ask for the Holy Spirit to help each one be sure of their gift of salvation!

Discover:

1. Read Luke 19:1-9.
 - a. What does this story tell you about Jesus?

b. What kind of man was Zaccheus?

c. How did Jesus show Zaccheus that salvation comes by grace?

Jesus' statement in Luke 19:9,10 showed Zaccheus that he could be sure of salvation. Here are Bible truths that will help you be sure of your salvation too!

Steps to Salvation

1. Romans 8:38-39. Be sure you are unconditionally loved by God.
2. Romans 3:23; 6:23 (first part). Be sure you need Jesus as your Savior.
3. Romans 6:23 (last part), John 3:16. Be sure Jesus offers you eternal life as a gift when you believe in him as your Savior.
4. 1 John 1:9. Be sure that Jesus gives you a clean heart.
5. Revelation 3:20. Be sure Jesus will come into your heart as you surrender your control and invite him to come and be your LIFE.
6. 1 John 5:13. Be sure you can know that Jesus has saved you.

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share a time when you made a mistake. How does this relate to what God's rescue plan of salvation means to you?

Review the steps to salvation with your student. Invite him/her to pray through these steps with you and accept Jesus' gift.

Sample prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you so much for loving me forever. Thank you for dying in my place for my sins. I believe you are my Savior. Please forgive me of my sins and come into my heart today! I accept your free gift of salvation and choose to live every day with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ask: Invite the teams to join the larger group.

** Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Luke 21-John 3.

Live: Thank God each morning for the salvation He has given you through Jesus.

Share: Pray about who needs to know the good news about being sure of salvation. Share what difference Jesus' gift of salvation means to your life and how to have this gift!

Pray: Thank God for sending Jesus to make salvation a gift for everyone!

LESSON FIVE

Trust God's Word

Welcome: If you could be any animal, which one would you be and why? Invite everyone to stand and share with three other people.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Luke 21-John 3.

Live: Thank God each morning for the salvation He has given you through Jesus.

Share: Pray about who needs to know the good news about being sure of salvation. Share the steps of salvation with that person!

Connect:

Activity: Ask everyone to remove both shoes (or a personal item they have with them if they do not have shoes) and mix them all up in a big pile. Call everyone to make a circle around the shoes. Tell them you will be

seeing how many seconds it will take to do this challenge.

When you say “Go!” everyone should try to match up the shoes to each person around the circle (except their own). Give the shoes to each person. The person cannot agree or disagree with the shoes given to him/her until everyone has a pair of shoes. Then ask who has the wrong shoes. If anyone does, ask them to work together to make the right match.

Debrief: How do a person’s belongings tell us about the person? What can we look at in this world that tells us what God is like?

Introduce: Today, we have something extremely significant that comes from God: the Bible. By reading it, we can get to know who He is and what He wants to do in our lives!

Pray: Pray to know Jesus through reading His Word.

Discover

1. Read Matthew 4:1-11.
 - a. What does this story tell you about Jesus?

 - b. How did Jesus face Satan’s attacks? What can we learn from his example?

2. Read Isaiah 8:20. What does this verse say about God's Word? How did Jesus use this principle in our story?

3. Read John 5:39. What is the main focus of all the Bible?

4. Read 2 Tim. 3:16-17 and Psalm 119:105. How do these passages describe Scripture? What is it useful for? What are its effect in our lives?

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share a time when you truly encountered Jesus through a message in his Word and how that encounter impacted your life. How can we make time to be in God's Word every day? How can we look for Jesus and His will in Scripture? Who can we share this lesson with this week, and how?

Ask:

Invite each team to share their ideas to make time with Jesus in his Word a part of their lives.

** Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read John 4-10

Live: Every day, read a chapter to discover all you can about Jesus. Read it again praying that God will show you how to practice what you read.

Share: Share what you learned about Jesus from the Bible with someone else each day.

Pray: Invite everyone to lift their Bible up to God for the prayer. Pray that each one will find a new picture of Jesus in the Bible every day.

LESSON SIX

Grow in Jesus

Welcome: On a scale of one to ten, how would you rate your week? Share around the circle.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read John 4-10.

Live: Every day, read a chapter to discover all you can about Jesus. Read it again praying that God will show you how to practice what you read.

Share: Share what you learned about Jesus from the Bible with someone else each day.

Pray: Invite everyone to lift their Bible up to God for the prayer. Pray that each one will find a new picture of Jesus in the Bible every day.

Connect: Invite everyone to a game with simple, yet challenging, simultaneous actions. Give them several seconds to try and 20-30 seconds for the more challenging ones.

Challenge 1:

1. Pat your head and your stomach at the same time.
2. Pat your head, but rub your stomach.
3. Rub your head and pat your stomach.

Challenge 2:

1. Move your right leg (while sitting) and your right hand in a clockwise direction. (Demonstrate which direction is clockwise).
2. Continue moving your right leg clockwise. Now, move your right hand counterclockwise at the same time. (Demonstrate which direction is counterclockwise.)

Debrief: How did this exercise go? Was it easy or hard and why? How is this exercise like life and our habits?

Introduce: Just like in this activity, sometimes changing directions to lose a bad habit or gain a good one can seem impossible! Today, we are going to discover Jesus' power to help us change to be like Him.

