

IN THE BEGINNING

Timeless Truth: Humans are God's crowning creation.

Bible Basis: Genesis 1:1–2:5, 18–25

Key Verse: When God created man, he created him in his own likeness. —Genesis 5:1 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 1: "In the Beginning"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 1 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience the joy of creation and know that he is perfectly created by God. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God made everything. He made you, too.

TABLE TALK

- What animal is your favorite? Why do you like that animal the best?
- What is your favorite thing that God created? Why do you like it best?
- How are you different from a flower? A rock? A bird? Add other things that God created to compare with humans. This question will help your child see how God made people different than the rest of creation.

LIVING FAITH

This week's lesson focused on God creating everything. Let your child explore what this means by making a creation out of play dough and other decorative items such as feathers, pompoms, small rocks, and sticks. Say, **God created everything. Create means to make something out of nothing. Only God can make something out of nothing, but we can create with things God has given us. Can you create a new animal from our things?** Work with your child, asking questions about the

creation. If you want, you can let the creation dry as a reminder that God created everything, or save the play dough to make more creations.

When you are done with your creation, look in a mirror. What do you see? Remind your child that God made us like him. He created us perfectly, just the way he wanted. Name some of the things you love about your child and the way God created him.

EXTRA MILE

As you travel in the car this week or while at home reading a picture book, play "I Spy" with things that God created. Always end with, "I spy God's treasured creation." God's treasured creation is your child.

Look at an age-appropriate book on the human body to discover some special ways that God created people.

Look through family pictures of times you have been in God's creation. Have fun remembering your trip and talking about God's wonderful creation.

Act out the Key Verse using the same motions that your child learned in class.

When God (*Point up.*)

Created (*Cup hands as if you are forming a mud ball in them.*)

Man (*Point to yourself and those around you.*)

He (*Point up.*)

Made him (*Cup hands as if you are forming a mud ball in them.*)

In his own likeness (*Act like you are holding up a hand mirror and then point up.*)

Genesis 5:1 (*Open hands like a book.*)

ABRAHAM FOLLOWS GOD

Timeless Truth: What sin changes, faith overcomes.

Bible Basis: Genesis 12:1–9, 17; 21:1–7

Key Verse: Abram believed the Lord. The Lord accepted Abram because he believed. So his faith made him right with the Lord. —Genesis 15:6, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 2: "Abraham Follows God"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 2 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience what it means to follow and obey God. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Abraham trusted and obeyed God. I can trust and obey him, too.

TABLE TALK

- What does it mean to follow?
- What does it mean to obey?
- Who did Abraham follow? (Abraham followed God by trusting and obeying him.)
- Who do you follow? Who do you obey?

LIVING FAITH

Abraham trusted and obeyed God by moving to a new land. Moving can be a fun thought for a child, especially if you have never moved. Discuss that moving means packing up everything you own, leaving where you live, and going to a new place to live. Pretend to move with your preschooler. Use a backpack or a small suitcase and, with your child, pack some of her favorite belongings. Take what you have packed and play Follow-the-Leader as you travel around your house. Take turns being the leader. End back in your child's room at the new land and unpack the suitcase. As you travel, talk about how Abraham obeyed God. Talk about ways that your child can obey God. Then play other obedience games like Mother, May I? and Simon Says.

EXTRA MILE

Read books about obedience. Talk about how the characters obeyed or did not obey. Remind your child that Abraham obeyed God and you can obey God, too.

As you travel to different places this week, talk about the rules that you have to follow and obey to be safe. Discuss other things that we have to follow and obey.

Sing the song "Father Abraham." It will help your child remember God's promise to Abraham while using her whole body to do it.

Use these motions to help your child remember the key verse.

Abram believed (*Touch your right pointer finger to temple. Then bring your hand down and clasp it together with your left hand.*)

The Lord. (*Make an L with your right hand and take it from your right shoulder to your left hip.*)

Genesis 15:6 (*Open hands like a book.*)

JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

Timeless Truth: Though man fails, God's will prevails.

Bible Basis: Genesis 37; 39:1–47:31

Key Verse: A man may have many plans in his heart. But the Lord's purpose wins out in the end.
—Proverbs 19:21, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 3: "Joseph Forgives His Brothers"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 3 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your preschooler of the Bible lesson through a drama. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God took care of Joseph. God also takes care of me.

TABLE TALK

- Can you tell me about a dream you had?
- Joseph and his brothers didn't always get along. How can you get along with others?
- When did God take care of Joseph? (God took care of Joseph when his brothers didn't like him, when he was a slave, when he was in prison, and when he was in charge of the food in Egypt.)
- How does God take care of you?

LIVING FAITH

This week's Bible story is a great story to act out. When preschoolers use their whole bodies in telling a story, they will remember the story longer. Set up different places in your house to be Joseph's house, Potiphar's house, the jail, and the palace in Egypt. Joseph's and Potiphar's houses can be in different areas of a room. The jail can be under a table or in a large appliance box with crepe paper streamers hanging down at the opening. The palace can be the area around a big comfy chair used for a throne. Put grocery bags or canvas bags by the chair to use as sacks of grain. Let your child dress up. Old towels, bath robes, or fabric pieces make good Bible-time clothes. As you read the

story from *The Story for Little Ones*, act out the story with your child. Include your entire family in this drama as Joseph's brothers, fellow prisoners, and hungry people.

EXTRA MILE

God helped Joseph prepare for the coming famine. Help others who are hungry by collecting non-perishable food items for your local food bank. Your child may like to make cards to go with the food donation to remind others that God takes care of them.

Music helps everyone remember information. Sing the following song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell" with your preschooler.

God takes care of me,
God takes care of me,
God took care of Joseph,
And God takes care of me.

Joseph stored grain for the coming famine. Show your child different kinds of grain. Then make some food to eat with your child using a grain. Talk about all the different foods you can make with grain.

Help your child remember the Bible point from this lesson using the motions that your child learned in class.

God (*Point up.*)

Took care (*Hug yourself.*)

Of Joseph (*Motion like you're putting a crown on your head, like Joseph wore when he was deputy pharaoh.*)

God (*Point up.*)

Takes care (*Hug yourself.*)

Of me! (*Both thumbs point to your chest.*)

GOD PROTECTS MOSES

Timeless Truth: God is the ultimate deliverer.

Bible Basis: Exodus 1–16

Key Verse: [Moses] said, "Don't be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the Lord will save you today."
—Exodus 14:13 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 4: "God Protects Moses"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 4 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child that God watches over him. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God watched over Moses and his people. God watches over me too.

TABLE TALK

- **How did God watch over Moses when he was a baby?** (*Pharaoh's daughter found him in the river and took care of him.*)
- **How did God watch over his people?** (*He sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt.*)
- **How does God watch over you?**

LIVING FAITH

Let your child make binoculars using empty toilet paper rolls to remind him that God watched over Abraham and he watches over you, too. Take two empty toilet paper rolls and place them side by side. Help your child tape the rolls together. Using a hole punch, punch one hole in each tube at one end. Tie yarn or string through the holes so the binoculars can hang around your child's neck. Let your child decorate the binoculars using markers, paper, stickers, foam shapes, or any other decoration supplies you have. Have your child look through the binoculars to find things that you could watch over, such as a pet or plants.

EXTRA MILE

In the bathtub, let your child see if he can part the water. Tell your child that God is so powerful he can make the waters part.

