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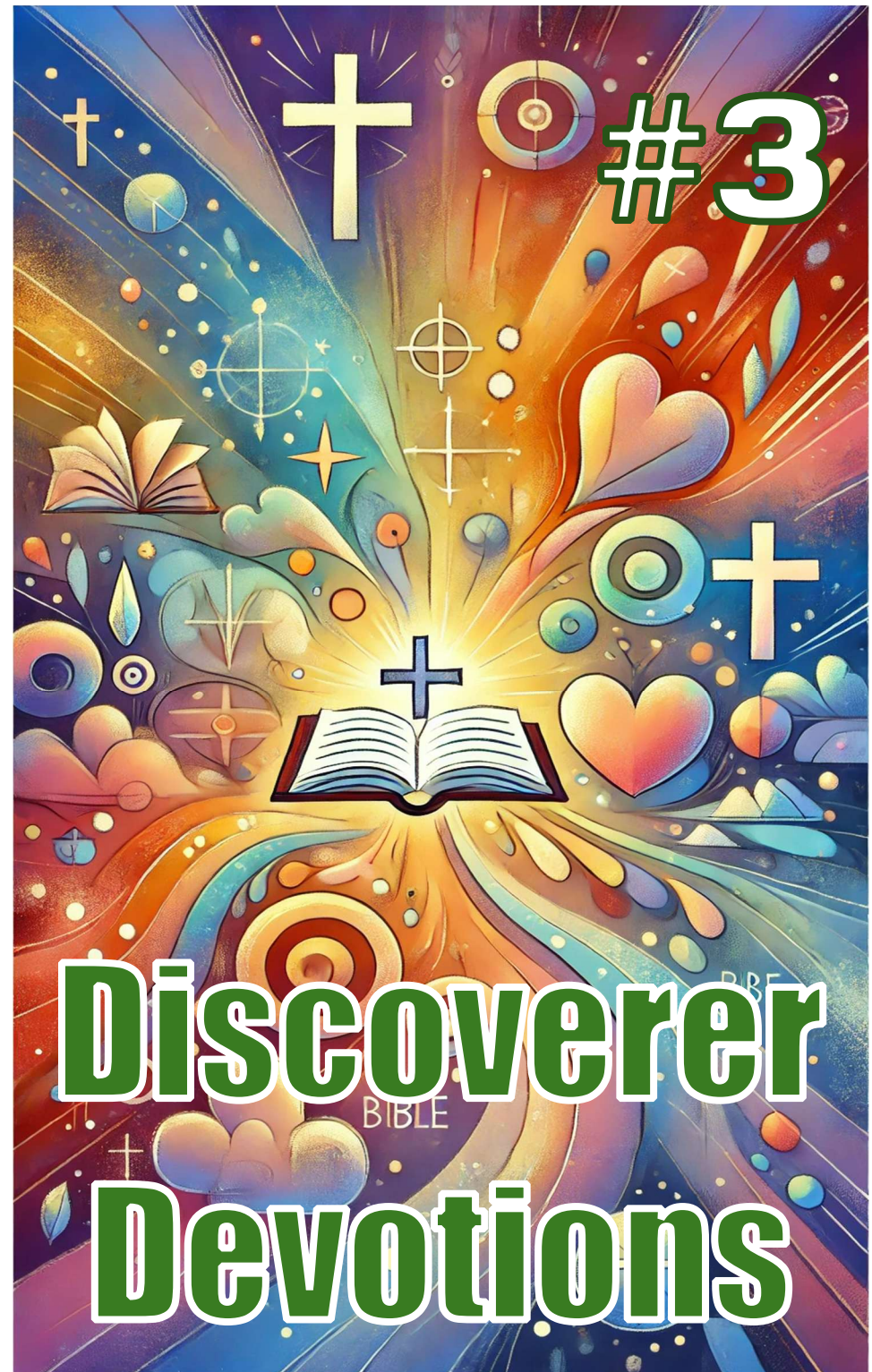


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How to Use...

Why Daily Devotions Matter

- **Spiritual Growth** – It helps children develop a strong foundation in God’s Word.
- **Family Connection** – It creates a dedicated time for meaningful conversation and bonding.
- **Moral Guidance** – It provides wisdom and direction for making godly choices.
- **Prayer Habit** – It teaches children to rely on God in all circumstances.

By making family devotions a daily priority, parents can instill lifelong faith habits in their children and create a home centered on God’s Word.

Parents Using Family Devotional Effectively

Here’s a simple guide for parents on how to incorporate devotionals into everyday life:

1. Set a Consistent Time

- Choose a time that works best for your family’s schedule—morning, mealtime, or bedtime.
- Consistency helps make devotionals a habit, creating a special routine for your family.
- Start with follow-up what was learned before and how it was applied.

2. Read the Bible Verse Together

- Discuss what the verse means in simple terms and how it applies to everyday life.

3. Engage with the Devotional Story

- Read the short story or example provided.
- Relate the story to real-life situations your child may encounter.

4. Make the Faith Connection

- Help children understand how the Bible connects to their lives.
- Explain how Scripture reveals God’s love, guidance, and His plan for salvation.
- Encourage them to see the Bible as more than just words—it’s a message from God.

5. Discuss It

- Use Discussion question to deepen what we learn.

6. Pray Together

- Use the provided prayer or let each family member pray in their own words.

7. Application to our lives

- Encourage your child to put what they’ve learned into action

Betrayal and Denial

Bible Verse

"But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures."... – Matthew 26:56 (NLT)

Story

Liam’s best friend, Noah, promised to sit with him at lunch, but when some older kids invited Noah to their table, he left Liam behind. **Liam felt sad and alone.** That night, during family devotions, Liam’s dad read about **the night Jesus was betrayed.**

- **Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus**, handing Him over to the religious leaders (Matthew 26:14-16).
- **Judas identified Jesus with a kiss**, showing the soldiers who to arrest (Matthew 26:48-49).
- **Peter denied knowing Jesus three times**, just as Jesus had prophesied (Luke 22:61-62).