Pray: Invite everyone to be silent for a second and think about the challenges they are facing to grow with Jesus. Give them a moment to tell Jesus about them and ask Him for an open heart to the Holy Spirit and God's Word. Pray a prayer for the group.

Discover:

1. Read Mark 5:1-20. What does this story teach us about Jesus? How does Jesus' power compare with the power of the devil?
2. Read Mark 5:3-5. What was the demon-possessed man's life like? What did he do when he saw Jesus and why?
3. Read Mark 5:3-5. What changes did Jesus bring to the man who had been ruled by demons?
4. Read Philippians 4:13. What is the secret to positive changes in our hearts and lives?
5. Read James 4:7. What two points of advice does God give us in our struggle against sin?
6. Read Mark 5:18-20 again. How did Jesus encourage the man who had been demon-possessed to keep growing in his faith?

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share a story of a time in your life when you saw Jesus' power to help you grow in your faith. Share one area of your life where you need His power to help you be more like Him right now. What struggles are you facing right now to grow in Jesus? What is God calling you to do with these struggles?

Ask: Invite each team to share how God is calling them to grow in Jesus.

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read John 11-17.

Live: Surrender whatever struggles you have to Jesus and believe in His mighty power to help you.

Share: Share this story about Jesus' power to help us grow in Him with someone that is struggling. Share how Jesus is helping you to grow in your faith.

Pray: Make a circle. Turn to your right and place your hands on the shoulders of the person to your right. Pray that God places His hands on each person around the circle and gives them the power of Jesus to grow where they need to grow the most.

LESSON SEVEN

Crown Jesus King

Welcome: Ask everyone, “If you could have five minutes to talk to anyone in the world tonight, who would you choose and why?” Share around the circle.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read John 11-17.

Live: Surrender whatever struggles you have to Jesus and believe in His mighty power to help you.

Share: Share this story about Jesus’ power to help us grow in Him with someone that is struggling.

Connect: Invite everyone to stand in a line. Everyone should team up in twos. Mark off 30 feet from where the families are standing to a finished line. Tell each team of two they have to get each other across the line with the following challenges: One

of them has the use of his/her feet and hands, but has to close his/her eyes. The other person can see, but cannot use their feet. As a team of two, choose together how you both will get across to the finished line. Go for it!

Debrief: How did you make your choice on how to get both of you across the line? What other choices could you have made that would have worked?

Introduction: Today, we are going to study how having Jesus in our lives helps us make everyday choices.

Pray: Ask for the Holy Spirit to be present to give you wisdom through His Word for how to make choices every day.

Discover:

1. Read Daniel 1:1-17.
 - a. How would you describe what Daniel experienced when the king captured his city? How did the Babylonians try to change Daniel and his friends?

 - b. What decision did Daniel make in verse Daniel 1: 8 and why? How did he communicate that decision to the official, and what can we learn from his attitude? What happened with the experiment?

c. How did God reward Daniel and his friends' decision to honor Him? (See Daniel 1:15-17.)

2. Read Phil. 2:9-11. What is the rest of Jesus' name? What does this title mean? How did Daniel honor Jesus as Lord?

3. Read 1 Cor. 10:31-32. What principle do we find in verse 31? What further advice does verse 32 give us? How did Daniel live by these principles in the story we read?

4. What helpful guidelines does God give us on how to honor Jesus as Lord?

a. Philippians 4:8.

b. Malachi 3:10.

c. Genesis 1:29/Leviticus 11:3, 9.

5. Read Ezekiel 36:26, 27. This is the good news! God has the power to help us be completely transformed from the inside to the outside. What does God offer us? What difference would this promise make in our daily choices if we asked God to fulfill this promise in us every day?

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share a story of when you had a difficult choice to make and how you made your decision. How can we know what would honor Jesus as Lord in difficult situations? What parts of our lives do we need to let Jesus be Lord of right now?

Ask: Invite each team to share one area they want to honor Jesus as Lord in this week.

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: John 18 - Acts 2.

Live: Every day, the very first thing you do, surrender to Jesus as the Lord over your life. Practice making your decisions to honor Jesus as your Lord.

Share: Share the story of Daniel and how he chose to honor God - with someone else.

Pray: Ask God to help each one to crown Jesus as Lord in all you do.

LESSON EIGHT

Who We Are

Welcome: Ask each family to invite each family member to create one sentence that describes their past week. Share with another family.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: John 18 - Acts 2.

Live: Every day, the very first thing you do, surrender to Jesus as the Lord over your life. Practice making your decisions to honor Jesus as your Lord.

Share: Share the story of Daniel and how he chose to honor God - with someone else.

Connect: Invite everyone to stand in a line and close their eyes. Whenever you tap someone on the shoulder, he/she should disguise his/her voice and say "Hello." Invite the group to guess who this is each

time. Make sure every student has a turn.

Debrief: How well do you know each other's voices? What did you learn about each other?

Introduction: God gave us all three gifts that help us know who we are and how loved we are by Him. Let's explore these gifts and what they tell us about ourselves!

Pray: Invite everyone to silently tell God how they feel about who they are as a person. Then pray requesting God to help each one value himself or herself as God loves them.

