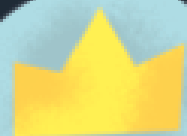


# the **GOSPEL** **GOD'S PLAN FOR ME**

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*



**In the Beginning**

## **Family Discipleship Guide**

**January 16-March 20, 2022**



# God Created the World and People

## Bible Reading:

Genesis 1-2

## Big Picture Question:

Who Created everything? God created the world and people to bring Him glory.

## Christ Connection:

Colossians 1:15-22 reveals that Christ is ruler over all of God's creation. All of creation was created through Him, by Him, and for Him. Everything was created to give glory to Christ, but people would choose not to give Him glory. The rest of the Bible reveals how Jesus would restore the relationship between God and man.

## Memory Passage: Bible:

So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female. Genesis 1:27

## Family Activity:

Supplies needed: Bible, flashlight

Gather your family in a room with little to no outside light. Turn off the lights and sit in the dark for a moment. Review the story of creation and turn on a flash light or the room lights when you discuss God creating light. Ask your family to consider what life would be like if God had not created light. (Possible answers: We wouldn't know where to go. We wouldn't be able to see the right path. We would run in to obstacles.)

Say: Light shows us the way to go. Sin has created a spiritually dark place. Spiritually we are separated from God- living in the dark. People were created to give glory to Christ, but people have not chosen to give Him glory. Instead, people have chosen to sin. People live in the dark; they cannot see salvation. God sent Jesus to be our light.

Read John 1:14; Colossians 1:20.22

Say: Jesus provided the way for us to give God glory and live in the light when He died on the cross for our sin. God provided Jesus to show God's love on the cross.

Let your family sing a favorite praise song or hymn. Close in prayer.

January 16



# The Stolen Blessing

March 20

## Bible Reading:

Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-45

## Big Picture Question:

What can stop God's plans? Nothing can stop God's plans because they are always perfect.

## Christ Connection:

Jacob is a perfect example of why a Savior was needed. Like Jacob, we seek a birthright and blessing that is not ours, but we cannot lie, deceive, or trick to receive it. Instead Jesus shared His birthright and blessing with us when He paid for our sins on the cross and gave us His righteousness.

## Bible Memory Passage:

I am with you. I will watch over you everywhere you go. And I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. Genesis 28:15

## Family Activity:

Supplies needed: random objects

Recall your previous discussion about blessings and how important God's blessings were to people in Biblical times.

Play a sequencing game using the objects you've collected. To play the game, line up all the objects in a specific order and tap them, remembering the order in which you tapped them. Ask your child to repeat the pattern. Continue to add taps, seeing who can remember the most correctly.

Say: This game was a way to sequence objects. The Bible refers to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is a typical sequence in the Bible to help us remember how these people were important in Israelite life. The family line of Abraham didn't stop with Jacob though; it continued through Jesus, a descendant of Abraham.

Encourage your children to mention some of the things they remember about the twins Jacob and Esau. If you have more than one child, let your kids know that you love them equally. If you only have one, let them know how much you love them.

Pray, asking God to work in the lives of your children.





# The Promise Reaffirmed

March 13

Bible Reading:

Genesis 25:19-26; 26:1-6; 28:10-22

Big Picture Question:

How do people know God's plan? God communicated His plan to people in different ways.

Christ Connection:

God's wonderful plan to Abraham extended well beyond his lifetime. The plan was shared with Rebekah, Isaac, Jacob, and eventually an entire nation leading to the birth of a baby boy named Jesus. Jesus fulfilled God's plan to provide salvation and redemption for all of God's people.

Bible Memory Passage:

I am with you. I will watch over you everywhere you go. And I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. Genesis 28:15

Family Activity:

Think of a story about your oldest relative that you remember (grandparent, great-grandparent, etc.). The story can be simple as a funny recollection or something that was truly meaningful to you about the person. Share the story with your family. Talk about the legacy that person passed down to you.

Say: (Grandpa) had a very important role in our family and helped me become the person I am today. The blessing God gave Abraham was passed down throughout the generations. Jesus ultimately fulfilled God's plan to provide salvation and redemption for all of God's people.

Read: Mark 14:32-36

Share with your family that Jesus prayed and asked God to stop His suffering. Jesus knew that God's plan was for Him to die. He was willing to do that because what God wants is the most important, not what we want.

Invite your kids to share stories of relatives they may know. Pray for your family members.