Liam tilted his head. “So, Judas was supposed to be **Jesus’ friend**, but he **betrayed Him for money?**”

“Yes,” Mom said. “And even **Peter, one of Jesus’ closest disciples**, got scared and **denied knowing Jesus three times.**”

Dad added, “Jesus **knew Judas would betray Him and that Peter would deny Him**, but He still **loved them both.**”

Liam sighed. “That must have really hurt.”

“Yes,” Mom said. “But Jesus **trusted God’s plan**. Even though He was betrayed, He **still went to the cross to save us.**”

Faith Connection

Jesus was **betrayed by Judas** and **denied by Peter**, but He **still chose to love and forgive**. Even when we **make mistakes or feel hurt**, Jesus **understands and is always ready to forgive**.

Discuss It

Why do you think **Jesus still loved Peter and Judas**, even though they hurt Him? How does knowing **Jesus forgives us** help us when we make mistakes?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for loving me even when I make mistakes. Help me to **trust You, forgive others, and stay faithful to You**. Amen.

Live It

This week, if someone **hurts your feelings**, remember **how Jesus responded** with love and forgiveness. Ask God to **help you forgive** and trust Him, just like Jesus did.

Humility and Sacrifice

Bible Verse

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." – Mark 10:45 (NLT)

Story

Noah’s soccer team had a **big championship game**. Before the game, the coach surprised them by saying, “Let’s take time to **clean up the field and pick up trash** before we play.” Some players grumbled, but Noah helped. Later, they won the game, and the coach said, “**True greatness isn’t just about winning—it’s about serving.**”

That night, during family devotions, Noah’s dad read about how **Jesus showed humility**:

- **He entered Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey** at the **Triumphal Entry**, not on a war horse like a king (Matthew 21:5).
- **He washed His disciples’ feet at the Last Supper** to show that a leader should **serve others** (John 13:14-15).
- **He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane** the night before He was crucified, surrendering to **God’s will** (Matthew 26:39).

Noah tilted his head. “So, Jesus could have come like a mighty king, but He **chose to be humble?**”

“Yes!” Mom said. “He came **to serve, love, and save us.**”

Dad added, “And when Jesus **washed the disciples’ feet**, He showed that **true leadership is about serving others.**”

Noah smiled. “Just like my coach said, **greatness is about serving—not winning!**” “Exactly,” Mom said. “And even when Jesus knew He would suffer, He **prayed in Gethsemane** and **trusted God’s plan.**”

Faith Connection Jesus showed **humility and love** through:

1. **His Triumphal Entry on a donkey**, showing He was a humble King.
2. **Washing His disciples’ feet**, teaching that **true greatness is in serving others.**
3. **Praying in Gethsemane**, showing **His obedience to God’s will.**

As followers of Jesus, we should **serve others, trust God, and follow Jesus’ example of humility.**

Discuss It Why do you think Jesus **chose humility** instead of power? How can we follow **His example of serving others?**

Prayer Dear Jesus, thank You for **showing me true humility**. Help me to **serve others, trust God’s plan, and follow Your example of love.** Amen.

Live It This week, **find a way to serve someone**—help a friend, clean up without being asked, or show kindness. Remember, **Jesus showed greatness by serving!**

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09 - (145-162)

These devotions are built around Bible Fact-Pak 10-point questions. To use them effectively, keep a copy of the Fact-Pak Study Guide nearby for reference. If you don't have one on hand, the summary below provides an overview of the questions to help you understand the origin of these devotions.

Staying Faithful to God (1 Kings 11:31)

- 145: After Solomon's death, the kingdom of Israel was divided into the kingdoms of Israel and Judah.
- 146: Jeroboam established idol worship in the northern kingdom so the people wouldn't go to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices.

Elijah the Prophet (1 Kings 18:38)

- 147: Elijah asked God to consume the sacrifice with fire on Mount Carmel to show Israel that He is the true God.
- 148: The evil king and queen of Israel during Elijah's time were Ahab and Jezebel.
- 149: God took Elijah directly to heaven in a whirlwind.

Elisha and Hezekiah (2 Kings 5:14)

- 150: Elisha succeeded Elijah as a prophet.
- 151: Naaman, a Syrian officer, was healed of leprosy by bathing in the Jordan River at Elisha's command.
- 152: God gave King Hezekiah a sign of the sun moving backward to show that he was healed.

Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (Jeremiah 29:11)

- 153: Many people of Judah were taken as captives to Babylon.
- 154: King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered Jerusalem and the kingdom of Judah.
- 162: Daniel interpreted a famous dream for King Nebuchadnezzar, revealing God's wisdom.

Rebuilding and Saving Israel (Nehemiah 2:20)

- 155: Zerubbabel oversaw the rebuilding of the temple after the people returned from captivity in Babylon.
- 156: Nehemiah oversaw the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.
- 157: Esther, a Jewish girl, became the wife of the king of Persia.
- 158: Esther saved the Jewish people by asking the king of Persia to spare their lives.

Job Trusts God (Job 42:10)

- 159: Job lost all his possessions and health but remained true to God.
- 160: God rewarded Job for his faithfulness by giving him twice as many possessions and as many children as before.

Lessons from Jesus' Parables

Bible Verse

...*"Life is not measured by how much you own."* – Luke 12:15 (NLT)

Story

Mia and her brother, Noah, were walking home from school when they saw a boy **fall off his bike**. Some kids just walked past, but Mia ran over to help him up. "Are you okay?" she asked.