Discover:

1. Read Genesis 1 - 2:24. At the beginning, God created three gifts for us:
a. Our world with all life. Review Genesis 1:1-31. How did our world begin? How did God create our world? What was unique about the way God made humans? How did God describe his creation? What does that say about us?

b. Marriage & Family. Read Genesis 2:18-24. What did God say about Adam in verse 18? What did Adam discover as he named all of the animals? How did God fix this

problem? How did he make Eve?
What do these verses show us about
God's plan for families? Who did
God design marriage for?

c. Sabbath. Read Genesis 2:1-3.
How long did God take to make our
world? What two things made the
seventh day different from the first six
days of creation before it? Why?

2. Read Exodus 20:8-11. How does God
ask us to remember the Sabbath?

3. Read Isaiah 58:13,14. What does God
want this day to be like between Him and
you?

Live: Invite parent/mentor and student teams
to turn their chairs to face each other for
this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Explain what God's gifts
of creation, family, and the Sabbath mean
to you. Discuss with your student what
each of these gifts say about who we are.

Ask: Invite teams to share how God's three
gifts help us know who we are.

**Leader shares what it means personally
to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Acts 3-9.

Live: Celebrate the Sabbath with your family as your special appointment with God. Talk together about how the three gifts from God help you know who you are.

Share: Share the three gifts of Genesis 1 and 2 with someone else. Share what difference these three gifts make in your own life.

Pray: Ask for three volunteers to each thank God for one of His three gifts.

LESSON NINE

Trust God's Law

Welcome: Ask everyone, "What was the most memorable part of your week?" Share around the circle.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Acts 3-9.

Live: Celebrate the Sabbath with your family as your special appointment with God. Talk together about how the three gifts from God help you know who you are.

Share: Share the three gifts from Genesis 1 and 2 with someone else.

Connect: Ask for two volunteers. Instruct them that they will be given one minute each to make laws that will change what everyone is currently doing. The laws cannot harm anyone or anything or disrespect anyone.

Invite each volunteer to go in front of the group and be given his/her one minute to state the laws of the room. Instruct the group that they should follow the laws immediately, as long as they are not harmful to people or things and is not disrespecting anyone.

Debrief What do these laws tell us about the law-giver? Which ones were easy to follow? Which ones were difficult?

Introduction: Since sin separates us from seeing him face to face, God communicates His love and His heart to us in many ways, but one main way has been written down in stone. Our study today will look at God's law and help us understand how it teaches us about Him and His relationship with us.

Pray: Pray that God will send His Spirit to open our hearts to know God through His Law of Love.

Discover:

1. Read Exodus 19:4-11,16-20.

What did God promise the Israelites in Exodus 19:5,6? What did God expect from Israel?

2. Review Exodus 19:16-19. How did God show that His Law was a sacred gift from Him?

3. Read Exodus 20:1-17. How did God begin the Ten Commandments? What does verse 2 tell us about God?

4. Break into teams and divide the commandments between them.

Invite the teams to discuss these questions:

a. What does God say in this commandment, and what does that teach you about His character?

b. What does keeping it free you from? Ask one student from each team to report their ideas to the rest of the group and discuss the answers together, taking time for questions.

5. Read Matthew 5:17-18. What was Jesus' attitude toward the Law, or the Ten Commandments? What was His purpose on earth in relation to the law?

6. Read Matthew Hebrews 13:8 and Isaiah 40:8. What does Hebrews tell us about Jesus? How does that help us understand Isaiah 40:8? How long will the Ten Commandments last and why?

7. Read Ezekiel 36:26,27. What does

God promise to do for your heart? Who is your Strength to live God's Law?

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share a time when God's law conflicted with what was happening around you and what you did about it.

Discuss with your student how God's Law brings freedom.

Ask:

Invite teams to respond to these questions:

1. What did we learn about God's Law?

2. How is God's Law a gift of freedom to you?

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Acts 10-16.

Live: Summarize the Ten Commandments into one line each. State what each commandment shows you about the heart of God. Memorize them in order.

Share: Tell someone what God's Law means to you!

Pray: Pray for God to write His Law on each heart.

LESSON TEN

Walk with God

Welcome: Ask everyone, “What was your high and low this week?” Share in twos.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Acts 10-16.

Live: Summarize the Ten Commandments into one line each. State what each commandment shows you about the heart of God. Memorize them in order.

Share: Tell someone what God’s Law means to you!

Connect: Invite everyone to form groups of at least three with people they are not currently sitting beside. Give them two minutes to create a distinctive walk that they can all do in unison. Example: kick right foot every two steps, skip twice, and then swing arms, etc.

Parent/Mentor & Student Lessons

Ask each group to perform their walk, and invite the audience to clap after each one.

Debrief: Was it easy or hard to keep in step with your group? Why? How can this activity remind us of following Jesus today?

Introduction: Today we are going to study the story of a man who the Bible says “walked with God” and what it means for us to be part of God’s faithful people today.

Pray: Pray that each one will walk with God forever.

Discover:

1. Read Genesis 6:1-9.
 - a. What was the world like at this time?

 - b. How does the Bible describe Noah?

2. Read Genesis 6:10-22, 7:1,7.
 - a. How does this story show the Bible’s statement that Noah “walked with God?”

 - b. What did that mean for Noah and his family?

c. What did it cost Noah and his family to be God's faithful people?

