

SEP/OCT 2023

TEACHING GUIDE,

OTHER RESOURCES

- FOR ADULTS -

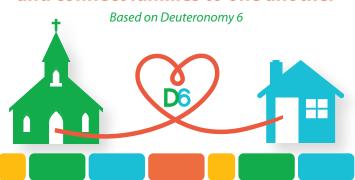


ADULT

D6FAMILY.COM



Helping connect the church to home and connect families to one another



D6 connects the church to home and connects families to one another.

D6 EveryDay Foundations is one of the most effective small group and Sunday School curricula you can find. D6 is based on the principles of **Deuteronomy 6:5–9**—love God, love His Word, and teach your children to do the same.

D6 EveryDay Foundations aligns small group environments at church so the entire family (elementary–adult) is studying the same theme at the same time. The cool thing is that it doesn't stop at the church worship experience. This one-of-a-kind discipleship curriculum goes beyond the small group experience and helps parents and grandparents reconnect with kids and teens through the use of devotional study guides, Splink, Parent Pages, and other take-home resources.

OUR MISSION



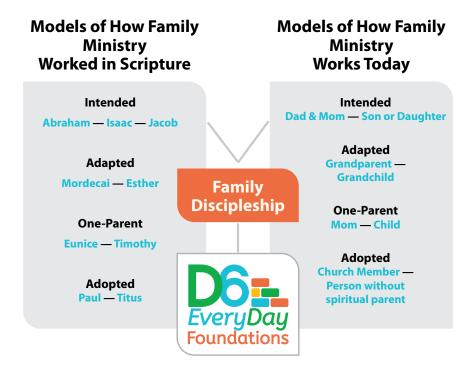
aligns all ages of the family

Helping build believers through church and home

Family ministry curriculum, from birth to grandparents, *D6 EveryDay Foundations* is a family-aligned curriculum that is biblically sound and based on the principles of Deuteronomy 6.

WHAT IS A FAMILY?

The family is not always an ideal set of parents and kids all doing what God intended. The Bible shows adapted models of generational discipleship. The often-quoted and normal succession of teaching flows from father to son and on to grandson as seen in Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. There is not always a godly father or mother as evidenced in Mordecai teaching his cousin Esther or Paul mentoring Titus, his adopted son in the faith (Titus 1:4). Notice how Timothy's faithful mother and grandmother seemed to carry the whole spiritual parental influence. Regardless of your season of life, God can use you to teach someone in your family or sphere of influence by way of friendships and connections.



In a day of eroding morals and shifting values, how do you equip people to stand for Truth? People need a confident knowledge of God's Word and its application for real life. *D6 EveryDay Foundations* curriculum provides biblical exegesis, scriptural principles, and studies of key Old and New Testament characters. This foundation of Christ and the unshakeable Word of God constructs a solid groundwork for one's faith.

But is what happens at church enough? No! Even if the student never misses a single Sunday in the three-year cycle, the task is too much for curriculum alone. We must also depend on the work of the Holy Spirit and the partnership of families so the Truth goes beyond head knowledge to heart knowledge and anchors in a permanent place. Combining both at-church and at-home tools, *D6 EveryDay Foundations* curriculum helps churches equip parents with the mortar to hold together the building blocks of faith.

WEEKLY FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP WITH































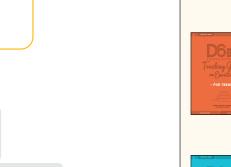
















D6 EVERYDAY FOUNDATIONS











WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY













































BASED ON **DEUTERONOMY 6:5-9**



WORKING TOGETHER

GENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

The three-year scope and sequence includes an overview of the Old and New Testaments emphasizing major characters and themes. There are also lessons that emphasize the application of God's Word to current cultural issues. Look for icons next to the date to spot these special lessons.

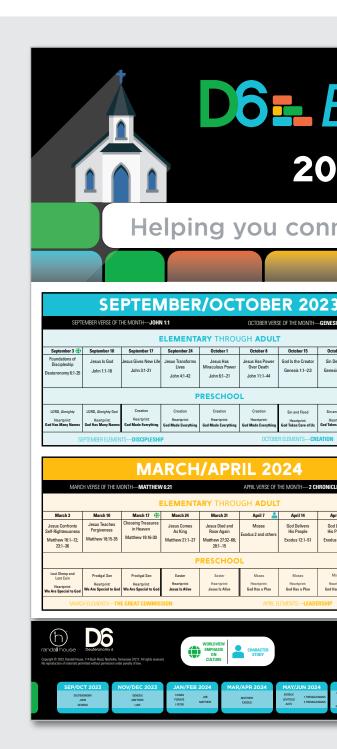
To meet the needs of preschool learners, lessons use repetition to reinforce learning. Preschool units sometimes align with older ages, but age-appropriate teaching does not allow weekly alignment.



Research and surveys show many churches and groups prefer 4-to 10-week Bible studies over longer studies. **D6 EveryDay Foundations** curriculum is set up in two-month blocks rather than 13-week quarters.

This accommodates:

- More starting points, making it easier for newcomers to join in existing classes and groups
- More times to emphasize and promote discipleship
- More opportunities to grow by starting new groups more often



3-YEAR SCOPE & SEQUEN

The Scope and Sequence poster is a road map for how you'll cover the story of the Bible. Each year we'll provide a poster showing six blocks of lesson themes, so you'll know exactly what's covered each week. The Scope and Sequence poster is a great planning tool for coordinating special emphases, initiatives, studies, and sermons.

very Day Foundations





nect the church to home, and families to one another!

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1:1		
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troys	Noah	I
3:1-24	Genesis 6-9	ı
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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023								
NOVEMBER VERSE OF THE MONTH—PROVERBS 35-6 DECEMBER VERSE OF THE MONTH—ROMANS 8:28								
	ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT							
November 5 (‡)	November 12	November 19	November 26	December 3 🚢	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31 🐣
God Designed Male and Female Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-24; Matthew 19:3-6	Abraham Trusted God Genesis 12:1–9; 15:1–6	Choices Have Consequences Genesis 13–14; 18–19	Faith Chooses to Obey Genesis 22:1–19	Jacob Genesis 25–35	God Is in Control Genesis 37:1–36; 39:1–6	God Provides for His People Genesis 45:1–28	Jesus Is Bom Matthew 1:18–2:12	John the Baptist Luke 1, 3 and more
	PRESCHOOL							
Abraham Abraham Joseph Joseph Joseph Christmas Christmas Christmas Christmas Christmas Christmas Christmas Christmas Golf Keepe Golf								
	NOVEMBER ELEMENTS—CHOICES DECEMBER ELEMENTS—SOVEREIGNTY							

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024							
JANUARY VERSE OF THE MONTH—1 PETER 5:7 FEBRUARY VERSE OF THE MONTH—MATTHEW 4:19							
ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT							
January 7 🏟 January 14 🍰 January 21 🏟 January 28 February 4 February 11 February 18 February 25							
God Sees Our Pain 1 Kings 19:1–21; Psalm 46; 1 Peter 5:7	Job Job 1, 42, and more	Sanctity of Life Psalm 139:13–16	Jesus Displays His Power Matthew 8:1–34	Jesus Is Our Healer Matthew 9:1–8, 18–34	Jesus Calls His Disciples Matthew 9:35–38; 10:1–42	Receiving God's Word Matthew 13:1–23	The Kingdom of Heaven Matthew 13:24-
PRESCHOOL							
Job Heartprint: God Is With Us All the Time	Job Heartprint: God Is With Us All the Time	Psalm 139 Heartprint: God Made Me Special	Lame Man Heartprint: Jesus Heals	Blind Man Heartprint: Jesus Heals	Jesus Calls His Disciples Heartprint: Jesus Wants Me to Follow Him	Jesus Calls His Disciples Heartprint: Jesus Wants Me to Follow Him	Jesus Calls His Disciples Heartprint: Jesus Wants Me to Follow Him
JANUARY ELEMENTS—HOPE FEBRUARY ELEMENTS—THE WORD							

