

CROSSPOINTE KIDS

HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT. AND THESE WORDS THAT I COMMAND YOU TODAY SHALL BE ON YOUR HEART. YOU SHALL TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND SHALL TALK OF THEM WHEN YOU SIT IN YOUR HOUSE, AND WHEN YOU WALK BY THE WAY, AND WHEN YOU LIE DOWN, AND WHEN YOU RISE. YOU SHALL BIND THEM AS A SIGN ON YOUR HAND, AND THEY SHALL BE AS FRONTLETS BETWEEN YOUR EYES. YOU SHALL WRITE THEM ON THE DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOUSE AND ON YOUR GATES.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9

These are activities your family can do repeatedly and consistently over the next several weeks. We are in a unique time where we are forced to slow down and simplify our lives. Let us be intentional in using this as a time to spend together as a family and in God's word. Many of the activities include a devotional at the end that will help your kids make a connection between what they have done and a truth from Scripture. The activities and devotionals have been written with elementary-age children in mind. Many of them can be modified for younger or older children or for families with children across a broad age range.

MEMORY VERSE

As a family, pick several verses to memorize. Get creative with the ways you commit each verse to memory. Below are a few examples of activities you can do:

- **SIDEWALK CHALK.** Use sidewalk chalk to write the verse on your sidewalk or driveway. Practice with your kids by leaving blanks for them to fill in.
- **MAKE A PLACEMAT.** Using construction paper, cardstock or poster board, have each person create a placemat with the verse on it. Use the placemats at meal times and review the verse together.
- **DRAW IN SHAVING CREAM.** Give everyone a blob of shaving cream to spread out and let them use their fingers to write the verse in it. Be careful to do this activity on a countertop, cookie sheet or comparable surface that will be unharmed by shaving cream.
- **DRAW IT ON A MIRROR.** Use dry erase markers or bath crayons to write the verse on your bathroom mirror. Read the verse out loud each time you brush your teeth.
- **MAKE UP A SONG.** Use the words of the verse to create a song. You can either make up a brand new melody or simply change the words of a song you already know.
- **CREATE MOTIONS.** Take the major words in the verse and make up motions for them. Do the motions as you say the verse out loud.
- **FUNNY ACCENTS.** Repeat the verse using different accents. Examples include British, French, robot, Western, Valley girl, etc.

MEMORY JAR

The next weeks and months may be different. However, in this time at home memories can be made and special moments can be had. Put an empty jar or container in a central location in your house. Put small strips of paper and pens next to it.

Throughout the course of this time, write down memories you make as a family—funny things you say, hard lessons you learn, fears you overcome, etc.

POPSICLE PRAYERS

As a family spend time praying. Use popsicle sticks to write names or groups of people on to be praying for during this time. You can also print pictures and glue onto sticks for younger kids. Example: leaders, healthcare workers, teachers, family, pastors, grocery workers, etc. Set a time during the week to pray, drawing two or three sticks out of the can. Maybe even send a voice message or text with a word of encouragement to those you are praying for.

LOOK UP

Over the course of this time challenge your family to slow down, take greater notice of the sky and nature around. Watch the sunrise or sunset together. Spend time watching the clouds, noticing how they change and looking for the shapes they sometimes make. At night, try to count the stars or find constellations. As you do these things, read and talk about Psalm 19 and how the beauty of the sky glorifies the God who made it.

SEEKING REFUGE

After dinner one night, build a fort for one or more members of your family to sleep in using blankets, pillows, furniture and other items from your home. As you build, talk about the purpose of a fort and how it's a place of safety and protection. In the same way, the Bible teaches that God is a refuge for His children.

Together, read Psalm 59:16-17.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- How is God a fortress and refuge for His children?
- What else does David, the author of this psalm, call God? What are hard or scary things in your life that you need to be protected from?
- How can you trust God as a refuge when things are hard with friends?
- How can you trust God as a refuge when someone you love gets sick?
- How can you trust God as a refuge when you have bad dreams?
- How is Jesus a refuge from God's anger toward sin for those who love and trust Him?

Pray as a family, praising God for being a refuge for His children. Ask the Lord for faith to trust His strong protection and respond with songs of praise like David did.

PUT IT ON

Raid each other's closets and put together a silly outfit to wear. Turn on music and have a fashion show with each person modeling an outfit. After the show, have everyone share which outfit was their favorite and why. Then talk about the kind of clothes God tells His children to put on.

Together, read Colossians 3:12-14.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- What does Paul, the writer of this letter, tell God's dearly loved children to put on?
- What does that mean? What would it look like for someone to "wear" each of these virtues?
- Which of these things is the hardest for you to put on? Why?
- Who are the people in your life who are the hardest for you to love the way Scripture teaches?
- What can you do when you fail to treat others the way this passage tells you to?