3. Read Matthew 24:36-39. What two time periods does the Bible compare? How are they similar?

4. Read Revelation 12:17; 19:10. In Bible prophecy, a pure woman symbolizes God's faithful people.

a. How does God describe the woman's children (God's faithful people at the end of time)?

b. What two characteristics will God's people have before He comes back?

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24. Who gives the power for us to live as God's faithful people? How does that make you feel?

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share a time when being faithful to God meant being different from the people around you. Discuss what the characteristics of God's faithful people means to you and your student.

Ask: Ask the teams to share what they have discovered about walking with God faithfully for this end of time.

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Acts 17-23.

Live: Ask God to be your Help to re-order your life so that you walk with Him faithfully.

Share: Share the story of Noah with someone else and tell him/her what it means to you to be a part of God's faithful people now.

Pray: Pray for God to help each family walk faithfully with Him.

LESSON ELEVEN

God Still Speaks

Welcome: Ask everyone, “What was your favorite day this week and why?” Share around the circle.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Acts 17-23.

Live: Ask God to be your Help to re-order your life so that you walk with Him faithfully.

Share: Share the story of Noah with someone else and tell him/her what it means to you to be a part of God’s faithful people now

Connect: Divide everyone into teams of two. Give them 30 seconds to think of the most creative way they could communicate with each other. Think outside the box! After 30 seconds, ask each team to show the group.

Debrief: Which forms of communication are your

favorite? Why? What types of communication are your least favorite? Why?

Introduction: Now we will discover one of the ways God communicates with His people and how to know if the messenger is from Him.

Pray: Pray for God to give each one wisdom to know His true messengers.

Discover:

1. Read Daniel 2:1-28.
 - a. What happened in this story?

 - b. Compare the way the astrologers responded with the way Daniel responded. How was his response different and why?

 - c. What did God do in this story, and what does that teach you about Him? How did He work through Daniel?

2. Read 2 Peter 1:19-21.
 - a. Where does prophecy come from?

 - b. How did the Holy Spirit work with the people in the Bible to communicate His messages?

c. How should we relate to prophecy?
(v. 19)

d. What does this teach us about the trustworthiness of Scripture?

3. How do we know whether a prophet is from God? Look up the following texts and ask this question: What test does each text provide to help us recognize God's messages?

- a. Isaiah 8:20
- b. Matthew 7:15-20
- c. 1 John 4:1-3
- d. Jeremiah 28:9

4. Review Revelation 12:17; 19:9-10. Compare these two Bible passages with Acts 2:17.

a. What do these texts show us about God's faithful people?

b. How important is God's prophecy to His people?

c. What role do children and youth have with God's prophecy in the end of time?

Live: Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share a story of when you knew God was sending you a message and what you did about it. Discuss how to know when a message is from God.

Ask: Ask the teams to share what they learned about God's messages to His people.

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Acts 24 and Mark 2.

Live: Practice testing to see if someone on media is sharing a message from God or just sharing his/her own opinion. Use the Bible tests.

Share: Share the Bible tests of a true prophet with someone. Share which one of the tests has been most helpful to you so far.

Pray: Pray for wisdom to know who is giving us a message from God.

LESSON TWELVE

Take Your Stand

Welcome: Ask everyone, “If you gave a weather report of how you felt about your week, what would it sound like?” Example: cloudy, sunny, stormy, etc. Share around the circle.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Acts 24-Mark 2.

Live: Practice testing to see if someone on media is sharing a message from God or just sharing his/her own opinion. Use the Bible tests.

Share: Share the Bible tests of a true prophet with someone. Share which one of the tests has been most helpful to you so far.

Connect: Form groups of 3 to 5. In each group, think of a life-changing event that takes place in someone’s life. Act it out for the rest of the group to guess.

Debrief: What made your event life-changing?
What do you think are some of the most important, positive events in the life of a Christian?

Introduction: Today we are going to study the life-changing event of baptism and what it means between us and God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Pray: Pray that God will open each heart to follow Jesus all the way.

Discover:

1. Read Matthew 3:13-17.

a. Why did Jesus want to be baptized?

b. How was Jesus baptized based on this passage?

c. What happened when He came up out of the water?

At Jesus' baptism, we see all three members of the Godhead working together in unison: Jesus as a man, the Father as a voice from heaven, and the Spirit like a dove.

2. Read Romans 6:3-4.

a. What does Paul compare baptism to and what does it represent?

b. How does Jesus' life illustrate the experience we can have?

3. Read John 1:1-5;10-14.

a. Who is this passage talking about?

b. What do we discover about Jesus based on this passage?

See especially verse 1!

4. Read Matthew 28:18,19.

a. What did Jesus command His disciples before He went to heaven?

b. In whose name did He say they should baptize others? Why is this significant?

Again, we see that God is three Persons in One, and when we publicly commit to God through baptism, all three work in our lives in a very special way!

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share the following: If you are a member of a church, how did you join it? Was there some tradition that symbolized your commitment to Christ? If so, what did it mean to you?

Discuss with your student what baptism means and how God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are all involved. Ask your student if he/she want to commit his/her life to Jesus through baptism.

Ask: Invite teams to share what baptism means to them.

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Mark 3-9.

Live: Choose to commit your life to Jesus completely. Take your next steps in being faithful to Him.