Talk about simple ways your child can help others, either at home, preschool, or church. Let your child pick a few ways to help others this week. Remind your child that God will always help him.

Let your child watch over something this week. You might help your child watch over a pet or an indoor or outdoor plant. Preschoolers can also watch over stuffed animals. Practicing watching over something will help your child understand how God watches over her.

Use these motions to help your child remember the key verse.

Don't be afraid. *(Shake head "no" and shake finger back and forth.)*

Stand firm. *(Pick up feet, one at a time, and place them back on the ground.)*

You will see *(Make circles with your hands around your eyes like binoculars.)*

How the Lord *(Make an L with your right hand. Bring the L across your body from your right shoulder to your left hip.)*

Will save you today. *(Cross wrists in front of body. Then open arms out wide.)*

Exodus 14:13 *(Open hands like a book.)*

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Timeless Truth: Following God's laws results in righteousness.

Bible Basis: Exodus 24–31

Key Verse: [God's people] answered with one voice. They said, "We will do everything the Lord has told us to do." —Exodus 24:3 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 5: "The Ten Commandments"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 5 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is a tasty reminder of the rules that God gave us. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God gave us rules so we can live good lives and know God better. God's rules will help you live a good life and know God and what he is like.

TABLE TALK

- **Why do we have rules?**
- **What are some rules at home? At preschool? At church?**
- **What are some of God's rules?** (Don't worship anything but God. Use God's name with respect. Obey your parents. Don't steal.)

LIVING FAITH

Make a fun snack to remind you of the Ten Commandments. Give your child two graham crackers. Using a craft stick or a table knife, help your child spread cream cheese or icing on the graham crackers. Then put ten things on the graham crackers, such as ten chocolate chips or ten pieces of fruit. As you enjoy your snack, talk with your child about God's rules. Talk about how those rules help us to live a good life.

EXTRA MILE

Let your child act out being Moses getting the Ten Commandments from God. Let your child climb up stairs like Moses climbed the mountain and then bring back two rocks (small enough that your child can carry them easily) down to you and tell you about God's rules.

Play one of your child's favorite games. As you play, talk about the rules and what happens if you don't play by the rules.

Go on a treasure hunt throughout your house with your preschooler. What can you find that there are ten of? As appropriate, look for other things there are ten of when you are out this week (ten stop signs, ten white houses ...).

Help your child remember part of the key verse using these motions.

We will do (*Point to yourself and others.*)

Everything (*Stretch arms out wide.*)

That the Lord (*Make an L with your right hand. Bring the L across your body from your right shoulder to your left hip.*)

Has told us. (*Cup hands around mouth.*)

TWO BELIEVING MEN

Timeless Truth: Faith in God's promises will be rewarded. Doubt will be punished.

Bible Basis: Numbers 13:1–3, 17–33; 14:1–11, 22, 34–38

Key Verse: [Joshua and Caleb] said, "If the Lord is pleased with us, he'll lead us into that land. ... He'll give it to us." —Numbers 14:8 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 6: "Two Believing Men"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 6 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child remember the Bible lesson while being a spy. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Joshua and Caleb believed in God's promise. I can believe in God's promises too.

TABLE TALK

- **What is a promise?** (*Something that you say you will or will not do.*)
- **Ten spies were scared. Tell me a time when you were scared.**
- **Joshua and Caleb had courage. Tell me about a time when you had courage.**

LIVING FAITH

Moses sent twelve spies to find out about the land God promised them. Let your child pretend to be Joshua or Caleb spying out the land. Gather three to five pictures or items from this week's Bible story in a room in your house. The pictures could be of a bunch of grapes, a carton of milk, a giant, a city with walls, and a map. Make sure your child knows what she is looking for. Hide the pictures in a room in your house in places easy enough for your preschooler to find if she looks. You can also hide the pictures throughout your house for more of a challenge. Your child can collect the pictures as she finds them. After your child finds all the hidden items and brings them to you, have her tell you about the land, using the pictures. You may need to prompt your child about some pictures.

EXTRA MILE

Joshua, Caleb, and the other spies brought back grapes that were so huge that they had to carry the bunch between them. Enjoy a snack of grapes and milk while you talk about God's promises. For younger preschoolers, you may need to cut the grapes into pieces before they eat them.

Play "I Spy" with your child while you are waiting somewhere this week. You can use a book or just look for the things around you.

Talk with your child about things you would like to do together this week. Write them down on separate pieces of paper and put them in a jar. Throughout the week, let your child pull out one of the promises and then do the activity listed together.

Use these motions to help your child remember part of the key verse.

If the Lord (*Make an L with your right hand. Bring the L across your body from your right shoulder to your left hip.*)

Is pleased with us, (*Point to a smile on your face.*)

He'll lead us into that land. (*Walk in place.*)

Numbers 14:8 (*Open hands like a book.*)

GOD'S HELPER

Timeless Truth: God's power, not our own, wins the battle.

Bible Basis: Joshua 1:10–11; 2:1–24

Key Verse: Be strong and very brave. Make sure you obey the whole law. ... Then you will have success everywhere you go. —Joshua 1:7 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 7: "God's Helper"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 7 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience the Bible story through acting it out. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God sent help for his people. God sends me to help others too.

TABLE TALK

- **What did God do that was amazing in this story?** (*The walls of Jericho fell down when the people walked around it and blew horns.*)
- **How did God help his people?** (*He helped protect the spies by sending them to Rahab's house. Then he helped the spies protect Rahab.*)
- **How does God help you?**
- **How can you help others?**

LIVING FAITH

This week's Bible story is a fun one to act out. Build the walls of Jericho using blocks, facial tissue boxes, couch cushions, or any other household items that would make good walls. Your wall can be a straight line or a circle. Dress up if you want. Bath robes, towels, or old sheets make good Bible-time clothes. Walk around the walls seven times, pretending to blow trumpets. After you have marched around the walls, shout for joy as you knock down the walls. As you clean up the walls of Jericho that you knocked down, discuss how God knocked down the walls of Jericho and helped his people.

EXTRA MILE

Build the walls of Jericho with cheese slices and crackers. As you eat the walls of Jericho, talk about how God helped his people and how he helps you.

Sometimes God helps us through other people. Talk about someone your preschooler knows that needs help. What can your family do to help? Decide on something you (and your preschooler) can do to help that person.

Read books about helping. Ask your child what the character is doing to help or not help in the situation.

Help your child remember part of the key verse using these motions.

Be strong (*Show your arm muscles.*)

And very brave. (*Do a superhero pose.*)

Joshua 1:7 (*Open hands like a book.*)

A STRONG MAN

Timeless Truth: Spiritual compromise can be overcome by turning back to God.

Bible Basis: Judges 16:1–31

Key Verse: [Samson] said, "God, please make me strong just one more time." —Judges 16:28b NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 8: "A Strong Man"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 8 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience asking God for help. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Samson asked God to help him. You can ask God for help too.

TABLE TALK

- What did Samson ask God for?
- What can you ask God for?
- What things do you need help with?

LIVING FAITH

Let your child make an "Asking for Help" book. Use old magazines for your child to cut out pictures of things he needs help with. Help your child think about times they need help like when they are hurt or a friend won't share. Then let your child use a glue stick to glue the pictures to pieces of construction paper folded in half. As you look at the book talk about all the different ways we need help. Let your child know that you need help too. Pray together, asking God for his help.