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14:1-31	Exodus 16:1-36	l
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Ten Commandments Offerings to God Leviticus 1-7 Acts 21-47 Acts 10:1-48 and others 21-20 11 Thessalonians 21-20 11	MAY/JUNE 2024								
May 5 May 12 May 18 May 28 (‡) June 2 June 9 June 16 (‡) June 23 June 30 June	MAY VERSE OF THE MONTH—MARK 12:30-31 JUNE VERSE OF THE MONTH—1 THESSALONIANS 2:12								
Ten Commandments Executes 20 Everyone Acts 21-47 Ten Commandments Everyone Acts 21-47 Ten Commandments Everyone Acts 10:1-48 Ten Commandments Everyone Acts 10:1-48 Ten Commandments Heartprint Ten Commandments Heartprint Ten Commandments Heartprint Heartprint Heartprint Ten Commandments Heartprint Heartprint Ten Commandments Heartprint Heartprint Ten Commandments Heartprint Heartprint Ten Commandments Heartprint Ten Commandments Heartprint Heartprint Ten Commandments Ten Commandments Heartprint Ten Commandments Ten Commandments Heartprint Ten Commandments Ten Commandments Ten Commandments Heartprint Ten Commandments Ten Comma	ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT								
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Ten Commandments Ten Commandments and Barnabus Paul and Barnabus Paul and Barnabus Heartprint Heart	PRESCHOOL								
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MAY ELEMENTS— THE GOSPEL JUNE ELEMENTS— PURITY									

JULY VERSE OF THE MONTH—ROMANS 6:23 AUGUST VERSE OF THE MONTH—JOHN 14:27							
ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT							
July 7 🌲	July 14 🚢	July 21	July 28	August 4	August 11	August 18 🌐	August 25 (
The Purpose of the Law Galatians 3:15–19	Aaron Exodus 7, 32, and more	Choosing Faith Over Fear Numbers 14:1-38	Cost of Rebellion Numbers 16:1–50	God Protects His People Numbers 22:1-41	God Provides a Refuge Numbers 35:1-34	God Calms Our Fears Philippians 4:6–8; John 14:27; John 16:33	God Works Throu Hard Times James 1:12; 2 Corinthians 12:9
PRESCHOOL							
Facts and Origins of the Bible of Set Ward Ender Special Heartprint: Heartprin							



CALL 800-877-7030 OR











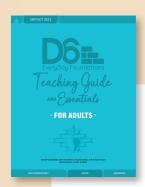












TEACHING GUIDE SAMPLE

What is the goal? The lesson objective takes aim for clear discipleship results.

LESSON 2 • SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Jesus Is God

From kindergarten to your oldest group members, the shared family theme leads to opportunities to talk about spiritual concerns.

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learners worship, trust, and obey Jesus understanding He is fully God and fully man.

STUDY TEXT: John 1:1-18

Digital users can link directly to Scripture passages

Every lesson is based on God's Word.



This list of reminders helps teachers be well-prepared.

- $\hfill \square$ Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher's Guide
- ☐ Review the Adult Teaching Outline (Adult Handout 2-1 or AH 2-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from
- ☐ Review *PowerPoint 2* and insert your own questions if needed
- ☐ Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (Adult Handout 2-2), the *Truth About Jesus* Handout (Adult Handout 2-3), and *Parent Page* (PP-2) if necessary
- $\hfill \Box$ Distribute Parent Page (PP-2) to those who will benefit from it

Geometric Services Wey Truths

- Jesus Was Actively Involved in Creation (<u>John 1:1-3</u>)
- Jesus Brought Life and Truth to the Lost World (<u>John 1:4-13</u>)
- Jesus Was God in Human Flesh Living Among Us (<u>John</u> 1:14-18)

Verse of the North

JOHN 1:1

Each month
focuses on
a Scripture
verse for
families and
small groups
to learn
(or review)
together.

Lesson 2 Jesus Is God

Summary of the lesson's main points

Connect gives you two or three options to open your small group and invite participation.

CONNECT

Choose one of the ${\bf Connect}$ options to capture attention and get this session started.

OPTION 1: Begin by asking your learners if they have ever been in a cave or other place where it was pitch black when the lights were turned off. What did that feel like? Were they anxious for someone to turn on the lights? After discussion, say: Light cuts through the darkness and reveals what is around us. In the Bible, light often represents what is good, right, and true, and darkness represents what is evil, wrong, and false. Today we will see how Jesus brought light and truth into the world.

OPTION 2: Ask your group members to name persons who are examples of the best of the best in the following categories:

- Singing
- Athletics
- Leadership
- Friendship
- Literature

After some have shared, transition to the lesson by saying something like this: We all know people who are good examples in some way. To-day we will see how Jesus came to live among us and show us a perfect example of what God is like.

OPTION 3: To begin, consider showing this video about the parallels between John 1 and Genesis 1: tinyurl.com/JesusWasBefore. Discuss the video with your group. Ask learners why it's significant that Jesus was involved in the creation of the world. Transition to the lesson by saying: Jesus was involved in Creation. Today we'll examine that topic and see why it's important to our faith.

Hyperlinks
allow users
of the digital
version to easily
access links
or Scripture
passages.

Outlines for teachers and group members are available for download. You can customize them too.



AH 2-1

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AH 2-2

TEACHING TIP:

Respond to learner comments with encouraging words. For some people, it takes a lot to share their opinion in a group. If you laugh at their remarks or imply that their responses are silly, dumb, or shallow, they will be very hesitant to respond again, and might never come back.

LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 2-2) and summarize the following to your group about the background of the text.

Paul stated that the Greeks sought wisdom and the Jews sought powerful signs (1 Corinthians 1:22-24). As strange as it might seem to both groups, the crucified Jesus was exactly what they were seeking. To understand His power and wisdom, we need to go back to the very beginning.

TEACHING GUIDE

The lesson's main points, or key truths, are highlighted for emphasis.

Key Truth: Jesus Was Actively Involved in Creation (John 1:1-3)

In the beginning reminds us of <u>Genesis 1:1</u>. The Word (Greek Logos) had other meanings beyond mere spoken communication. The Greeks also used it to designate the reason or mind that governed the universe. It quickly becomes clear that John had this meaning in mind—not merely verbs and nouns, so to speak, but rather the mind that uses verbs and nouns to communicate.

John identified this divine Word or *Logos* as being with God and active in Creation (**verses 2-3**). John wanted both Jewish and Gentile readers to understand that Jesus of Nazareth (as he would make clear later) was not only God, but also a person of the Godhead who was active in Creation. John stated that Jesus, the Word, was on the scene with God the Father and the Holy Spirit even before the universe came to be. Indeed, without Christ, the world would not even exist.

DISCUSS:

• How do verses 1-3 affirm the divinity of Christ? (He existed before Creation; He was with God; He was active in creating all things; etc.)

-EXPLORE:-

<u>Colossians 1:15-17</u> affirms Christ as the visible manifestation of God and Creator of all things. <u>Hebrews 1:1-3</u> identifies Christ as the one by whom the world was made and the very image of God.

Although these first 3 verses do not specifically identify Jesus as this Word, the verses that follow do. At this point, John wanted to state three things about this Word:

- This *Word/Mind* (Jesus) existed before this world existed. He had always existed and was there when the world was created.
- This Word/Mind was with God. The Greek term does not mean merely associated with. It is stronger. Some would give it a meaning similar to face to face with. It denotes both equality as well as a distinction. This is in keeping with the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. This doctrine teaches us there is one God who is revealed in Scripture as three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Three in One).
- This Word/Mind was God.

Teaching resources
(outlines, PowerPoint,
resource lists, and
handouts) come with the
teaching guide as a digital
download. Print as many
as you need for your class.



PowerPoint 2

The discussion questions can be also be found on the *Adult Teaching Outline* (AH 2-1) and on *PowerPoint 2,* which is customizable. Files 2A and 2B are provided for customization.

APPLY:

Worship Christ as God who put on flesh, the very expression of who God is in human form.

Lesson 2 • Jesus Is God

DISCUSS:

• How do verses 1-3 point to the doctrine of the Trinity—one God in three persons? (Jesus, (the Word) was with God the Father but separate from Him; Jesus is God; etc.)

You can follow the Scripture exegesis verse to verse.

Applications

and discussion
questions are
nested throughout
the lesson where
they naturally fit.

APPLY:

We can have confidence in what the Bible says about Creation. We are not the result of random chance.
Christ is God and was active in Creation.

