



Family Discipleship Guide

May-June 2021

JESUS HAS POWER OVER CREATION

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

KEY PASSAGE:

John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: Who has power over creation? Jesus has power over creation.

Elementary: Who has power over creation? Jesus has power over creation because He is God the Son.



CHRIST CONNECTION:

Who is this man? Jesus' disciples knew Jesus was a good man and a good teacher. When Jesus calmed the wind and the waves, He showed His disciples that He is also God. God rules the sea and stills its waves. (Psalm 89:9)

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How did the disciples and Jesus cross the Sea of Galilee?
- What happened while they were sailing?
- What was Jesus doing during the storm?
- What happened when Jesus told the wind and waves to stop?
- Who has power over creation? Jesus has power over creation because He is God the Son.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Encourage your children to retell the Bible story in their own words. Open the Bible to Genesis 1 and briefly review the story of creation. Point out that God created everything. Remind the kids that Jesus has power over creation because He is God the Son. Invite the kids to draw pictures of creation—including animals, plants, or weather.

JESUS HAS THE POWER TO PROVIDE

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-14

KEY PASSAGE:

John 11:25-26

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: Who will always take care of us? God will give us what we need.

Elementary: Who will always take care of us? God can and will provide for our needs.



CHRIST CONNECTION:

By feeding the 5,000, Jesus provided for the physical needs of the crowd. The next day, Jesus called Himself the bread of life. (John 6:35) Only Jesus is able to satisfy our souls by providing forgiveness, friendship with God, and eternal life.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why did Jesus and the disciples cross the Sea of Galilee?
- What did Jesus notice about the crowd?
- What did they use to feed the people?
- How many baskets of leftovers did the disciples collect?
- Who will always take care of us? God can and will provide for our needs.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Set a cracker on the table. Ask you kids if the cracker would be enough to feed your family. Review the Bible story in Matthew 14:13-21. Allow kids to list some things your family needs on a regular basis. Lead your family in a time of prayer, thanking God for His provision and asking Him to continue to provide for your family's needs.

JESUS HAS POWER OVER SICKNESS

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

KEY PASSAGE:

John 11:25-26

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: Who can heal our bodies? Jesus has the power to heal our bodies.

Elementary: How did Jesus show His power over sickness? Jesus opened the eyes of people who were blind.



CHRIST CONNECTION:

The prophet Isaiah wrote that the promised Messiah would open the eyes of people who were blind. (Isaiah 35:5; 42:7) He was here! Jesus was the promised Messiah. Even if we are not blind, we are sinners. Sinners can't see the truth about God until Jesus opens our eyes and saves us.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why was Bartimaeus sitting by the road begging?
- What did Bartimaeus call Jesus?
- What did the people around Bartimaeus tell him to do?
- What did the people do after Jesus healed Bartimaeus?
- How did Jesus show His power over sickness? Jesus opened the eyes of people who were blind.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Read mark 10:46-52 or invite one of your children to read the passage aloud. Talk about how Jesus showed His power over sickness. Reinforce the big picture question and answer. Lead your children to write short prayers in response to Jesus' question for Bartimaeus, "What do you want Me to do for you?" Kids should pray for people who need Jesus' healing or who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

JESUS HAS POWER OVER EVIL

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

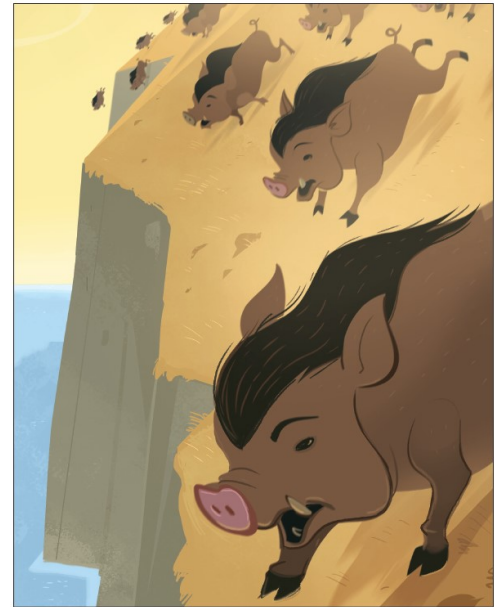
KEY PASSAGE:

John 11:25-26

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: Who is most powerful? Jesus is more powerful than everyone.