Spend time praying over each other and the relationships God has put in your life. Ask for God's forgiveness in places you've failed to treat others the way He commands and ask for His help to love the way He loves you.

LATE NIGHT WITH THE LORD

Pick one night to stay up late. Watch a movie, make a huge ice cream sundae or play a game. As it gets late, make note of the time and go outside with a flashlight and your Bible to talk about God's attentiveness. What time is it right now? Listen and look around. What is the late night like? What are most people doing right now? Why is it good for you to sleep?

Together, read Psalm 121.

- Are there any words in this psalm that you do not recognize or understand?
- Does God sleep? Why or why not? How do you know?
- When you need help, where does it come from?
- If God is your help, why is it good that He doesn't need to sleep?
- What other things does this psalm say about God, our Helper?
- Can you think of a time you asked God to help you and He did?
- Why do you sometimes forget to ask God to help you with hard things?
- What do you need God's help with right now?

Spend time praying together, praising God for keeping watch over you and asking for His help with the things you mentioned.

WATER WARS

Fill water balloons or water guns and organize either a family or neighborhood battle. Afterward, talk together about the spiritual battle you are called to fight.

Together, read Ephesians 6:10-18.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- Whom does Paul, the writer of this letter, say you are really fighting against?
- What is the difference between fighting things spiritually rather than physically?
- What pieces of armor are listed in these verses?
- What does Paul tell believers to do with these pieces of armor? What does that look like?
- Who is stronger than sin and Satan?
- Where was that strength most clearly shown?
- In whose strength are God's children to trust?
- What happens if you try to fight a spiritual fight based on your strength instead of God's?
- What truth can you memorize to help you stand against spiritual attack? Think about the verses you're memorizing as a family.

Spend time praying as a family, praising God for fully and finally defeating sin and Satan through Jesus' death and resurrection. Ask for God's help and protection as you put on the armor described in Ephesians 6.

WALKING AND WASHING

Go on an evening walk—barefoot—and talk about the life of Jesus. What things did He do? What was He like? Whom did He spend time with? After your walk, take notice of each other's dirty feet. Parents, wash your children's feet and talk about how Jesus washed and served the disciples. Why are dirty feet gross? How would you feel about washing the dirty feet of 12 grown men? What do you think of when you hear the words "serve" and "servant"?

Together, read John 13:1-17.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- How did Jesus serve His disciples?
- Who deserved to be served—Jesus or the disciples? Why?
- What was Jesus trying to teach His disciples by doing this?
- What is the greatest way Jesus served God's children
- How can you follow the example of Jesus and serve the other people in your family?
- How can your family follow the example of Jesus and serve those around you or in your community?

Pray together for God to give you a servant's heart like Jesus.

TOOTHPASTE RACES

Give each person a tube of toothpaste (small travel toothpaste works great) and have them race to see who can empty their tube first. Then, race to see who can put the toothpaste back into the tube. It should be obvious that once the toothpaste is squeezed out, it cannot go back. The same thing is true of our words. Use the questions below to process the activity and see what the Bible teaches about where our words come from and what they show about our hearts.

- As you squeezed the tube, what came out? Why?
- How easy was it to put the toothpaste back into the tube?
- What do you think this teaches us about our words?

Together, read Matthew 12:34-36.

- Are there any words in these verses you do not recognize or understand?
- Where does Jesus say our words actually come from?
- How do our words often show what's truly going on in our heart?
- Once you say something, how easy is it to take those words back?
- How do we sin with our words?
- How can we show love for God with our words?
- How can we show love for others with our words?

Pray together, confessing where you have sinned against God and others with your words. Praise God that the words He speaks bring life. Ask Him for help to speak carefully in a way that honors Him and blesses others.

FISHING AND FOLLOWING JESUS

Go fishing and, as you do, spend time talking about Jesus and His disciples. If you don't have access to fish somewhere create your own experience in your backyard or bathtub.

Together, read Luke 5:1-11.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- What were the men doing while Jesus was standing by the lake?
- What amazing thing did Jesus do in front of them?
- How did Peter respond to Jesus?
- What did these fishermen leave behind to follow Jesus? Why was that important?
- A disciple is a follower of Jesus. How does your life show that you are a disciple of Jesus?

Pray together that you would be like the disciples, willing to leave everything behind in order to follow Jesus.

CONSIDER THE BIRDS

Go feed the ducks or take a nature walk. As you do, take notice of the plants, animals and other birds around you. Talk together about how God always takes care of and provides for His children.

Together, read Matthew 6:25-34.