That night, during family devotions, Mia's dad read **the Parable of the Good Samaritan**. "A man was beaten and robbed, and people walked past without helping. But a **Samaritan man** stopped, took care of him, and paid for his recovery." Mia smiled. "That's like when I stopped to help the boy today!" "Yes!" Mom said. "Jesus taught that we should **love and help others, no matter who they are.**"

Dad continued, "Jesus also told another parable—the **Parable of the Sower**. A farmer scattered seeds, but they landed in different kinds of soil. The seed represents **God's Word**, and the soil represents our hearts. Some hearts **reject God's truth**, but **good soil grows strong faith.**"

Noah tilted his head. "So, we need to have **hearts like good soil**—ready to learn from God's Word?"

"Exactly," Mom said. "And Jesus gave another important lesson—**Jesus warned that a person's life isn't measured by how much they own**. He taught that being **greedy** for things won't make us happy."

Mia grinned. "So, **loving people, listening to God's Word, and not focusing on stuff** are what's really important?"

"Yes," Dad said. "Jesus' parables teach us **how to live with love, wisdom, and the right priorities.**"

Faith Connection Jesus used **parables** to teach important lessons:

- **The Good Samaritan** shows that we should **love and help others**.
- **The Parable of the Sower** teaches that **God's Word grows in hearts that are ready to listen**.
- Jesus warned that **life isn't measured by how much we own**, but by our **relationship with God**.

Discuss It Why do you think **Jesus used parables** to teach people? How can we have **hearts like good soil** that grow in faith?

Prayer Dear Jesus, thank You for teaching me **how to love others, listen to Your Word, and trust You instead of stuff**. Help me to live wisely and follow Your ways. Amen.

Live It This week, **look for a way to help someone**—just like the **Good Samaritan**. Also, take time to **read the Bible** and ask God to **help your heart be like good soil**, ready to grow in faith!

Miracles of Jesus

Bible Verse

...*"With God everything is possible."* – Matthew 19:26 (NLT)

Story

Emma and her family were at a parade, but she couldn't see because the crowd was too tall. Her dad lifted her onto his shoulders, and suddenly, she had the best view! "Wow! Now I can see everything!" she said.

That night, during family devotions, Emma's dad read about **Zacchaeus** in **Luke 19**. "**Zacchaeus was a short man who wanted to see Jesus, but the crowd was too tall. So, he climbed a tree, and Jesus noticed him! Instead of ignoring him, Jesus invited Himself to Zacchaeus' house, and Zacchaeus' life was changed.**"

Emma grinned. "So, Zacchaeus **made an effort to see Jesus**, and Jesus welcomed him?"

"Yes!" Mom said. "And Jesus helped others **see in a different way—He healed a man who was born blind by putting mud on his eyes and telling him to wash it off.**"

Emma's brother, Liam, tilted his head. "Why did Jesus use **mud**?"

Dad explained, "Jesus could have healed him with just a word, but sometimes, **God asks us to trust Him in unusual ways.** The blind man obeyed, and when he washed, he **could see for the first time!**"

Mom added, "Jesus also performed another amazing miracle—**Jesus fed over five thousand people with just five loaves and two fish from a boy's lunch.**"

Emma's eyes widened. "That's not enough food for so many people!"

"But Jesus **multiplied it,**" Dad said. "The little boy's lunch fed **everyone**, with **twelve baskets of leftovers!**"

Liam smiled. "So, Jesus **helped people see, fed them when they were hungry, and noticed people like Zacchaeus** who wanted to know Him?"

"Exactly," Mom said. "Jesus cares for **our needs, our faith, and our hearts.**"

Faith Connection

Jesus **healed a blind man**, showing that **God's power can restore what is broken.** He **fed five thousand people with just a little food**, proving that **He provides for every need.** And He **noticed Zacchaeus**, reminding us that **Jesus sees and welcomes everyone** who truly seeks Him.

Discuss It Why do you think Jesus healed the blind man **in such a unique way**? How does the story of the **boy's lunch** remind us to **trust God's provision**?

Prayer Dear Jesus, thank You for **seeing me, providing for me, and helping me grow in faith.** Help me to **trust Your power** and follow You every day. Amen.

Live It This week, **think of a way you can trust Jesus—whether by praying for help, giving what you have, or looking for ways to know Him more.** Remember, **Jesus meets every need!**

Staying Faithful to God

Bible Verse

... *the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon, and I will give ten of the tribes to you!'* – 1 Kings 11:31 (NLT)

Story

Noah's soccer team had a big decision to make. Their coach retired, and some players wanted to follow a new coach, while others wanted to stay with their old practice group. The team was divided, and arguments started. "We were stronger when we were together," Noah said.

That night, during family devotions, Noah's dad read about how Israel divided into two kingdoms. "Because Solomon turned away from God in his later years, God told a man named Jeroboam that he would rule over ten tribes of Israel. **After Solomon died, the kingdom split into Israel in the north and Judah in the south.**" Noah frowned. "So, because Solomon disobeyed God, the whole kingdom fell apart?"

Mom nodded. "Yes. And Jeroboam, the new king of Israel, made things even worse. He was afraid that if people went to the Temple in Jerusalem to worship God, they might want to follow Rehoboam, the king of Judah. So, **Jeroboam built golden calves and established idol worship for people in the northern kingdom to worship so the people would not go to Jerusalem instead of following God's commands.**"

Noah's eyes widened. "So he led people away from God just to stay in power?"

"Yes," Dad said. "Instead of trusting God, Jeroboam chose his own way, and it led the people into sin."

Noah thought about his soccer team. "So, when people stop working together and following what's right, things start to fall apart?"

"Exactly," Dad said. "That's why it's important to stay faithful to God, no matter what others do."

Faith Connection

When Israel divided into two kingdoms, Jeroboam led the people away from God by introducing idol worship. Instead of trusting God's plan, he made his own rules. We must always follow God's way, even when others don't.

Discuss It

Why do you think Jeroboam didn't trust God to keep his kingdom strong? How can we stay faithful to God even when others make wrong choices?

Prayer Dear God, help me to trust You and follow Your ways, even when others don't. Teach me to stay faithful and not be led away by bad choices. Amen.