EXTRA MILE

Read books about helping this week. Did any of the characters in the books you read ask others for help?

Build towers of blocks together with your preschooler and then knock them down like Samson did. As you pick up the blocks talk about how Samson asked God for help.

If your child made Samson's hair in class, set it in a sunny place in your home to watch the grass grow. If she didn't, let your child draw a face on a paper cup and fill the cup with soil and grass seeds. When the grass is tall enough, let your child cut Samson's hair.

Use these motions to help your children remember the key verse.

[Samson] said, "God, *(Point up to God.)*

Please make me strong *(Show your arm muscles.)*

One more time." *(Hold up one finger.)*

Judges 16:28 *(Open hands like a book.)*

TWO KIND PEOPLE

Timeless Truth: God rewards unselfish love.

Bible Basis: Ruth 1:1–2:23

Key Verse: May the Lord reward you for what you have done. —Ruth 2:12 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 9: "Two Kind People"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 9 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child remember to be kind by making a picture using different grains. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Boaz and Ruth were kind to others. I please God when I am kind.

TABLE TALK

- **How was Boaz kind?** (*He let Ruth gather grain in his field. He told his workers to also be kind to her.*)
- **How was Ruth kind?** (*She came back to Jerusalem with Naomi. She picked up grain for food for Naomi to eat.*)
- **How can you be kind?**

LIVING FAITH

In this week's story, Ruth collected grain in a field. Look through your cupboards or in a grocery store this week to identify different types of grain, like oats and rice.

Then gather some of the larger grains like popcorn kernels and rice to make a picture using grain. On a blank sheet of paper, let your child draw a large heart and then cut it out. After cutting out the heart, have your child glue different grains on the heart. Somewhere on the heart, write "I please

God when I am kind." After the picture dries, hang it on your refrigerator to remind your whole family that God is pleased when you are kind.

EXTRA MILE

Pretend to be Ruth collecting grain by putting scattered toys or cotton balls in a basket. This activity will work well during clean-up times.

Talk with your entire family about ways you can be kind to others this week. Talk about easy ways you can be kind to each other every day and then decide on something kind to do for someone else, such as make cookies or help with yard work. As much as is possible, make sure your entire family is involved.

Ruth and Naomi traveled a long way to get to Bethlehem. Take a walk around your neighborhood this week and pretend that you are Ruth and Naomi. What do you think they talked about on their long journey?

Use these motions to help your child remember the Bible point.

I please God (*Point up to God.*)

When I am kind. (*Hug yourself or a friend.*)

GOD HEARS HANNAH AND SAMUEL

Timeless Truth: God uses willing hearts to serve him.

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 1:1–2:2, 21; 3:1–10

Key Verse: The Lord has filled my heart with joy. He has made me strong. —1 Samuel 2:1 NIRV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 10: "God Hears Hannah and Samuel"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 10 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child practice listening and realize that God hears our prayers. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God answered Hannah's prayer. God hears me pray, too.

TABLE TALK

- What did Hannah pray for?
- Who called Samuel at night?
- What can you pray for?

LIVING FAITH

Samuel heard God call him. God hears our prayers. Play this listening game with your child to talk more about the concept of listening. Gather things from around your house that have a distinct noise. Those things might be a toy that makes noise, an alarm, keys, a door opening and closing, or a jar of beans. Let each of the things you gathered or already have in the room make their noise while your preschooler watches. Then have your preschooler close his eyes while you make noise with each item. Can your preschooler guess what each sound is? Then, let your child use the items to make noises for you to guess.

EXTRA MILE

Spend time praying this week—at meals, when you get in the car, at bedtime and naptime, when you get up. Help your child start a habit—praying to God anytime about anything.

Teach your child some simple prayers to sing or pray at bedtime or for meals.

With your child, make a simple poster about things to pray for by gluing pictures onto a piece of construction paper. In the middle, write, "God hears me when I pray." When your child wants to pray, he can look at the poster and pick a few things to talk to God about.

Use these motions to help your child remember the Bible point.

God (*Point up to God.*)

Hears (*Cup hands around ears.*)

Me (*Point to yourself.*)

Pray. (*Fold hands in prayer.*)

DAVID AND THE GIANT

Timeless Truth: Total trust in God brings great courage.

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 17:1–50

Key Verse: I am coming against you in the name of the Lord who rules over all. —1 Samuel 17:45 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 11, "David and the Giant"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 11 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child remember the Bible story by finding big and small things, like David and Goliath. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God helped David be brave. God can make me brave, too.

TABLE TALK

- **Who was David?** (*A little boy who cared for sheep*)
- **Who was Goliath?** (*A big giant in the army*)
- **What did God make David?** (*God made David brave.*)
- **How can God make you brave too?**

LIVING FAITH

With your child, find two similar things in your house that are both big and small, such as picture frames, boxes, shoes, or chairs. When you see things that are big, say the key verse together with the motions. The motions for the key verse are in the Extra Mile section. Talk about how God helped David be brave and how he can help you be brave. After you say the key verse together, let your child tell you about a time when she was brave. Tell your child about a time when you were brave. Try to do this at least five times. Ask your child what was special about the number five in the story.

EXTRA MILE

Build a tall tower of boxes to be the giant Goliath. Let your child throw a soft foam ball at the giant to knock him over.

Read books about characters who were brave. What did they do that was brave?

Look around your house for five of the same thing. Count each as you find them.

Use the motions your preschooler learned in class to help your child remember the key verse.

I am (*Point to yourself.*)

Coming against (*Push a pretend wall in front of you.*)

You (*Point straight ahead.*)

In the name of the Lord (*Point up.*)

Who rules (*Point your index finger as if you are telling people to do things.*)

Over all. (*Fling your arms wide.*)

First Samuel 17:45 (*Open hands like a book.*)

DAVID IS SORRY

Timeless Truth: God is just and forgiving.

Bible Basis: Psalm 51:1–12; Psalm 32:10–11

Key Verse: Wash away all of the evil things I've done. Make me pure from my sin. —Psalm 51:2 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 12: "David Is Sorry"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 12 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience forgiveness by making a chalk picture. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God forgave David's sins. God forgives me when I'm sorry for doing wrong things.

TABLE TALK

- **What did David do?** (*Asked God to forgive him for doing wrong things*)
- **Tell me about a time when you needed to be forgiven.**
- **Tell me about a time when you were forgiven.**

LIVING FAITH

Make fun washable sidewalk paint with your child by mixing $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of cornstarch and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of cold water together in a small bowl. Add drops of food coloring until the paint is the color you want. Repeat for other colors. Then go outside and paint designs or pictures on your sidewalk or driveway with paintbrushes. Tell your child that the paint is like the wrong things that we do. When we ask God to forgive us, he washes them away, just like the paint washes away when it rains or we spray the sidewalk with water.

If you don't live in an area where you can make sidewalk drawings or if the weather does not permit, you can do this activity inside using a chalkboard or a whiteboard and an eraser. Whiteboard markers will also draw on a mirror.

EXTRA MILE

When necessary this week, stop and pray with your child asking God to forgive your child when he has done something wrong. In appropriate ways, show your child that you also need to ask God to forgive you.

Read books about giving and receiving forgiveness this week. Talk about the specific words used in asking for forgiveness, such as "I'm sorry."

Preschoolers love to make up songs. Make up a song with your child about asking God for forgiveness.

Use these motions to help your child remember the Bible point.