- Are there any words in these verses that you do not recognize or understand?
- What are some things you worry about?
- What does Jesus tell you not to do?
- What does He say to do instead?
- How does God take care of birds?
- How does He take care of the grass, flowers and trees you see around you?
- If God takes care of these parts of creation, how does He take care of His children?
- How does trusting that truth help you to not worry?
- What do you know about God that gives you confidence that He will always provide?

Spend time praying together. Confess places of fear or worry and God to help you trust Him.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A SONG

Talk about the kind of music each person in your family likes to listen to and why. Then talk about the significance of song by reading and acting out 2 Chronicles 20:1-30.

- In the story, what three nations were about to attack the people of Judah?
- Whom did King Jehoshaphat turn to and why?
- What did God tell the king and the people of Judah?
- How did King Jehoshaphat respond?
- On the day of battle, who was on the front lines of Judah's army?
- What were those people doing?
- What song of praise did those people sing to the LORD?
- What happened to the nations that were about to attack God's people?
- What does this story teach you about the significance of singing praise to God?
- What enemy attacks God's children?
- How can you use song to fight him?

After talking about the story, make up a song of praise that your family can sing to God when facing temptation, discouragement or attack from the enemy.

TURN OFF THE TV

For one day, have your family fast from all TV, movies, video games, social media and time spent on mobile devices. See how the absence of these things affects each person's mood and the amount of time you spend together. Be strategic and plan a few special activities to leverage the increased time and focus you have as a family. Here are a few ideas:

- Spend time praying and making cards for people you know who could use encouragement.
- Go on a walk or bike ride as a family.
- Turn dinner into a picnic either in your front yard or a living room.
- Bake and decorate cookies together and take them to a neighbor.
- Play board games.

CREATE YOUR OWN ART EXHIBIT

God is creative. You can see this in the variety of colors, textures, shapes and sounds that are present in creation. Being creative is one of the ways people are like God. Cultivate and express your creativity by making your own art exhibit. Look for things you already have around the house that can be transformed into art—dried pasta, cereal, newspaper, paper towel tubes, yarn, empty jars—along with normal art supplies. Use these materials to create works of art. Name each piece and hang them in your home, creating your own art installation.

I SPY

Help your child practice navigating the Scriptures by reviewing the difference between the testaments, books, chapters and verses in a Scripture reference. Using the table of contents in your Bible, play “I Spy” with the names of the books. Begin by saying, “I spy a book in the Old/New Testament that begins with the letter ____.” Your child will look for a book that fits that description. Once they figure it out, ask them what page the book starts on and then turn there together. Point out the chapter numbers as well as the verses.

THE GOOD NEWS

Spend time talking as a family about the gospel. Give each person the opportunity to talk about who first shared Jesus with them. Make a list of people who do not yet know Jesus whom your family can pray for and share the gospel with.

MEMORY JAR DUMP

This is a follow-up to the Memory Jar activity. When this time at home comes to an end, spend time remembering and celebrating the things you learned and did. As a family, dump out your Memory Jar and read through your memories together. As you remember, praise God for His goodness to your family through both the sweet and bitter providences of the last several weeks.

TIME IN THE WORD : READING PLAN

Read through the suggested passage(s) with your child several times. Then talk through the questions provided as a family.

WEEK 1: PSALM 1; JEREMIAH 17:5-8

WEEK 2: GENESIS 1; PSALM 19:1-6

WEEK 3: PSALM 23

WEEK 4: PSALM 86

WEEK 5: PSALM 100

WEEK 6: PSALM 136

WEEK 7: PSALM 148

WEEK 8: JOHN 6:1-21

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What words did you not recognize or understand?
- What attributes of God do you see?
- What did you learn about God?
- What is the right response to what you learned about God?

READING THE BIBLE WITH YOUR CHILD

Throughout this time there are opportunities for you to read and talk about the Scriptures as a family. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you think about how to approach this time with your children:

Pray for God's help. Each time you open the Bible, ask God to help you understand and believe what you read in His Word. See Psalm 119:18 for an example.

Find the verses together. Many elementary-age children are still learning how to navigate the Scriptures. Help them gain these skills and the confidence to use them by demonstrating how to look up a verse or passage and letting them practice.

- Make sure each person has a Bible so that everyone has the opportunity to open and navigate the Scriptures.
- Together, open to the table of contents. Find the name of the book and the page number it starts on. Make note of whether the book is found in the Old Testament or New Testament.
- Turn to the first page of the book. Find the chapter and verse. Point out that the chapter is in large print and the verse is in small print.

Read the verses together. Most readers, whether adults or children, need to read something at least three times to really understand and internalize its meaning. You might try some of the following ideas:

- Have each person read it individually.
- Have one person read the entire passage out loud while everyone else follows along. If there are multiple verses, assign each person a verse to read out loud.
- Read it out loud together.