To what beginning did John refer in verse 1? The beginning of everything that has a beginning. This excludes God as He has no beginning and no end. When the beginning that John described took place, God was already there! We see this also in the way John chose to talk about Creation in verse 3. The verb he chose (egeneto) does not indicate building or assembling something from already existing material. It speaks of coming into being from nothing. John 1:3 affirms Genesis 1:1 in answering the question, "Where did all this come from?" God created the universe, and everything in it. It is not the result of random chance.

-EXPLORE:-

Find evidence and affirmation for God creating the universe at sites like carm.org, answersingenesis.org, creation.com, and creationmoments.com. While Randall House might not agree with every view presented on these sites, they are useful resources for defending our faith.

DISCUSS:

- Our culture is sometimes guilty of trying to change Jesus to fit whatever is trending. Why is it dangerous to let culture and what's popular define who Jesus is?
- Consider the people you're around on an average day. How do they view Jesus? How can we help people see Jesus for who He truly is?

Key Truth: Jesus Brought Life and Truth to the Lost World (John 1:4-13)

Jews and Gentiles alike portrayed the moral universe in terms of light versus darkness. In **verse 4**, John indicated that this person (the Word that became human) brought life, life that was like light for humanity. Light is an active presence. It shines (**verse 5**) into the darkness, making things clear.

TEACHING GUIDE

Explore sections address issues like cultural background, historical context, theological importance, apologetics, and other complementary biblical teachings.

EXPLORE:

The contrast between light and darkness is common throughout human religious history, including the Old and New Testaments (Genesis 1:3-5; Isaiah 9:2; 42:6-7; 49:6; Luke 1:76-79; John 8:12; 1 John 1:5-7). John's readers, both Jew and Gentile, would have understood his terminology. The struggle between darkness and light appears as a common theme in many of the world's religions. We must remember that this struggle is real, but it is not between two equally matched fighters. The Bible is clear that God will have the final say.

APPLY:

Walk daily in the light of God's truth.

DISCUSS:

- What is meant by light and darkness in verses 4-5? (Light stands for what is good, right, and true. Darkness stands for what is evil, wrong, and false.)
- What does it mean to walk in the light of God's truth? (We obey and live out God's Word.)

In **verses 6-9** John made several important points about a messenger whom he would tell us more about later in his book:

- · God sent him.
- John the apostle (the writer) identified this messenger as John (the Baptist).
- He came as a witness about the light.
- · His purpose was to get people to believe.
- He was merely a messenger about the light, not the light itself.
- The true light was coming after this messenger.

Malachi 3:1 foretold that God would send this messenger to prepare the way. John the Baptist identified himself as the voice crying in the wilderness spoken of in <u>Isaiah 40:3</u>. The Old Testament closed with the promise that God would send Elijah (<u>Malachi 4:5</u>), and Jesus announced that John the Baptist fulfilled this prophecy (<u>Matthew 11:14</u>).

We would expect the world's Creator, the true Light of the World, to be welcome here, to have the "run of the place," yet that is not what happened. On the contrary, the world Christ created did not even recognize Him. The darkness of sin hindered its vision. It certainly did not accept Him (**verses 10-11**).

Nevertheless, some did receive Him and became children of God (verse 12). We must never forget that God offers salvation and

forgiveness to those who believe in Christ. Their new birth as God's children came through His power, not through the ordinary channels of human procreation. **Verse 13** set the stage for what Jesus would later share with Nicodemus in John 3. Without Jesus Christ, their lives would have been left in the same darkness that plagued the rest of the world.

-EXPLORE:-

For help in sharing the gospel with friends who have different beliefs check out the resources at dare2share.org/worldviews.

DISCUSS:

- What makes you apprehensive about sharing the truth of Jesus with others?
- In what ways can we shine the light of Christ in the world around us? (Live out the truths and principles of God's Word; tell others about the life we have found in Christ; etc.)
- When we share the truth of Jesus, many will reject that message. How should we measure success? (See <u>1 Corinthians 3:6-7.</u>)

APPLY:

Live in ways that shine the light and truth of Jesus to the world around us and bear witness about Christ to those who need to hear.

Key Truth: Jesus Was God in Human Flesh Living Among Us (<u>John 1:14-18</u>)

It is with **verse 14** that John made a claim that Jews and Gentiles alike found astounding: the Creator (the Word who made everything else) became part of the creation, specifically, a human being (**verse 14**). This is why it was so important for John to establish earlier in the chapter just who the Word was (In the beginning, with God, God Himself, Creator, etc.). Without that foundation, the claim he made in **verse 14** would not have been so significant.

To become flesh refers to becoming a living human being. John told his readers that the God who created Heaven and earth became a human being. The phrase *made his dwelling* or *dwelt among* represents a Greek verb that refers to making one's dwelling in a tent. We could almost say that He "camped out" among us! Not only that, but because of His camping out, we have seen God's glory, and it is full of grace and truth:

- *Grace* because Jesus came to redeem sinful people, not to condemn them. He showed grace to those most in need of it.
- *Truth* because it was no longer necessary to theorize about or to wonder what God was like. Later on in this gospel, Jesus would tell Philip that whoever had seen Him had seen the Father (John 14:9).

TEACHING GUIDE

-EXPLORE:-

To say that the universal creative Reason, the Word, became flesh would have been unacceptable to many Gentile pagans. Many of them believed that the realm of deity was pure unsoiled spirit, and that the realm of human existence was impure, dirty, and profane. They saw no possibility of meaningful communication with the heavenly realm. Philosophers proposed an interminable series of beings who were links joining the realm of the spirit and the realm of the flesh. Each succeeding link would be a little less spirit and a little more flesh. John's claim concerning Jesus Christ demonstrated that such links were not necessary. In effect, the only "link" in question was Jesus. He was the Creator Word, who became a flesh and blood human being. Theologians call this the incarnation. But Scripture also affirms Jesus was fully God—God in human flesh.

John (verse 15) was not the apostle John who wrote this gospel. It refers instead to John the Baptist. Again, John the writer did not confine himself to lofty ideas of the spirit with no connection to human history. There was a human witness to these events, John the Baptist. His life and ministry were well known, and verifiable. He had testified concerning the One who came after him.

In **verse 16**, John returned to the theme of grace. Grace produces blessing upon blessing. God is not stingy in the blessings of His grace. Moses had brought the law of God (**verse 17**), but Jesus brought so much more. The Law could be twisted and perverted; Jesus brought the truth. The Law spoke of condemnation for law-breaking; Jesus brought gracious forgiveness.

DISCUSS:

- · How has God shown you grace?
- What is a proper response to the grace God has given us through Christ? (Give Him our love, obedience, worship, and service.)
- Evaluate this statement: "Many people want Christ's grace, yet they don't want to obey His truth." Why do grace and truth go hand-in-hand? (Truth shows us who God is and grace makes it possible to be in right relationship with Him; etc.)

Verse 18 acknowledges the distance between the Father and His creation—no one has ever seen the full essence of the Father. And yet, Someone has made Him known to us: Jesus of Nazareth, the Word made flesh. Jesus spoke authoritatively because He as Creator had all authority.

APPLY:

Jesus understands life in this world because He became one of us and lived among us.

APPLY:

God pours out His grace on us through Jesus. We can know God through Jesus who reveals the heart, mind, and nature of God.

Lesson 2 • Jesus Is God

Encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 devotional magazines this week.



AH 2-3



PP-2

Give copies of the Parent Page (PP-2) to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. Parent Page is also available for FREE download at D6home.com. (No password required.)

These brief statements reinforce Bible truths as foundational doctrine, definitions, or facts to promote biblical literacy

DISCUSS:

• What can we learn about God from the life of Jesus? (He loves us; He is holy and without sin; He is merciful and full of grace; etc.)

RESPOND

Use one or more of these **Respond** options to help your group members put into action the principles they learned in this lesson.

OPTION 1: Discuss what it means to walk in the light of God's truth. What does this look like? How would this set us apart from people who do not know and follow Christ? In what ways can you more fully live out God's truth this week?

OPTION 2: Use the Adult Handout 2-3 *The Truth About Jesus* to make sure learners understand key truths about Jesus found in John 1. Give them time to mark the statements as True or False, and then discuss the statements. Only the third, fifth, and seventh statements are true. The rest are false ideas or teachings about Christ. Encourage your learners to place their full trust in Jesus and worship Him this week as the eternal God-Man who was active at Creation and is the only way to Heaven.