Elementary: Who has power over evil? Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.



CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus has power over evil. Only Jesus has the strength to control the man with the evil spirits. Jesus used His power to free the man. He has power over everything. Jesus came to earth to destroy the Devil by dying on the cross. One day, Jesus will end evil forever.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What was wrong with the man in the tombs?
- What did the evil spirit do when Jesus came?
- Where did Jesus send the spirit?
- What did the man want to do after he was healed?
- Who has power over evil? Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Provide strips of paper and glue sticks. Demonstrate how to make a paper chain. As kids work, review the Bible story in Luke 8:26-39. Point out that the man was controlled by the evil spirits inside of him. Jesus used His power to free the man. Encourage kids to break apart the paper chain. Hang a piece of the broken chain somewhere in your home as a reminder that Jesus frees us from the power of sin.

JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH

BIBLE PASSAGE:

John 11:1-44

KEY PASSAGE:

John 11:25-26

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: Who raised people from the dead?
Jesus raised people from the dead.

Elementary: Why did Jesus raise people from the dead?
Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He had power over death.



CHRIST CONNECTION:

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He showed that He has power over death. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. He gives eternal life to those who trust in Him.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why did Jesus say that Lazarus was sick?
- What did Jesus tell Martha when He arrived?
- When did Jesus cry?
- How many days was Lazarus in the tomb before Jesus raised him from the dead?
- Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Prompt kids to retell the Bible story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Help kids copy the key passage, John 11:25-26 on to a piece of paper. Challenge everyone in the family to memorize these Bible verses this week. Younger kids can memorize the first sentence or two. Assure kids that even though we are sad when someone dies, physical death is not the end for believers. Those who trust in Jesus will live with Him forever.

PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD WORKERS

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 20:1-16

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 13:10-11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: What does God give us? God gives good gifts.

Elementary: Why does God give good gifts? God gives good gifts because He is generous.



CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus' parable teaches about God's grace. God is generous, and He loves us. We deserve to die for our sins, but God gives us what we don't deserve—salvation through His Son, Jesus.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How much did the vineyard owner offer to pay the first worker?
- How much did the owner pay the man who came later to work?
- How did the first set of workers react?
- Why does God give good gifts? God gives good gifts because He is generous.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Give kids grapes to eat as a snack. Explain that grapes grow on vines in a vineyard. Review the Bible story. The landowner hired men to work his fields. At the end of the day, the landowner paid all the workers what was fair or more than they deserved. Ask the big picture question and lead the kids to respond with the answer. List ways God has been generous to your family.

PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 22:1-14

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 13:10-11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: Who is invited to the kingdom of heaven? Everyone is invited to the kingdom of heaven.

Elementary: Who is invited to the kingdom of heaven? Everyone is invited to the kingdom of heaven, but few will choose to come.



CHRIST CONNECTION:

Salvation is a free gift. We can't earn our way into heaven. Jesus did all the work when He died for our sins on the cross. Jesus invites us to join Him in heaven-the great wedding feast. When we receive His invitation, Jesus gets us ready by clothing us in His righteousness.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Did the original guests invited to the king's feast attend?
- What did some of the original guests do to the king's servants?
- Where did the servants find guests to come to the king's banquet?
- Why was one man thrown out of the wedding?
- Who is invited to the kingdom of heaven? Everyone is invited to the kingdom of heaven, but few will choose to come.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Invite kids to make a list of the names of friends or family members they would like to invite to a party. Review the parable of the wedding feast in Matthew 22:1-14. Ask kids how they would feel if their guests refused to come to the party. Remind kids of the big picture question and answer. Pray that they, their friends, and family members would receive Jesus' invitation to the kingdom of heaven.

PARABLE OF THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 24:45-51; Luke 12:42-48

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 13:10-11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: What should we always be ready for?
We should be ready for Jesus to come back.