Help your children understand what it says. As you're reading, make sure each person understands what the verse or passage is saying. In 1st and 2nd grade, children are learning to read. It isn't until 3rd grade that they begin reading to learn. They will likely need your help understanding what words mean and what the writers are trying to communicate.

- Set everyone at ease by encouraging them that it's okay to ask questions. No one needs to feel scared or embarrassed if there are things they don't understand. Parents, it's okay if you don't know how to answer every question your child asks. Admitting that you aren't sure how to answer them demonstrates humility and creates an opportunity for you to learn something together.
- After you read a verse or passage, always ask your child if there are any words they don't recognize or understand. Keep a dictionary handy to help explain words that are unfamiliar or confusing.
- Ask questions of the text:
 - Who wrote or spoke these words? Who was the audience?
 - What was going on as they were written or said?
- Ask someone to summarize what the Bible is saying in their own words.

Help them understand what it means. Once you've talked about what a text says, talk about what it means. Keep the following questions in mind:

- What does this teach you about God?
- What does this teach you about yourself?

Help them personalize and apply it. Spending time with God and in His Word should affect the way we see God, ourselves and other people. It should also affect the way we think, feel, speak and act. Think about the following questions as you read and talk together:

- Do you believe this? Why or why not?
- How and why does this matter to you?
- How does believing this change the way you live?

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

Below are some of the definitions used to teach children at The Village. They may be helpful as you read and explain to your children.

Glorify: to show, honor and enjoy God as most valuable

Worship: the right response to the goodness of God

Sin: more than just “bad things we do.” It is a sickness of the heart that we are all born with. It is the reason we do, think, feel and say sinful things.

Prayer: having a conversation with God. God’s children pray to the Father because of Jesus the Son with the help of the Holy Spirit.

God’s children: those who love and trust Jesus

Repentance: confessing your sin and turning away from it to follow Jesus

TALKING ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's true Word. It is from God and about God.

The testaments: there are two, the old and the new

The books: have the names, like Genesis, Job and James

The chapters: the big number

The verses: the little number

FOUR TYPES OF PRAYER

Praise and adoration: telling God how good He is

Thanksgiving: thanking God for what He gives and does

Confession: telling God the truth about your sin

Request: asking God for what you need

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

God is good: He is what is best. In love, God created the world and everything in it. He created people to know Him, enjoy Him and glorify Him forever. What God created was pleasing to Him, and He called all things good (Gen. 1-2; Ps. 19:1; Rom. 5:12; Rev. 21:1-5; Rev. 22:1-5).

God is holy: He is completely perfect and separate from sin. Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They did not trust Him, believing the lies of the serpent instead of what God had said. Because God is holy, completely perfect and separate from sin, Adam and Eve were separated from God. Like Adam and Eve, we are all guilty of sin and separated from God. We are born with sin in our hearts, loving other things more than God. Sin is not just the bad things we do, say and think. Sin is a sickness of the heart and the reason we do those things (Gen. 3-4, Gen. 6; Isa. 63; Rom. 1-2, Rom. 6-8; Col. 1).

God is just: He is right to punish sin. Sin separates all of us from God, and that separation is bad. God is angry at sin, and because sin is in us, that means God is angry at us. It is good and right for God to punish sin, and the punishment all sinners deserve is death and separation from God forever (Gen. 6:7; Num. 16:20-21; Isa. 63:3; Ezek. 16:30-58; Rom. 3:23, Rom. 6:23; Gal. 3:13).

God is loving: He does what is best. In love and for His glory, God sent Jesus to die and take the punishment deserved by sinners—that includes you and me. When Jesus died, He absorbed all of God's anger toward sin and sinners. He defeated the power of sin by dying on the cross and taking the punishment we deserved for sin. He defeated the power of death by rising three days later (Matt. 1:21; Mark 1:15; John 2:13-22; Rom. 3-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 2:6-11; 1 Pet. 1:8-9, 1 Pet. 3:18).

God is merciful: He does not give sinners the punishment they deserve but rather adopts into His family those who love and trust Jesus. We are forgiven for our sin and adopted as children of God when God opens our hearts to love and trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior (John 1:12).

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE AND TRUST JESUS?

LOVE

- To see God for who He is, believe that He is what is best, love Him more than anything and value Him as most valuable.
- Confess your sin and turn away from it to follow Jesus because He is most valuable.

TRUST

- Understand that you are guilty of sin and deserve God's just punishment.
- Have full confidence that God forgives your sin because of what Jesus has done, not because of anything you have done.
- Have full confidence that God counts you as righteous because of Jesus' perfect life and righteousness, not because of your obedience.