Share: Share the story of Jesus' baptism with someone.

Pray: Pray together for each family and the courage to follow Jesus' example of baptism.

LESSON THIRTEEN

Our High Priest

Welcome: Ask everyone, “What do you remember most about this past week?” Share in partners.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team on the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Mark 3-9.

Live: Choose to commit your life to Jesus completely. Take your next steps in being faithful to Him.

Share: Share the story of Jesus’ baptism with someone. Share what baptism means to you.

Connect: Invite all the families to stand in a circle. Ask everyone to think of something important that someone in your family does to serve in their home. Ask for volunteers to act out something a family member does to serve in their home. Invite everyone to guess if it is dad, mom, child or some other person in the home.

Debrief: Who was the most difficult to guess?
Why? Sometimes we take each other for granted and forget all the ways our family members serve each other.

Introduce: Today let's explore what Jesus did for us on the cross and how that impacts how He continues to serve us now.

Pray: Pray that God will soften the hearts of each one to deeply value who Jesus is and what He is doing for us.

Discover:

1. Read Matthew 27:45-54, 28:1-6.

a. What happened at the exact moment Jesus died?

b. What did the people watching do when that happened?

c. What happened on the first day of the week?

2. Read Hebrews 9:1-7. Jesus lives! He went to heaven where He serves as our High Priest!

a. What do these verses tell us about the sanctuary?

b. What was the purpose of the veil?

c. How does this help us understand what happened when Jesus died?

d. What did the high priest do?
See verse 7.

The veil in the temple that separated the Most Holy Place, where God's presence was from the rest of the temple, was torn from the top down when Jesus died. Jesus, the Perfect Sacrifice, did away with the need for animal sacrifices – because these sacrifices simply pointed His people to the day He would die on the cross for us all!

3. Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

a. What does this passage call Jesus?

b. What is special about Him?

c. How does Jesus' ministry as our High Priest change the way we live and pray?

4. Read Hebrews 9:24.

a. For whom does Jesus appear before His Father? What does this tell us about Jesus' love for us?

Live: Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share what having Jesus as your High Priest means to you personally. Discuss with your student how Jesus' death and resurrection help Him to be the Perfect High Priest for us.

Ask: Invite teams to share what having Jesus as High Priest means to them.

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Mark 10-16.

Live: Take a moment daily to ask Jesus, your High Priest, to clean out your heart and be your righteousness.

Share: Share with someone what it means to you to have Jesus as your High Priest.

Pray: Pray together for each family to find encouragement in Jesus' ministry as High Priest.

LESSON FOURTEEN

Together with Jesus

Welcome: Ask everyone, “If your week was a newspaper, what would the top headline from this past week read?” Share around the circle.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Mark 10-16.

Live: Take a moment daily to ask Jesus, your High Priest, to clean out your heart and be your righteousness.

Share: Share with someone what it means to you to have Jesus as your High Priest.

Connect: In family groups, think together and choose your favorite tradition you enjoy celebrating as a family. Think of a creative way to present this tradition to show the rest of the group in 30 seconds. Everyone should be involved! Example: skit, song, short story, etc.

Invite each family to present their tradition in 30 seconds. Clap after each family has finished.

Debrief: Why do we have these traditions? What do they mean to us? What are meaningful ways we remember Jesus and the difference He makes in our lives together?

Introduction: Before He died on the cross, Jesus and His disciples had one last precious evening together. There, Jesus began two practices that we still celebrate today! Today, we will explore what they are and what they mean.

Pray: Pray that God will bring each family together in unity.

Discover:

1. Read John 13:1-17.
 - a. What does verse 1 tell us about the background to the story?

 - b. If this was the only story in the Bible about Jesus, what would it tell you about who He really is?

 - c. What did Jesus do that was out of the ordinary? What was significant about this?

d. Why didn't Peter want Jesus to wash his feet? What changed his mind?

e. What lesson was Jesus trying to teach the disciples?

As Christians, we wash each other's feet in obedience to Jesus' command.

This act humbles us and reminds us to serve each other, remembering that we are all the same under Jesus! Washing our feet represents how Jesus wants to wash our hearts and is like a mini re-baptism to recommit to Jesus.

2. Read Mark 14:12-26.

a. What did Jesus do in the middle of the dinner? (verse 22)

b. What does this story tell you about Jesus?

c. What did He say and do with the bread and the cup? What did it represent?

We celebrate the Lord's Supper to remember this night. When we eat the bread and drink the juice, we remember how Jesus' blood was spilled and His body was broken for us. While we do this,

we thank Jesus for saving us through His death on the cross and accept His gift of salvation all over again.

3. Read John 17:23.

a. What did Jesus want for all who would believe in Him?

b. How do these two practices help us experience what Jesus prayed for in this verse?

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share a time when you needed unity with the people you were with. What do communion and foot washing mean to you? Ask your student if he/she has any questions.

Ask:

Invite the teams to share what these two practices mean to them.

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Genesis 1-7.

Live:

Ask God who you need to forgive, or ask to forgive you. Take the needed steps to come together with the love of Jesus.

Parent/Mentor & Student Lessons

- Share: Share with someone what the story of Jesus washing feet means to you.
- Pray: Pray that Jesus will make each family one through His love.

