

SUMMER
SUPPLEMENT
FOR
THE
GOSPEL
PROJECT



MARSH CREEK
COMMUNITY CHURCH

ABOUT THIS SUPPLEMENT

We are quickly approaching the end of our three-year journey through The Gospel Project and will start to cycle through again starting in September. However, there are some lessons we don't have time to cover on the remaining Sunday mornings. We didn't want anyone to miss a unit of this amazing curriculum so we designed this supplemental book that you can take with you this summer. Think of this as something you can read through and review with your kids this summer. We guarantee your whole family will benefit from reviewing these lessons.

Here is a list of what we will be covering in class on Sunday mornings:

- June 3 - Unit 30, Session 1 Paul's Conversion and Baptism
- June 10 Unit 30, Session 6 Paul's 3rd Journey
- June 17 Unit 34, Session 4 Paul's Joy in Prison
- June 24 Unit 31, Session 4 Love One Another
- July 1 Unit 33, Session 3, Fruit of the Spirit
- July 8 Unit 33, Session 4 Armor of God
- July 15 Unit 33, Session 5 Cheerful Giver
- July 22 Unit 33, Session 6 Heroes of Faith
- July 29 - NO LESSON (Family Sunday)
- August 5 Unit 36, Session 1 John's Vision of Jesus
- August 12 Unit 36, Session 4 Jesus Will Return
- August 19 - NO LESSON (Baptism Sunday)
- August 26 - Celebration of Completion of The Gospel Project
- September 2 - Move-Up Sunday and first day of our new cycle with The Gospel Project

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Here are the lessons covered in this supplemental booklet:

- Unit 30, Session 2 Paul's First Journey
- Unit 30, Session 3 The Message "Christ Alone"
- Unit 30, Session 4 Paul's Second Journey
- Unit 30, Session 5 Paul Preached in Europe
- Unit 31, Session 1 Paul Confronted Peter
- Unit 31, Session 2 The Church was Divided
- Unit 31, Session 3 The Church Showed Favoritism
- Unit 31, Session 5 Paul's Letters to Church Leaders
- Unit 33, Session 1 Children of God
- Unit 33, Session 2 A Transformed Mind
- Unit 34, Session 1 The Plan to Stop Paul
- Unit 34, Session 2 Paul Before Rulers
- Unit 34, Session 3 The Shipwreck
- Unit 34, Session 5 Paul Made Much of Jesus
- Unit 35, Session 1 Paul's Letter to Philemon
- Unit 35, Session 2 Paul Gave Hope
- Unit 35, Session 3 Remember God's Truth
- Unit 35, Session 4 While We Wait
- Unit 36, Session 2 God's Warning to Seven Churches
- Unit 36, Session 3 Jesus on the Throne



Unit 30, Session 2

Paul's First Journey

Jesus' followers preached the gospel in Jerusalem, and the good news spread to places like Judea and Samaria. More and more people believed, and new churches began as both Jews and Gentiles began to follow Jesus. Barnabas went to Antioch—a city about 300 miles north of Jerusalem—where he brought Paul to help teach the believers. The church in Antioch grew. It was in Antioch that the disciples first became known as Christians (See Acts 11:26).

The Holy Spirit told the believers at the church in Antioch to send out Paul and Barnabas to preach the gospel. The church obeyed, and Paul and Barnabas traveled to several cities and all over the island of Cyprus, telling both Jews and Gentiles about Jesus.

Consider Paul—once a devoted persecutor of Christians—now a Christian missionary, devoted to obeying God's call to go and tell others the good news about Jesus. This was Paul's first missionary journey, and it wasn't easy. Paul and Barnabas faced rejection in every place that they traveled. Some of the people believed, but some of them were angry. Many people rejected the truth about Jesus. In some places, the Jews made plans to kill Paul.

In no place did Paul and Barnabas soften their message or abandon their mission. In Lystra, Paul healed a man, and when the witnesses to this miracle began to worship Paul and Barnabas, the two men emphatically gave credit to the one true God. When Paul's enemies attacked him and left him for dead, Paul continued on. Paul and Barnabas shared the gospel in Derbe (DUHR bih), and many people believed.

The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell Jews and Gentiles about Jesus. If Paul had not taken the gospel to the Gentiles, many of us would probably not be believers today. God uses people to tell others about Jesus so that people all over the world can be saved from their sin by trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Paul and Barnabas faced many people who rejected the good news about Jesus. But God had a plan for Paul to share the gospel with Gentiles, no matter what troubles Paul faced. Many believed in Jesus. The church grew and the gospel was shared so that people all over the world could be saved from their sin by trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- Christians tell about Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit had a special job for Paul.
- Paul and Barnabas told people about Jesus.
- Many people believed the good news.

Preschool

- How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.

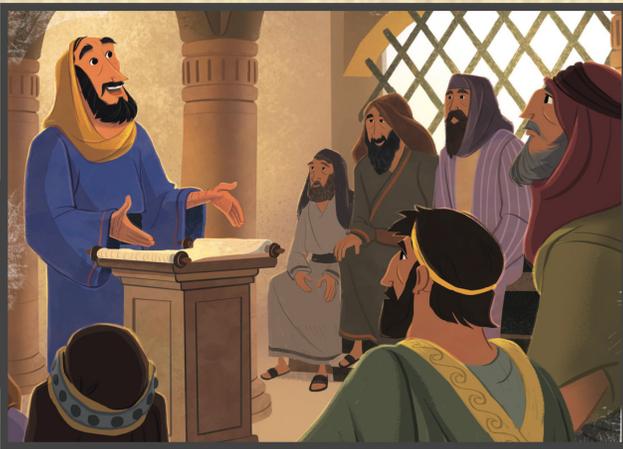
Kids

- How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.
- The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell Jews and Gentiles about Jesus.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8





Unit 30, Session 3 The Message “Christ Alone”

The church in Antioch praised God for His grace to Paul on his first missionary journey. Though Paul and Barnabas were strongly opposed in some places, many people heard the gospel and believed. Paul and Barnabas took the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. But a problem arose when some Christians began saying that the new followers of Jesus—the Gentile believers—needed to obey the Law of Moses in order to be right with God.