Elementary: What will happen to the wise and faithful servant? The wise and faithful servant will be rewarded.



CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus gives believers the responsibility of caring for His world and sharing the gospel. No one knows the exact time Jesus will return to earth. We must always be ready. When Jesus returns, those who faithfully work for Him will be rewarded, but those who do not will be punished.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Whom did Jesus describe in the parable?
- What will the wise and faithful servant be put in charge of?
- What will happen to the servant who isn't wise and faithful?
- What did Jesus say would be expected of the one given more responsibility?
- What will happen to the wise and faithful servant? The wise and faithful servant will be rewarded.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Invite kids to write about or draw a picture of what they do to get ready to go somewhere. Talk about what happens if it's time to go and someone isn't ready. Prompt kids to explain the difference between a faithful servant and a lazy servant. Read the Christ Connection and talk about ways your family can live that would make Jesus happy if He were to come back right at any moment.

PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN LAZARUS

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 16:19-31

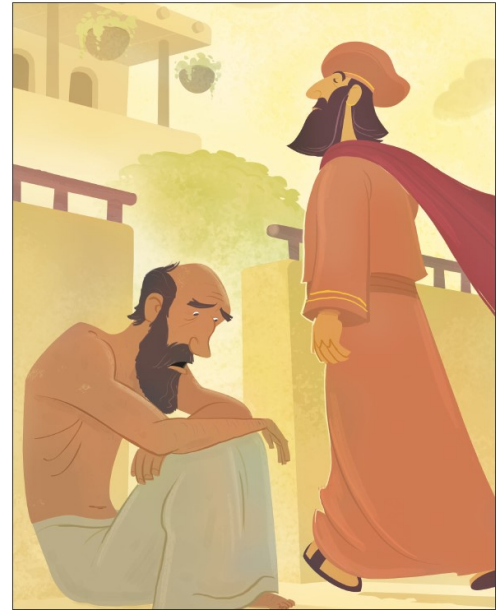
KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 13:10-11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: What is heaven? Heaven is the place where God is.

Elementary: What happens when we die? Those who trust in Jesus will be with God forever. Those who reject Him will suffer without God forever.



CHRIST CONNECTION:

Those who receive salvation from Jesus have changed hearts; they treasure Jesus above any earthly treasure. Getting into heaven has nothing to do with who you know, what you wear, or what you do. Entering heaven requires faith in Jesus, the Son of God.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Who sat at the rich man's gate?
- Why did Lazarus sit outside the rich man's gate?
- What happened to the rich man when he died?
- What happened to Lazarus?
- What happens when we die? Those who trust in Jesus will be with God forever. Those who reject Him will suffer without God forever.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Allow the kids to retell the Bible story. Talk about the rich man's love for himself and his money. Challenge your kids to list things they would be willing to give up for Jesus. Prompt them to consider their favorite toys, allowance, or even friendships. Encourage kids by explaining that these things are good gifts from God, but emphasize that Jesus is greater than anything we have on earth.

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 13:10-11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Preschool: How can we serve God? God gives us special abilities to serve Him.

Elementary: Why does God give us abilities and gifts? God give us abilities and gifts to use for Him.



CHRIST CONNECTION:

"Well done good and faithful servant!" Every believer, as a servant of Christ, has the task of serving God with his or her life. We eagerly wait for the day we can share in the joy of our Master. Heaven is the joy of knowing, worshiping, and enjoying Jesus forever.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How many servants were in today's parable?
- How many talents did the master give each servant?
- How did the master respond to the servant who buried his money?
- Why does God give us abilities and gifts? God gives us abilities and gifts to use for Him.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Ask kids the Big Picture Question and lead them to respond with the answer. Have your kids draw a specific way that they can serve God with their talents or abilities. As kids draw, read Matthew 25:40 aloud. Explain that we can serve God by serving others. As a family come up with a way to serve God this week by serving someone in need.

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GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

gos·pel – *noun*. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*



WE SINNED.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*



GOD PROVIDED.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. *John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*



JESUS GIVES.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! *Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9*



WE RESPOND.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13*