

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **September 5, 2021** Family Theme | **While We Wait** Study Text | **1 Thessalonians 4:1 – 5:11**

**Objective:** Family members choose to live in ways that please God, view death differently than the world, and remain ready for Christ's return.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This Scripture was written within 20 years or so after the resurrection of Christ (AD 50-51) probably during Paul's 18-month stay in Corinth (Acts 18). Paul and his companions continued to take the gospel to the Gentiles, plant churches in various cities, and teach believers to obey what Christ commanded.

**Bible Basics:** Work with family members to memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-6 this week.

**Read the Word:** 1 Thessalonians 4:1 – 5:11

## Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children or grandchildren about how followers of Christ are to view things differently than many in our culture do. This includes how we view sexuality, relationships with others, work ethic, death, and remaining ready for Christ's return.



**Key Truth: Practicing Sexual Purity, Brotherly Love, and Productive Living Pleases God (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12)**

Paul's instructions here covered how to live in a way that pleases God. For one thing, it is God's will for His people to be sexually pure, not marred by sexual immorality. Another way we please God is by showing brotherly love to those around us, and especially to other believers. God is also pleased when believers practice productive lifestyles, minding their own business and supporting themselves and their families.



**Key Truth: Believers Have Hope, Even in Grief (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)**

The gospel changes how we react to life, and to death. Paul wanted believers to understand what had become of other believers who had died or fallen asleep. Believers who have died have entered into the Lord's presence and enjoy Him in ways those of us who are still alive can only imagine. Yet the Thessalonians feared that their dead loved ones might somehow miss the Lord's return. Paul put their fears to rest. Christ will return visibly, publicly, and in great triumph. The dead in Christ will be raised and meet Him first. Then those still alive at Christ's return will join them, and nothing will ever again separate them.



**Key Truth: God's People Are to Remain Spiritually Alert and Ready for Christ's Return (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)**

Paul expected the Thessalonians *not* to be taken by surprise by Christ's return. He expected them to be ready, living as people who belonged in the daylight. For such people, Christ's return will be glorious. Those who belong to the darkness will find it devastating, like a thief striking without warning. We do not have to know the timing of Christ's return to live in the sure hope and expectation of it. We should endeavor to live in such a way that we would not be embarrassed if He returned tomorrow. We should also try to build lives that will stand the test of time if He does not return for another two thousand years.

# Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Why should we want to live in ways that please God?
- How should we be different from the world around us in the area of sexuality?
- What are some ways we can demonstrate love for those around us?
- Why is it important for Christians to work hard at what we do and provide for ourselves and our families?
- Why can Christians view death differently than those who don't know Christ do?
- Why is Christ's return something to look forward to for the believer?
- What would change in your life if you lived each day as if Christ was coming that day?
- **For Elementary:** What are some lies Satan tries to get you to believe about living a holy life?
- **For Elementary:** What are some truths from God's Word that you can use to counter his lies?
- **For Elementary:** Why is it important to live your life in ways that please God?

## Everyday Extras

What pleases schoolteachers? Make a list with your children of behaviors and attitudes that would make their schoolteachers happy. Talk about the benefits of having happy teachers. Choose one item from your list and put it into practice this week. Challenge your children to go over and beyond in that area. Pray together for your child's teachers and send them each a note to say so — maybe with a cupcake or candy bar attached.

We also know how to please God. He tells us in His Word. Your family could make another list of some of the instructions in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 5. Be intentional about pleasing Him this week too!

## Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned about a man named Saul who did not like Jesus. Jesus blinded Saul and asked him why he was hurting the people who followed Him. God sent a man named Ananias to heal Saul from his blindness. When Saul was able to see again, He knew Jesus was real and chose to follow Him. **I Can Follow Jesus** too.

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **September 12, 2021** Family Theme | **Everyday Christianity** Study Text | **1 Thessalonians 5:12-28**

**Objective:** Family members understand that God's Word gives us practical guidance for living. They put the practical truths of God's Word into practice each day.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This lesson is set around 20 years after the resurrection of Christ as Paul instructed the new believers at Thessalonica in some of the practical aspects of Christian living.

**Bible Basics:** Go over the following question and answer each day this week and work with family members to do so as well. **What is sanctification? Answer:** Sanctification is the process a Christian enters at conversion in which he becomes more and more holy throughout his life (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

## Read the Word: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

## Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children about how we can put the practical instructions from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 into practice.



### **Key Truth: Believers Treat Others With Love and Respect** (1 Thessalonians 5:12-15)

Human relationships always need attention, even in a church. Paul insisted that people in a Christian congregation respect the leaders who work hard among them. Treating spiritual leaders with disrespect and dishonor distracts and discourages them. Paul also instructed the congregation in how to treat three other groups. The idle needed warning. They needed to work to support themselves. The timid needed encouragement to speak up when needed. The weak needed others to help them. They need our patience and help, not our condemnation. Finally, Paul urged patience with everyone. Kindness to all was to mark believers.



### **Key Truth: Believers Keep Their Hearts Right With God** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-22)

Paul's next instructions seem to move from external acts to attitudes of the heart. First came joy. Knowing Christ and His blessings should lead to joy. Believers who cultivate joy will more easily give themselves to frequent prayer, ready to pray at all times. Joyful believers will more easily display thankfulness, even in difficult situations. Paul specified being thankful *in* all situations — not the same as being thankful *for* all situations. It is God's will for believers to be joyful, prayerful, and thankful. We must also be careful not to stand in the way of something the Spirit wants to do among us. We are to test things by God's Word and hang on to what passes the test. Whenever evil appears, whatever kind of evil it might be, we are to refuse it or avoid it.



### **Key Truth: God Is Working to Make Believers Holy (1 Thessalonians 5:23-28)**

Paul understood that the Creator of the universe and Redeemer of the world was present and active among

the Thessalonian believers. His prayer that God would set them apart for His service and keep them from sin was Paul's primary resource for the congregation because Paul understood God's faithfulness. God wanted the success of the Thessalonian church even more than Paul did. Paul wanted his words to be read aloud to the entire congregation. He understood that what he had written was important for their walks with God.

## Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Why is it so important that we do what Scripture teaches, rather than just learning what it says?
- How can we show respect and love for our church leaders?
- What are some practical actions we are to take with each other in the body of Christ?
- What does it mean to pray without ceasing?
- What are some things we can do to help keep our hearts on track with the Lord?
- What practical teaching of Scripture do you need to more fully live out this week?
- **For Elementary:** Why is it so important that we do what Scripture teaches, rather than just learning what it says?
- **For Elementary:** What are some verses from God's Word that have encouraged you in getting along with others?