Live It This week, if you see others making wrong choices, decide to do what is right instead. Remember, staying faithful to God is always the best path!

Elijah the Prophet

Bible Verse

"Immediately the fire of the LORD flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench!" – 1 Kings 18:38 (NLT)

Story Logan and his friends were arguing over whose toy car was the fastest. "Mine is the best!" Logan said.

"No way! Prove it!" his friend challenged.

They decided to race their cars to see which one was truly the fastest.

That night, during family devotions, Logan's dad read about the **prophet Elijah**.

"The people of Israel had started worshiping a false god named Baal because of their evil rulers, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Elijah wanted to prove that the Lord was the one true God, so he challenged the prophets of Baal to a test."

Logan tilted his head. "A test? Like a race?"

Mom smiled. "Sort of! Elijah told the prophets to prepare a sacrifice and ask their god to send fire. They prayed all day, but nothing happened. Then, Elijah built an altar, poured water all over it, and prayed to God. Immediately, fire came from heaven and burned everything up!"

Logan's eyes widened. "So, God won the challenge?"

"Yes," Dad said. "The people saw that the Lord was the only true God."

Mom continued, **"Later, after Elijah had done so much for God, God took him to heaven in a whirlwind. He never even died—he was carried straight to heaven!"**

Logan grinned. "So, God's power isn't just strong—it's amazing!"

"Exactly," Dad said. "When we trust in God, we follow the only true and powerful God."

Faith Connection Elijah showed Israel that God is the one true God by calling down fire from heaven. Even though King Ahab and Queen Jezebel led people away from God, Elijah stayed faithful. God rewarded his faithfulness by taking him to heaven in a whirlwind. We can trust God's power and always follow Him!

Discuss It Why do you think God sent fire from heaven to prove He was the true God? How can we show others that we trust in the one true God?

Prayer Dear God, You are the one true God! Help me to trust in Your power and follow You, even when others don't. Thank You for showing Your greatness in my life. Amen.

Live It This week, think of a way to show your faith in God. Maybe it's praying before meals, telling a friend about God, or reading your Bible more. Remember, trusting in the true God makes a difference!

Jesus' Teaching

Bible Verse

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock." – Matthew 7:24 (NLT)

Story

Liam and his sister, Emma, built **sandcastles** at the beach. Liam packed his sand tightly, but Emma built hers quickly without much support. When the **waves came**, Emma's sandcastle collapsed!

"That's like what Jesus taught!" Liam said.

That night, during family devotions, their dad read **Matthew 7:24-27**, where Jesus said those who **hear His teachings and obey them** are like a **wise man who built his house on a rock**. But those who **hear and ignore His teachings** are like a **foolish man who built his house on sand**.

Emma sighed. "So, my castle fell because it didn't have a strong foundation—just like a life without Jesus?"

"Yes," Mom said. "If we **follow Jesus' teachings**, our lives will be strong like a house on a rock. But if we **ignore Him**, our lives will be shaky like sand."

Dad added, "And do you know what else Jesus taught? The **Parable of the Prodigal Son**—a story about God's **love and forgiveness**."

Emma smiled. "That's the one where the son ran away, wasted all his money, and then came home, and his father forgave him, right?"

"Yes!" Mom said. "The father represents **God**, who is always willing to **forgive and restore** anyone who repents."

Liam grinned. "So, if we **listen to Jesus**, we build on a **strong foundation**, and if we **mess up**, we can always come back to God?"

"Exactly," Dad said. "God wants us to **follow His Word** and **trust in His love**."

Faith Connection Jesus said those who follow His teachings are like the wise man who built on the rock, but those who ignore His words are like the foolish man who built on sand. Jesus also taught that God forgives those who repent, just like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. God wants us to build our lives on His truth and trust in His mercy!

Discuss It Why do you think following Jesus' teachings makes us strong, like a house on a rock? What does the Parable of the Prodigal Son teach us about God's love and forgiveness?

Prayer Dear Jesus, help me to **build my life on Your truth** by following Your teachings. Thank You for always **forgiving me** and welcoming me back when I repent. Amen.

Live It This week, think of one way you can build on the "rock"—maybe by **obeying God's Word, praying, or making a right choice**. Also, if you make a mistake, remember **God is always ready to forgive**, when you turn back to Him!

Recognizing Jesus

Bible Verse

... **'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'** – Matthew 16:16 (NLT)

Story

Mia's teacher asked the class a tough question: "Who is the most important person in history?" Students gave different answers—some said famous leaders, others said inventors or athletes.

That night, during family devotions, Mia's dad read **Matthew 16:16**, where **Peter boldly declared, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."**

Mia tilted her head. "Why was that so important?"

Mom smiled. "Some people thought Jesus was just a teacher, but Peter knew **Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior!**"

Dad continued, "And Jesus had **close friends among the disciples—Peter, James, and John**—who got to see special moments, like Jesus' **Transfiguration** and miracles."

Mia grinned. "So, Peter not only **knew who Jesus was**, but he was also **one of Jesus' closest friends?**"

"Yes!" Mom said. "Peter was bold in speaking the truth, and Jesus trusted him with great things."

Dad added, "Jesus also taught about **honoring both God and government**. When people asked about taxes, He said, **'Give Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give God what belongs to God.'**"

Mia thought for a moment. "So, we should **respect leaders on earth**, but also remember that **God deserves our hearts and worship?**"

"Exactly," Mom said. "We must **always put God first.**"

Faith Connection

Peter declared that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God—the most important truth in history! **Peter, James, and John were Jesus' closest friends among the disciples**, and they saw amazing things. **Jesus also taught that we should honor both earthly leaders and God by giving Caesar what belongs to him and giving God what belongs to Him**—our hearts and worship!