God (*Point up.*)

Forgives me (*Brush the fingertips of your right hand along the length of your left palm twice.*)

When I'm sorry. (*Make a sad face.*)

WISE KING SOLOMON

Timeless Truth: God's faithful love continues forever.

Bible Basis: 1 Kings 3:1–15; 4:29–34; 2 Chronicles 9:1–9

Key Verse: Don't be wise in your own eyes. Have respect for the Lord. —Proverbs 3:7 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 13: "Wise King Solomon"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 13 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child remember to ask God for wisdom. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God made Solomon a wise leader. God can make me wise, too.

TABLE TALK

- **God told Solomon he could ask for anything. If you could ask God for anything, what would it be?**
- **What did Solomon ask for?** (*To be wise*)
- **What does it mean to be wise?** (*Being able to tell right from wrong*)

LIVING FAITH

Owls are sometimes referred to as wise. With your preschooler make an owl out of paper plates. With one paper plate, fold about a third of the plate over with the bottom of the plate facing toward you. Glue the fold down. Draw eyes on the folded down section. Add a triangle nose underneath the eyes and two triangle tufts to the top of the head. Glue another paper plate below the head, slightly overlapping. Cut a third paper plate in half and glue them to the body as wings. Decorate with markers or glue feathers to the body of the owl. Talk about how you can be wise.

EXTRA MILE

Solomon built a beautiful temple to worship God. Build a temple with blocks or with chairs and blankets. Worship God by singing a few of your child's favorite songs from Sunday school.

One way you can learn right from wrong is by reading stories from the Bible. Read stories from *The Story for Little Ones* this week.

Play an "Is it Wise?" game. Have your child start on the opposite side of the room from you. Ask your child questions that start with "Is it wise to ...". You might ask if it is wise to hold an adult's hand while crossing the street or if it is wise to disobey your parents. If it is a wise thing to do, your child takes one step forward. If it is not a wise thing to do, your child stands still.

Use these motions to help your child remember the key verse.

Don't be wise (*Shake your head "no."*)

In your own eyes. (*Point to your eyes.*)

Have respect for the Lord. (*Make an L with your right hand. Take the L across your body from your left shoulder to your right hip.*)

Proverbs 3:7 (*Open hands like a book.*)

THE SPLIT IN THE KINGDOM

Timeless Truth: God detests idol worshipers.

Bible Basis: 1 Kings 11:4–6; 12:1–33; 14:22–23, 26–28; 15:11–14

Key Verse: Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. —1 Kings 15:11 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 14: “The Split in the Kingdom”

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 14 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child remember that the good kings learned from mistakes. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God uses even bad things to teach his people. I can learn from mistakes.

TABLE TALK

- **This week’s Bible story was about good kings and bad kings. What did the bad kings do?** *(They didn’t follow God and didn’t learn from their mistakes.)*
- **What did the good kings do?** *(They learned from mistakes and followed God. They got rid of the things the bad kings had done.)*
- **What mistakes have you made?**
- **What can you learn from your mistakes?**

LIVING FAITH

Make a cheesy edible crown to remember that good King Asa learned from mistakes. Using a knife, cut a crown shape out of a tortilla. Let your child sprinkle cheese and vegetable jewels on the crown. Toast the crown in the microwave, oven, or stovetop. You can also make a sweet crown using cream cheese, fruit, and candies. As you eat your crowns, talk about what bad kings and good kings do.

EXTRA MILE

There are many children's songs about obedience. Your child may already know one from Sunday school or you can find one online. Learn one this week or make up a song of your own.

As mistakes are made this week by your family, stop and talk about the mistakes. What can you learn from them?

Read books where the characters make mistakes. Talk about those mistakes and what they learned.

Use these motions to help your child remember the key verse.

Asa did (*Make a crown with your hands on your head.*)

What was right (*Put thumbs up.*)

In the eyes (*Point to your eyes.*)

Of the Lord. (*Make an L with your right hand. Take the L across your body from your left shoulder to your right hip.*)

1 Kings 15:11 (*Open hands like a book.*)

ELIJAH AND ELISHA

Timeless Truth: God is more powerful than any other god.

Bible Basis: 1 Kings 19:3–16

Key Verse: [Elijah said,] "I serve the Lord. He is the God of Israel." —1 Kings 17:1 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 15: "Elijah and Elisha"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 15 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child remember that God helped Elijah and Elisha by making a rainy day picture. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God helped Elijah and Elisha. God helps me.

TABLE TALK

- **Who was Elijah? What did God help Elijah do?** (*Elijah was a prophet who followed God. God helped Elijah show King Ahab who was in charge of the weather.*)
- **Who was Elisha? What did God help Elisha do?** (*Elisha was also a prophet. God helped Elisha give people messages from God.*)
- **What does God help you do?**

LIVING FAITH

Elijah told King Ahab that it wasn't going to rain. Make a rainy day picture with your child. On a paper plate or heavy paper, let your child draw with washable markers. On a rainy day, take the drawings outside to get wet. Once the colors have started to run together, bring the drawings back inside to dry on a flat surface. Your child probably won't wait three years for it to rain like the Israelites had to. If it doesn't rain this week, make rain using a squirt bottle.

EXTRA MILE

As a family, talk about ways you can help others in your family and those outside your family. Pick some ways you can help others this week and then do them.

Elijah wanted King Ahab to know that God controlled the weather. Talk about this week's weather. You might want to read a book about the different types of weather. Was the weather the same as the predictions? Only God can control the weather.

Preschoolers love to help and feel grown up. Let your child help you water plants, set the table, dust, or another simple activity this week.

Use these motions to help your child remember the key verse.

I serve (*Put hands out like you are offering something.*)

The Lord. (*Make an L with your right hand. Take the L across your body from your right shoulder to your left hip.*)

He is (*Point up.*)

The God of Israel. (*With palm facing left, bring your right hand down in the middle of your body from above your head.*)

1 Kings 17:1 (*Open hands like a book.*)

MESSAGES FROM GOD

Timeless Truth: God's saving power is great.

Bible Basis: Isaiah 3:1–13; 14:1–5; 48:8–9

Key Verse: When it is time to save you, I will help you. I will keep you safe. —Isaiah 49:8 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 16: "Messages from God"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 16 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience getting and giving messages. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ideas to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God doesn't give up on his people. God won't give up on me.

TABLE TALK

- **What messages did Isaiah tell the people?** (*Listen to God. Obey God. Jesus, the Messiah, is coming.*)
- **Did the people listen to Isaiah's message?** (*No.*)
- **What messages have you received?**

LIVING FAITH

Good messages are fun to get. As a family, make mailboxes to put messages to send each other in this week. Mailboxes can be as simple as containers with each family member's name on it. Cut small pieces of paper and place them near the mailboxes with crayons, stickers, or other card-making supplies. Encourage each family member to send a message to every other family member during the week.

EXTRA MILE

Play a game of telephone with your family. Whisper a message in one person's ear. That person whispers what he heard to the next person. Keep passing the message until everyone has heard it. What does the last person think the message is?

Look at baby announcements you have received. They are a type of message. Your child might enjoy seeing their own birth announcement if you sent one out. What baby did Isaiah announce?

God gives us messages through the Bible. Read several stories from *The Story for Little Ones* this week. Talk about the message God gives us in the story.

Use these motions to help your child remember part of the key verse. Tell your child that the "I" in the verse is God.