OPTION 3: Jesus brought truth to a lost and dying world. As followers of Christ, our job is to carry on that mission. Ask the following:

- What does it look like to live a life that prioritizes both grace and truth?
- How can we share the gospel message with boldness while also showing grace in our approach?

Encourage group members to share the gospel with a friend, family member, or coworker who needs to hear of the lifesaving power of Jesus.

Encourage your learners to take action in one of these areas this week.

Building Blocks 🚣

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

Jesus is 100% God, but He is also 100% man. This is called the incarnation.

Respond options
help the teacher
and learners think
about how they
can put what they
have learned into
practice.

TEACHING GUIDE SAMPLE

What is the goal? The lesson objective takes aim for clear discipleship results.

LESSON 9 • OCTOBER 29, 2023

Every block includes at least one Bible character study.

Noah

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learners put life lessons from Noah into action.

STUDY TEXT: Scriptures from Genesis 6-9 and others.

Every lesson is based on God's Word. Digital users can link directly to Scripture passages

CHECKLIST

- $\hfill \square$ Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher's Guide
- ☐ Review the *Adult Teaching Outline* (Adult Handout 9-1 or AH 9-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from
- ☐ Review *PowerPoint g* and insert your own questions if needed
- ☐ Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (Adult Handout 9-2), the *Would the Animals Fit?* Handout (Adult Handout 9-3), the *When Obedience Is Difficult* Handout, and *Parent Page (PP-9)* if necessary
- ☐ Distribute *Parent Page (PP-9)* to parents

In This Character Study

- · An Introduction to Noah
- Key Events in Noah's Life
- Life Lessons to Apply From Noah
- Ways to Respond

Verse of the Month

GENESIS 1:1

Adult Teaching Guide - Sep/Oct 2023

CONNECT

Choose one of the **Connect** options to capture attention and get this session started.

OPTION 1: Begin by asking your learners if they have ever dealt with a flood. What caused it? What was the damage? Were there stories of rescues? How did the community respond in the cleanup and rebuilding process? Transition to the lesson by saying: *Today we are going to see how God used a flood to judge the sinful world but showed grace to one man and his family.*

OPTION 2: Family road trips can be fun, but it's inevitable that something will go wrong. A car might break down, someone might get sick, the driver might get lost, a theme park might be closed. Ask group members to share their most memorable family road trips, whether for good or bad reasons. Next, ask them how they would feel if that family road trip lasted for a year and there were pets with them. Transition to the lesson by saying: Noah and his family had a very unique "road trip" that is much different from anything we've ever experienced. Today we will examine the life of Noah and learn from key events in his life.

OPTION 3: To begin, consider showing this short video of the Ark Encounter in Kentucky: tinyurl.com/ArkEncounter2022. The video can give your learners an idea of the size of the ark that Noah built. Ask if anyone in your group has been to the Ark Encounter. If so, ask them to share about the experience. Transition to the lesson by saying: We are examining the life of Noah. We're very familiar with the ark he built, but today we'll look even deeper into his life.

LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 9-2) and summarize the following to your group about the background of Noah.

Meet Noah

Brief introduction to the Bible character As the population of the earth grew there were inappropriate intermarriages that took place between the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men" (Genesis 6:2). Commentators divide sharply in their understanding of this verse. Some suggest that fallen angels (sons of God) intermarried with human women (daughters of man). Others see this as the godly line of Seth described in chapter 5 (sons of God) intermarrying with ungodly, pagan women (daughters of man). Another suggestion is that rulers among the people were possessed by



AH 9-1

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AH 9-2

TEACHING TIP

If possible, have everyone sit in a circle. Having everyone sit in a circle gives unity to the group. It shows that the group is going somewhere together. It is also helpful for discussion.

Lesson 9 • Noah

TEACHING GUIDE

The lesson focuses on a few key events in the character's life.

Since this lesson is a study of the life of Noah, there is too much Scripture to be read during your lesson time. Study the lesson and summarize the main points for your group. Also, these passages will be part of the upcoming devotions in *The Brink, Fusion Family*, and *Fusion Next*. Encourage group members to keep up with the devotions.

Discussion questions can also be found on the Adult Teaching Outline (AH 9-1), and on PowerPoint 9, which is customizable. Files 9A and 9B are provided for customization. demons and proceeded to marry many women. Regardless of the correct interpretation, the result was men who became famous in their day and a society that spiraled out of control into sin. People were thoroughly wicked. God chose to judge mankind with a catastrophic judgment. Then a hint of hope sprang from the dust of the text's harsh judgment. Noah was born to Lamech and found favor from the Lord (Genesis 6:8). Verse 9 informs us that Noah was a righteous and blameless man who walked with God. He had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Key Events in Noah's Life

Key Event 1: Righteous Noah Was Called to Build an Ark (Genesis 6:9-22)

Our text tightens its focus on Noah in this section. Immediately, the writer described Noah as a righteous and blameless man who walked with God (verse 9). His character set him apart from the rest of the people of his society. Additionally, his walk with God reminds the reader of Enoch in the preceding chapter (5:22). Though Noah was not perfect or sinless, he was a man of godly character. His integrity was mentioned later by the prophet Ezekiel when the Lord explained that even the righteous men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, would not be able to deliver Judah from God's punishment (Ezekiel 14:14).

Noah was also listed by the unknown author of Hebrews as a man of deep faith (<u>Hebrews 11:7</u>). This short account summarizes Noah's entire experience as a model of trust in God's instructions.

God approached Noah with the instructions for building a boat called an ark in order to escape the coming judgment by flood. **Genesis 6:11-12** highlights the corruption and violence of the world at that time with four references to those sins. When God spoke to Noah in **verse 13**, He once again mentioned that the world was filled with violence. His instructions included the materials, design, measurement, and purpose of the ark. Everyone and everything that was not in the ark would die as God would flood the whole earth **(verses 14-17)**. Along with his family, Noah was to assemble a male and female of every kind of animal on earth **(verses 18-20)**. These animals along with the required food would require a lot of space in the ark. Noah's participation in this adventure would seal a covenant (agreement) between God and Noah. Noah's response was full obedience to all of God's instructions **(verse 22)**.

You can follow the Scripture exegesis verse to verse as noted in bold print.

DISCUSS

• Why did it take great faith for Noah to obey God's instruction to build an ark? (It would take many years to build the ark on what was dry land; he was ridiculed; etc.)

-EXPLORE:-

Within the story of Noah several debates take place among historians, archaeologists, and other scientists. One of those questions centers around the capacity of the ark to host the animals as the text described. To answer the question of the ark's ability to carry all of the animals indicated by the text three smaller questions must be answered:

- 1. How many animals?
- 2. How big were the animals?
- 3. How big was the ark?

Consider the number of animals first. Those who insist that the ark would not have been able to house every species of animal in the world are no doubt correct. **Genesis 6:20** clarifies that the birds, animals, and creeping things were to gather according to their "kinds." This word likely does not mean *species* but the much broader *genus* or *family*. At the genus level there seems to be somewhere between 1400 to 8000 animals. Multiplied by two would be 16,000 and since some clean animals were to come in greater numbers, some ark researchers have increased the experimental number of animals to 30,000.

Second, think about the size of the animals. Among these animals there was no reason that the largest adult samples of the animals should be chosen to ride the ark. For instance, rather than housing a full-grown elephant, two younger, smaller elephants would have sufficed. From the available data it is thought that the average size of a land animal is comparable to the size of a sheep. This size causes the task to be less daunting.

Finally, we need to consider the size of the ark. Was the ark large enough to accommodate 30,000 sheep-sized animals? God gave Noah the dimensions of the ark in cubits (**Genesis 6:15**). This huge boat was to be 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. That translates to 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. With three levels the total floor space would have been over 100,000 square feet. This space could have housed well more than

Explore notes are a deeper dive into a topic. Some focus on apologetics, helping students defend

TEACHING GUIDE



AH 9-3

Give each learner a copy of AH 9-3 Would the Animals Fit? so they will have the information presented in this Explore note. 30,000 sheep along with food, water, supplies and the eight people on board.