LESSON FIFTEEN

Get Ready!

Welcome: Greet each other in as many languages as possible!

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Genesis 1-7.

Live: Ask God who you need to forgive, or ask to forgive you. Take the needed steps to come together with the love of Jesus.

Share: Share with someone what the story of Jesus washing feet means to you.

Connect: Gather the families in a circle. Imagine that you have been walking through a desert for two days with no water. A rain cloud is racing towards you. You can see the wall of rain about a minute away. You know you have a minute to prepare. You can tell it will be a quick rain for a few minutes, and then it will be gone.

You have one minute to find as many items that could hold water as possible and line them up beside your family.

Debrief: Would you have been ready for that rain shower? Why or why not? What do you wish you would have had in that situation?

Introduction: Jesus is coming again! Explore what God's Word says about His coming, so you may get ready now!

Discover:

1. Read Acts 1:9-11. How did Jesus go back to heaven? How do you think the disciples felt as they watched Him go? How will He return?

2. Read I Thessalonians 4:16-18. What will you see and hear when Jesus comes again? Where will we meet Jesus when He comes?

3. Read Revelation 1:7. Who will see Jesus when He comes? What detail about His coming is the same in the last two passages of Acts 1:11 and I Thessalonians 4:17? How does Revelation 1:7 prepare us for the warning Jesus gives us in Matthew 24:23 and 24?

4. Read Luke 21:34-36. What can we do so we will be ready for Jesus to come?

5. Read John 14:1-3. What has Jesus prepared for you in heaven? Why does He want you there? What does this tell you about Jesus?

Live: Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share what the second coming of Jesus means to you. Discuss with your student how to prepare for His coming.

Ask: Invite teams to share what Jesus' coming means to them.

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Genesis 8-14.

Live: Ask God to help you simplify your life, so you can be ready and focused on Jesus' coming. Get rid of unnecessary distractions.

Share: Share your favorite promise of Jesus' coming with someone!

Pray: Form a circle and join hands. Pray that God will prepare our hearts to be ready for His soon coming.

LESSON SIXTEEN

Hope Beyond Death

Welcome: Welcome each other as if you were under water. Use your imagination!

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Genesis 8-14.

Live: Ask God to help you simplify your life, so you can be ready and focused on Jesus' coming. Get rid of unnecessary distractions.

Share: Share your favorite promise of Jesus' coming with someone! Share how you are getting ready for His soon coming!

Connect: Give the group a challenge to see how many people they can give a left-handed handshake and a right-handed high five to in ten seconds.

After ten seconds, yell, "Time's up!" Ask them how many people they got. Then

give them fifteen more seconds to do the same thing.

Debrief: How did you feel when I said "Time's up"? How is that moment like when a person dies? What is the first word you think of when you think of death?

Introduction: Discover what God's Word teaches about death, and the hope beyond!

Pray: Pray that God will give each one hope in His plans!

Discover:

1. Read John 11:11-26; 32-45. What did Jesus call death? See John 11:11.

2. See John 11:23-25. What hope did Jesus give Martha about Lazarus? Compare with last week's study in I Thessalonians 4:16-18. When do believers who have died live again?

3. See John 11:17. How long had Lazarus been in the tomb? How would you describe Lazarus during his four days in the tomb based on Ecclesiastes 9:5,6?

4. See John 11:43-45. How did Jesus fulfill His promise in John 11:25? How did many people respond to Jesus' miracle over death?

5. Read Job 7:7-10. When a person dies, can he/she come back to his/her home in some way?

Today, popular media teaches that the dead are not dead and that they can come back as spirits and ghosts. This is a dangerous falsehood!

6. Read Revelation 21:1-5.
What precious promise does God give you when He recreates this world?
This is our hope for eternity!

Live: Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share how the death of someone you loved affected you and how Jesus has given you hope in the resurrection.

Discuss how your student feels about death and the hope Jesus brings. Ask which Bible promise of God in this lesson means the most to him/her.

Ask: Invite parent/mentor and student teams to share questions about death and the hope we have in Jesus. Ask if there are any testimonies of those who have found hope in Jesus' truth that has helped them face the death of a loved one.

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

- Read: Read Genesis 15-21.
- Live: Think about people you know who have died. Talk with God about the hope Jesus brings us in His Word. Get rid of media that teaches false things about death.
- Share: Share the story of Lazarus with someone and the hope Jesus has brought you!
- Pray: Pray that every member of each family will live each day with hope beyond death.

LESSON SEVENTEEN

Why Church?

Welcome: Ask everyone, “What is the best thing that happened to you this past week?”

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Genesis 15-21.

Live: Think about people you know who have died. Talk with God about the hope Jesus brings us in His Word. Get rid of media that teaches false things about death.

Share: Share the story of Lazarus and the hope that Jesus has brought you with someone!

Connect: Invite all the families to stand together as a little crowd. Give them two minutes to form as many shapes as they can think of using all the people in the crowd. Example: square, circle etc.

Debrief: How many of these shapes could you make if you were standing alone? Which shape was the most difficult to make? Which shape was the easiest? What did you learn about working with each other?

Introduction: Discover God's picture of what the church is and why He calls you to be a part of it! The church is not just a building! The church is God's people called out of the world to be a family of faith on a mission!