Paul and Barnabas debated this issue with other church leaders in Jerusalem. They met together to answer a tough question: Can a person be saved by faith alone or was something more needed? When Paul addressed the council, he insisted that God saves Gentiles the same way He saves Jews: through the grace of the Lord Jesus.

Paul testified to the things God had done among the Gentiles. God had given Gentiles the Holy Spirit. James cited the prophets Amos and Isaiah in support. The group agreed that because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, He alone is all we need to be saved. They also agreed that they should not make salvation more difficult for Gentiles by adding unnecessary rules.

The church chose two men—Judas and Silas—to go with Paul and Barnabas to the church at Antioch. They wrote a letter for the Gentile believers there, encouraging them and giving them instructions for how to live as followers of Christ.

The church leaders met in Jerusalem to answer a tough question: Can a person be saved by faith alone or was something more needed? The early church agreed that because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, He alone is all we need to be saved.

The message for the Gentile believers was important: Whether Jew or Gentile, salvation comes only through faith in Christ. No one is saved by the law but by grace alone. Emphasize to your kids that, while the Bible does give us plenty of instruction for how to live, sinners are made right with God only by the grace of Jesus. Salvation is a gift. To receive this gift, Jesus is all we need.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- Christians tell about Jesus.
- Some people were confused about the good news.
- Paul said that only Jesus saves people.
- Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved.

Preschool

- How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.
- The church encouraged Gentile believers.

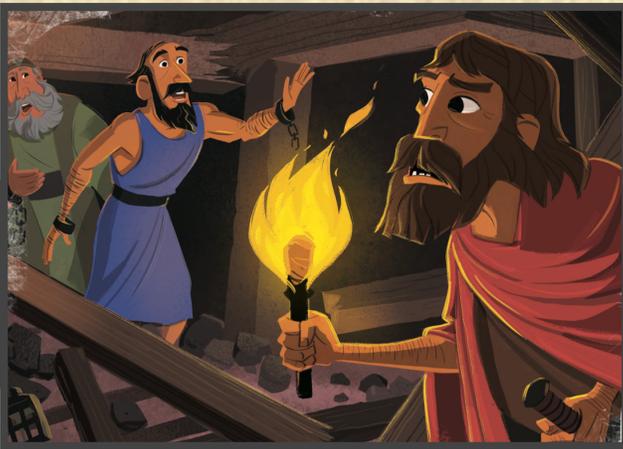
Kids

- How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.
- The church in Jerusalem encouraged Gentile believers.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8





Unit 30, Session 4

Paul's Second Journey

Paul was back at the church of Antioch in Syria. The church had sent out Paul and Barnabas to preach the gospel to Jews and Gentiles in places like Lystra and Derbe. Then they returned to the church of Antioch. Some time passed, and Paul wanted to return to some of the cities he visited on his first journey to see how the new believers were doing.

Silas accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey. The pair traveled through Syria and Cilicia (suh LISH ih uh), encouraging believers and strengthening churches. The number of believers in the churches increased daily.

The Lord called Paul and Silas to go to Macedonia, so they obeyed. Two major events happened while Paul was in Macedonia. First, a woman named Lydia became a believer. Paul and Silas had gone to the river to pray. They spoke to the women at the river. God opened Lydia's heart to the good news of the gospel.

Then, a jailer became a believer. This happened when Paul and Silas were thrown into prison after Paul commanded a fortune-telling spirit to come out of a slave girl. Late at night, an earthquake rocked the prison. The prisoners could have escaped, but they stayed where they were.

This was a huge relief to the jailer. Had the prisoners escaped, the jailer would have been punished. In fact, the jailer was ready to kill himself when Paul shouted, "We are all here!" The jailer asked Paul and Silas how to be saved. They told him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." The man believed and was baptized.

Lydia, the jailer, and many others were saved because they heard the gospel and believed in Jesus. Paul and Silas preached the same message to all people, no matter who they were: "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- Christians tell about Jesus.
- God sent Paul on another trip.
- Paul and Silas told Lydia about Jesus.
- Paul told people about Jesus even in jail.

Preschool

- How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.
- Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.

Kids

- How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.
- Paul and Silas told the jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8





Unit 30, Session 5

Paul Preached in Europe

Paul and Silas had been released from prison in Philippi (FIH lih pigh). Before leaving the city, they met with believers at Lydia's house and encouraged them. Then they traveled to Thessalonica and stopped at the synagogue to explain to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah. A large number of Greeks and influential women believed in Jesus.

Before long, Jews in the city became jealous and forced Paul and Silas out of the city. Even though the Jews opposed Paul's preaching, the number of believers in Thessalonica grew and the church there was established.

Paul made his way through Berea, where people heard the gospel and believed. The Jews from Thessalonica followed him and caused trouble, so Paul went to Athens. Athens—about 200 miles from Berea—was a cultural center. People in Athens loved to hear about and study the latest ideas. The Jews and the philosophers in the city were interested in what Paul had to say, but Paul was troubled by what he saw. Athens was full of idols to every kind of god. There was even an altar to an unknown god.

The people obviously had a religious desire. Paul knew that their hunger for God could be satisfied—in Jesus. Paul began preaching, telling the people that they worshiped a god they did not know. He said that people can know God! God made the world and everything in it! "We ought not to think that God is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man," Paul said.

Then Paul told them about Jesus and how God wanted them to turn away from their sins. Some people made fun of Paul, but others believed. Paul explained God's plan of salvation.

The men of Athens worshiped a false god whom they did not know. Paul explained to the men God's plan of salvation. He said that God is not like the Greek idols. Only God deserves our worship! Paul talked about Jesus and the resurrection. All people can know God because Jesus took the punishment for sin that separates people from God.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- Christians tell about Jesus.
- Paul told people in Athens about Jesus.
- Paul said God made all people and He loves them.
- God sent Jesus to earth to rescue us.