Discuss It Why was **Peter's declaration** about Jesus so important? What does it mean to **give God what belongs to Him?**

Prayer Dear Jesus, I believe You are the **Messiah, the Son of God**. Help me to **follow You boldly** like Peter did and to **give You my heart** while also respecting those in authority. Amen.

Live It This week, **think about ways you can give God what belongs to Him**—through **prayer, worship, and loving others**. Also, **show respect to leaders** at home, school, or church, just as Jesus taught!

Elisha and Hezekiah

Bible Verse

"So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times, as the man of God had instructed him. And his skin became as healthy as the skin of a young child, and he was healed!" – 2 Kings 5:14 (NLT)

Story Emma's mom gave her a recipe to bake cookies. "Follow the instructions carefully," she said. But Emma thought she could do it her own way. She skipped some steps, and when the cookies came out, they were flat and burnt.

That night, during family devotions, Emma's dad read about a man named Naaman. "Naaman was a Syrian army officer, but he had a terrible disease called leprosy. He went to the prophet Elisha for help, and Elisha told him to wash seven times in the Jordan River."

Emma tilted her head. "That doesn't sound like medicine."

Mom smiled. "That's what Naaman thought! He was upset because he expected something more dramatic. But **when Naaman finally followed God's instructions, he was completely healed.**"

Dad continued, "**Elisha was a great prophet who took over after Elijah**. He helped people trust God's power, just like Elijah had done."

Emma thought for a moment. "So, Naaman almost missed his healing because he didn't want to follow simple instructions?"

"Yes," Dad said. "And sometimes we don't understand why God tells us to do something, but He always knows best."

Mom added, "Like when **King Hezekiah was sick, God promised to heal him and even made the sun move backward as a sign!** That showed everyone that God is in control of everything."

Emma grinned. "God's way is always better—even if it doesn't make sense to us?"

"Exactly," Dad said. "That's why we should always trust and obey Him."

Faith Connection Naaman almost missed his healing because he didn't like God's instructions, but when he obeyed, he was healed. God showed His power through Elisha and gave King Hezekiah a miracle to prove His promise. When we trust God's instructions, we see His power at work!

Discuss It Why do you think Naaman didn't want to follow Elisha's instructions at first? How can we trust God even when His way seems different from what we expect?

Prayer Dear God, help me to trust and obey You, even when I don't understand. Thank You for showing Your power in my life and always knowing what's best for me. Amen.

Live It This week, if you feel like doing things your own way, stop and pray. Ask God to help you follow His way instead. Remember, trusting God always leads to the best outcome!

Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon

Bible Verse

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." – Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

Story

Emma's best friend, Olivia, was moving away. "I don't want her to go," Emma said sadly.

Her mom hugged her. "I know it's hard, but even when things change, God has a plan."

That night, during family devotions, Emma's dad read about the Israelites.

"Because they turned away from God, **King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered Jerusalem and took many people as captives to Babylon.**"

Emma frowned. "That must have been awful! Were they scared?"

Mom nodded. "Yes. Jeremiah, the prophet, warned them this would happen, but they didn't listen. **Jeremiah is called the 'weeping prophet' because he was so heartbroken for his people.**"

Dad continued, "Even in exile, God was still working. **God gave Daniel, one of the captives, wisdom to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.** Through Daniel, God showed that He was in control, even in a foreign land."

Emma thought for a moment. "So, even though everything looked bad, God still had a plan for them?"

"Yes," Mom said. "And Jeremiah reminded them that God wasn't finished—He had plans to bring them back one day."

Emma sighed but smiled. "I guess even when things change, I can trust God's plan too."

Faith Connection

The Israelites faced a hard time when they were taken to Babylon, but God had a plan. Jeremiah reminded them of God's promise, and Daniel showed that God was still in control. No matter what changes in our lives, we can trust that God is always with us!

Discuss It

Why do you think God let the Israelites be taken to Babylon? How can we trust God when things in life change?

Prayer

Dear God, even when life is hard or things don't go the way I want, help me to trust Your plan. Thank You for always being in control. Amen.

Live It Think about a big change in your life. Ask God to help you trust Him, just like Daniel and Jeremiah did. Write down a way God has helped you before to remind yourself He is always with you!

12 - (199-216)

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Recognizing Jesus (Matthew 16:16)

- 199: QQ Peter declared, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
- 200: Peter, James, and John were Jesus' closest friends among the disciples.
- 208: Jesus taught, "Give Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give God what belongs to God," when asked about paying taxes.

Jesus' Teachings (Matthew 7:24)

- 201: Jesus said those who hear His teachings but do not obey them are like the foolish man who built his house upon sand.
- 202: Jesus said those who hear His teachings and follow them are like the wise man who built his house upon the rock.
- 207: The Parable of the Prodigal Son teaches us that God is willing to forgive and restore the sinner who repents.

Miracles of Jesus (Matthew 19:26)

- 206: Jesus healed a man born blind by putting mud on his eyes and telling him to wash it off.
- 209: Jesus fed five thousand men, plus women and children, by multiplying five loaves and two fish from a boy's lunch.
- 210: Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus.

Parables and Life Lessons (Luke 12:15)

- 203: In Jesus' parable, the Good Samaritan helped the man who had been beaten and robbed.
- 204: In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus compared the seed to the Word of God.
- 205: Jesus taught that a person's life is not measured by how much they own and warned against greed.

Humility and Sacrifice (Mark 10:45)

- 211: Jesus entered Jerusalem at the Triumphal Entry riding on the colt of a donkey.
- 212: Jesus taught His disciples humility by washing their feet at the Last Supper.
- 213: Jesus prayed in Gethsemane the night before His crucifixion.

Betrayal and Denial (Matthew 26:56)

- 214: Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus.
- 215: Judas identified Jesus to the soldiers by kissing Him.
- 216: Jesus prophesied that Peter would deny knowing Him three times on the night of His betrayal.