## Everyday Extras

Emphasize Paul's three short commands in 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 by giving each one a special day. Have a Rejoicing Day, where everyone in the family must rejoice — no frowns, no tears, no complaining. On Praying Day, everyone should pray often — continually. Pack prayers in lunch boxes, pray about everything that happens. Pray aloud or silently, alone or together. On Thankful Day, give gratitude to God for both good things and bad things that happen. Try to thank God constantly. (This is good practice for Thanksgiving!)

Talk together about these special days. What did you learn? How did you feel? Should these days be special? Or should we practice these attitudes every day? Maybe every Monday will become Rejoicing Day at your house!

## Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Saul wanted others to know about and follow Jesus. He and his friend, Barnabas, began telling the Gentiles (people who were not Jews) about Jesus, and Saul began going by the Greek form of his name — Paul. The two men traveled to many cities telling others about Jesus. **I Can Follow Jesus** and tell others about Him.

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **September 19, 2021** Family Theme | **Standing Firm in Truth** Study Text | **2 Thessalonians 2:1-17**

**Objective:** Family members understand that certain events will take place before Christ returns. They choose to learn and practice God's revealed truth to help them stand firm until He comes.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This lesson is set shortly after Paul's first letter to the new church in Thessalonica (around AD 51) as the gospel was being taken to all nations and peoples according to God's plan.

**Bible Basics:** Review the names and order of the first eight books of the Old Testament and the first eight books of the New Testament this week and work with family members to do so as well.

## Read the Word: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

### Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand some of the events that will precede Christ's second coming. Encourage them to put into practice the truths God has revealed in His Word so they can stand firm in faith.



#### **Key Truth: The Evil Deceiver Will Be Revealed Before Christ Returns (2 Thessalonians 2:1-5)**

Some serious misunderstanding of events related to the second coming of Christ troubled the Thessalonian congregation. Paul told the Thessalonians to avoid deception by recognizing that the Second Coming (*day of the Lord* in verse 2) would not take place until a rebellion occurred, and a man of lawlessness was revealed. This evil deceiver would try to set himself up above any and all deities, even proclaiming himself to be God in God's place. Deception is a danger to us if we do not guard against it. We must fill our minds and hearts with God's Word in order to know truth and recognize deception.



#### **Key Truth: Evil Is Restrained Until the Time for the Evil Deceiver to Be Revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:6-12)**

Some of the lawlessness the Evil Deceiver will bring was already at work, but someone or something was actively restraining it. The lawless one is often associated with the idea of the Antichrist. He will have his own revelation when the restraining power goes away, only to be destroyed by Jesus when He comes again. The revealing of the lawless one will be accompanied by all kinds of lawless behavior, as well as deceptive signs of all sorts. Since those he deceives will spurn the truth, God will give them over to believe the lies they want to be true. Only by a profound love of the truth can believers avoid the great deception that is destroying unbelievers on a daily basis.



#### **Key Truth: Holding to God's Revealed Truth Helps Us Stand Firm While Awaiting Christ's Return (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17)**

The contrast between the believing Thessalonians and their unbelieving counterparts led Paul to give thanks. The unbelievers continued toward destruction through their persistence in wickedness and

unbelief. The believers stood firm in belief and in the truth. God had called them through the gospel. It was God's offer to them that allowed them to share in the Lord's glory. Since God had called them, they could have confidence and stand firm in the truth they had been taught.

## Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- What are some examples of false teaching and false philosophies in our culture?
- What can we do to guard ourselves from being deceived by false teaching?
- What did Paul say would happen before the day of the Lord comes?
- What kinds of things help us to endure and stay strong in our faith?
- How can we become so grounded in the truth that we cannot be deceived by the false teachings of the world?
- What will you do this week to make sure you are grounded in the truth of God's Word?
- **For Elementary:** What can we do to guard ourselves from being deceived by false teaching?
- **For Elementary:** Have you felt the Holy Spirit help you recognize a lie that goes against God's truth?

## Everyday Extras

Run some plastic figures or animals through the dishwasher, then let your children add them to gelatin for dessert. Talk together about the way the gelatin congeals or sets as it cools. The toys are "planted" in it and not easily removed. That's the way we can be about God's truth. We are firmly set in it and cannot be moved.

Take the illustration a step further and talk about concrete. Remind your children that the mixture can be shaped and smoothed at first, but then it hardens into a very firm surface — firm enough to park a car on it, firm enough to require a jackhammer if you want to move it! We don't have gelatin truth from God's Word — we have concrete truth!

## Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned Paul wrote letters to the believers in Thessalonica to share God's message with them. Paul encouraged the people to show love to each other through their words. He also reminded the people to continue to love Jesus and talk to Him through prayer. **I Can Learn From God's Word** how to do these same things.

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **September 26, 2021** Family Theme | **Standing Firm in Integrity** Study Text | **2 Thessalonians 3:1-18**

**Objective:** Family members understand that God wants His people to be hard workers, doing what is good and right at all times and holding each other accountable for ongoing disobedience.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** Like the previous lesson, this lesson is set around AD 51 as Paul wrote to the new believers in Thessalonica about some questions they had and situations they faced. He followed Christ's command to make disciples, teaching them all that Christ had commanded.

**Bible Basics:** Review Hebrews 11:6 and James 1:22 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

**Read the Word:** 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

## Disciple Your Kids

Make sure family members understand that God expects believers to work hard at whatever they are responsible for and to lovingly hold each other accountable for ongoing disobedience.



### **Key Truth: Believers Pray for One Another (2 Thessalonians 3:1-5)**

Paul asked the Thessalonians to pray for him. He continued to drive forward with the gospel and wanted the message of Christ to find acceptance among others, just as it had among the Thessalonians. It would not happen without prayer. Paul prayed that God's work among the believers would lead them to God's love and Christ's perseverance. Any hope we may have of living with integrity will require prayer and encouragement from other believers. They will in turn need ours. Church leaders need the prayers of those whom they lead, and the people of the congregation need the prayers of their leaders.



### **Key Truth: Believers Work to Support Themselves (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12)**

Paul heard that some of the Thessalonian believers were idle. They were not busy earning a living, but rather were busybodies. They could not be bothered to take care of their own affairs, but they apparently tried to run the affairs of their brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul told the church to separate from those who were idle. Living an idle life did not fit with the teaching Paul had given the church. To be idle is not in keeping with the character of God in whose image we are made. Paul reminded them of his own example. He and his companions did not live off the labor of the Thessalonians, even though they had the right to do so. They paid their own way. He had instructed them that those who would not work were not to eat.