Preschool

- How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.
- Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.

Kids

- How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus so they may repent and be saved.
- Paul taught the people in Athens that the one true God sent Jesus to be the Savior.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8





Unit 31, Session 1

Paul Confronted Peter

Peter—one of Jesus' original disciples—had grown up in a culture where the Jews believed that God only cared about them, not the Gentiles or non-Jews. Most of the Jews looked down on the Gentiles and refused to even associate with them because Jews believed Gentiles were unclean; Gentiles didn't live the right way to please God. Any Jew who did associate with Gentiles did so at the risk of being ridiculed by his own people.

After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, God shared with Peter that He loved not only the Jews, but the Gentiles as well. (Acts 10:9-16) Peter took to heart this message from God and began associating with Gentiles, even eating with Gentile believers. That is, until some Jewish believers came around. When he was among Jews, Peter did not eat with the Gentiles and even told them they were supposed to follow certain Jewish laws. But he knew that was not true! Peter also led Barnabas, known for encouraging believers and bringing them together, into acting the same way.

When the apostle Paul learned about this, he confronted Peter in person. Paul reminded Peter that they both knew that God accepts people not based on how they live but by faith (Rom. 3:21-22). Peter's actions contradicted that core gospel message.

Paul shared this story with the believers in Galatia (a major province of Rome in modern Turkey) to remind them—and us—of the same truth. Salvation is not based on ethnicity or external obedience to the law. Salvation comes from faith in Jesus Christ, a faith that is freely available to people of every tongue, tribe, and nation.

Peter was wrong to separate himself from the Gentiles. The gospel is for everyone, and we should show love to everyone. Paul reminded Peter that only Jesus can save people from sin. God accepts people who have faith in Jesus, not people who try to earn salvation on their own.

As you talk to your kids this week, encourage them not to wonder if they have what it takes to be saved. Salvation is found in Jesus. Remind them that because God loves all people, we—in Jesus—can love all people too.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God helps us obey Him.
- God loves people and sent Jesus to save them.
- Paul told Peter that only Jesus can obey God all the time.
- Jesus loves us and gave Himself for us.

Preschool

- Why does God want us to obey Him? We obey because God loves us.
- Paul wrote that we are saved through Jesus alone.

Kids

- Why does God want us to obey Him? Obedience is our response to God's love for us.
- Paul wrote that we are saved through faith in Jesus alone.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20





Unit 31, Session 2

The Church was Divided

Paul helped start the church in Corinth, a city in southern Greece, during his second missionary journey. Corinth was known for its wickedness. If any city needed a church, this was it. Paul remained in Corinth for about 18 months and then continued traveling to share the gospel and plant more churches.

Six years later, Paul received word from Chloe, a believer in Corinth, that the church there was struggling. The church was fractured and openly engaging in various sins. Some believers were even denying the resurrection! This news surely troubled Paul, so he sat down to write a letter to the church.

One of the first issues Paul addressed was the church's division. Even if he could help resolve the other issues, a divided church would never be healthy and impact the city the way it needed to. According to Chloe's report, several factions had formed in the church. Some claimed to follow Paul. Others Apollos. Others Peter. And some even claimed to follow Jesus, which wasn't as good as it sounded. This group was most likely simply trying to sound more spiritual than the others.

Paul told the Corinthian believers that they should not be divided; they should all be one because of their shared faith in Jesus. Jesus isn't divided, and He alone died on the cross for them. Paul's message was clear: the gospel does not divide believers, it unites them.

Paul told believers in the Corinthian church to come together because of the gospel of Jesus. He reminded them that Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can humbly come together as one body.

We all—our kids included—are experts in finding ways to divide ourselves. Sin and selfishness divide, but Jesus and the gospel unite. God designed the church to show what true unity among a beautifully diverse people looks like. This week, pray that the message Paul shared with the Corinthian believers takes root in your heart and in the hearts of your kids. Pray that God would break down the barriers we create and bring your kids together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God helps us obey Him.
- Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth.
- Paul told the people to be kind to one another.
- Jesus helps us know about God.

Preschool

- Why does God want us to obey Him? We obey because God loves us.
- Paul wrote that Christians should work together.

Kids

- Why does God want us to obey Him? Obedience is our response to God's love for us.
- Paul wrote that Christians are joined together by faith in Jesus.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20





Unit 31, Session 3

The Church Showed Favoritism

During Jesus' earthly ministry, many Jews struggled to believe that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the Son of God. This included James, Jesus' half-brother. But after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus appeared to James, and at last James believed. James later became the leader of the church in Jerusalem—a vital role in the early, growing church.

The early church was comprised mostly of Jewish believers. That makes sense because of the church's origin in Israel but also because that was the mission Jesus gave: start with the Jews and spread out from there. James wrote a letter to these Jewish believers who were scattered around the region, helping them understand how their new faith in Jesus should frame how they live.

James told his fellow believers that one way they could live out the gospel was by not showing favoritism. James used an example of how a church might show favoritism to a wealthy man over a poor man who came to a meeting.

The natural response might be to treat the wealthy man better, but James told the believers that God does not show favoritism. God has treated all people—rich and poor—the same: generously with the gospel. God's kindness toward us should cause us to want to treat others with similar love, generosity, and equality.

When believers in the early church treated some people as better than others, James told them they were wrong. He reminded them that Jesus commanded believers to love one another. Because He has shown great mercy to us, we can show mercy to others.

This week's session is a great follow-up to last week's. Your kids may think that being united is just a matter of getting along with one another and not fighting. But God's heart is for us to be united far more deeply. Help your kids see that the gospel should compel them to treat one another in the same way—with the same love, mercy, and grace shown to us by Jesus.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God helps us obey Him.
- James wrote a letter to the believers.
- James said to treat all people with kindness.
- Jesus loves us so we can love others.