When hearing challenges to the Word of God, believers should never panic. Pray for wisdom and guidance. Examine the situation. Think rationally. Talk with other believers and Christian thinkers. Do the research and you will find that the Bible can be trusted. For more on the size and capacity of the ark, see tinyurl.com/CarmArk, tinyurl.com/AigArk, and tinyurl.com/DebunkedArk.

Were Safe in the Ark When the Flood Came (Genesis 7:1—8:19)

Noah's faith manifested itself through his steady obedience to everything God told him to do (Genesis 6:22; 7:5) With the interior occupants settled (7:6-9), verse 16 explains that the Lord shut him in. This was an act of grace for Noah and judgment on those who refused to listen to Noah's warnings over the years. Peter picked up on that theme in 2 Peter 2:4-9. Mentioning God's preservation of Noah from the Flood, coupled with Lot's deliverance from Sodom and Gomorrah, Peter drew the reassuring conclusion that the Lord knows how to rescue His people (2 Peter 2:9).

Judgment from God closed any hope of salvation from the coming flood for those outside the ark. Jesus expounded on that judgment and drew lessons to learn for the Lord's coming judgment. Playing on the memory of Noah's flood, Jesus warned about the spiritual apathy that would ignore God's promise to punish sin. While lulled to sleep in the festivities of life people are unprepared for judgment the way they were unprepared for the Flood (Matthew 24:36–39).

This flood of judgment rained on the earth for 40 days and nights. The fountains of the deep broke open as well (7:11-12). Water poured from above and below, covering the land. Verse 24 says the flood waters remained for another 150 days (5 months). By God's providential care the rains stopped, the fountains of the deep were closed, evaporation began, winds blew, the flood waters receded, and the ark rested on a mountain named Ararat (8:1-4). As a test of the remaining water level, Noah released a raven, but it never returned to the ark. Then he released a dove which returned after finding nowhere to land. He released the dove again only to receive it back with an olive leaf in her mouth. After waiting another week, he released the dove again and

the dove did not return (8:6-12). Accepting this sign, Noah and his family exited the ark (8:18-19).

DISCUSS:

• What do you think it might have been like to be shut up inside the ark?

Key Event 3: Noah Worshiped God and Received Promises and Instructions (Genesis 8:20—9:17)

Once again waiting for and following God's instructions, Noah and his family left the ark. Their first order of business was to worship God by offering burnt offerings of some of the clean animals in thanks to God for their survival and in prayer for His coming provision (8:20).

After Noah offered sacrifices in worship to God, God's response dominated the conversation. At the end of chapter 8 He promised not to send that level of judgment by water again. While people would still be sinful, God would not strike down every living person and thing as He did in this flood judgment (8:21). God would re-establish the normal cycle of seasons for the planet (8:22). Isaiah remembered this promise and used it to illustrate God's compassion (Isaiah 54:9–10).

God commanded Noah, his family, and all the creatures to reproduce so they could replenish the earth (9:1). Noah would see that the other creatures had an innate fear of humans. In their dominion of the world, people would be permitted to eat the animals for food but were instructed not to ingest blood (9:2-4).

Another point of instruction set the tone for coming civilizations among people. Here God insisted on a punishment for murder. Anyone who *sheds the blood* of a person was to be put to death **(Genesis 9:5-6)**. This is the most fundamental grounds for capital punishment for those convicted of premeditated murder. While many debate if God intended for this command to continue in our day, there is no doubt what He was telling Noah. God's rationale for this extreme punishment related to the image of God in man. Because people are made in God's image, we are endowed with an intrinsic worth that must be respected. Murder, abortion, euthanasia, slavery, and any other abuses of the image of God should be handled with deep seriousness.

God ended His encouraging instructions to Noah by reiterating His promise not to destroy the world by flood again. As a physical symbol of His vow not to give another worldwide flood He provided the rainbow. Each rainbow shouts to creation that God knows what He promised (9:8-17).

TEACHING GUIDE

Principles to apply will be found in this part of the lesson along with related discussion starters.

As mentioned before, Noah was not perfect and sinless. He later became drunk and lay naked and exposed. This caused problems with his sons and resulted in a curse on his grandson Canaan that would affect God's people years later (9:18-28). Despite falling short of the mark in that instance, Noah, as a whole, was a godly man of faith who did great things for God.

APPLY and RESPOND:

Life Lessons to Apply from Noah

Life Lesson 1: Live a godly lifestyle when those around us do **not.** Noah lived in a culture that had spiraled out of control. Even when the society around us has unraveled, we must maintain a godly lifestyle, as Noah did (<u>Matthew 5:14: Philippians 2:14-16</u>). We might pay a price for godly living and speaking God's truth, but it is our delightful duty as God's people to represent the kingdom and its King to whom we belong.

DISCUSS:

- What price might God's people pay for living and speaking God's truth in a wicked society? Are you willing to pay that price?
- Why is it difficult to love and obey God when the society around us does not?
- Why do you think some who once claimed faith in Jesus are now walking the path of deconstruction and denying their faith?

EXPLORE:

While we need to understand the importance of Noah's obedience to God, we also need to remember that obedience was not the foundation of his salvation. Even the godly people of the Old Testament were never saved by works or sacrifices. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and all of the other Old Testament saints were saved by faith (Genesis 15:6; Galatians 2:15-16; 3:1-9). We could say the same about Noah. Because Noah believed God, he built the ark, gathered the animals, entered the ark, and did all the other things God commanded.

Life Lesson 2: Obey God even when it does not seem to make sense. God does not give capricious instructions that have no foundation or reason, but His reasons and purposes might not be immediately apparent to us at the time of our decisions. God's commands

from His Word are always trustworthy but not always easy. Like children who do not yet possess the capacity to understand their parents' instructions, even as adults we might not always understand God's reasons. Our lack of understanding, however, does not absolve us from the responsibility to obey His commands.

DISCUSS:

- What are some of God's commands that you do not always like or understand?
- What is the link between "believing" and "obeying"? (Obedience is easier when we trust and believe God.)
- Noah and his family boarded the ark. When have you stepped out to obey God when things were uncertain? How does faith in God help us do this?

Life Lesson 3: Make it our habit to obey everything God tells

us. We do not approach our journey with God as a buffet that allows us to pick what we want. When Jesus becomes the Lord of our lives, that means He is now our boss. Our status before God is not as equals, but as children before our Father. We must obey, even when it is culturally awkward or personally costly.

DISCUSS:

- Why might some people wish not to obey God in everything?
- Noah was obedient and did exactly as God had commanded. How do people today often "tweak" God's plans to better fit their own desires, choices, and preferences?
- What would it look like for us to obey like Noah?
- What are some ways we could demonstrate faith and obedience this week?

Ways to Respond: Encourage your learners to put what they have learned into action this week.

OPTION 1: Ask learners to prayerfully examine their lives to see if there are sins that make them like the surrounding culture and disqualify them from being labeled as righteous persons. If so, they can confess and turn away from those sins. As we see from Noah, sin must be taken very seriously.

OPTION 2: Ask learners to write down any commands from God that they find absurd and do not wish to obey. Encourage them to bring that list before the Lord and ask Him for the humility to obey even

Specific ways learners can respond are found at the end of the lesson.

Lesson 9 - Noah

TEACHING GUIDE

Encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 devotional magazines this week.



AH 9-4



PP-9

Give copies of the Parent Page (PP-9) to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. Parent Page is also available for FREE download at D6home.com. (No password required.)

those commands they do not understand. It is important to obey first before insisting on God's explanation. God does not have the responsibility to explain Himself to us. (Learners can use AH 9-4 When Obedience Is Difficult for this exercise.)

OPTION 3: Ask learners to take five minutes to meditate on the flood that God sent to judge Noah's world. We know that God will not send another flood of that magnitude but consider the sins of our society. Ask them to consider what they can do to proclaim God's Word to that society while demonstrating the love of Christ.

Building Blocks 🏪

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

The Genesis Flood was a true, historical event, not a fictional story.

these brief
statements
reinforce
Bible truths as
foundational
doctrine,
definitions,
or facts to
promote
biblical
literacy.

Pray!

Space for a class prayer list

Notes

DISCIPLESHIP TOOLS FOR HOME



Read the Word: John 1:1-18

Disciple Your Family: Learners discuss with

s the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.