### **Key Truth: Believers Hold Each Other Accountable for Ongoing Disobedience (2 Thessalonians 3:13-18)**

Paul urged the Thessalonian believers not to tire of doing the right thing, including helping those with legitimate needs. He recognized, however, that some would rather ignore his instructions and maintain their idle lifestyle, and he had strong instructions concerning such people: identify them and withdraw from them. Warn them as wayward brothers or sisters. This should cause them to be ashamed of their idleness.

# Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- What does it mean to live with integrity?
- Why is it important that we pray for one another as believers?
- What does it mean to be a responsible member of the community?
- What does it mean to be a responsible member of the church?
- How is hard work related to integrity?
- Why did Paul instruct believers to withdraw fellowship from church members who continue to live in sin?
- **For Elementary:** What does integrity mean?
- **For Elementary:** How can being a person of integrity show others you value your relationship with Jesus?

## Everyday Extras

Help your children learn that hard work is commendable. Have a family work day project — cleaning out the garage, raking leaves, winterizing the house, washing windows or carpets, or some other all-hands-on-deck chores. Or you can take the work day on the road and labor for your church building or a needy neighbor. Make sure everyone in the family has a part in accomplishing the work.

When you talk about it later, discuss the benefits of the work — for your home (or church or friend) and for you personally. How did you feel after the work was finished? Even from Creation, God has given us meaningful work to do. Laziness does not honor Him, but hard work does!

## Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Paul wrote letters to remind the believers in Thessalonica to get along and be patient with each other. He told them to be joyful always, pray continuously, and give thanks in everything. Your child also heard Webster Family stories to remind them of truths from God's Word. **I Can Learn From God's Word.**

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **October 3, 2021** Family Theme | **Everyday Discipleship** Study Text | **Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Luke 9:23**

**Objective:** Parents and grandparents help children focus on learning and practicing God's Word every day.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This scriptural concept of family discipleship is introduced in Deuteronomy at the end of Moses' life and before Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land (1406 BC). It is continued throughout both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

**Bible Basics:** Go over the following question and answer each day this week and work with family members to do so as well. **Is there any other God? Answer:** No. There is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), and He exists as a unity of three persons called the Trinity. These three are the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Mark 1:9-11).

**Read the Word:** Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Luke 9:23

## Disciple Your Kids

Help your children or grandchildren develop daily habits of learning God's Word and applying it to their lives.



**Key Truth: Discipleship Includes Learning God's Word, Practicing It, and Teaching It to Others (Deuteronomy 6:1-3)**

Discipleship is a word not used commonly outside the religious setting. A disciple is a follower or a learner. Deuteronomy 6:1-3 helps us understand that discipleship is learning, practicing, and teaching the ways of God. Discipleship is more than just Bible study; it is a way of life that models Christianity to those around us. We grow in Christ daily and help others grow (especially our children).



**Key Truth: Discipleship Is for Every Day, Not Just Sunday (Luke 9:23)**

In Luke 9:23, the Lord said anyone who wants to be His disciple must deny self, take up his or her cross *daily*, and follow Him. This section will focus on one aspect of this command: daily. It is important to know that following Christ is an everyday thing. We are to be as much of a Christian Monday through Saturday as we are on Sundays. How can we make sure that spiritual growth is part of our daily lives? Daily spiritual disciplines (good habits) such as the following have helped Christians walk closely with God during the past 2000 years: prayer, Bible reading and study, memorizing Scripture, worship, journaling, biblical meditation, fellowship with other believers, living a simple life, and submitting all areas of our lives to God.



**Key Truth: Parents Have the Privilege and Responsibility of Discipling Their Children (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)**

This passage is a command from God for parents to teach their children about Him in multiple ways, multiple places, and at multiple times. It begins with the parents' relationships with God. Parents are to love God with all their being and take God's Word to heart. That includes putting it into practice. Then they are to teach it to their children. Parents are to teach the Lord's commandments at home, along the road, in the morning and the evening, and whenever else the opportunity arises. The local church is here to help and

equip parents, and to provide other Christian mentors for our children. But the biblical command to teach, train, mentor, and model the faith to our children is given to parents. No one has more influence on a child's life than his or her parents.

## Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- What is discipleship?
- In what ways is discipleship to be a daily thing, not just a Sunday thing?
- What kinds of things can we do daily to grow as a disciple?
- What kinds of things can we do daily to disciple others?
- Who carries the primary responsibility for teaching children to follow Christ? Why?
- What does it look like for parents and grandparents to use teachable moments to pass the faith along to the next generation?
- If you have children or grandchildren, what teachable moments will you use this week to talk with them about God?
- **For Elementary:** What is discipleship?
- **For Elementary:** What kinds of things can we do daily to grow as a disciple?
- **For Elementary:** What kinds of things can we do daily to disciple others?

## Everyday Extras

Draw your Spiritual Family Tree. Who led you to the Lord? Who led that person to the Lord? See how many “generations” you can identify. This may take some investigation, but the task will undoubtedly lead to some good discoveries. Send those spiritual parents and grandparents a thank you card.

Deuteronomy 6:7-9 taught about the teachable moments in family life: sitting at home, walking (or driving) down the road, bedtime, and first thing in the morning. Parents, be sure to optimize those everyday occasions with your children. Brainstorm together how you might improve one of those opportune times to share God's truth with your children. (Hint: If you have teens, you'll probably want to emphasize bedtime instead of early mornings.)

## Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned God is the Creator of all families, but not all families look the same. God wants all families to help each other learn more about Jesus and to care for each other. Your child also heard a Webster Family story to help him or her remember **God Made Families**, and He loves them all.

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **October 10, 2021** Family Theme | **Generational Discipleship**  
Study Text | **Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Timothy 1:3-7; Galatians 5:22-23**

**Objective:** Help your children and grandchildren understand that their parents, grandparents, and other godly influences are to help them learn about God and His Word. They should learn and put into practice what they are taught.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This lesson proclaims a biblical principle found throughout Scripture. In the latter days of their lives, both Moses and Paul emphasized the need for each generation to teach God's Word and ways to the generations that follow.

**Bible Basics:** Review Deuteronomy 6:4-6 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

**Read the Word:** Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Timothy 1:3-7; Galatians 5:22-23

## Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how they can learn about God and His Word from their parents, grandparents, and other godly influences. Encourage them to put what they learn into practice.