Preschool

- Why does God want us to obey Him? We obey because God loves us.
- James tells us to love others because Jesus loves us.

Kids

- Why does God want us to obey Him? Obedience is our response to God's love for us.
- James calls us to treat people with mercy because Jesus shows us mercy.
-

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20





Unit 31, Session 5

Paul's Letters to Church Leaders

As the early church expanded outside Jerusalem, new churches were planted in various cities. Each church needed godly leaders to help it grow and stay true to the gospel. Paul understood this need, which is why he wrote letters to some of the leaders in the church. Two of these leaders were Timothy and Titus. Timothy was Paul's friend. He had traveled with Paul and helped him. Now Timothy was a leader at the church in Ephesus.

Titus was a Gentile believer. He had traveled with Paul too. Now Titus was on the island of Crete to help train more church leaders. Paul wrote to give Timothy and Titus advice, and he gave instructions for all the church leaders.

Paul warned Timothy and Titus that being a leader was difficult at times, but God had chosen them to be leaders. Their role as leaders put them in a position to serve God. Paul hoped that recognizing this would help them persevere and live in a way that pleased Christ.

As you share with your kids this week, help them see the value in God's gift of church leaders. Look for ways to support your leaders so that your kids value them, love them, and respect them. Consider ways your family can encourage your leaders.

At the same time, emphasize that God is at work in your kids and that they too might be leaders in the church one day—perhaps one day soon. Help your kids see that being a leader is a great privilege to help point others to the gospel.

Finally, be sure that your kids understand that church leaders do not lead on their own. All church leaders follow the leadership of Jesus, who was a servant-leader to us. He gave His life so that we could be forgiven of our sin.

Paul wrote to give Timothy and Titus advice and to help all church leaders know how to lead God's people. Church leaders help believers know what is true, and they serve the church by following the example of Jesus, who served us by dying on the cross for our sins.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God helps us obey Him.
- Timothy and Titus were church leaders.
- Paul wrote letters to encourage them.
- We can tell about Jesus even when it is hard.

Preschool

- Why does God want us to obey Him? We obey because God loves us.
- Paul told church leaders to teach God's Word.

Kids

- Why does God want us to obey Him? Obedience is our response to God's love for us.
- Paul encouraged church leaders to teach God's Word.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20





Unit 33, Session 1

Children of God

Rome was one of the most important cities in Paul's day. Paul understood that it was essential that the church in the capital of the Roman Empire be anchored in the gospel. Unlike many of the other churches we read about in the New Testament, Paul didn't help plant the church in Rome; in fact, he hadn't even visited yet. Paul was planning his first visit to this important church when he wrote a letter to make sure the believers there properly understood the gospel.

The Book of Romans contains one of the clearest explanations of the gospel in the Bible. Paul opens his letter by explaining the sin problem that plagues us all. He then moves on to share how Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection was sufficient to save people who trust in Jesus.

In Romans 5, people are described as helpless, ungodly, sinners, and enemies apart from Christ. Then, in chapter 8, Paul begins to show how having a relationship with Jesus changes us. He describes believers as children of God in Christ. That's quite a change!

The gospel doesn't just spare us from the ultimate consequences of our sin. The gospel doesn't just make us neutral to God. Because of the gospel, we are adopted by God and have the right and privilege to call God our loving Father. Gently and lovingly explain that God is our perfect Father, a Father who is always there for us and who loves us unconditionally because of His Son, Jesus. Being children of God means we have nothing to fear. Our relationship with God is secure for eternity.

God is changing believers to be more like Jesus. We are God's children—freed from sin, given power to do what is right, and adopted into God's family. Because Jesus died on the cross, God the Father welcomes us and promises a future with Him forever.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God helps us love Him.
- Paul wrote a letter to the church in Rome.
- God gives the Holy Spirit to people who love Jesus.
- Nothing can ever make God stop loving us.

Preschool

- Who changes us? God changes us to be like Jesus.
- When we trust in Jesus, God makes us His children.

Kids

- Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.
- When we trust in Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit and makes us His children.

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

2 Corinthians 5:17





Unit 33, Session 2

A Transformed Mind

All of the letters Paul wrote follow the same basic outline. The first part of each letter focuses on important doctrines: the gospel. The second part of each letter then explains how those doctrines can and should shape how we live every day: gospel transformation.

When it comes to Romans, the first eleven chapters are Paul's explanation of the gospel, while the final five chapters center on how that gospel changes us. Romans 12:1-2 is the hinge linking these two sections together.

Paul urges believers to keep in mind the mercies of God. God's grace, mercy, and kindness led Him to provide Jesus to pay our penalty for sin so that we might be adopted into God's family. Then Paul helps us look forward by summarizing the impact the gospel should have on us. We are to be living sacrifices that please God. How can we do that? The answer is in Romans 12:2. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. A renewed mind transformed by the Holy Spirit will help us see what pleases God, what His will is.

God wants us to show friendship and love to one another. As believers, we all belong to Jesus. His death and resurrection bring us together. The Holy Spirit changes the way we think and live so we can love one another as God has loved us.

The gospel first changes the heart and mind. Then, as a result, the gospel changes how a person lives. This is how we please and glorify God. As you share with your kids this week, remind them of how important gospel transformation is. Help them to see that they cannot please God by their own effort—and God doesn't want them to try.

Help kids understand what it means to rest in the gospel—in who they have been made in Christ Jesus—and how to allow the Holy Spirit to work in their minds, hearts, and their actions. Share that one of the ways God transforms our minds is by us reading His Word, and encourage them to spend time reading the Bible this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God helps us love Him.
- Jesus' followers love and obey Jesus.
- God has a special plan for each believer.
- God will help each believer do His plan.

Preschool

- Who changes us? God changes us to be like Jesus.
- God wants us to be friends with one another.

Kids

- Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.
- God wants us to show friendship and love to one another.