God's Plan Stands Forever

Bible Verse

"Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear." – Matthew 24:35 (NLT)

Story

Emma's family visited an old castle on vacation. The tour guide explained, "This castle was once strong and full of people, but over time, it crumbled. No building lasts forever."

That night, during family devotions, Emma's dad read about something Jesus said about the Temple in Jerusalem. "The Temple was a huge, beautiful place where people worshiped God. But **Jesus prophesied that one day, not one stone would be left on top of another.**"

Emma tilted her head. "Did that really happen?"

"Yes," Mom said. "Years later, the Temple was destroyed, just like Jesus said."

Dad continued, "That's why we don't put our trust in buildings or things that won't last—we put our trust in God's Word, because it lasts forever."

Mom added, "And speaking of trusting the wrong things, **King Herod made a foolish promise. At a party, his stepdaughter danced for him, and he told her she could ask for anything. Her mother told her to ask for John the Baptist's head, and Herod went through with it,** even though he knew it was wrong."

Emma frowned. "Why didn't he just say no?"

"Because he was more worried about looking good in front of his guests than doing what was right," Dad explained.

Emma thought for a moment. "So, Herod cared more about what people thought, and the people in Jesus' time cared more about the Temple than about God?"

"Exactly," Mom said. "That's why Jesus taught that God's truth lasts forever. We should focus on Him, not things that don't last."

Faith Connection

King Herod made a foolish choice because he cared about what others thought. The people in Jerusalem trusted in the Temple, but Jesus said it would be destroyed. Only God's truth lasts forever, and we should always trust in Him instead of things that won't last.

Discuss It

Why do you think Herod didn't do the right thing? What can we learn from Jesus' prophecy about the Temple?

Prayer Dear God, help me to trust in You and not in things that won't last. Teach me to always choose what is right, even when it's hard. Amen.

Live It Think about something you sometimes put before God—maybe toys, TV, or what others think of you. This week, spend time focusing on God's Word, knowing that it lasts forever!

Rebuilding and Saving Israel

Bible Verse

"...The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall...." – Nehemiah 2:20 (NLT)

Story

Liam and his classmates were working on a class project when someone accidentally knocked over their model. Pieces scattered everywhere. "Oh no!" Liam said. "How will we fix this?"

His teacher smiled. "If we work together, we can rebuild it even better than before."

That night, during family devotions, Liam's dad read about how God used different people to restore His people. "After the Israelites were taken to Babylon, God allowed them to return home. **Zerubbabel helped rebuild the Temple so they could worship God again, and Nehemiah led the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls to make the city strong.**"

Liam's little sister, Mia, tilted her head. "So, they had to start over?"

"Yes," Mom said. "It was hard work, but God gave them strength."

Dad continued, "**Later, in Persia, a Jewish girl named Esther became queen.** When an evil man named Haman tried to destroy the Jewish people, Esther had a choice—stay silent or speak up to save her people."

Liam's eyes widened. "Was she scared?"

"Yes," Mom said. "**But her cousin Mordecai reminded her that God had placed her there for a reason. Esther bravely asked the king to spare her people, and he did!**"

Mia grinned. "So, just like Zerubbabel and Nehemiah helped rebuild, Esther helped save her people?"

"Exactly," Dad said. "God used each of them to do something important."

Faith Connection

God used Zerubbabel to rebuild the Temple, Nehemiah to rebuild the walls, and Esther to save her people. Each of them had to trust God and be brave. God still uses people today to do His work, and He can use us too!

Discuss It

Why do you think rebuilding the Temple and walls of Jerusalem was important? How was Esther brave in saving her people?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for using ordinary people to do great things. Help me to be brave like Esther and to do the work You give me, just like Zerubbabel and Nehemiah. Amen.

Live It Think of something in your life that needs rebuilding—maybe a friendship, a habit, or helping someone in need. Pray and ask God how you can be a part of His plan, just like Zerubbabel, Nehemiah, and Esther.

Job Trusts God

Bible Verse

"When Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes. In fact, the Lord gave him twice as much as before!" – Job 42:10 (NLT)

Story

Sophia had been saving her money for months to buy a special art set. But one day, she lost her wallet. She searched everywhere, but it was gone. "This isn't fair!" she cried.

Her mom hugged her. "I know this is hard, but sometimes we go through challenges that we don't understand. The important thing is to trust God, even when things don't go our way."

That night, during family devotions, Sophia's dad read about Job. "Job was a man who loved and followed God. But one day, **Job lost everything—his animals, his home, and even his health. Even though he was sad, Job never turned away from God.**"

Sophia frowned. "But why did Job have to suffer if he was doing the right thing?" Mom nodded. "That's a hard question. Job didn't understand either. But instead of giving up, he trusted that God had a plan."

Dad continued, "**Because Job remained faithful, God restored everything to him. He blessed Job with twice as much as he had before!**"

Sophia thought for a moment. "So, even when bad things happen, we should still trust God?"

"Yes," Mom said. "God sees the bigger picture. Sometimes, He allows us to go through hard things so we can grow in our faith."

Faith Connection

Job lost everything, but he never stopped trusting God. In the end, God blessed him even more than before. Life isn't always easy, but when we remain faithful, God is always working for our good.

Discuss It

Why do you think Job trusted God even when he lost everything? How can we trust God when something unfair happens in our lives?

Prayer

Dear God, even when life is hard, help me to trust You like Job did. I know that You are always in control and that You have good plans for me. Amen.

Live It

If something goes wrong this week—like losing something, feeling left out, or facing a challenge—take a moment to pray. Ask God to help you trust Him, just like Job did.

Choosing Jesus

Bible Verse

... "People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." – Matthew 4:4 (NLT)

Story

Noah loved playing video games. One night, his mom told him to turn it off and read his Bible before bed. He groaned, "But I'm about to beat this level!" His dad smiled. "It's okay to enjoy games, but what's most important—winning a game or growing closer to God?"

That night, during family devotions, Noah's dad read about Jesus' temptation.