### **Key Truth: Generational Discipleship Begins in the Home** (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)

Generational discipleship is incorporating God into the things we already do in everyday life. It is allowing God to shape our everyday family experience to include His ways and His truths. Discipling our children doesn't require a seminary degree, a lifetime of biblical knowledge, or even the right answer all the time. Instead, it has everything to do with a willing heart and intentional actions. There are three distinct steps to family discipleship that we see in Deuteronomy 6:5-9. The first is loving God ourselves. The second is that we talk about the truths of God with our children or grandchildren. Moses said we are to talk about the truth of God as we go about our normal, everyday activities. The third principle is to model the ways of God to our children. Children learn how to be like Christ by watching us.



### **Key Truth: Other Godly Influences Can Help Parents Disciple Their Children** (2 Timothy 1:3-7)

Fuller Theological Seminary conducted a multiyear study of hundreds of teenagers to find out what causes some to have a faith that lasts after high school and what causes others to flounder. One of the key truths they found among students that had a firm faith was that these students had a web of spiritual influence in their lives. It wasn't enough for just mom and dad to speak truth to them. There were coaches, teachers, grandparents, pastors, and small group leaders that all influenced the teenagers. We see this "web of spiritual influence" in Timothy's life as he grew into spiritual maturity. Timothy's mother Eunice wisely brought other influences into her son's spiritual guidance. She made sure Timothy spent time with his grandmother Lois and apparently encouraged the mentoring relationship Timothy had with Paul.



### **Key Truth: The Bible Is Full of Truths and Principles to Pass to the Next Generations** (Galatians 5:22-23)

Since many of us never experienced this mentoring relationship ourselves, we feel at a loss as to where to start. The good news is, God's Word gives many important truths and principles to talk about with children. Here are a few to get us started. Teach and practice the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Live out the good news of repentance and forgiveness (Isaiah 1:18). Model a willingness to seek godly counsel before making major decisions (Proverbs 15:22). Be willing to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

## Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- What needs to be happening in parents' lives before they can effectively teach God's Word and ways to their children?
- What does Deuteronomy 6:7 say about how and when parents are to teach their children about God's Word?
- What would Deuteronomy 6:7 look like for us today? What are some "teachable moments" in our culture today?
- How can a church family support and partner with parents as they disciple their children?
- What steps could you take this week to begin discipling your children or to do so more effectively?
- If you do not have children at home, what could you do to help disciple the next generation?
- **For Elementary:** What does Deuteronomy 6:7 say about how and when parents are to teach their children about God's Word?
- **For Elementary:** Who are some people who are godly influences in your life?
- **For Elementary:** Who are some people to whom you can be a godly influence?

## Everyday Extras

Teach your child something you learned from your parents. Choose an age appropriate activity. Here are a few ideas: making a bed, shining shoes, making biscuits or cookies, planting a tree, drawing a box, folding origami, hammering a nail, wrapping a gift, changing a tire or checking tire pressure, playing an instrument, ironing a shirt. But these are just prompts. Tell your child about learning the activity and why you do things like your parents did. That's the way God designed families — so that children learn from their parents and share it with another generation after them.

There may also be family stories that you can retell; maybe they are from your grandparents! God's Word instructs parents to share their faith with their children too. Teaching another generation about the wonderful works of God is a parent's privilege and responsibility. Be sure your "family storybook" includes stories about your faith.

## Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned more about the different families God made. God wants parents to teach their children what His Word says, and He wants families to talk about Him wherever they are. Your child heard a Webster Family story to help him or her remember **God Made Families** to help others learn about Him.

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **October 17, 2021** Family Theme | **Consequences of Disobedience** Study Text | **1 Samuel 13:1-23**

**Objective:** Children understand obedience is always the best choice and commit to obey the Lord in every area of life, no matter the circumstances.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This lesson is set around 1030 BC during Saul's reign as king of Israel. Saul's disobedience resulted in God giving the kingdom to another man (David) to lead His people.

**Bible Basics:** Memorize 1 John 1:9 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

**Read the Word:** 1 Samuel 13:1-23

## Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about why obeying God is always best for us. Encourage them to obey what God says this week.



**Key Truth: Both Obedience and Disobedience Result in Consequences (1 Samuel 13:1-7, 13-14)**

Philistines occupied much of the land. After Jonathan attacked a Philistine outpost, the Philistines mustered a large force to punish Israel. Seeing the large enemy deployment, many of Saul's soldiers drifted away. They sought protection in caves and even on the other side of the Jordan River. They were trembling with fear. Saul acted unwisely, breaking a command of the Lord, and God rejected Saul (verses 13-14). He would not become the head of a long royal line. In fact, God had already chosen a replacement to lead the people. Israel's choices, and Saul's, were like stones thrown into a calm pond. Ripples of results radiated across history. Both obedience and disobedience produce consequences far beyond the moment in which our choices are made.



**Key Truth: Our Decisions Should Be Driven by God's Word, Not by Our Circumstances (1 Samuel 13:8-12)**

Samuel had indicated to Saul that he would join him in a week to offer sacrifices to God, to ask for God's favor in their struggle against the Philistines. During the wait, Saul grew impatient. On the seventh day he could wait no longer and ordered the material for sacrifice. As the ceremony drew to a close, Samuel arrived. He demanded an explanation from Saul, who gave excuses for taking things into his own hands. Saul's hasty decision made the difference between God's protection and His rejection. Impatience was not Saul's only problem. He was of weak faith, thinking disaster was certain. He forgot God's deliverance of Israel multiple times in the past. He focused entirely on the danger he perceived. He fell into fear, instead of fighting in faith.



**Key Truth: Bad Decisions Lead to Difficult Circumstances (1 Samuel 13:15-23)**

Saul and Jonathan combined their forces in Gibeah, where Samuel had gone, while the Philistines were at Michmash. The Philistines had enough troops to cut off any expeditions by the Israelites, no matter which direction they went. The Philistines' occupation of the terrain put Israel at a disadvantage, even if both parties had been equally armed, which they were not. Israel had no iron weapons to counter those of the Philistines. They had some iron farm implements, but not weapons. The technology gap was so great that the Israelites lacked even the resources to sharpen their own tools. They had to pay high prices to the Philistines even for that. So as the time for battle approached, only the king and his son had actual weapons with them.

## Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Why is it important for children to obey their parents?
- Why is it important for people in general to obey those in authority over them?
- Why is it important for believers to obey God?
- How might disobedience have a ripple effect in our lives? What are some examples?
- How might obedience have a ripple effect in our lives? What are some examples?
- In general, what does obedience to God lead to in our lives?
- In what area do you need to take steps this week to obey God? What, specifically, do you need to do?
- **For Elementary:** What is one thing you learned from King Saul's disobedience?
- **For Elementary:** Why is it important for believers to obey God?