Pray: Pray that God will open every heart to understand why God is so excited about us being a part of the church!

Discover:

1. Read Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35.
 - a. How does God describe the early church?

 - b. What did the believers do each day? Why? (2:42)

 - c. How did they care for each other?

 - d. How did they impact their local community?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-21,26-28.
 - a. What does God say the church is like?

 - b. How is the church like the body of Christ?

 - c. How should this affect how we treat each other?

3. Read Hebrews 10:23-25.
 - a. What does God counsel believers to do?

 - b. What does He tell us not to neglect?

 - c. Look closely at verse 25. What should we do for each other?

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share a time when you experienced the church as the body of Christ and what it meant to you. Discuss with your student how you both can be an active part of your local church.

Ask: Invite the teams to share what is most exciting about the early church in Acts. What is God calling them to do as part of His church today?

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Genesis 22-28.

Live: Ask God to show you something that the early church did that He would like you to do with other believers this week. Try it out!

Share: Share the story of the early church in Acts with someone and why being a part of a church is important to you today.

Pray: Pray together for God to help each family know they are a special part of the church.

LESSON EIGHTEEN

God Chooses You

Welcome: Share who helped you this past week and what they did to assist you.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Genesis 22-28.

Live: Ask God to show you something that the early church did that He would like you to do with other believers this week. Try it out!

Share: Share the story of the early church in Acts with someone and why being a part of a church is important to you today.

Connect: Invite everyone to team up in twos. If you have lace-up shoes, first try to untie and tie your own shoes with one hand. Then work together with your partner with both of your best hands to untie and tie your shoelaces. (Only one hand each.).

If you do not have lace-up shoes, try hopping on one foot across the room. Then work together with both of you holding each other and hop across the room with only one leg each.

Debrief: How did you feel when you were trying to work on your own? How was it to help each other with your best hand or foot?

Introduce: Discover how to serve others from the deepest part of your heart and with the help of the Holy Spirit!

Pray: Pray that young and old will know where God is calling them to serve.

Discover:

1. Read I Samuel 3:1-21.
 - a. What types of work do you think Samuel might have done to help the aging Eli in God's house?

 - b. How do you think Eli may have helped Samuel?

 - c. How would you describe Samuel's relationship with God? What is the relationship between serving God and knowing God? How do both serving and knowing God impact each other?

2. See I Samuel 3:19-21. How did God shine through young Samuel to serve all Israel?

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

God wants you to serve others with His joy and peace! Let's discover where God may be calling you to serve.

Parent/Mentor:

1. What are the gifts the Holy Spirit has given you? Read these Bible passages and see if you read a gift you think God may have given you:

Exodus 31:1-5

Romans 12:6-8

I Corinthians 12:8-10

Ephesians 4:11-12

2. Who are the people God has given you the heart to serve? *Examples: young children, refugees, homeless, etc.*

3. What are the issues God has given you eyes to see and that need attention? *Examples: a neglected part of your local community, young and old who struggle to read, teen mothers trying to raise their babies and go to school etc.*

4. Ask God's people to pray about where you can serve God best now. Listen and learn from them.

Ask: Invite the teams to share what they are learning about God's call to serve.

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Genesis 29-35.

Live: Tell five godly people who know you well about your spiritual gifts, people you have a heart to serve, and issues that God has given you eyes to see. Ask them to pray for three days about where you could serve God best. Bring their insights with you next week.

Share: Share Samuel's story with someone and tell him/her how God is calling you to serve.

Pray: Pray that God will help each one to serve the Lord in the special way God has created him/her to serve.

LESSON NINETEEN

Your God-Given Dream

Welcome: What was your most joyful moment in the past week? Please share in twos.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Genesis 29-35.

Live: Tell five godly people that know you well about your spiritual gifts. Choose people you have a heart to serve and issues that God has given you eyes to see. Ask them to pray for three days about where you could serve God best. Bring their insights with you next week.

Share: Share Samuel's story with someone and tell him/her how God is calling you to serve.

Connect: Ask for one volunteer. Invite everyone to close their eyes and try to see what they can remember about the room or space without looking. The volunteer will make

true and false statements, and then the participants will vote "yes" or "no" by raising their hand. Ex.) The walls are blue. Raise your hand if you think that is true. Now raise your hand if you think that is false. Three people are wearing flip flops. etc.)

Debrief: Did we all vote the same way? Why? What kinds of things do you notice that others don't always see?

Introduce: God has given us each eyes to see different needs in our world. He has a dream for each one of us to make a difference. Discover your God-given dream as you explore how God led Nehemiah to live the dream God had for him before he was born.

Pray: Pray for God to open each heart to live God's dream.

Discover:

1. Read Nehemiah 1:1-11.
 - a. See Nehemiah 1:1-4. What broken thing in Nehemiah's life made him cry out to God?

 - b. See Nehemiah 1:4-10. What did Nehemiah do during his time of prayer? What did he pray about?

2. Read Nehemiah 1:11 and 2:1-3. Nehemiah asked God to give him

success in meeting someone in particular who could help him. Who was this man Nehemiah wanted to meet?

3. Read Nehemiah 2:4-8. What did Nehemiah ask of the king so he could go and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem?

4. Read Nehemiah 2:11-18. What did Nehemiah do to follow through with his faith in God and the dream God had given him?

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Share with your student a dream that God has for your life.