"**Jesus went without eating for forty days and nights.** While He was hungry, Satan tempted Him to turn stones into bread, but Jesus said, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Noah tilted his head. "So, Jesus was really hungry, but He didn't give in?"

"Yes," Mom said. "Satan also tempted Him with power and riches, but Jesus refused because He knew following God was more important."

Dad continued, "Later, **Jesus met a rich young leader who asked how he could have eternal life. Jesus told him to give up his riches and follow Him, but the man walked away because he loved his possessions more than God.**"

Noah frowned. "So, the rich man missed out because he didn't want to let go of his stuff?"

"Exactly," Mom said. "Jesus wants us to love Him more than anything else."

Noah thought for a moment. "So, maybe I need to put Jesus first, even before video games?"

Dad smiled. "That's a great place to start!"

Faith Connection

Jesus fasted for forty days and resisted temptation because He trusted God's plan. The rich young leader, however, didn't want to give up his possessions to follow Jesus. We should always choose Jesus over anything else in life!

Discuss It

Why do you think Jesus resisted Satan's temptations? What can we learn from the rich young leader's mistake?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to love You more than anything else. Teach me to follow You even when it's hard, and to put You first in my life. Amen.

Live It

Think about something that might be taking too much of your attention—maybe a toy, game, or hobby. This week, take time to pray, read your Bible, or help someone instead. Choose Jesus first!

Jesus Shows His Power

Bible Verse

...*"Even the winds and waves obey him!"* – Matthew 8:27 (NLT)

Story

Liam and his family were on a boat trip when the water started getting rough.

"What if the waves get too big?" Liam asked.

His dad smiled. "The captain knows how to handle storms. We just need to trust him."

That night, during family devotions, Liam's mom read about how Jesus showed His power. **"The first miracle Jesus performed was at a wedding in Cana. When they ran out of wine, Jesus told the servants to fill jars with water. When they poured it out, it had turned into wine!"**

Liam tilted his head. "So, Jesus helped at a wedding?"

"Yes," Mom said. "That showed He cared about people's needs, even in everyday life."

Dad continued, **"Jesus also showed His power over nature** when He and His disciples were on a boat. A huge storm came, and the disciples were afraid. But **Jesus stood up and told the wind and waves to be still—and they obeyed!"**

Liam's eyes widened. "Just like our boat ride! I guess Jesus is the best captain."

Mom smiled. "And there's more. **One day, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a high mountain, where something amazing happened—His face shone like the sun, and He appeared with Moses and Elijah. This was called the Transfiguration, and it showed His disciples a glimpse of His heavenly glory."**

Liam grinned. "Wow! So, Jesus' miracles weren't just about helping people. They showed who He really was!"

"Exactly," Dad said. "Jesus has power over everything—our needs, nature, and even time itself."

Faith Connection

Jesus showed His power in different ways—by turning water into wine, calming a storm, and revealing His glory in the Transfiguration. These miracles remind us that He is in control of all things, and we can trust Him no matter what!

Discuss It

Why do you think Jesus' first miracle was at a wedding? How does knowing that Jesus can calm storms help us trust Him in scary situations?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for showing Your power in so many ways. Help me to trust You in every situation, knowing that You are in control. Amen.

Live It

If you feel scared or worried this week, remember how Jesus calmed the storm. Say a prayer and trust that He is always with you, no matter what!

10 - (163-180)

These devotions are built around Bible Fact-Pak 10-point questions. To use them effectively, keep a copy of the Fact-Pak Study Guide nearby for reference. If you don't have one on hand, the summary below provides an overview of the questions to help you understand the origin of these devotions.

Faithfulness under Persecution (Daniel 3:18)

- 163: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a blazing furnace because they refused to worship the gold statue set up by the king.
- 164: When the king decreed, that Daniel could no longer pray to God, Daniel continued to pray just as he always did.
- 165: Daniel was thrown into the lions' den for continuing to pray to God instead of the king.
- 166: The handwriting on the wall at Belshazzar's party meant that his kingdom was about to be conquered.

Jonah and the Big Fish (Jonah 3:1-2)

- 167: Jonah was swallowed by a great fish when he ran away from doing God's will.
- 168: When Jonah preached to Nineveh, the people repented, and God forgave them.

Prophecies About the Messiah (Micah 5:2)

- 169: The prophet Micah said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
- 170: Zechariah prophesied that Jesus' feet will stand on the Mount of Olives when He returns to the earth.
- 171: The angel Gabriel told Mary she would be the mother of the Messiah.

The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:12)

- 172: Mary, the mother of Jesus, was engaged to Joseph.
- 173: The shepherds were the first to hear that Jesus had been born.
- 174: The shepherds and Wise Men were the two groups who worshipped the Christ child.

The Wise Men (Matthew 2:2)

- 175: The Wise Men asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"
- 176: Herod was king over Judea when Jesus was born.
- 177: The Wise Men found Jesus by following His star.
- 178: The Wise Men gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Preparing the Way for Jesus (Luke 3:4)

- 179: Jesus grew up in Nazareth.
- 180: God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus.

Standing Strong for God

Bible Verse

"...We will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up." – Daniel 3:18 (NLT)

Story

Noah's teacher announced a new class rule: no one could pray before eating lunch. Noah knew he always prayed before meals, but now he wasn't sure what to do.

"What if I get in trouble?" he wondered.

That night, during family devotions, Noah's dad read about Daniel and his friends.

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship a gold statue, even though King Nebuchadnezzar said they would be thrown into a fiery furnace.

They told the king, 'We will never serve your gods.'"

Noah's eyes widened. "What happened to them?"

Mom smiled. "They were thrown into the fire, but God protected them! When the king looked inside, he saw not three men, but four—because God was with them."

Dad continued, "Later, **another king made a law that no one could pray to God.**

But Daniel kept praying just like he always did. Because of this, he was thrown into the lions' den."