I will help you. (*Point up. Hold hand out like you are helping someone stand up.*)

I will keep you safe. (*Point up. Hug yourself tightly.*)

Isaiah 49:8 (*Open hands like a book.*)

GOD'S PROPHETS

Timeless Truth: The Lord's plans always come through.

Bible Basis: Jeremiah 1:4–10; 2:21–28; 5:1–2; 16:17–19; 2 Chronicles 36:1–16; 2 Kings 25:1–12; Lamentations 1:1; 2:17; 3:21–26; 5:1, 15–21; Ezekiel 1:1–2:17; 36:22–36

Key Verse: I say to myself, "The Lord is everything I will ever need. So I will put my hope in him."
—Lamentations 3:24 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 17: "God's Prophets"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 17 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience God's love through heart snacks. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God loved his people even when they did wrong. God always loves you.

TABLE TALK

- Who loves you?
- How do you show someone that you love them?

LIVING FAITH

Hearts are a symbol of love. Gather at least one heart-shaped cookie cutter for this activity. Make heart snacks with your preschooler this week for a meal or snack.

Make a jelly sandwich and cut it out using the cookie cutter.

Toast a piece of bread or tortilla and cut it out using the cookie cutter. Cover it with flavored cream cheese and fruit.

Cut heart shapes out of fruit. Watermelon is a great fruit to cut shapes out of.

EXTRA MILE

Jeremiah used clay pots to tell the people about God's love. Let your child play with play dough this week, making different creations, including pots.

Let your child use construction paper and decorative supplies to make a heart cards to share with others this week. Write the key verse on the card.

The people didn't listen to God. Play a listening game with your child. Make a rhythm by clapping your hands, stomping your feet, and patting your legs. Encourage your preschooler to listen to the rhythm and then repeat it.

Use these motions to help your child remember part of the key verse.

The Lord *(Make an L with your right hand. Take the L across your body from your right shoulder to your left hip.)*

Is everything *(Hold arms out wide.)*

I will ever need. *(Make a hook with the pointer finger on your right hand. Move it up and down twice.)*

Lamentations 3:24 *(Open hands like a book.)*

ASK GOD FOR HELP

Timeless Truth: The Lord's plans don't harm, but bring hope and success.

Bible Basis: Daniel 6:1–13, 16–23; Jeremiah 30:1–3, 8, 10–11; 31:23–25; 29:10–14

Key Verse: [Daniel] went to his room three times a day to pray. He got down on his knees and gave thanks to his God. —Daniel 6:10 NIRV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 18: "Ask God for Help"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 18 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child remember the Bible story through acting it out. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Daniel is loyal to God, and God protects him. I can be loyal to God.

TABLE TALK

- **Who protected Daniel?** (*God protected Daniel from the lions.*)
- **Who prayed to God?** (*Daniel prayed to God.*)
- **What can you pray about?**

LIVING FAITH

This week's Bible story is a fun story to act out. Use towels, bath robes, or fabric pieces for costumes and your child's stuffed animals for the lions. Make a lion's den by draping sheets or blankets over a table. As you read the story from *The Story for Little Ones*, act out the story with your child, getting your entire family involved. Have fun acting out the story multiple times, letting your preschooler play different parts each time. The repetition and using his whole body to tell the story will help him remember the story and the Bible point.

EXTRA MILE

Use the paper bag lion puppet your child made in class to help you tell the story this week. If your child didn't make one, you can make one by drawing a face on the bottom of a paper lunch bag and gluing bits of yellow or orange paper around the face for the lion's mane.

Daniel prayed to God even when he knew it would get him in trouble. Daniel prayed three times a day. Try to pray with your preschooler multiple times throughout the day. Pray one time on your knees like Daniel did.

Look at books or watch a movie about lions. God protected Daniel from the lions.

Use these motions to help your child remember the key verse.

Daniel went to his room (Walk in place.)

Three times a day (Hold up three fingers.)

To pray. (Fold hands together.)

He got down on his knees (Kneel.)

And gave thanks (Hold hands up.)

To his God. (Point up.)

Daniel 6:10 (*Open hands like a book.*)

GOD'S HOUSE

Timeless Truth: Putting God's business first brings prosperity.

Bible Basis: Ezra 1:1–7, 3:10–13; Haggai 1:2–11; Zechariah 8:2–22

Key Verse: They will be my people. I will be their faithful God. I will keep my promises to them.
—Zechariah 8:8 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 19: "God's House"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 19 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience following direction. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ideas to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God's people promised to follow God. God wants you to follow him, too.

TABLE TALK

- **What did God's people build?** (*God's people built a temple to worship God in.*)
- **Who did God's people promise to follow?** (*They promised to follow God and everything he said.*)
- **Who do you follow?**

LIVING FAITH

Use the following activity to help your child learn that he can follow God. First, draw a simple footprint on sheets of paper or print out a picture of a footprint you found online. Lay the footprints out in a path throughout your house. Have directions for an activity to do with your preschooler in each room. For example, in the bathroom, you might brush your teeth; in the bedroom, you might pick up toys; in the living room, you might read a Bible story; and in the kitchen, you can make a simple snack. You can tell your child the directions for each activity or make simple pictures for your child to guess the activity. At the end of your following activity, talk with your child about how he followed the footprints and the directions for each activity. God's people promised to follow him. How can your family follow God?

EXTRA MILE

Use blocks or cereal and snack boxes to build a church. Share with your child that the temple was a place where God's people worshiped him. Today, we worship God in a church.

Play some of your child's favorite games. Talk about the ways that you are following directions.

Rainbows remind us of God's promise to Noah. Color a rainbow picture of a church to remember that God's people promised to follow God and he wants us to follow him, too.

Use these motions to help your child remember part of the key verse.

I will keep (*Open arms out wide and then bring them in tight as if you are holding something close to you.*)

My promises (*Point to your mouth with your right hand. Make a fist with your left hand. Bring your right hand on top of the fist.*)

To them. (*Point to others.*)

Zechariah 8:8 (*Open hands like a book.*)

ESTHER GETS READY

Timeless Truth: By showing faith, God can change the hearts of rulers.

Bible Basis: Esther 1–9

Key Verse: Don't eat or drink anything for three days. ... I and my attendants will fast just as you do. Then I'll go to the king. —Esther 4:16 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 20: "Esther Gets Ready"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 20 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience the Bible lesson through acting it out. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Esther gets her heart ready for a difficult job. God helps me when things are difficult.

TABLE TALK

- **Who was Esther?** (*Esther was a Jewish girl who was made a queen.*)
- **What did she get ready to do?** (*To tell the king to save her and her people*)
- **What hard things might you have to do?**
- **Who can help you?**

LIVING FAITH

Young children love to pretend to be kings and queens. Have your family act out this week's Bible story using your own words or as you read chapter 20 from *The Story for Little Ones*. Use crowns, play necklaces, and anything sparkly for your costumes. You can make crowns using construction paper. A blanket or sheet can make a nice king's robe. Play food can make a nice banquet or have dinner or a snack for your banquet. Let your child experience the Bible story by playing different roles.

EXTRA MILE

Talk about the different things you do to get ready to go to church, to go to bed, to go to school, to eat dinner, or to go on vacation.

In this week's story, Esther invited the king and Haman to a feast. Have a special meal this week, making some of your family's favorite foods.

Discuss the different jobs each person in your family does. These jobs can be simple chores. Talk about the hard job that Esther had to do.

Use these motions to help your child remember the Bible point.