Key Truth: Jesus Was Actively Involved in Creation (John 1:1-3)

Key Truth: Jesus Was Actively Involved in Creation (John 1:1-3)

- How do verses 1-3 affirm the divinity of Christ? (He existed before Creation; He was with God; He was active in creating all things; eich application of the Christ God in three persons? (Jesus, the Word, He Word overses 1-3 point to the doctrine of the Trinity—one God in three persons? (Jesus, the Word, was with God the Father but separate from Him; Jesus is God; etc.)

APPLY: We can have confidence in what the Bible says about Creation. We are not the result of random chance. Christ is God and was active in Creation.

- Our culture is sometimes guilty of trying to change Jesus to fit whatever is trending. Why is it dangerous to let culture and what's popular define who Jesus is?

- Consider the people you're around on an average day, How do they view Jesus? How can we help people see Jesus for who He truly is?



Key Truth: Jesus Brought Life and Truth to the Lost World (John 1:4-13)

What is meant by light and the limit and the light and

- Key Truth: Jesus Brought Life and Truth to the Lost World (John 1:4-13)

 What is meant by light and darkness in verses 4-5? (Light stands for what is good, right, and true. Darkness stands for what is evil, wrong, and false.)

 What does it mean to walk in the light of God's truth? (We obey and live out God's Word.)

 APPLY: Walk dayls in the light of God's truth.

 APPLY: Live in ways that shine the light and truth of Jesus to the world around us and bear witness about Christ to those who need to hear.

 What makes you apprehensive about sharing the truth of Jesus with others?

 What makes you apprehensive about sharing the truth of Jesus with others?

 In what ways can we shine the light of Christ in the world around us? (Live out the truths and principles of God's Word; tell others about the life we have found in Christ; etc.)

 When we share the truth of Jesus, many will reject that message. How should we measure success? (See 1 Corinthians 3:6-7.) Key Truth: Jesus Was God in Human Flesh Living Among Us (John 1:14-18) APPLY: Sests understands life in this world because He became one of us and lived among us.

 APPLY: God pours out His grace on us through Jesus. We can know God through Jesus who reveals the heart, mind, and nature of God.

Parent Pages review the key truths and

applications of each lesson, allowing for

family discussion and reinforcements.

How has God shown you grace:

How has God shown you grace?
 What is a proper response to the grace God has given us through Christ? (Give Him our love obedience, worship, and service.)
 Evaluate this statement: 'Many people want Christ's grace, yet they don't want to obey His truth.' Why do grace thut go chand-in-hand? (Truth shows us who God is and grace makes it possible to be in right relationship with Him; etc.)
 What can we learn about God from the life of Jesus? (He loves us; He is holy and without sin; He is merciful and full of grace; etc.)

- Build a Foundation: Elementary talking points for discussion.

 What are four things John 1 teaches us about who Jesus is?
 What is the Trinity? (Read Growing in God's Word in Adventure Guide and Explorer's Guide with your child.)

 What are ways you can thank and worship God for who He is and for His grace this week?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: John 1:1



Discuss This Week's Building Block:
Jesus is 100% God, but He is also 100% man. This is called the incarnation.

Everyday Extras:

Everyday Extras:

Play Password or some other word game with your family. (We love "Nouns in a Bucket.") Talk together about the way a word represents a thought. We can communicate because we recognize words and the ideas they stand for. The letters C.-A.T are not able to pur, but when we see them, we know what they mean. Jesus was bout God because Jesus showed Him to us. Ask every family member to choose a word that makes him her think about Jesus. (Some ideas might be love, indness, power, Savior, etc.) Ask everyone to act out their whose suits and any words. Could they still get their ideas across? Let's communicate Jesus to everyone

reschool Highlights:

Pescraoo Hightights:

'day your child samed God Has Many Names which help us learn about Him. God told Abraham He was

e Almighty God. Abraham and his wife. Sarah, were very old. But God told Abraham and Sarah they would

we a child, and they were to name him Isaac. The Almighty God is strong and powerful, and nothing is im-

Preschool Highlights give the Heartprint (Bible truth) of young children's lessons each week.

Daily review of the verse of the month and the Building Blocks will help your children plant them in their hearts.

Everyday Extras suggest a home activity to connect Bible truth with family life.

A customizable version is also available. Download and print or email to families.



Devotional Study Guides are provided for each age level to encourage personal discipleship and faith conversations at home.



Splink is a weekly email providing three ideas for making spiritual connections in your home.









The D6 App is a free resource for families with access to a variety of discipleship tools including links to the podcast, family discussions questions, and more.



This attendance chart and accountability tool encourages families or small groups to report weekly discipleship efforts. Find them at D6EVERYDAY.COM.



BRINK(FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITHOUT CHILDREN)

Seven days of devotions for young adults.

WEEK 2 DEVOTIONS // September 10-16, 2023

Articles, interviews, columns, and daily devotions from a biblical worldview help young adults embrace God's truth and make their faith their own.

The Brink is perfect for college students and young adults without children.

Jesus Is God

Sunday, September 10 // John 1:1-18

The word *gullible* is the longest word in the English language that reads the same when it is flipped upside down. Go ahead and check it out, I'll wait . . .

It's natural for us to be skeptical when presented with seemingly outrageous information. There are a lot of people who get a kick out of seeing people fall for their tricks or who love to ridicule others who may not understand something yet. This is why is it so important that we, as Christians, have a great understanding of who Jesus really is and why we can know that His story is true.

Once we recognize that Jesus is God who came to earth as a human so we too could become children of the Father, we can live without the fear of falling for a made-up lie about eternal life. When we genuinely know the one true God through Christ, we can accept His promises without reservation. Although the world did not recognize Him at the time, we can live to the fullest because we know the full story—Jesus is God.

Why does it matter that Jesus is actually God?

Spend time considering how Jesus has planned to save you for all time. What difference does that make in your life?

Monday, September 11 // 1 John 1:1-3

I love to play golf and I will never get tired of telling the story of my first hole-in-one. At least I'm sure I won't get tired of telling the story once it actually happens. We all have moments like that in our lives, though—experiences that were absolutely amazing and come to mind so often that they just bubble out into conversation whenever there is an opportunity. For those who saw Jesus on earth, His ministry, death, and resurrection consumed their conversation. They couldn't keep from sharing because they wanted others to know God in the same way.

Although we are not eyewitnesses of Jesus' earthly ministry, if we have directly experienced the forgiveness He offers and the leading of the Spirit, we can share the message just as boldly. Perhaps we fail to share our faith out of fear or embarrassment. Like the disciples, we should recognize the eternal nature of our message and willingly forge through whatever hesitations we might encounter to help others know Christ

Do you regularly encounter someone who needs to hear the message of Christ? When do those opportunities usually happen?

What part of your direct experience with the Lord might help that individual to see the value in Jesus's alvation?

Tuesday, September 12 // 1 John 5:20

I love to watch television shows like Antiques Roadshow that are centered around people trying to cash in on an item they own that might be rare and valuable. The climactic moment of each episode is when they meet with the appraiser who informs them if their item is what they think it is (worth a fortune) or just routine yard sale junk. Often the would-be sellers are disappointed, but occasionally we are all surprised that they are in possession of something worth even more than they could have hoped.

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection provided the authoritative word that our faith is valuable. Because He is the one true God, our faith is more than just a religious belief or series of practices. He holds power over life and death and, therefore, we can be assured His appraisal of our faith matters and ensures eternal life. His assessment is the one that counts.

We all have experienced doubts. Where do you turn in those moments when your faith is lacking?

Keeping a list of specific prayers that God has answered helps many to look back and trust in God's power.

16 BRINK Week 2 Devotion

DISCIPLESHIP TOOL FOR THE HOME

Coffee conversations can prompt further discussions or provide ideas for journaling.





Some argue that Jesus never claimed to be God. How does Scripture strongly refute that argument?

Many people make that argument without any context. Why is biblical literacy so important today?

Wednesday September 13 // Colossians 1:15-20

A few months ago, an unfortunate soccer accident resulted in the destruction of some LEGO® creations that a few of the kids in my church had left on a shelf in a classroom. While I appreciated the brick artwork, I didn't have the patience or skill to reassemble them. Besides, I had a soccer game to win, so I just scooped up the pieces and placed them in a box. When I came back the next week, all three were back to their original forms and back on the shelf. The artists had discovered their broken work and restored it.