# Sin Entered the World

January 23

Bible Reading:

Genesis 3-4

Big Picture Question:

What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law and separates people from God.

Christ Connection:

Adam and Eve failed to give God glory when they introduced sin into the world, but God didn't leave them without hope. God sent His Son Jesus to live as Adam didn't-perfect sinless. Jesus was God in the form of a man sent to rescue people from sin.

Bible Memory Passage:

So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female. Genesis 1:27

Family Activity:

Ask: What is sin? Your kids should be able to answer with the Big Picture answer, "Sin is breaking God's law and separates people from God."

Help your children identify things in their lives that might be sin, or breaking God's law. Invite your children to share some of God's law they know.

Read Acts 14:15-17

Say: People who lived right after Jesus went back to heaven were still dealing with the consequences of the sin Adam and Eve committed in the garden. God punished Adam and Eve for their sin, and God still punishes those who choose to sin. God has given His grace by providing for people when they have hard times.

Pray with your family, thanking God that He gives us grace when we choose to sin. Sing a favorite praise song or hymn together.





# Noah and the Ark

January 30



## Bible Reading

Genesis 6:5-9:17

## Big Picture Question:

Why does sin separate people from God? God is holy and separate from sin.

## Christ Connection:

The story of the flood shows us how serious God is about sin. He will not leave sin unpunished. But the story of Noah also shows us how loving God is. He provided a rescue plan for one righteous man-Noah. And the rescue was extended to Noah's family. This story points ahead to a greater rescue! Jesus, the only perfectly righteous person, came to take the punishment for sin. We trust His act of obedience and are saved from the punishment our sin deserves.

## Bible Memory Passage:

So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female. Genesis 1:27

## Family Activity:

Items needed: small bowl or tub of water, items to sink or float

Position a small tub of water where it won't matter if the area gets wet. Show your children one of the items and ask them if they think it will sink or float. Once they decide, test their theory.

Read: Luke 24:26-27

Say: When Luke says, "Beginning with Moses," what do you think that means?

Allow your kids to give some suggestions, then let them know that Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament, one of those books being Genesis. The Book of Genesis and all the other books of the Bible tell about Jesus.

Read: Genesis 6:11-13

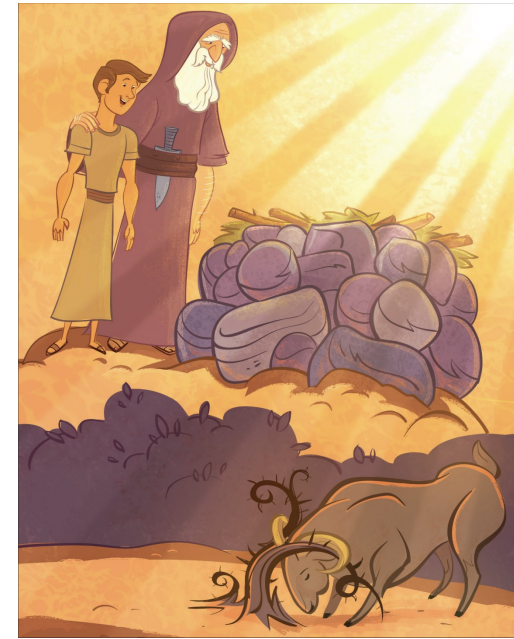
Say: God knew that sin had gotten out of control on the earth, so He decided to put an end to all living creatures. Sin did not die out even though Noah was righteous because Noah was still a sinner.

Ask: Why does sin separate people from God? And listen for the answer that God is holy and separate from sin.

Let your kids choose items to put in the sink or float tub. Pray, thanking God that He gave the Bible to help point people to His Son, Jesus.

# God Tested Abraham

March 6



## Bible Reading:

Genesis 22:1-19

## Big Picture Question:

How can we show we believe God's plan? We obey God even when He asks us to do things we don't understand.

## Christ Connection:

Abraham showed his faith in God when he was willing to sacrifice Isaac. Isaac also showed he was ready to do what his father said. This is a clear picture of God who was willing to sacrifice His only Son, and of Jesus who was willing to do what was necessary for God's plan of salvation. Isaac's life was spared because God provided a substitute. We need a perfect sacrifice as our substitute for sin. God provided a perfect sacrifice in His Son, Jesus Christ.