God (*Point up.*)

Helps me (*Point to yourself.*)

When it's hard. (*Pretend to push something away that is difficult.*)

SET APART TO HONOR GOD

Timeless Truth: God keeps his covenant with those who love him.

Bible Basis: Ezra 7:1, 7, 10–11; Nehemiah 1:2–6, 11; 4:4–6, 13–23; 8:1–12

Key Verse: [Nehemiah said,] “Don’t be afraid of your enemies. Remember the Lord. He is great and powerful.” —Nehemiah 4:14, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 21: “Set Apart to Honor God”

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 21 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child God is on our side through a prayer activity. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Nehemiah knew God was on his side. God is on your side too.

TABLE TALK

- **What did Nehemiah and the people build?** (*They built the walls of Jerusalem.*)
- **What makes you feel safe?**
- **What does God want you to do?**

LIVING FAITH

When Nehemiah and the people built the walls of Jerusalem, God was on their side. Give each family member several pieces of paper. On each sheet of paper, draw or write something that God wants you to do. It might be something like obeying your parents, reading the Bible, or telling a friend about Jesus. Tape each of these sheets of paper to tissue boxes, cereal boxes, or anything that you can stack like a wall. Take each box, one at a time, and build a wall. As you place the box on the wall, thank God that he is on your side and will help you do the item that is pictured. Then say the Bible point together. When the wall is finished have a celebration that God is on your side, just like he was on Nehemiah’s side.

EXTRA MILE

Nehemiah and the people worked together to build the walls of Jerusalem. Work together as a family to do something this week. You might work together to clean up after dinner or work together to complete a project.

Half of the people stood guard while half of the people built the wall. Let your child build a wall with blocks as you stand guard. Then switch roles.

Read books this week about characters that worked together and helped each other.

Use these actions to help your child remember part of the key verse.

Remember *(Point to your head.)*

The Lord. *(Make an L with your right hand. Take the L across your body from your right shoulder to your left hip.)*

He is great *(Lift your hands high above your head.)*

And powerful. *(Show your arm muscles.)*

Nehemiah 4:14 *(Open hands like a book.)*

BABY JESUS

Timeless Truth: Jesus coming to earth is God's plan to save mankind.

Bible Basis: John 1:1–18; Luke 1:26–2:20

Key Verse: [The angel said,] "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord." —Luke 2:11, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 22: "Baby Jesus"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 22 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child remember God's gift to us by giving a gift to someone else. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God sent his Son to save all people. You can trust Jesus to help you too.

TABLE TALK

- **What special baby was born?** (*Jesus, God's Son*)
- **Why did God send his Son?** (*To save all people*)
- **When do we celebrate Jesus' birth?** (*At Christmastime*)
- **What is your favorite part of celebrating Jesus' birth?**

LIVING FAITH

We give gifts at Christmas to remind us that God sent us a gift—his Son. Whatever time of year it is, chose someone to give a gift to. You might chose to fill a shoebox with toys to send to a child around the world, make a plate of cookies for a neighbor, buy some school supplies for a child in need, or give a pair of shoes to an orphan somewhere in the world. Whatever gift you choose to give, make a card to go along with the gift telling about the best gift of all—God's Son!

EXTRA MILE

Act out the Bible story. You might want to make this a tradition and make a recording of the performance each year.

Set out a child's nativity set this week and let your child play with it, retelling the Bible story.

Look at family baby pictures. Talk about the memories you have surrounding children's births.

Use these motions to help your child remember part of the key verse.

A Savior (*Making fists with your hands, cross your wrists in front of your body. Bring them out to shoulder level and open your hands. Then bring your open hands down.*)

Has been born (*Pretend to cradle a baby.*)

to you. (*Point to someone else.*)

Luke 2:11 (*Open hands like a book.*)

THE POWER OF GOD

Timeless Truth: Jesus did not come to condemn the world, but to save it.

Bible Basis: Matthew 3:1–17; 4:1–11, 24–25; Mark 1:31–2:12; 3:9–15; Luke 8:1–3; John 1:19–34

Key Verse: People brought to him all who were ill with different kinds of sicknesses. ... Jesus healed all of them. —Matthew 4:24, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 23: “The Power of God”

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 23 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience the story using water and plastic toy people. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Jesus shows people the power of God. I can look for God's power in my life.

TABLE TALK

- Tell me about some things that are powerful.
- What do you think is the most powerful thing on earth?
- How did Jesus show God's power? (*He performed many miracles.*)

LIVING FAITH

One of the events in this week's Bible story is when John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Fill a pan with water and gather plastic toy people. Pick one of the plastic people to be John the Baptist and one to be Jesus. The rest of the plastic people are those who came to John to be baptized. Let your child act out the story using the plastic people and the pan filled with water as the Jordan River. Encourage your preschooler to use her own words as she acts out the story. You may want to read the story from *The Story for Little Ones* the first time you act this out to remind your child of the story.

EXTRA MILE

As you go different places this week, look for things that have power. You might see a streetlight, a construction vehicle, a tow truck, or a policeman. Talk about all the different kinds of power you see and that God's power is stronger than them all.

Sit quietly by a window or outside. Look for different birds. Count the different birds that you see. What kind of bird was in the Bible story? Do you see doves where you live?

Read other Bible stories that show God's power this week. Many of the stories your child has been learning show God's power and are included in *The Story for Little Ones*.

Use these motions to help your child remember part of the key verse.

Jesus (*Take your right middle finger and touch your left palm. Take your left middle finger and touch your right palm.*)

Healed (*Make fists and bring your arms up from hips to shoulder level.*)

All of them. (*Open your arms out wide.*)

Matthew 4:24 (*Open your hands like a book.*)

JESUS, THE TEACHER

Timeless Truth: Jesus' teachings have earthly benefits and heavenly rewards.

Bible Basis: Matthew 5:2–12; 6:5–15; 14:22–32; Mark 4:30–41; 6:30–44; Luke 10:25–37; 15:1–7; John 6:66–71

Key Verse: [Simon Peter said,] "We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."
—John 6:69, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 24: "Jesus, the Teacher"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 24 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience teaching Bible stories. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Jesus told stories to teach people. You can learn from Jesus' stories too.

TABLE TALK

- Tell me about your favorite story.
- What is your favorite Bible story?
- Can you tell me about some of the stories Jesus told? (*The Good Samaritan; The Prodigal Son*)

LIVING FAITH

This week's Bible story is all about the stories that Jesus taught. Let your child teach some Bible stories, too. Let your child pick his favorite Bible story and pretend to teach Sunday school to your family or to stuffed animals. Color a picture, sing songs, have a snack, and pray. Include as much of your child's normal Sunday school class schedule as you can. If you do the activity as a family, let each family member take turns teaching their favorite Bible story. When everyone is finished, thank God for the teachers that help you learn from Jesus' stories.

EXTRA MILE

Let your preschooler use strips of cloth, bandages, or a doctor kit to take care of a sick stuffed animal. Caring for a sick stuffed animal will help your child remember Jesus' story about the Good Samaritan.

Read many stories this week. Talk about what those stories teach us. Make sure to read some of Jesus' stories too.

Let your child make her own Bible storybook. You can use coloring pages from previous lessons or find some online. Staple the book together using construction paper for the cover.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray. Use these motions to help your child remember the prayer Jesus taught.