## Everyday Extras

Roleplay some scenarios about what happens when children disobey. You can adjust these to the ages of your children, but set up some circumstances and follow the consequences of not making the right choices. You could make the stories quite extreme, determining worst case scenarios as a succession of bad choices adds up. Remind your children that disobeying God always has consequences, even if we don't see them immediately. Sin separates us from God and always displeases Him; that is a severe consequence all on its own!

Play a game of Simon Says with your children to show them how we need to be careful to obey. The consequence of their "disobedience" is that they are out and don't get to play anymore.

## Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned the Philistines wanted to fight God's people, the Israelites. The Philistines had a strong, nine-foot-tall, champion fighter named Goliath. King Saul and the Israelites were afraid of Goliath. They needed to be brave and trust God. Being brave is doing something even when you're afraid. **God Helps Me Be Brave.**

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **October 24, 2021** Family Theme | **Faith Stands Up to Challenges** Study Text | **1 Samuel 17:1-58**

**Objective:** Family members choose to do everything God leads them to do, confident that God will bring about His will.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This lesson is set around 1025 BC during Saul's reign as king of Israel. David had been secretly anointed as king by Samuel and was serving in Saul's court. He now entered the public scene by facing Goliath in battle.

**Bible Basics:** Review Mark 16:15 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

**Read the Word:** 1 Samuel 17:1-58

## Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that trusting God makes it possible for us to do what is good and right no matter what other people might think. We follow God's directions, trusting God to take care of us.



### **Key Truth: God's People Face Challenges to Their Faith (1 Samuel 17:1-24)**

When David went to visit his brothers at the battle lines, he faced two very different challenges. The first was Goliath, who taunted Saul and his army for 40 days, twice a day. He was an idolatrous pagan. His people, the Philistines, were a continual problem for Israel and Saul. This challenge lay before Saul and all his army. They observed, but dared not act. The second challenge was David's brothers' and fellow soldiers' unbelief. His oldest brother Eliab belittled him, attacking his character and motivation. Saul in turn, when David finally stood before him, showed no confidence in David's abilities or competence. It is hard to imagine a more intimidating physical adversary than the legendary Goliath. The Hebrew text used for most Bible translations gives his height as "six cubits and a span," over nine feet. Goliath's armor added well over 100 pounds. The iron tip of his spear weighed over 15 pounds. He defied Israel's army. Whoever defied Israel's army defied their God, too. Saul should have answered Goliath's taunts. Saul was taller than the other Israelites, and he was the king. If he was unwilling to participate in the combat himself, then he should have been "kingly" enough to send someone else. Instead, he avoided any conflict altogether by trying to bribe someone (anyone) to do it for him.



### **Key Truth: God Honors Courageous Faith (1 Samuel 17:25-58)**

David offered a solution for Saul's problem — he, David, would fight Goliath. David understood that his victories over wild animals had prepared him to defeat Israel's enemy as well. Those previous victories had come from God; present victory would come from the same source. David did not require the weapons that conventional wisdom demanded. He refused the unfamiliar armor because he needed to be as mobile as possible. He went with what he knew — a sling and five stones — and stepped up to fight. David focused on his belief that the God of Israel would honor His Name and His covenant with His people. Goliath had picked a fight not with Saul or his army or even with David, but with God. David met Philistine armor with the name of God. David ran in quickly and attacked with a stone from his sling. The enemy fell. To complete the task, David used Goliath's own sword to decapitate him. Such an unexpected outcome shocked the Philistines, and they fled in panic. The newly confident Israelites pursued them, then returned to plunder

the abandoned enemy camp. God's victory through David spoke to many that day, Philistines and Israelites alike.

## Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- What does it mean to be courageous?
- Why is it often necessary for us to be courageous in our faith?
- What challenges did David face in 1 Samuel 17?
- What kinds of challenges do believers face in our culture?
- How does trust in God help us face challenges?
- In what ways does God honor courageous faith?
- What challenge are you facing in which you need to trust God and have courage?
- **For Elementary:** What kinds of challenges do believers face in our culture?
- **For Elementary:** How can David's faith in God encourage you in your walk with Him?
- **For Elementary:** What are some areas in which you need to demonstrate courageous faith in God?

## Everyday Extras

Host a contest for your children to dress in clothes that are much too large and go to battle. The "weapons" could be pool noodles, stuffed plastic bags, Nerf guns, paper wads, or balled up socks. How do the big clothes affect the battle plan? Was David wise to reject Saul's armor as he went to battle with Goliath? Talk about the way God has enabled you to face difficult battles and the personality, abilities, and resources He has provided for you. Is bullying a problem in your child's peer group? Help your children identify ways to stand up against bullies, whether in person or online, whether for themselves or for friends.

## Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned a boy named David was checking on his brothers when he heard Goliath shouting at the Israelite army. He didn't understand why the Israelites were afraid and why the giant thought he was bigger than God. David knew God would help the Israelites. **God Helps Me Be Brave** when I am afraid.

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **October 31, 2021** Family Theme | **Blessings of Obedience** Study Text | **2 Samuel 6:1-15; 7:1-29**

**Objective:** Help children understand that honoring God is the most important thing they can do and they choose to pursue God with all their hearts.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This lesson is set around 1010 BC after Saul died and David became king. David brought the ark of God, which represented God's presence, to Jerusalem, the capital and religious center of Israel. God's promise to David concerned the Savior God would send through the nation of Israel.

**Bible Basics:** Memorize the names and order of books nine through fourteen of the Old Testament (1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

**Read the Word:** 2 Samuel 6:1-15; 7:1-29

## Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that we should seek to honor God in everything we do and put His will first.



**Key Truth: Those Who Love God Seek His Presence and Worship Him (2 Samuel 6:1-15)**

David's desire to bring the ark of God (Exodus 25:10-22) to Jerusalem was a special project. The ark represented the presence of God and David wanted it in their center of worship. They did, however, fail to follow God's specific instructions concerning transporting the ark; they loaded it onto a new cart instead of carrying it. Arriving at a threshing floor not far from the destination, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark. He died on the spot, struck down by God for what He considered to be an act of irreverent disobedience. David was afraid to take the ark farther, and left it close by at the house of Obed-edom. God blessed Obed-edom's household during that time. David learned of God's blessing on Obed-edom and relaunched the effort, this time following God's instructions.