## Bible Memory Passage:

I will make my covenant with you. It will last forever. It will be between me and you and your children after you for all time to come. I will be your God. And I will be the God of all of your family after you. Genesis 17:7

## Family Activity:

Supplies needed: Walking shoes

Take a walk outside. As you walk, think about what may have been the topic of discussion as Abraham and Isaac were going to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Do you think the conversation was one of praise for God and His blessing? How do you think that conversation changed as they got closer to the mountain and no sacrifice was present?

Encourage your child to stand in front of you with her back to you. Invite her to fall into your arms. See how trusting she is and ask about the faith that Abraham had in God. Remind your child about last week's study in which Abraham tried to take things into his own hands.

Say: Some of the things that God asked Abraham to do seemed odd for God to be asking of a person. Abraham had enough faith in God—who had promised Abraham that his offspring would be plentiful—to believe what He said was true.

Enjoy the rest of your walk and pray for your neighbors and you walk through your neighborhood.



# The Sons of Abraham

February 27

## Bible Reading:

Genesis 16:1-16; 17:15-22; 21:1-7

## Big Picture Question:

Who always keeps His covenant? God is always faithful to keep His covenant; people should always trust God.

## Christ Connection:

God fulfilled His promise to Abraham by giving him a son. Isaac was a hope of Abraham and Sarah for a future and a legacy. God fulfilled His promise to the world by giving us His Son. Jesus ultimately fulfilled God's promise to Abraham, and He is the hope of the world for salvation and redemption.

## Bible Memory Passage:

I will make my covenant with you. It will last forever. It will be between me and you and your children after you for all time to come. I will be your God. And I will be the God of all of your family after you. Genesis 17:7

## Family Activity:

Supplies needed: stopwatch or timer

Say; Remember that Adam didn't live up to God's standards. Abraham didn't live up to God's standards either. Jesus was the only One to live up the God's standards, and He is the only hope we have for salvation and redemption.

Think about each of your children. Name one thing they have done that has made you proud of them. Invite them to share how it makes them feel to know you are proud.

Tell your children that you are going to time them for one minute. Tell them to stand still until they think the minute has ended and then sit down. Reveal who had the closest time to one minute. Repeat with two minutes.

Ask; Was it hard to gauge how long one minute was? What about two minutes? What is the longest that you have ever waited for something?

Say; Abraham had been given a promise by God, but he could not wait for the promise to be fulfilled. Abraham tried to do things on his own. God still kept His promise to Abraham. God promises to love us even when we choose to do things our way instead of His way.



# The Tower of Babel

February 6

## Bible Reading:

Genesis 11:1-9

## Big Picture Question:

What happens when people choose to sin? Sin separates people from God and each other, but God's plan is to heal relationships.

## Christ Connection:

Instead of glorifying God, People chose to ignore god's plan and glorify themselves. This didn't stop God's plan to scatter the people and to form nations. Eventually one of these nations would become God's chosen people. Through the nation of Israel, Christ would come to save the world.

## Bible Memory Passage:

So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female. Genesis 1:27

## Family Activity:

Supplies needed : paper and pencil for each person, praise song

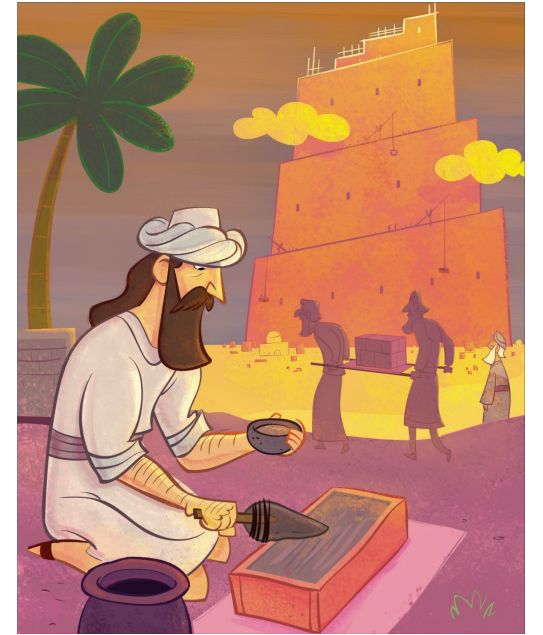
Together create a simple substitution code to define each letter of the alphabet. Give your family some time ti write a sentence or phrase using the code. Be sure to write "In God We Trust" on one paper. Once everyone has finished, exchange papers and solve each other's code.

Show the phrase "In God We Trust" and ask your children if they have seen this phrase before and if so, where would they have seen it? If you have a bill or a coin in your pocket, show them the money.