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

2 Corinthians 5:17





Unit 34, Session 1

The Plan to Stop Paul

This unit we will be talking about God's plan for Paul, who had devoted his life to preaching the gospel and planting churches, in a frightening and dangerous position. As Paul's third missionary journey came to an end, a prophet named Agabus warned him that the Jews would seize him in Jerusalem and hand him over to the Gentiles (See Acts 21:10-11).

But Paul did not hesitate, knowing Jerusalem was exactly where God wanted Paul to go. Paul returned to Jerusalem and was seized by a group of Jews who wanted to kill him because of the gospel.

The Roman soldiers nearby saw the commotion and stepped in, taking Paul into Roman custody. Now Paul was in Gentile hands. Paul remained under Roman protection and was staying in the barracks when the Lord gave him a message: "Have courage! For as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so it is necessary for you to testify in Rome" (Acts 23:11).

What a comforting message for Paul! The sovereign Lord told Paul his future: You're going to Rome. Paul wasn't exactly sure how he was going to get to Rome, but he could trust that God was working all things together for that purpose.

The next morning, Paul's nephew uncovered a plot to kill Paul and reported it to the Roman army commander. The commander arranged for Paul to go to Caesarea, where he would be safe.

In this Bible story, we see God using human means to bring about His end. Even when others threatened his life, Paul trusted that God is faithful. He believed that God, who showed His love for the world by sending Jesus to die on the cross and rise again, would help him through hard times. We too can risk everything to share the gospel with courage because we know that God loves us and will care for us.

As you talk to your kids this week, remind them that God calls us to be obedient and faithful as we take part in His greater plan to show His glory to us and through us for the fame of His name. No matter what obstacles we may face, God's plan for us is always for His glory and our good.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God is always with us.
- God chose Paul to tell people about Jesus.
- Some people wanted to stop Paul.
- God kept Paul safe so he could do God's plan.

Preschool

- When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.
- God protected Paul so he could preach about Jesus.

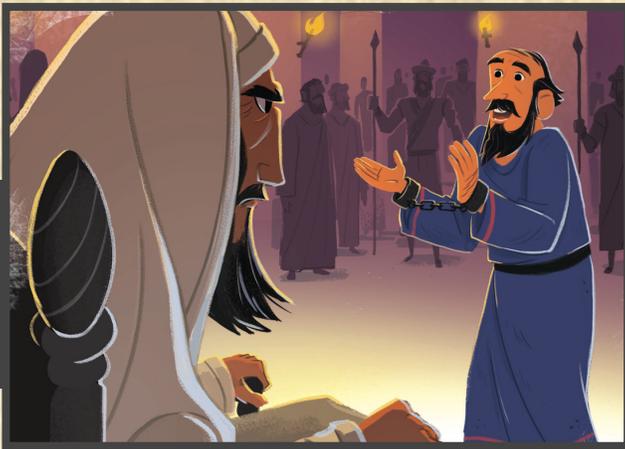
Kids

- When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.
- When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus.

It is my eager expectation and hope that ... Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:20-21





Unit 34, Session 2

Paul Before Rulers

Paul was in custody in Caesarea, the capital of the Roman province of Judea. The Jewish leaders had brought serious charges against him, so Paul now stood before Felix, the governor. Felix listened to Paul's defense but delayed a ruling. He met with Paul off and on for two years. When his time as governor ended, Felix left Paul in prison because he did not want to upset the Jews.

Festus succeeded Felix as governor. The Jews presented their accusations against Paul and asked Festus to bring him to Jerusalem. They hoped to ambush Paul as he traveled and kill him. But Festus invited Paul's accusers to make their case in Caesarea. When Festus heard Paul's case, he asked if Paul wanted to be tried in Jerusalem. Paul, knowing his rights as a Roman citizen, appealed to be heard by Caesar.

Several days later, King Agrippa visited Festus and heard about Paul. He asked to listen to Paul's defense himself. Festus wasn't sure how he would justify his sending Paul to Caesar without substantiated charges, and he hoped this hearing would provide stronger evidence against Paul. Agrippa told Paul he was out of his mind, but determined Paul could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.

With these events, Paul was positioned to go to Rome, just as God had said he would (See Acts 19:21; 23:11). God had chosen Paul to take the gospel to Gentiles, kings, and the Israelites (See Acts 9:15-16). Paul was confident that Jesus has the power to save people from sin, and he was willing to do whatever it took to share the gospel.

This week, help your kids think about how Paul might have felt as he spoke before rulers and remained in custody for two years. Lead them to consider how God was at work to keep His promises in Paul's life.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God is always with us.
- Paul told rulers about Jesus.
- Paul wanted everyone to hear and believe the good news.
- We can tell people about Jesus.

Preschool

- When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.
- Paul preached about Jesus to rulers.

Kids

- When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.
- Paul preached about Jesus to governors and kings.

It is my eager expectation and hope that ... Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:20-21





Unit 34, Session 3

The Shipwreck

Paul was in Roman custody because the Jews said things about Paul that were untrue. Paul had stood before rulers in Caesarea and invoked his right as a Roman citizen to appeal to Caesar. So Festus the governor arranged for Paul to go to Rome.

Paul got onto a ship going toward Rome. As if Paul's journey to Rome had not already been delayed and complicated enough, the ship was caught up in a terrible storm. Paul had warned the crew not to sail from Crete because they would lose everything and die. But they didn't listen. But Paul still gave them hope. An angel had appeared to Paul. He said Paul would make it to Rome and all of the people with him would survive.

Paul urged everyone on the ship to eat so they would have energy. The sailors planned to run the ship ashore on an island, but the ship got stuck on a sandbar. The waves battered the ship and it broke into pieces; however, all of the people survived and made it safely to shore.

Paul suffered for Christ. In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul listed the kinds of things he faced: beatings, stoning, shipwrecks, various dangers, hardship, sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, nakedness, and other daily pressures (See 2 Cor. 11:24-29). Again and again, Paul saw evidence of God's control over his life and the gospel was advanced.