Our Father in heaven *(Raise your hands in the air to God.)*

May your name *(Fold your hands as if in prayer.)*

Be honored. *(With folded hands, bow.)*

May your kingdom *(Put your hands on your head, fingers up like a crown.)*

Come. *(Wave someone toward you.)*

May what you want to happen be done *(Point up.)*

On earth *(Make a circle with your arms.)*

As it is done in heaven. *(Raise your hands in the air.)*

Give us today *(Hit a fist in the palm of your other hand.)*

Our daily bread *(Pretend to eat.)*

Forgive us our sins *(Cover your face with your hands.)*

Just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. *(Pretend to pat someone on the back.)*

Keep us from falling into sin *(Sway as if you are about to fall.)*

When we are tempted. *(Put a finger to your chin as if you are thinking about something.)*

Save us *(Raise your hands in the air to God.)*

From the evil one. *(Point behind you as if a bad guy is chasing you.)*

JESUS AND THE LITTLE CHILDREN

Timeless Truth: Jesus is the promised Messiah.

Bible Basis: Matthew 19: 13–15; Mark 10:13–16

Key Verse: [Jesus said,] "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them." —Matthew 19:14, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 25: "Jesus and the Little Children"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 25 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child show that Jesus loves them through a craft. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Jesus loved the little children. Jesus loves you too!

TABLE TALK

- **What did the disciples tell the parents and children?** (*They told them not to come.*)
- **What did Jesus tell the children?** (*Come to me.*)
- **Who loves you?**

LIVING FAITH

Jesus told the little children to come to him. With your preschooler, make a craft of Jesus and the little children. Take a piece of flesh-colored paper and fold it accordion-style three or four times. Trace around a template you find online or draw your own person on the folded sheet of paper, making sure the arms and the legs go all the way to the folds. Help your child cut out the person shape. Unfold the paper to reveal a chain of people holding hands. Using yarn, markers, fabric scraps, or construction paper, help your child decorate one person to look like Jesus, one person to look like your child, and the others to look like the rest of your family or your preschooler's friends. Hang the chain of people where you will see it all week and be reminded that Jesus loves you.

EXTRA MILE

Sing the songs "Jesus Loves Me" and "Jesus Loves the Little Children" many times this week. If you don't know the songs, you can find them online.

Use paper, scissors, glue, and decoration supplies to make cards to give to people you love. Remind them that Jesus loves them too.

The disciples told the children to stop, but Jesus told them to come. Play "Red Light, Green Light" with your child and other stop-and-go games.

Use these motions to help your child remember this verse from the Bible story.

Let the little children (*Pretend to pat the heads of little children.*)

Come (*Signal for someone to come closer.*)

To me. (*Point up to God.*)

Matthew 19:14 (*Open hands like a book.*)

JESUS' SACRIFICE

Timeless Truth: God gives eternal life to those who know Jesus Christ.

Bible Basis: Matthew 26:26–28, 33–35; 27:46–49; Luke 22:51, 55–62; 23:32–41; John 13:21–24, 25–30; 14:1–15; 18:4–10; 19:30

Key Verse: [Jesus said,] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust in me also.”
—John 14:1, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 26: “Jesus’ Sacrifice”

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 26 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience a special dinner like the one Jesus had with his disciples. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Jesus died for our sins so we can live with him in heaven someday. I can accept his love.

TABLE TALK

- **What happened to Jesus in this Bible story?** (*Jesus had dinner with his friends, prayed in a garden, and died on a cross.*)
- **Why did Jesus die?** (*He died for our sins.*)
- **How did Jesus show he loves us?** (*By dying for our sins*)

LIVING FAITH

Jesus had a special dinner with his friends. Have a special meal with your family and friends this week. In Bible times, people ate with their hands while reclining on their left arm around a low table. Eat your special meal while sitting on the floor. Spread a plastic tablecloth on the ground or eat outside to minimize cleanup. Choose foods that you can eat easily with your hands, such as a sandwich. As you eat, talk about the special meal that Jesus had with his friends, the disciples. What happened when dinner was over?

EXTRA MILE

Jesus went to the garden to pray. Go to a garden or even to a plant inside to read this week's Bible story from *The Story for Little Ones* and then pray together.

Sing "Jesus Loves Me" this week. Learn all of the verses and the motions as well.

Read books about people showing love. How did Jesus show his love to us?

Use these motions to help your child remember the verse he learned in class.

God (*Point up.*)

Loved the world so much (*Hug yourself.*)

That he gave (*Act like you are giving someone a present.*)

His one and only Son. (*Hold up one finger.*)

John 3:16 (*Open hands like a book.*)

JESUS HAS RISEN!

Timeless Truth: Jesus fulfilled the prophecies by rising from the dead.

Bible Basis: Matthew 28:2–8, 16–20; Luke 24:36–49; John 21:1–6

Key Verse: [The angel said,] “He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would.”
—Matthew 28:6, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 27: “Jesus Has Risen!”

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 27 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience the joy of Jesus’ resurrection through retelling the Bible story using items in plastic Easter eggs. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God gave Jesus new life. He can give you a new life, too, if you ask him.

TABLE TALK

- Tell me about something amazing that happened to you.
- What amazing thing happened to Jesus? (*He rose from the dead and is alive.*)
- Jesus’ friends were surprised when they found his tomb empty. Have you ever been surprised?

LIVING FAITH

Help your child remember the story from the last two weeks and the new life that we can have through Jesus with these Easter eggs that tell the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Gather plastic Easter eggs or other small containers. Put things inside each egg that remind you of a part of the Bible story. You might use the following items: a piece of bread, a rock, a strip of cloth, spices, a small cross, a nail, a plastic flower, and a piece of string or rope. Leave one of the eggs empty. Number the outside of the eggs to go in order of the story. The last egg is the empty egg. As you open each egg, retell that part of the Bible story. When you get to the empty egg, celebrate that the women found Jesus’ tomb empty because he was risen!

EXTRA MILE

In class, your child read *The Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle to introduce the concept of a miracle. Read this book and other books about caterpillars and butterflies this week.

The news that Jesus is alive is too good to keep to ourselves. Think about ways you can share that Jesus is alive with family, friends, and neighbors. You might want to make cross-shaped cookies or cards to share this good news. Don't forget to include John 3:16, the verse your child has been learning.

Act out the part of the Bible story when the angel told Jesus' friends that he is alive. Be excited as you go to tell others that Jesus is alive!

Use these motions to continue to help your child remember the verse he has been learning in class.

God (*Point up.*)

Loved the world so much (*Hug yourself.*)

That he gave (*Act like you are giving someone a present.*)

His one and only Son. (*Hold up one finger.*)

John 3:16 (*Open hands like a book.*)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Timeless Truth: The Holy Spirit helps God's people to spread Jesus' love.

Bible Basis: Acts 1:2–11; 2:1–6, 23–24, 32–33, 43–47; 8:4–8; 9:1–9, 17–19

Key Verse: All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this. —Acts 2:4, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 28: "The Holy Spirit"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 28 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience the Bible story through the senses. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

God gives his people the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can live inside me.