Read: Genesis 11:4

Say: The people who were building the tower in the city were not doing what our paper revealed. God had given the people a command to go out to all the earth, but instead of trusting in God, they chose to do their own thing. Did God's plan suffer because of the people's choice?

Assure your kids that God's plan did not suffer because of the people's sin.





# Job

February 13



## Bible Reading:

Job 1-42

## Big Picture Question:

Who is in control? God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good.

## Christ Connection:

Job's suffering and his request for a mediator gives us a glimpse of our Savior, Jesus. Neither Job nor Jesus experienced suffering because they had sinned. Unlike Job, Jesus never questioned why He had to suffer. Jesus understood that we needed Him to pay the price for our sin and be the mediator before God.

## Bible Memory Passage:

So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female. Genesis 1:27

## Family Activity:

Supplies needed: 1 item of value to each family member

Invite your family members to show one item that they consider to be valuable and to share why that object is so valuable.

Say: Job was a righteous man, which means he followed God. Job lost things that were very valuable to him, but the way he responded to that loss was by not blaming God.

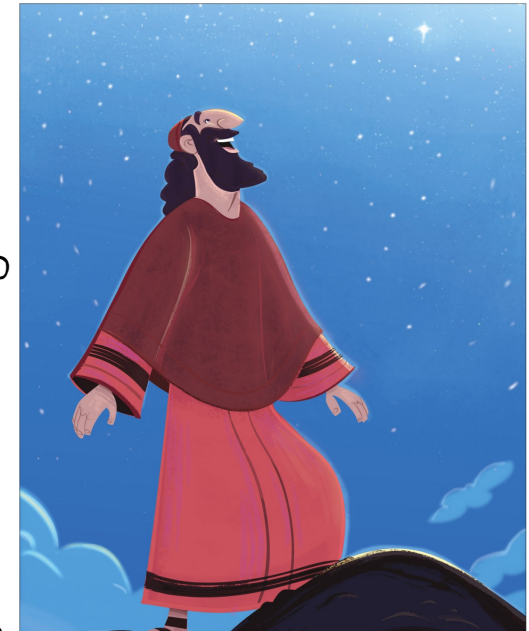
Encourage each family member to place the item they brought out of sight (behind the sofa, inside a cabinet, etc.). Ask them to say how not seeing the item makes them feel. Once everyone has shared, ask them to think about what it would be like to not have that item at all.

Read: Exodus 20:1-17

Say: The Ten Commandments were rules that God gave to the people of Israel to help guide them in the ways they lived their lives. The first three commandments refer to God being the one and only God-all-powerful, sovereign, and good. God was always aware of what was happening to Job, and Job knew that. God took care of Job even during times of trouble. God will take care of you because He is all-powerful, sovereign, and good.

# God's Covenant with Abraham

February 20



## Bible Reading:

Genesis 12:2-3; 15:1-21; 17:1-9

## Big Picture Question:

Why did God choose Abraham? God chose Abraham to be part of His covenant plan to send Jesus to earth to bring us salvation.

## Christ Connection:

God chose Abraham to be the father of the nation in which Jesus would be born. In this way, Abraham would bless all nations, as God had promised. God also saw Abraham's faith in God's promises and counted it as righteousness. It is our faith in Jesus' perfect righteousness that brings salvation to God's people.

## Bible Memory Passage:

I will make my covenant with you. It will last forever. It will be between me and you and your children after you for all time to come. I will be your God. And I will be the God of all of your family after you. Genesis 17:7

## Family Activity:

Supplies needed: Small cup, pennies or other small items

Talk with your family about blessings. Ask what type of blessings they are familiar with. (Maybe a meal time blessing or something you say when someone sneezes)

Say: Fathers in Bible times would give blessings to their children, not just for [fill in with whatever blessing your kids mentioned]. Blessings in Bible times were very important, not just for the person receiving the blessing, but also for the person giving the blessing. The blessing that Abraham received however was from God and not from a human. God's blessing to Abraham was a permanent blessing that could not be broken.

Take pennies and a small cup and try to toss a few pennies from where you are sitting into a cup placed several feet away. Give everyone a chance to toss some pennies.

Ask: Are the pennies clean or dirty?

Read: Isaiah 64:6

Say: Abraham believed what God said and he was known as righteous before God. Abraham's acts of righteousness did not make him clean. People cannot work to make themselves clean by being righteous; they are only cleaned when God cleans them.