As you talk with your kids about this story, emphasize that Paul trusted God to keep His promise to rescue them from the storm. He also encouraged the sailors to trust God too. God calls us to trust in His Son, Jesus, who died to rescue us from sin and death, and to tell others this good news. We can encourage others to trust God because we know He is good and in control.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God is always with us.
- Paul was taken on a boat to Rome.
- A storm broke apart Paul's boat, but God kept him safe.
- Nothing could stop God's plan for Paul.

Preschool

- When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.
- God protected Paul in the shipwreck.

Kids

- When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.
- God protected Paul in the shipwreck so he could stand before Caesar.

It is my eager expectation and hope that ... Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:20-21





Unit 34, Session 5

Paul Made Much of Jesus

Paul wrote his letter to the church at Colossae not long after he arrived in Rome as a prisoner. The letter served to correct false teaching in the church and to encourage right living among believers. Focus on verses 15-20, in which Paul described who Jesus is.

Paul's teaching to the Colossians was important because the believers were trying to figure out what it meant to follow Jesus. They were struggling to understand the gospel and discern what is really true. These are the same questions we face as believers today: Who is Jesus? What is the gospel? What is true about God and about myself?

Keep these points in mind as you talk about this Bible story with your kids.

1. Jesus is the image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15). If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. His life and teaching tells us what is true about God. He reflects God's character (See Heb. 1:3). Jesus Himself said, "The one who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).
2. Jesus is Creator (Col. 1:16-17). Because He created everything, He is in charge of everything—even invisible things! He controls and sustains all things. Because He is at the center, we can take comfort in Him even when life is hard.
3. Jesus is King (Col. 1:18). The reality is that we live in God's kingdom. If we live for ourselves instead of Him, we sin. Sin is rebellion against the King. We deserve to die for our sin, but the good news—the gospel—is that Jesus came to save sinners.

As you share with your kids this week, help them see Paul made much of Jesus because Jesus is better. Paul encouraged believers by reminding them that Jesus is great. Jesus is God's Son, and He died on the cross to rescue people from sin. The gospel is true, and Jesus is all we need.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God is always with us.
- Jesus shows us what God is like.
- Paul said that Jesus made everything.
- God's plan is all about Jesus.

Preschool

- When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.
- Paul said that Jesus is most important.

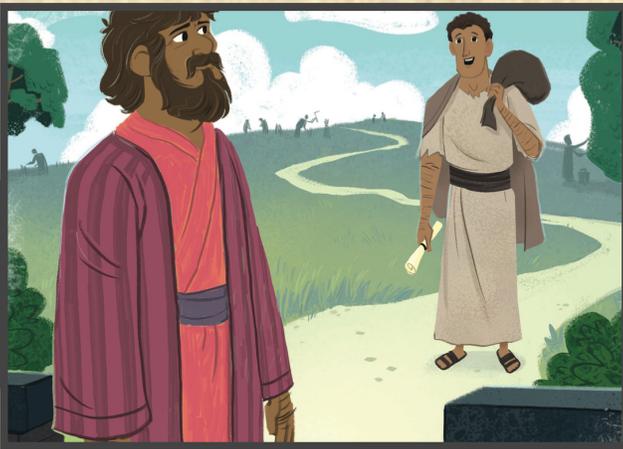
Kids

- When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.
- Jesus is better than anyone or anything else.

It is my eager expectation and hope that ... Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:20-21





Unit 35, Session 1

Paul's Letter to Philemon

During this unit, we will be looking at how God gave hope to Christians while they waited for Jesus' return. Paul was a prisoner under house arrest in Rome when a man named Onesimus (oh NESS ih muhs) came to visit him. Onesimus was a slave who had run away from a wealthy man named Philemon. As it turned out, Paul was a friend of Philemon. So when Paul told Onesimus the good news about Jesus and Onesimus believed, Paul desired forgiveness and reconciliation between Onesimus and Philemon—now brothers in Christ.

So Paul wrote a letter and told Onesimus to take it to Philemon. The Book of Philemon is the letter written by Paul to Philemon. Though Onesimus had become dear to him and Paul wanted Onesimus to stay with him in Rome, Paul sent him back to Philemon with his letter.

In the letter, Paul urged Philemon to forgive Onesimus and treat him as a fellow brother in Christ. Paul even offered to pay Onesimus's debt for him. Though Paul could have used his authority as an apostle of Christ to force Philemon to do what he wanted, Paul instead appealed to him as a friend and a fellow believer. He urged Philemon to treat Onesimus as if he were Paul himself—with love and kindness.

Paul offered to pay Onesimus's debt to make peace between him and Philemon. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus, who makes peace between God and man. Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin. He paid our debt so that we can be forgiven and welcomed by God as brothers and sisters of Jesus (See Heb. 2:11).

Paul's letter serves as a reminder to us that everyone is equal before Jesus. People from completely different backgrounds—like Paul, a former Jewish leader; Onesimus, a runaway slave; and Philemon, a Gentile slave-owner—are brought together by the gospel under the lordship of Jesus Christ. In light of God's love for us, remind your kids this week that we can be loving, kind, and forgiving to our brothers and sisters in Christ for the glory of God.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God teaches us through the Bible.
- Paul told Onesimus to go back to Philemon.
- Paul asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus.
- Jesus wants us to do what is right because we love Him.

Preschool

- When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.
- Paul told Philemon to forgive his servant.

Kids

- How do we live while waiting for Jesus to return? We remember God's truth, grow in godliness, and spread the gospel.
- Paul told Philemon to forgive his servant as a Christian brother.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17





Unit 35, Session 2

Paul Gave Hope

Consider how your life would change if you could know the future—if you could accurately predict the weather or outcomes of baseball game. If you could know how your life is going to turn out, would you live today differently? In the bigger picture of God's plan for the world, we do know the future. God reveals the outcome of His plan for humanity in His Word.