TABLE TALK

- **Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem. What do you think they did while they waited?**
- **What did God give his people?** (*God gave his people the Holy Spirit to live inside of them.*)
- **Who can receive the Holy Spirit?** (*Everyone who believes in God*)

LIVING FAITH

When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples heard a strong wind and saw the Holy Spirit come in tongues of fire. Let your child paint pictures of wind and fire using homemade paint. Get unsweetened powdered drink mix in a variety of flavors so you can have many colors. Using a muffin tin, pour a different drink mix into each muffin cup. Add one tablespoon of water to each cup. Stir with a paint brush. As your child paints and can smell the flavor of the drink mix, talk about what the disciples might have seen, heard, smelled, tasted, and touched when the Holy Spirit came to live inside God's people.

EXTRA MILE

The Holy Spirit gave Jesus' disciples the power to speak in other languages. Teach your child a few words in another language. Even if you do not know another language, you can find the words and pronunciations online. You might want to teach words like hello or goodbye, numbers, or the sentence "Jesus loves me."

Waiting is not usually very much fun. Find fun things to do while you wait places this week. Play "I Spy" or use *The Story Preschool Trading Cards* to review the stories your child has learned.

The Holy Spirit can live inside of us. Look at books about animal homes to see what animals live in.

Use these motions to help your child remember part of the key verse.

All of them (*Hold your hands out wide.*)

Were filled (*Bring your hands up from your waist to over your head.*)

With the Holy Spirit. (*Take your first two fingers on your right hand and take them across left palm toward fingers with both palms face up.*)

Acts 2:4 (*Open hands like a book.*)

GOD USES PAUL

Timeless Truth: Without Jesus, we all fall short of God's glory.

Bible Basis: Acts 16:16–36; 1 Thessalonians 1:3–5; 3:9–13; 4:16–18; 5:16–28; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:12–18, 27; 13:1–7; 15:21; 16:23–24; Galatians 5:22–25; 6:18

Key Verse: He asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus."
—Acts 16:30–31, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 29: "God Uses Paul"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 29 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience the Bible story by acting it out. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Jesus saves us if we believe in him. I can choose to believe.

TABLE TALK

- **What happened to Paul and Silas?** (*They were thrown in jail.*)
- **What did they do while they were in jail?** (*They sang songs to God.*)
- **What is your favorite song?**

LIVING FAITH

This week's Bible story is a great one to act out. Help your child dress up like Paul using a bath robe, towel, or piece of fabric. Make the jail out of a large box or table. String strips of crepe paper streamers from the jail for prison bars. Retell the story using *The Story for Little Ones*. Encourage your child to sing with you while you are in jail and say Paul's words. Involve other family members to be the jailer and other prisoners. Make sure to say the key verse as part of your story.

EXTRA MILE

At the beginning of this week's story, Saul saw a bright light and then was blind for a few days. Read a book about how eyes help us see. Have your child close her eyes and do a task that is simple for her to do with her eyes open. Talk about how different that feels.

Paul and Silas sang songs to God while they were in jail. Sing some of your preschooler's favorite songs from Sunday school and church.

We can choose to believe in Jesus. Choosing to believe in Jesus is a good choice. Talk about other choices that you make and whether they are good choices or bad choices.

Use these motions to help your child remember part of the key verse.

Believe in (Touch your right pointer finger to temple. Then bring your hand down and clasp it together with your left hand.)

the Lord Jesus (Touch your right middle finger to your left palm. Touch your left middle finger to your right palm.)

Acts 16:30 (Open hands like a book.)

GOD'S SERVANT

Timeless Truth: God's saving grace is worth more than any earthly suffering.

Bible Basis: Acts 20:22–28, 36–38; 22:22–29; 27:1, 9–41; 28:1–10

Key Verse: "I want to complete the work the Lord Jesus has given me. He wants me to give witness to others about the good news of God's grace." —Acts 20:24, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 30: "God's Servant"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 30 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child remember Paul's boat ride by making an edible boat. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Paul served God with his whole life. God wants me to serve him too.

TABLE TALK

- How did Paul serve God? (*He taught people about God.*)
- Paul traveled to Rome on a boat. How do you go places?
- How can you serve God?

LIVING FAITH

Paul served God with his whole life. Sometimes, he traveled by boat to serve God. With your preschooler, make edible taco boats for a meal this week. Make a tortilla boat by pressing a small tortilla into an oven-safe bowl or into a bowl shape on an upside down muffin tin. Cover the tortillas with cooking spray and bake at 375° for 5–7 minutes or until the tortillas are crispy and golden brown. You can also make small taco boats by using tortilla chips that are made for scooping dip. Fill the boat with ground taco meat, beans, cheese, and your favorite taco toppings. Use a strip of baked tortilla for the mast and a slice of cheese for a sail.

EXTRA MILE

During bath time this week, let your child play with boats. If you don't have any boats, you can make a simple boat from a clean meat tray.

Paul served God with his whole life. Help make serving a habit for your family by choosing simple ideas you can do each week or monthly. One way you can serve God as a whole family is by greeting others who come to your church. Ask your church or other local organizations for ways your entire family can help serve.

We use different parts of our bodies to help serve God. Read books about how God made our bodies and sing the song "Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes."

Use these motions to help your child remember the Bible point.

God *(Point up.)*

Wants me *(Point to yourself.)*

To serve him. *(Hold hands out like you are giving a gift.)*

JESUS' RETURN

Timeless Truth: Jesus wins the ultimate victory; he's coming soon.

Bible Basis: Revelation 1:1–20; 4:1–11; 5:13–14; 19:11–15; 21:10–18, 21–27; 22:7–14, 16–21

Key Verse: Look! He is coming with the clouds. Every eye will see him. —Revelation 1:7, NIV

Resource: *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 31: "Jesus' Return"

PARENT TIPS

Read chapter 31 in *The Story for Little Ones* several times this week and talk about the key point. Reading the story several times will help your preschooler to remember it. Use the Table Talk questions to talk about the lesson. Use the questions anytime throughout the week, not just at the table. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child experience the joy of heaven as a child of God by playing pretend. The Extra Mile ideas give you more ways to help your child remember the lesson.

GET THE POINT

Jesus is coming again. Because you are a child of Jesus, you will be with Jesus forever in heaven!

TABLE TALK

- **What did John see in heaven?** (*He saw amazing castles and a lot of gold and silver and other amazing things. Jesus sat on the throne, and people sang his praises all the time. Jesus was leading a strong army and fighting for what was fair.*)
- **What do you think heaven will be like?**
- **What do you want to do first in heaven?**

LIVING FAITH

As children of King Jesus, you and your child are a prince or princess. Dress up like a child of the King using any fancy clothes you may have in a dress-up box. If you don't have a dress-up box, you can use blankets or sheets for a robe. Costume jewelry and feather boas make a great addition to a princess outfit. Princes and princesses aren't complete without a crown. You can make crowns with craft foam or construction paper and plastic stick-on jewels. Play pretend as princes and princesses. Then play pretend about what you and your child might do forever in heaven with Jesus.

EXTRA MILE

Cut pieces of paper in many different shapes like squares, rectangles, circles, and triangles. Let your child take these shapes and make a palace. You can help your child glue the shapes to a sheet of construction paper if you want to save the palace.

Read fairy tales to your child this week. While fairy tales don't often come true on earth, you can live happily ever after in heaven with Jesus if you believe in him.

Jesus is coming again. Talk about people you know who have left for a while and came back again. Pray and thank God that Jesus is coming again.

Use these motions to help your child remember the key verse.

Look! (*Put hand above eyes like you are searching for something.*)

He is coming (*Motion to come close.*)

With the clouds. (*Move hands in circles for a billowy cloud.*)

Revelation 1:7 (*Open hands like a book.*)