It may not seem important that Jesus was involved in the creation of the universe, but this act provides us with an understanding of His desire for restoration. The effects of sin have been much more devastating to the world than a soccer ball to blocks. Fortunately, Christ is much more powerful than any human artist and, through His death and resurrection, has provided the path to rebuild. He will redeem and restore His creation.

How do you think Jesus feels about the current state of His creation?

In what ways can you be a part of His redemption plan?

Thursday, September 14 // Hebrews 2:14-18

Along with playing unsanctioned classroom games of soccer, I was a member of a few actual teams in my youth. During one training session, our effort was particularly poor, so the coach lined us up and told us we would run half-field sprints until he felt our desire to improve was sufficient. Then he did something unexpected and surprising—he joined us on the line and said, "Let's go! We've got this!" before blowing the whistle and running with us over and over again.

The team's attitude toward our coach's instruction changed that day because we knew he was willing to face the same hardship he was asking us to endure. Jesus came to earth and lived as a human in a much more meaningful example of embracing the difficulties of those who are being helped. He embraced humanity and all its difficulties in order to destroy death for us. By experiencing temptation, He was able to provide an example of responding well and fulfilling the will of God.

What did Christ do when He experienced temptation? Look up Matthew 4:1-11 for answers.

 $How \ could \ you \ follow \ His \ example \ when \ you \ face \ temptation?$

Friday, September 15 // 1 John 1:5-7

Scientifically speaking, darkness does not exist. Light exists, and since we need a way to describe the condition of the absence of this energy, we speak of darkness. Unfortunately, this truth does not help the child who wakes up in the middle of the night, can't see, and is afraid of what might be present that he can't see. Fortunately, there is a simple remedy: a light source.

Spiritually, the presence of God is the obvious remedy for the darkness of sin. Since the two cannot exist in the same place or the same life, we can illuminate our lives through a constant and intentional relationship with Him. There are obvious ways to experience His light—reading God's Word, praying, speaking with other Christians, attending church—but they are all dependent upon us ensuring we are actively engaging with our Creator. Like the scared child, we must activate the light in our area to receive the benefits of illumination.

What practices help you to walk in the light of God's Word?

Walking in darkness is not the same as making a mistake or committing a single sin. How can your response to these instances bring light into your life?

Saturday, September 16 // John 3:1–21

- Because John 3:16 is so famous, we often miss the context of the verse What is something you noticed in this passage that you've missed on previous readings?
- How would you explain to an unbeliever why a new birth is so important?

Saturday's devotion is a preview of Sunday's Scripture.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 17



FUSION FAMILY (FOR PARENTS WITH KIDS AT HOME)

This magazine is for people in the thick of parenting—raising tiny disciples in their homes.

Family Theme: JESUS IS GOD

Fusion Family includes eight or nine weeks of daily devotions, but it also has articles, interviews, columns, and ideas for families who are involved in daily discipleship.

Fusion Family's

your family.

devotions can be

used in your quiet

time or shared with

God Put on Flesh

Learn a verse as a family each month.

Sunday, September 10 · John 1:1-18



The apostle John made it clear from the beginning of the book of John that Jesus was no ordinary man. Jesus was and is God (John 1:1, 14). He is part of the Trinity. In Him is life. He created all things, and He gives life to all that was and is created. As the Living Word, He is the expression and interpretation of God. As the Light of the World, He shines the light, and the darkness will never put out His light. When Jesus was born of flesh, He identified with humanity as a Kinsman Redeemer. He is better than Moses. He was proclaimed by John the Baptist. Though He came into the world, the world rejected Him and did not believe in Him. However, all who believed could be called the children of God.

The truth that Jesus is God reminds us the God we serve is not merely a great man. He wasn't just a great prophet. He wasn't just another great leader. Jesus, whom we worship and adore, is God Himself. He has all power and authority. He truly has the power to save us and change us because He is God. He created us and He sustains us. Paul reminds us in his letter to the church at Colossae that Jesus holds all things together (Colossians 1:17). What does this all mean? It means that nothing we go through in life is too big for God. No matter how bleak life sometimes seems and no matter who may come against us, Jesus is God and nothing is hopeless. Life can bring us to the place where we begin to believe all is lost, but Jesus reminds us that He is the light. Nothing is lost.

NOTES:



John 1:1

Building Block

Jesus is 100% God, but He is also 100% man. This is called the incarnation.



Simple scriptural truths can be reviewed as a family. Don't miss this tool to improve biblical literacy!

the

18 FUSION Family | SEP/OCT 2023

DISCIPLESHIP TOOL FOR THE HOME

Teens and adults read the same passage each day. This opens the door for family discussion's about God's Word.



Monday, September 11 • 1 John 1:1-3

The apostle John saw and touched the Savior of the world. He wasn't just relaying a story he had been told by someone else. In a court of law, the best witness is one that saw the situation with his or her own eyes. An eyewitness provides the most reliable and trusted testimony. John was that kind of witness. What characteristics of John's testimony in verse 1 make John so reliable? Knowing Jesus Christ is who He claims to be brings great joy to those who have placed their faith and trust in Christ. It gives us a firm foundation that we know never fails. Even though the Christian life is a life of faith, it is not blind faith. We have the witness of those who saw Jesus face to face and wrote to tell us about what they saw.

Family Question: How does it encourage you to know the Gospel writers were eyewitnesses or recorded eyewitness testimony about Jesus?

NOTES:

Bring the children in to family devotions with the family questions.



- Who is the Word? Why does John use that metaphor? What encouragement does it bring to know that Jesus is God?
- The world rejected Jesus, the Creator. How do you feel when people reject you for your faith in Christ?
- How does seeing yourself as a child of God (John 1:12) shape your identity?



Tuesday, September 12 · 1 John 5:20

Real is always better than fake. We are not fooled by I Can't Believe It's Not Butter. Real cheese is better than fake cheese. Real chocolate is better than fake chocolate. The list goes on and on. The world today is looking for something that is real and genuine. The greatest comfort for the believer is that Jesus is the real deal. He is genuine. He is the "I Am." He is the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door to the sheep, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He was, is, and always will be. He is the genuine, true, real God. When He promises help in this life and the gift of eternal life, it is a guarantee. What comfort does it bring to know you can confidently trust in the real God?

Family Question: How does this verse describe Jesus?

NOTES:

Need ideas for connecting with teens?
Here are some questions to get you started.
No teens? Use these as journal prompts.

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Families who read these devotions together can have older children answer the highlighted questions.

FUSION FAMILY (FOR PARENTS WITH KIDS AT HOME)

Car Seat Conversation focuses on the preschool "Heartprint" and suggests ideas for activities to help your child remember it.

Family Theme: JESUS IS GOD

Wednesday, September 13 · Colossians 1:15-20



Jesus is supreme. There is no one greater or higher than He is. There is none more powerful. No one has more knowledge or wisdom than He does. He is God, and He created all things and is supreme over all things. Therefore, nothing is out of His control. What circumstance in your life do you currently feel is out of control? How does the truth that Jesus is absolutely supreme over all encourage you? Our lives are being held together by God, and there is nothing too big for Him. Because of this, Jesus deserves preeminence in our thinking and our decisions. He merits first place in our homes, our work, our spending, and our activities. The greatest truth about Jesus Christ, though, is that He offers us peace with God through His blood that He shed on the cross.

Family Question: Who created all things? How do we know this?

NOTES

Car Seat CONVERSATION

HEARTPRINT:God Has Many Names

Line up various photos of your child. Assign each photo a nickname your child might be called (Honeybun, Sister, Big Girl, Princess, Granddaughter, Cousin, etc.). You can pretend to be confused because the pictures look alike but have different names. Of course, your child will want to correct your misunderstanding; she has many names, but there is only one girl. Remind your preschooler that there is only one God. We use different names to describe Him and understand Him, but He is only one!

Thursday, September 14 · Hebrews 2:14-18



NOTES

Jesus loves us so much that He took on a human body so He could suffer a brutal death for us. He suffered and died in our place. John 1:14 says the Word became flesh. Jesus did this to set us free from the bondage of sin and death. **Does the thought of death ever worry or scare you?** Through Jesus Christ, Satan can no longer threaten us with death, because Jesus offers eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus became a man so that He could take all of our sins on Himself. He suffered and was tempted; He knows what we are going through. Because of this, He is merciful and faithful to us. As our great High Priest, He offered the sacrifice for sin—His own blood. Jesus understands what you are going through and knows how to overcome it.