**Key Truth: God Honors Those Who Seek to Honor Him (2 Samuel 7:1-17)**

David well understood his leadership role. He had protected his people, with God's help. He felt also that it was his role to lead the nation to acknowledge its responsibility to God by building a more permanent worship structure. Nathan the prophet encouraged him to proceed. God, however, thought otherwise. God did not belittle David. Instead he recognized the honorable desire of David's heart and continued to honor him. God was establishing the house of David! His house and kingdom would be established forever. Ultimately, in Hebrews 1, we learn there was one in particular in David's line whose kingdom and throne would endure forever — Jesus Christ. David could not know how far-reaching God's blessings upon his family would go — all the way to our families!



**Key Truth: Those Who Love God Put His Will First and Give Thanks for His Favor (2 Samuel 7:18-29)**

David did not wallow in disappointment or sulk at the project's delay. He focused on God, understanding that his family had no special claim or qualification. God abundantly blessed David and his family and revealed to him the future destiny of his house. David understood God was doing something and revealing it according to His divine will, for the sake of God's own Word. There were no other people like God's people. Almighty God called them forth and established them, destroying entire nations and false gods that stood in the way. David gratefully and humbly accepted God's will. What counted was God: His plans, His will, His name. David was the king, yet he humbly accepted his place as the servant of God and God's people.

## Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- What does it mean to seek God?
- What does it mean to honor God?
- How can we seek to honor God in everything we do?
- Why is it important to follow God's specific commands and directions?
- What does it mean to fully engage in corporate worship? In personal worship?
- What does it look like to seek and accept God's will rather than wanting things our way?
- How will you seek to worship and honor God in some everyday task this week?
- **For Elementary:** How did David please God with his love?
- **For Elementary:** Do you please God with your love? If so, what are some ways you do so?

## Everyday Extras

Have an obedience race. Who can obey most quickly? Assign the chores (clean the bathtub, clean your room, unload the dishwasher) and see who completes their assignment first. Reward the winner with a special treat like a milkshake or an extra half-hour of screen time or first choice of where to sit in the car. You could make this a secret race — and give the prize without announcing the competition. You can put people in a penalty box for complaining too! For obeying parents and obeying God, our goal is to obey right away, all the way, in a happy way!

## Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned that David decided to fight the Philistine giant, Goliath. The giant laughed at David, but David trusted God to be with him and help him be brave. God helped David defeat Goliath with just a sling and one smooth stone. **God Helps Me Be Brave** and I can trust Him when I am afraid.

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **November 7, 2021** Family Theme | **Necessity of Repentance** Study Text | **2 Samuel 11:1 – 12:25**

**Objective:** Children understand the high cost of sin and turn away from all sinful practices.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This lesson is set around 995 BC, later in David's reign as king of Israel. This account illustrates the truth that all have sinned and fallen short of God's perfect standard.

**Bible Basics:** Review 1 John 1:9 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

**Read the Word:** 2 Samuel 11:1 – 12:25

## Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children or grandchildren about how we all sin, and sin brings consequences. Encourage them to acknowledge their sin to God and to turn away from it.



### **Key Truth: No One Is Above Falling Into Sin (2 Samuel 11:1-27)**

David remained in Jerusalem while the army went to fight the Ammonites. His palace looked down on the rest of the city. One evening, he noticed a woman bathing. Instead of turning away, he indulged his unhealthy lust. He eventually sent for her and slept with her. When she later sent word that she was pregnant, David tried to hide his sin. First, he brought her husband Uriah back from battle in hopes that he would go home to his wife. But Uriah would not rejoin his family as long as his comrades in arms were separated from theirs. David's next plan took him from lust and adultery to murder. He sent a sealed message via Uriah to Joab, the commander of the army: *Put Uriah into the most deadly part of the combat, and withdraw so that he dies in battle.* With Uriah dead, David legally married Bathsheba, the grieving widow of a brave warrior. It seems inconceivable that David, the man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), could undertake such a spiral of lust, adultery, and murder — yet he did. We must not let down our guard regarding temptation.



### **Key Truth: Our Sin Must Be Dealt With (2 Samuel 12:1-9)**

Despite David's efforts to cover his sin, he could not hide it from God. God sent Nathan, the prophet, to confront David. Nathan got his point across with a brief parable. It described an obvious injustice: a rich man with many sheep took by force the one lamb a poor man possessed in order to entertain a traveler. Nathan declared that David had done what that rich man did in the parable. This was a despicable act from a privileged recipient of God's blessings. It was time for David to take his sinful misconduct as seriously as God did.



### **Key Truth: Repentance and Confession Result in Forgiveness, but Do Not Negate All of Sin's Consequences (2 Samuel 12:10-25)**

The punishment would fit the crime: David had ripped apart Uriah's family by the sword — the sword would rip apart his own family. He had violated Uriah's wife. David's own son would violate his wives. David had sinned in secret, but these acts would be open to all the people. To his credit, David did not rebel; he

acknowledged his sin. God forgave, and let him live. Yet David's sin would have consequences. The ill-conceived son would die. God showed grace to Bathsheba, too. She bore David other children, one of whom they named Solomon. Sin carries consequences. David wrecked his family. Several died. Yet God was gracious and continued to work through David and his son Solomon. The principle holds true today as well. We are not exempt from the consequences of our sin. Neither are we excluded, however, from God's grace and promises.

## Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- What is repentance?
- Why is repentance necessary when we have sinned?
- Why is it true that no one is above falling into sin?
- What can we do to help us be on guard against temptation?
- What could we do to avoid being tempted in the first place?
- What can we do to keep from giving in to temptation when it strikes?
- How will you avoid putting yourself in a position in which you would likely be tempted this week?
- How will you plan this week to overcome a temptation that you often deal with?
- **For Elementary:** How can learning about the wrong choices that David — a man after God's own heart — made remind us to constantly be on guard against Satan's temptations?
- **For Elementary:** Why is repentance necessary when we have sinned?

## Everyday Extras

Ask your children to undo something. Start with a reasonable request: Would you please untie this knot? Would you please restack these magazines? But move to more difficult situations: Would you please un-burn this toast? Would you please un-spill this juice? We cannot fix some problems; what is done is done. We can be sorry for the situation, and we can try not to let it happen again. Here's the good news about God. When we trust Him and turn away from our sins, He will forgive us — every time, no matter what (1 John 1:9).

This week, when someone needs to repent, ask that family member to do more than saying "I'm sorry." Ask that person to give or give up something to show their repentance. Here are some ideas: give up half your dessert, give up screen time, give time reading to someone else, give a music recital. Help your children express their repentance in memorable ways.

## Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned a parable Jesus told His followers about a shepherd who had 100 sheep, but lost one. He left the 99 to search for the one. When the shepherd found it, he celebrated with his neighbors. We are like the sheep, and Jesus is our Shepherd. Jesus celebrates when we are found because **We Are Special to God.**

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **November 14, 2021** Family Theme | **The Curse of Sin** Study Text | **Romans 1:16-32**

**Objective:** Help children understand they can be saved if they believe the good news about Jesus. However, those who reject the good news of the gospel suffer the wrath of God in a downward spiral of sin. Encourage them to believe in Christ and to tell others about Him.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This lesson is set around AD 57 when Nero was emperor of the Roman empire. Paul and others were taking the gospel to the Gentiles as Jesus had commanded them to do.

**Bible Basics:** Go over the following question and answer this week and work with family members to do so as well. **What is sin? Answer:** Sin is a violation of the law of God (1 John 3:4). D6 EveryDay teaches kids that sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God's way.

**Read the Word:** Romans 1:16-32

## Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand how dangerous it is to reject God and His Word. Rejecting His revealed truth leads to a downward spiral of increasing sin.



### **Key Truth: Believing the Gospel Brings Salvation (Romans 1:16-17)**

One of the great themes Paul wrote about in Romans was the gospel. He was not ashamed of it. He openly proclaimed the gospel because it was God's power for salvation. The gospel was meant for the entire world. It is the only hope for all people of all religions and nations. The gospel reveals the righteousness of God. This righteousness is by faith from beginning to end. We humans have a sin problem. Yet God has provided the solution through the gospel and only the gospel: the good news that we can partake of God's righteousness through faith, because of what Christ did for us.



### **Key Truth: People Who Reject God's Revealed Truth Make Themselves Subject to His Wrath (Romans 1:18-23)**

While the gospel reveals the righteousness of God, there are things people can know about God without it. God's wrath against ungodliness and unrighteousness is revealed from Heaven. People know certain things about God, but they suppress that truth! God has clearly revealed, in the natural world and in the human mind, some of His invisible attributes, notably His eternal power and divine nature. This leaves people who reject God without excuse. They knew about God but did not honor Him. This ungrateful, self-sufficient attitude affected both their minds and their hearts. Their thinking became futile or pointless, and their hearts became even darker as they rejected the light they had received so far. This has left God with no recourse but justified wrath. The rebellious bring destruction, stubbornly insisting they can do as they want in a universe that God designed otherwise.



### **Key Truth: Rejecting God's Revealed Truth Leads to a Downward Spiral of Sin (Romans 1:24-32)**

In these verses, Paul stated three times that God gave them up or gave them over. This refers to those who turned away from Him. Their hearts filled with lust, they naturally ended up dishonoring their own bodies. They exchanged God's truth for a lie. They deliberately worshiped the creature instead of the Creator, and God gave them up to do what they insisted on doing and to suffer the natural consequences of doing so. Having perverted their religion, people went further and perverted their own relationships, redefining the human sexual relationship. God gave them up to unnatural and dishonorable passions. Homosexual activity receives no approval in Scripture. On the contrary, its prevalence in a society likely indicates a society that God has given over to its rebellion. Verse 28 begins a list of depraved acts that touches us all at one point or another. We dare not treat the idolatry and homosexual behavior as warranting special condemnation while downplaying the seriousness of our sins.

## Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Why would we say that every person has a sin problem?
- What does it mean that the gospel is the power of God for salvation?
- Why is the gospel the only solution to our sin problem?
- In what way is it our choice whether or not to be subject to God's wrath?
- What does it mean to be abandoned to our sinful nature?
- What are some of the consequences of being abandoned to our sinful nature?
- In what ways is our culture like what Paul described in Romans 1:16-32?
- **For Elementary:** Why would we say that every person has a sin problem?
- **For Elementary:** Why do we all need God's grace?

## Everyday Extras

Play together with slime, whether store-bought or made from an online recipe. Have your kids hold it in their hands and watch it roll around. As they are doing this, talk to them about how sin cannot be controlled in our own power and how it gets into every part of our lives, just like the slime. The only way to overcome sin is through salvation in Christ.

You can make this lesson memorable by pouring chocolate syrup in your child's hand. Pour about a tablespoon into your child's open palm and ask him to hold it for a couple of minutes. The syrup will ooze between his fingers and into the crevices of his palm and begin to feel very sticky. Compare this to sin and the way it affects us. Hand your child a napkin to see if it will clean up the syrup. While it might help some, the only solution is to wash it off. Remind your children that Jesus can wash away our sins when we repent.

## Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned about another parable where a woman lost one of her ten coins. She searched for the lost coin until she found it, and she told her friends and neighbors. They knew the coins were special to her and they rejoiced with her. **We Are Special to God** and the angels in Heaven rejoice when we choose to follow Him.

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **November 21, 2021** Family Theme | **The Only Cure for Sin**  
Study Text | **John 14:6; Romans 3:10-26; Galatians 2:16**

**Objective:** Children understand God offers forgiveness and salvation to every person, but only through faith in His Son Jesus. They trust Christ and share the good news with others.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** This lesson affirms a truth found all through the Scriptures. God planned before creation to send His Son to pay the penalty for our sins. He offers salvation to every person through faith in His Son Jesus. There is no other way to be saved.

**Bible Basics:** Memorize John 14:6 and work with family members to do so as well.

**Read the Word:** John 14:6; Romans 3:10-26; Galatians 2:16

## Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that they have sinned against God and can only be saved by trusting in what Christ did for us on the cross.



### **Key Truth: Jesus Declared He Is the Only Way to God (John 14:6)**

Although it may come as a surprise to some people, Jesus is the One who claimed to be the only way to God. It wasn't arrogant or self-righteous Christians who made the claim. Christians simply repeat what Jesus Himself said. Jesus did not claim to be a way, a truth, and a life. No, He said, He is *the Way, the truth, and the life* and no one comes to the Father except through Him. But Jesus was not excluding anyone here. He was inviting everyone to believe in Him and experience salvation. He wishes that all would believe and that none would perish (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus told His followers to offer salvation to everyone (Matthew 28:18-20).



### **Key Truth: Every Person Has Sinned and Must Trust in Christ Alone for Salvation (Romans 3:10-26)**

Jesus said that if people do not believe He is who He said He is, they will die in their sins (John 8:24). Sin is the human predicament that leads to eternal separation from God. And we can't save ourselves through good works. We must trust in what Jesus did for us. Paul echoed Jesus' diagnosis in the book of Romans. In chapter 3, he used various Old Testament passages to make the point that no person is righteous, not even one. No one really seeks after God on his or her own. Every human has turned away from God, and no one is truly good. Every person has sinned and fallen short of God's glory and perfect standard. Sin results in spiritual death (Romans 6:23a). Thankfully, we can receive eternal life in Christ (Romans 6:23b). All we have to do is confess and believe.