Explore these steps with your student so he or she can live his/her God-given dream:

1. What is broken in the world around you that greatly bothers your heart?

2. Fast, pray, and repent for God to guide you about what to do with what is broken. To fast means to ask God to take away your pride while you go without something you really like that may distract you from knowing what God wants.

To repent means to be sad about what you have done wrong and to turn away from it by the power of God.

3. Ask God whom you should share your concern with first that may be able to help you get started making a difference

4. Share your concern with the person God leads you to visit. Discuss how you might take care of the concern.

5. Step out in faith to begin what God has called you to do.

Ask: Invite the teams to share what is broken in the world that God has given them a heart to tackle.

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Genesis 36-42.

Live: Begin the five steps of discovering your God-given dream.

Share: Share the story of Nehemiah and what current needs in your world call you to make a difference.

Pray: Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide each one in discovering and living his/her God-given dream!

LESSON TWENTY

Jesus' Last Call

Welcome: Ask everyone, "If you could fly anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go?" Invite them to share their answers.

Report: Ask each parent/mentor and student team to report to another team with the three-part challenge from last week. Read the challenge from last week as seen below:

Read: Read Genesis 36-42.

Live: Begin the five steps of discovering your God-given dream.

Share: Share the story of Nehemiah and what current needs in your world call you to make a difference.

Connect: Invite each family to stand beside each other. Say, "This is a moment to remember the people who sailed on a luxury ship over a hundred years ago. Everyone thought that the ship was unsinkable. On April 14, 1912 the RMS Titanic sank two hours and forty minutes after it struck an iceberg. If you had been on that ship with

your family after it hit the iceberg, what would you have done for your family?"

Each family should select one family member to act out what they would have done for their family. Give everyone 30 seconds to act out what they would do for their family.

Debrief What was most challenging about having 30 seconds to help your family on the Titanic? Did you give them any final message? If so, what? Knowing what to say when time is running out can leave us silent, saying something foolish, or saying something that could make a difference between life and death.

Introduce: In Matthew 28:18 Jesus declared, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Jesus has all authority to make His last call to this world before He comes again. Discover this call for yourself.

Pray: Pray that God will give each one a clear message to share with this world.

Discover:

1. Read Revelation 14:6-12. Jesus sent three angels with three messages. What are these messages?

2. First Angel's Message
 - a. Read Revelation 14:6. What does the angel have with him? What is

the gospel? Read Romans 1:16 and I Corinthians 15:1-4.

b. Read Revelation 14:7. Why does the angel say to fear God? What does that mean?

c. Read Exodus 20:11 and Revelation 14:7. What do these verses have in common? What do they tell you about Jesus?

3. Second Angel's Message

a. See Revelation 14:8. What is fallen?

b. Read Genesis 11:9. What is the meaning of Babel/Babylon?

c. The good news is that the kingdom of evil is defeated!

4. Third Angel's Message

a. See Revelation 14:9-11. What warning is given?

b. Beware of counterfeit worship. Read Revelation 13:6-8. Any call to worship that says something different from the First Angel's

Message only leads to death.
It is good news to know that
God loves everyone so much that
He would warn the world.

5. See Revelation 14:12. After these three messages, God says that there are people who keep His commandments and have the faith of Jesus. They are not confused! How can we be those people? Read Colossians 1:27. What is our hope? Having Jesus' faith in our hearts is our victory! Jesus is our righteousness!

6. When these messages are clearly presented to the world, God will follow through with His call by a fourth angel. Read Revelation 18:4. What do you think God is calling His people to leave? Review Revelation 14:8.

7. Read Acts 2:17. What is God calling young and old to be in the last days? What will the Holy Spirit do through the young and old to share Jesus' last call to the world? Young and old will work together!

Live:

Invite parent/mentor and student teams to turn their chairs to face each other for this sharing time.

Parent/Mentor: Pray together and share how Jesus wants your family to follow His messages and share them with others.

Ask: Invite the teams to share anything that was important for them to hear today. Ask them how God is asking them to practice and share these messages.

**Leader shares what it means personally to him/her to live this challenge!*

Challenge:

Read: Read Genesis 43-50.

Live: Each day, surrender to Jesus as your Lord. Thank Jesus for living in your heart and being your Righteousness.

Share: Pray about who you should share these messages with this week. Practice reading the Bible passages with your parents and sharing what each angel's message means to you. As the Holy Spirit impresses you, go and share them with someone else.

Pray: Pray that God will send out every family to live and share Jesus' Last Call.

Discipling the New Generations

How can you mentor the child or teen in your life to trust, follow, and share Jesus?

In Deuteronomy 6:4-7, God calls busy parents to teach their own children how to love Him with all their hearts. In *Discipling the New Generations*, Don and his daughter Julie invite you to take the new generations on a faith journey with Jesus Christ through His Word!



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Don MacLafferty and his much-loved bride April have been married over 31 years. They both thank God for the joy of walking together as a couple through the adventure of following Him. They are full-time volunteer missionaries based in Lacombe, Alberta Canada. They are blessed with three children: Jason, Julie, and Jessica. Don is the founder of Kids in Discipleship and President of In Discipleship. He loves the great outdoors, hiking, cooking, and making friends around the world.