Family Question: What is something these verses tell us about Jesus?

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DISCIPLESHIP TOOL FOR THE HOME

Each week's devotions emphasize the major truths of Sunday's study and reinforce our need to constantly learn from God's Word.

Verse of the Month: JOHN 1:1



Friday, September 15 • 1 John 1:5-7

Satchel Paige said that Cool Papa Bell, memorialized in the Baseball Hall of Fame, was so fast that he could flip off the lights and get into bed before it got dark. Most of us need a small nightlight to keep us from stumping our toes! A little light in the darkness makes a big difference. But think of the opposite. Does a bit of darkness affect the light? Does the darkness under your bed make any difference to the daylight? No! In these verses John reminded his readers there was no darkness at all in Jesus. Those who walk in darkness are not walking with Jesus. The path of sin is dangerous and ultimately painful. If, however, we walk in the light, reflecting the Light of the World and washed by His blood, we have fellowship with one another and freedom from the penalty and power of sin.

Family Question: What happens when we walk in the light of Jesus?

NOTES

Family Link is another idea for bringing spiritual truth into everyday life. Use these suggestions as springboards for your own ideas.

Family & Link

Learn a new vocabulary word together and keep score all day long to see who can use it (correctly) most often. You might even choose a word from another language! Words communicate ideas. They connect our thoughts with what is true and share meaning with others. That is why John described Jesus as the Word; God communicated Himself to us. Even those who should have understood Him best did not recognize Him as God. They scrambled the message. To reinforce the ideas of this chapter, play some other word games together. You could:

- Scramble the letters in the verse of the month (John 1:1) and see who can unscramble the verse.
- Develop a code to send each other messages. (You can exchange one letter for another, do a numeric code to correspond with the alphabet, or use a pictorial code.)
- Learn some key vocabulary to help you communicate with immigrant families in your school or neighborhood.



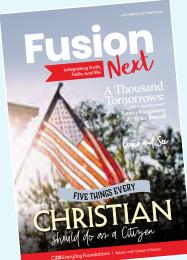
Saturday, September 16 John 3:1–21

- ► According to Jesus, what does Nicodemus' motivation seem to be in approaching Jesus? Why was it so difficult for Nicodemus to understand Jesus' statement about being "born again"?
- ► What was God's motivation in sending Jesus to be crucified? What does He require our response to be in order to obtain eternal life?

NOTES:

Saturday's devotion is preparation for Sunday's lesson.

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FUSION NEXT (FOR EMPTY NESTERS)

The devotional passages each day are the same for teens, young adults, parents, and grandparents.

This helps foster spiritual conversations in the home.

In addition to daily devotions, Fusion Next features articles and columns focused on adults who don't have children at home.

September 10, 2023

Family Theme: Jesus Is God Verse of the Month: John 1:1

God Put on Flesh

SUNDAY John 1:1-18

The apostle John made it clear from the beginning of the book of John that Jesus was no ordinary man. Jesus was and is God (John 1:1, 14). He is part of the Trinity. In Him is life. He created all things, and He gives life to all that was and is created. As the Living Word, He is the expression and interpretation of God. As the Light of the World, He shines the light, and the darkness will never put out His light. When Jesus was born of flesh, He identified with humanity as a Kinsman Redeemer. He is better than Moses. He was proclaimed by John the Baptist. Though He came into the world, the world rejected Him and did not believe in Him. However, all who believed could be called the children of God.

The truth that Jesus is God reminds us the God we serve is not merely a great man. He wasn't just a great prophet. He wasn't just another great leader. Jesus, whom we worship and adore, is God Himself. He has all power and authority. He truly has the power to save us and change us because He is God. He created us and He sustains us. Paul reminds us in his letter to the church at Colossae that Jesus holds all things together (Colossians 1:17). What does this all mean? It means that nothing we go through in life is too big for God. No matter how bleak life sometimes seems and no matter who may come against us, Jesus is God and nothing is hopeless. Life can bring us to the place where we begin to believe all is lost, but Jesus reminds us that He is the light. Nothing is lost.

Monday 1 John 1:1-3

The apostle John saw and touched the Savior of the world. He wasn't just relaying a story he had been told by someone else. In a court of law, the best witness is one that saw the situation with his or her own eyes. An eyewitness provides the most reliable and trusted testimony. John was that kind of witness. What characteristics of John's testimony in verse 1 makes John so reliable? Knowing Jesus Christ is who He claims to be brings great joy to those who have placed their faith and trust in Christ. It gives us a firm foundation that we know never fails. Even though the Christian life is a life of faith, it is not blind faith. We have the witness of those who saw Jesus face to face and wrote to tell us about what they saw. How does the truth of the disciples' eyewitness testimony encourage your faith?

Tuesday 1 John 5:20

Real is always better than fake. We are not fooled by I Can't Believe It's Not Butter. Real cheese is better than fake cheese. Real chocolate is better than fake chocolate. The list goes on and on. The world today is looking for something that is real and genuine. The greatest comfort for the believer is that Jesus is the real deal. He is genuine. He is the "I AM." He is the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door to the sheep, the Good Shepherd, the resurrection and the life, the way, the truth, and the life. He was, is, and always will be. He is the genuine, true, real God. When He promises help in this life and the gift of eternal life, it is a guarantee. What comfort does it bring to know you can confidently trust in the real God?

BUILDING BLOCK: Jesus is 100% God, but He is also 100% man.
This is called the incarnation.

FusionNext September/October

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Foundational truths, definitions, and doctrines are weekly building blocks to review and share!

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Week 2 Devotions

DISCIPLESHIP TOOL FOR THE HOME

Do you enjoy journaling? Great! Here are fresh ideas. No? Then treat them as ideas to reflect on in the shower or as your wait in traffic.

WEDNESDAY Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus is supreme. There is no one greater or higher than He is. There is none more powerful. No one has more knowledge or wisdom than He does. He is God, and He created all things and is supreme over all things. Therefore, nothing is out of His control. What circumstance in your life do you currently feel is out of control? How does the truth that Jesus is absolutely supreme over all encourage you? Our lives are being held together by God, and there is nothing too big for Him. Because of this, Jesus deserves preeminence in our thinking and our decisions. He merits first place in our homes, our work, our spending, and our activities. The greatest truth about Jesus Christ, though, is that He offers us peace with God through His blood that He shed on the cross.

THURSDAY Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus loves us so much that He took on a human body so He could suffer a brutal death for us. He suffered and died in our place. John 1:14 says the Word became flesh. Jesus did this to set us free from the bondage of sin and death. Does the thought of death ever worry or scare you? Through Jesus Christ, Satan can no longer threaten us with death, because Jesus offers eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus became a man so that He could take all of our sins on Himself. He suffered and was tempted; He knows what we are going through. Because of this, He is merciful and faithful to us. As our great High Priest, He offered the sacrifice for sin—His own blood. Jesus understands what you are going through and knows how to overcome it.

FRIDAY 1 John 1:5-7

Satchel Paige said that Cool Papa Bell, memorialized in the Baseball Hall of Fame, was so fast that he could flip off the lights and get into bed before it got dark. Most of us need a small nightlight to keep us from stumping our toes! A little light in the darkness makes a big difference. But think of the opposite. Does a bit of darkness affect the light? Does the darkness under your bed make any difference to the daylight? No! In these verses John reminded his readers there was no darkness at all in Jesus. Those who walk in darkness are not walking with Jesus. The path of sin is dangerous and ultimately painful. If, however, we walk in the light, reflecting the Light of the World and washed by His blood, we have fellowship with one another and freedom from the penalty and power of sin.

Journal PROMPTS

Who is the Word? What encouragement does it bring to your life to know that Jesus is God?

The world rejected Jesus, the Creator. How do you feel when people reject you for your faith in

SATURDAY John 3:1-21

- According to Jesus, what does Nicodemus' motivation seem to be in approaching Jesus? Why was it so difficult for Nicodemus to understand Jesus' statement about being "born again"?
- What was God's motivation in sending Jesus to be crucified? What does He require our response to be in order to obtain eternal life?

Fusion Next September/October

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Week 2 Devotions



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ORDERING SCHEDULE

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