### **Key Truth: We Are Made Right With God Through Faith In Christ, Not by Good Works (Galatians 2:16)**

Galatians 2:16 tells us that no person can be justified by keeping God's Law and doing good works. Instead, we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. We believe in Christ Jesus and are justified by faith in Him, not by the works of the Law. Ephesians 2:8-9 says that salvation is a gift from God, not by our works. We simply need

to personally trust Christ to save us. Since God is holy and we are sinful, we are under wrath and judgment, incapable of erasing our own debt. Justification is the term we use to describe Christ's work to pay our debt and declare us innocent in God's eyes. Since Jesus paid for our sins on the cross, if we trust in Him for salvation God no longer sees us as sinners. Instead He sees the righteousness of Christ in us. Jesus bore our sin so we could have His righteousness and stand forgiven before God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

## Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Besides faith in Christ, what are some other ways people believe will make them right with God?
- Why do Christians claim Jesus is the only way to God and to Heaven? What is the source of this claim?
- Why is Christianity actually very inclusive?
- Why does every person need Jesus?
- How would you explain to a neighbor how we can be made right with God?
- How would you explain to a neighbor why Jesus is the only one who can save us and make us right with God?
- With whom this week could you share Jesus' claim to be the only way to the Father?
- **For Elementary:** What do you think Zacchaeus thought when Jesus stopped to talk to him?
- **For Elementary:** What changes were seen in Zacchaeus after he met with Jesus?
- **For Elementary:** What changes have people seen in you because of your relationship with Jesus?

## Everyday Extras

We all are lost in sin, and there is no amount of law-following that will provide salvation. Salvation is only guaranteed through what Christ has done on the cross. Sit down with your child, a glass plate, coin, candle, glass cup, and colored water. Place the coin (which represents humans) on one side of the plate, then pour water (which represents our sin) on the plate until the coin is covered. Light the candle, which represents Jesus, and put it in the middle of the plate. Place the glass cup over the lit candle, and the water should start moving into the inverted cup. Jesus' death on the cross removed our sins just like the candle removed the water from the penny!

## Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned about a young son who left home and foolishly wasted all his money. He wasn't able to buy food and so he got a job feeding pigs. He was sorry for what he had done and decided to return home to ask for forgiveness and a job as his father's servant. **We Are Special to God** and He forgives us when we ask.

# D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **November 28, 2021** Family Theme | **Justified by Faith** Study Text | **Romans 5:1-21**

**Objective:** Children understand that those who are justified by faith in Christ can live for Him with joy and hope because they are at peace with God.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** Paul wrote this letter to Christians in Rome around AD 57. He wrote from Corinth during his third missionary journey taking the gospel to Gentiles who needed to hear.

**Bible Basics:** Review the names and order of books nine through fourteen of the Old Testament (1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

**Read the Word:** Romans 5:1-21

## Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that our sins made us enemies of God. However, we can have peace with God by trusting in what Christ did for us on the cross.



**Key Truth: Those Justified by Faith in Christ Have Peace With God (Romans 5:1-11)**

We are justified by faith, not by works or righteous acts. This justification produces results. First, it brings us peace with God, through Christ. There is no further reason for contention between God and believers. There is nothing left to separate us. Justification also brings us into grace. God's favor is on the believer. We rejoice in the hope of God's glory, and we can also rejoice even in our suffering. The suffering Paul had in mind comes from opposition and even mistreatment by those who do not believe. Suffering builds character, which produces hope. We were not worthy of this. Indeed, we were still in rebellion against God. Yet Jesus died for us, proving God's great love for us. Justification, our initial not-guilty verdict, was not the end, but rather the beginning of reconciliation. Our relationship with God has changed because of the not-guilty verdict. We are now free to live as God's friends, reconciled to Him.



**Key Truth: Jesus Brings Grace and Abundant Life to Those Who Trust in Him (Romans 5:2, 12-21)**

In this next section, Paul compared and contrasted the results of Adam's sin and Jesus' righteousness. We are all sinners because we inherit the sin nature through Adam. A sinful nature has been passed on to all people born from Adam, and sin has always brought death. But what about those people who lived after Adam, but before Moses gave the people God's Law? How could God hold that against them? For Paul, it was clear that people sinned in the years between Adam and Moses — they all died because of sin, even if they did not know all the stipulations of the Law. Everyone had the moral law of God written on their hearts and knew right from wrong (Romans 2:14-15). The point of Paul's argument in these verses is that the problem and consequence of sin flowed from one person — Adam — to all people. In contrast, the remedy of sin also flows from one person — Jesus Christ — to all people. Adam's sin brought death to all who came from him afterward. But the actions of Jesus have brought abundant life for all who come from Him afterward. Inheriting death through Adam pales in comparison to inheriting abundant grace and righteousness for

living through Jesus Christ. Did the Law actually create more sin (increase the trespass)? No, it increased the trespass by making it more evident to us. The sin was there already; the law put the spotlight on it. Yet even in those years, God was gracious, dealing with people in view of what Jesus would accomplish.

## Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- What does it mean that believers in Christ are justified in God's eyes?
- Why is it not possible to be justified by our good works?
- What does it mean that justification brings us peace with God?
- Why are people under the wrath of God if they have not been justified in God's eyes?
- How should we respond to the fact that we have peace with God and are no longer under His wrath?
- What does it mean that we have access to God's grace through justification by faith?
- How could you demonstrate your gratitude to God this week for the grace He has poured out in your life?
- **For Elementary:** What is grace?
- **For Elementary:** What are some gifts that come with God's grace?
- **For Elementary:** How could you demonstrate your gratitude to God this week for the grace He has poured out in your life?

## Everyday Extras

Filthy rags! Secretly gather up the worst of the cleaning rags at your house and put them in the bottom of a brown paper bag. Then ask your children to help you collect some "good deeds" that would get you into Heaven (went to church, gave money to missionaries, was kind to neighbor, etc.). Write them down on slips of paper and place them in the bag. Pretend that you began showing God what was in your bag to see what He thought of it. Instead of pulling out the paper, pull out the cleaning rags, one at a time. That's what God says our good deeds are: just filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). The only way we can get to Heaven is by faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for us!

## Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned when the father saw his son returning home, he ran to meet him. He forgave his son and celebrated his return. But the older brother did not understand that both he and his brother were special to his father. **We Are Special to God**, and He forgives us and celebrates our return when we come back to Him..