In the Book of 1 Thessalonians, Paul writes about the future to encourage believers facing persecution. Their hope as believers then is the same as our hope as believers today. We look forward to a final resurrection, the return of Jesus, and the judgment of the world.

Around AD 50, the city of Thessalonica was filled with those who worshiped idols, Greek and Roman gods, and even the Roman emperor himself. So when Paul started a church there, he quickly faced persecution and was forced to flee the city. Even though he could not return, Paul still loved the young church and was concerned for them, so he sent Timothy to check on the believers.

Timothy reported back with good news—though the church was suffering from persecution, they were holding tightly to their faith. They did have some misunderstandings about Christianity, especially the return of Jesus, but they were working hard for the Lord. Paul wrote a letter to encourage the believers and to clear up misunderstandings about the future and what happens when Christians die.

Perhaps Paul's greatest message was about the return of Jesus. The prophets in the Old Testament told about the Day of the Lord, a day when God would come to judge the world and save His people. Paul said that in the future, on the Day of the Lord, Jesus will return for His people and judge the wicked. Believers live with hope, knowing that Jesus will come again. That's a promise we can still claim today.

Paul's letter gave believers hope. Help your kids understand this week that the hope we find in the Bible is stronger than just wanting something to happen; biblical hope is expecting with confidence because we know God is faithful and true.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God teaches us through the Bible.
- Jesus promised He would come back.
- Paul said to be ready for Jesus to come back.
- People who love Jesus will be with Him forever.

Preschool

- How do we live while waiting for Jesus to come back? We follow Jesus and tell everyone about Him.
- Paul encouraged believers in hard times.

Kids

- How do we live while waiting for Jesus to return? We remember God's truth, grow in godliness, and spread the gospel.
- Paul encouraged the Thessalonians by reminding them that Jesus will return.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17





Unit 35, Session 3

Remember God's Truth

Jude, along with James, was a younger half-brother of Jesus. And like James, it wasn't until Jesus rose from the dead that Jude believed Jesus was the Son of God. Sometime between AD 65 and AD 80, Jude wrote a short letter to warn believers about false teachers. False teachers had secretly made their way into the church, and Jude urged his readers not to abandon their beliefs but to "contend for the faith" (Jude 3).

Jude wanted them to not only defend the true teachings but also to actively share the gospel. He told his friends to show mercy to those who doubt, to lead others to Jesus, and to hate sin.

There are still false teachers today, and some of them still try to sneak into the church itself. Remind your children that God loves us, and He warns us through Scripture to be on guard. We can study His Word to know what is true, and we can rely on the Holy Spirit for wisdom and discernment.

Such a strong warning about false teachers might be reason for panic among believers, but Jude ended his letter reminding them of God's promise. Ultimately, Jesus is the One who protects His people from sin. Throughout history, God has been working out His plan to bring a people to Himself. God will keep us, and He calls us to not only remember His truth but to encourage other believers to defend the faith.

As you talk with your kids about this story, emphasize that Jude warned the early Christians that some people would try to divide them by sinning and by teaching things that weren't true. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life—the One who protects His people from sin. Because of Jesus, we will be able to stand before God with joy.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God teaches us through the Bible.
- People were teaching wrong things about Jesus.
- Jude wrote a letter to help people know the truth.
- The Bible helps us know what is true about Jesus.

Preschool

- How do we live while waiting for Jesus to come back? We follow Jesus and tell everyone about Him.
- Jude told believers to always remember God's truth.

Kids

- How do we live while waiting for Jesus to return? We remember God's truth, grow in godliness, and spread the gospel.
- Jude encouraged Christians to stand strong in the faith.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17





Unit 35, Session 4 While We Wait

Peter's story of faith began when Jesus said, "Follow Me" (Matt. 4:18). Peter and his brother Andrew—two fishermen from Galilee—left their nets and followed Jesus. As one of Jesus' twelve disciples, Peter witnessed firsthand Jesus' miracles and teachings. He saw Jesus heal his mother-in-law (Matt. 8:14) and raise a little girl from the dead (Luke 8:49-55). He saw Jesus walk on water, and Peter walked on water too (Matt. 14:25-29).

Peter believed that Jesus is the Messiah (Matt. 16:16), and he was understandably upset when Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him (Matt. 26:34-35). Peter fell asleep as Jesus prayed in the garden, and he drew his sword to defend Jesus when He was arrested (Matt. 26:40; John 18:10). Peter denied Jesus three times, but after the resurrection Jesus appeared to Peter and the other disciples. Then Jesus restored Peter to ministry at the sea of Galilee (John 21:15-19).

The first 12 chapters in the Book of Acts record the Holy Spirit's work through Peter after Pentecost. God revealed to Peter that the gospel is for everyone—Jews and Gentiles. Peter was arrested and imprisoned for sharing the gospel, but an angel of the Lord rescued him (Acts 12:1-8).

When Peter wrote his second letter, he was in prison again. Peter was aware that death was imminent (2 Pet. 1:13-15). Like Jude, Peter warned against false teachers. Soon after his letter was written, Peter was killed in Rome as Jesus had predicted (John 21:18-19).

Some people thought the believers were foolish for thinking Jesus is coming again. Peter explained that God is patient, and He wants everyone to trust in Jesus. At just the right time, Jesus will come again, and we look forward to the day when He creates the new heavens and a new earth.

As you talk about this Bible story with your kids, remind them that Peter's letter was written nearly two thousand years ago to believers who were not far removed from Jesus' life on earth. Today, we still wait eagerly for Jesus' return, and God calls us to use our time on earth as an opportunity to better know and love Him, and to tell others about Him.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- God teaches us through the Bible.
- Peter wrote a letter to believers waiting for Jesus.
- Jesus will come back one day.
- People who love Jesus will be with Him forever.

Preschool

- How do we live while waiting for Jesus to come back? We follow Jesus and tell everyone about Him.
- Peter wrote that Jesus will come back soon.

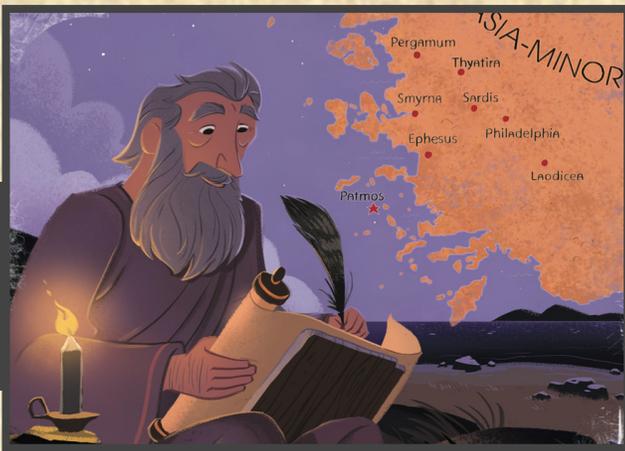
Kids

- How do we live while waiting for Jesus to return? We remember God's truth, grow in godliness, and spread the gospel.
- Peter wrote that Jesus will return soon, so we should obey Him and tell others about Him.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17





Unit 36, Session 2

God's Warning to Seven Churches

The Book of Revelation opens with John's description of a vision. In the vision, Jesus gave John messages for seven local churches. Jesus told John to write these messages on a scroll and send them to the churches.

In most cases, Jesus commended the church for their good work, warned them about the areas in which they needed correction, and urged them to return to Him. Among other things, He warned the churches not to forget their love of the Lord. He encouraged them not to be afraid of being tested. He urged those who were surrounded by evil to not deny their faith. Each time, Jesus promised to reward those who remain faithful to Him.

The church is made up of people who have trusted in Jesus, who are committed to one another, and who meet together to worship Jesus and share the gospel. Jesus loves the church as His bride (See Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:7-9). Jesus' message called the churches to turn away from their sin and remain faithful to Him. The Lord is slow to anger (Ex. 34:6-7) and patient, wanting everyone to repent (2 Pet. 3:9).

Jesus warned specific churches in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), but the problems they faced can still be found in churches today. Help kids understand some of the problems the early churches faced: They did not love like they should, they believed false teaching and did wrong things, and they were lukewarm—useless to the cause of Christ.

Help your children understand that we can pray for our churches to be faithful, effective instruments in spreading the gospel. We should love the church because Jesus loves the church. Through the church, Jesus helps believers work together to do God's plan. Finally, Jesus warned believers to stay alert because He will come like a thief when no one is expecting Him. Believers—then and now—must always be ready!

Jesus loves the church. His message to seven local churches called them to turn away from their sin and remain faithful to Him. We can learn from those churches. Through the church, Jesus helps believers work together to do God's plan.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- Jesus will come back.
- John wrote down Jesus' message to the churches.
- Jesus told the churches to do what is right.
- Jesus wants us to hear and obey His words.

Preschool

- What will happen when Jesus comes back? Jesus will make all things new.
- Jesus sent messages to the seven churches.

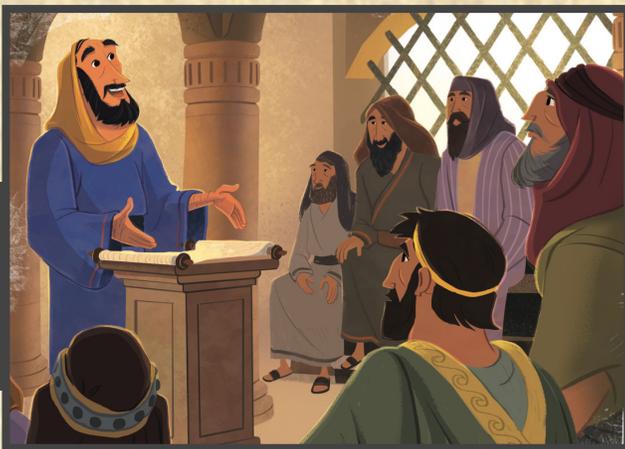
Kids

- What will happen when Jesus returns? Jesus will destroy all evil and make all things new.
- Jesus told the seven churches to stand strong in the faith.

He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Revelation 21:5





Unit 36, Session 3

Jesus on the Throne

John was on the island of Patmos when he had a vision. Jesus appeared to John and showed him what will happen before the end of time. John wrote about what he saw in the Book of Revelation. John saw a vision of the future. John saw a throne in heaven and the Lord was on the throne.

John saw a scroll in the Lord's right hand. A mighty angel asked, "Who is worthy to open the scroll?" But no one in heaven was worthy. No one on earth was worthy. No one under the earth was worthy either.

John began to cry loudly because no one was worthy! Then John saw Jesus, the resurrected Lamb. The elders threw their crowns at His feet. They worshiped Him and sang a new song. John heard every creature, everywhere, worshiping the Lamb together.

Revelation 4:11 says, "Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created."

John's vision gives us a glimpse of our future and also reminds us of a present reality: The Lord is on His throne. After His death and resurrection, Jesus ascended to heaven and sat down at the right hand of God (Heb. 10:12).

Jesus, the Lamb of God, is worthy of our praise. All the creatures in John's vision worshiped Jesus. As you read this Bible story with your kids, hold up Jesus as our treasure who is worthy of all honor. Worship Him together in song.

John cried when he saw that no one was worthy to open the scroll. Then John saw the resurrected Lamb—God's Son, Jesus. Jesus was killed on the cross so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus is worthy. He deserves all praise, honor, and blessing.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- Jesus will come back.
- John saw God's throne in heaven.
- All of heaven will praise Jesus forever and ever.
- People from every nation will praise Jesus forever.

Preschool

- What will happen when Jesus comes back? Jesus will make all things new.
- Jesus will come back and make all things new.

Kids

- What will happen when Jesus returns? Jesus will destroy all evil and make all things new.
- Jesus will return, destroy evil, and make all things new.

He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Revelation 21:5



NOTES