Noah gasped. "Did the lions eat him?"

"No!" Mom said. "God shut the lions' mouths, and Daniel was saved."

Dad added, "And when **King Belshazzar was having a party and ignoring God, a mysterious hand wrote on the wall. Daniel told him the writing meant his kingdom would be conquered—and that's exactly what happened."**

Noah thought for a moment. "So, even when things were scary, they all stood strong for God?"

"Exactly," Dad said. "God was with them, just like He is with us when we trust Him."

Faith Connection

Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel stood strong for God, even when it was dangerous. God protected them and showed His power. We may not face a fiery furnace or lions, but we can be brave in standing up for our faith, knowing that God is always with us.

Discuss It

Why do you think Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel refused to disobey God? How can we stand strong in our faith when we feel pressured to do the wrong thing?

Prayer

Dear God, help me to stand strong like Daniel and his friends. Give me courage to follow You, no matter what, and remind me that You are always with me. Amen.

Live It If you ever feel pressured to do something wrong, remember Daniel and his friends. Pray for courage to do what is right, and trust that God is with you!

Nicodemus at Night

Bible Verse

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16 (NLT)

Story

Emma had a big question she was too nervous to ask in class. She waited until after school and then quietly asked her teacher. "I didn't want everyone to hear me, but I really wanted to know the answer," she admitted.

That night, during family devotions, Emma's dad read about a man named Nicodemus. "**Nicodemus was a Jewish leader who wanted to know more about Jesus.** But instead of asking in front of everyone, he visited Jesus at night."

Emma's little brother, Max, tilted his head. "Why did he go at night?"

Mom smiled. "He was probably afraid of what others would think. But Jesus didn't turn him away. Instead, **He told Nicodemus about eternal life** and said, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.'"

Dad continued, "Jesus invited people to follow Him. **The first four apostles He called were Peter, Andrew, James, and John.** They left everything behind to follow Him."

Emma grinned. "So, some people, like Nicodemus, asked Jesus questions, and others, like the apostles, just followed Him right away?"

"Yes," Mom said. "And **Jesus taught His followers about God's blessings in the Sermon on the Mount. The first part is called the Beatitudes, where Jesus said, 'God blesses'** those who are humble, merciful, and pure in heart."

Max smiled. "So, Jesus wants us to follow Him and live the way He teaches?"

"Exactly," Dad said. "No matter how we come to Jesus—with questions like Nicodemus, or by following like the disciples—He welcomes us all."

Faith Connection

Nicodemus came to Jesus with questions, while Peter, Andrew, James, and John followed Him right away. Jesus taught His followers how to live in the Beatitudes, showing that God blesses those who trust Him. No matter how we come to Jesus, He is always ready to lead us!

Discuss It

Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night? How can we follow Jesus like the first disciples did?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for welcoming everyone who seeks You. Help me to follow Jesus like the disciples and to trust Your blessings in my life. Amen.

Live It This week, take time to read one of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) and think about how you can live it out. Whether by asking questions or taking action, take a step toward following Jesus!

Jesus' Baptism

Bible Verse

"...Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" – John 1:29 (NLT)

Story

Noah was nervous about trying out for the school play. "What if I mess up?" he asked his dad.

His dad smiled. "I'll be there cheering you on. No matter what happens, I'm proud of you."

That night, during family devotions, Noah's dad read about Jesus' baptism. "John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. **When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming, he introduced Him by saying, 'Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'**"

Noah tilted his head. "Why did he call Jesus a lamb?"

Mom explained, "Because in the Old Testament, people sacrificed lambs for their sins. Jesus came to be the perfect sacrifice, taking away sin forever."

Dad continued, "**John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, but he also said that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.** That means Jesus would bring people close to God in a powerful way."

Noah's eyes widened. "So, when Jesus got baptized, did anything special happen?"

"Yes!" Mom said. "**God showed His approval by sending the Holy Spirit to descend like a dove and saying, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.'**"

Noah grinned. "So, God was cheering Jesus on, just like you said you'd do for me?"

Dad smiled. "Exactly! God wanted everyone to know that Jesus was His Son, and He was proud of Him."

Faith Connection

When Jesus was baptized, God showed His approval by sending the Holy Spirit and declaring His love for His Son. Just like Jesus, we can follow God's plan for our lives, knowing that He loves us and is always with us.

Discuss It

Why do you think John called Jesus "the Lamb of God"? How did God show His approval of Jesus at His baptism?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to take away our sin. Help me to follow You and remember that You love me, just like You love Your Son. Amen.

Live It

This week, think about a way you can follow Jesus' example, like being kind to others, obeying your parents, or sharing God's love with a friend.

Jonah and the Big Fish

Bible Verse

"Then the LORD spoke to Jonah a second time: 'Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you.'" – Jonah 3:1-2 (NLT)

Story

Liam's teacher asked him to help a new student, Ethan, feel welcome at school. But Liam wasn't sure he wanted to. "What if he's not nice? I don't really want to do this," he thought.

That night, during family devotions, Liam's dad read about Jonah. "God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people to repent. But Jonah didn't want to, so he ran away.

Liam tilted his head. "Wait—Jonah tried to run from God?"

"Yes," Mom said. "He got on a boat going the opposite direction. But God sent a big storm, and Jonah knew it was his fault. **The sailors threw him into the sea, and a huge fish swallowed him.**"

Liam's eyes widened. "That must have been scary! Did he ever get out?"

Dad nodded. "After three days, Jonah prayed, and God had the fish spit him onto dry land. Then, Jonah finally obeyed and went to Nineveh."

Mom added, "**When Jonah preached, the people repented, and God forgave them.**"

Liam thought for a moment. "So, even though Jonah didn't want to do it at first, God still used him?"

"Exactly," Dad said. "And just like God gave Jonah a second chance, He gives us second chances too."

Liam smiled. "Maybe I should give Ethan a chance, too."

Faith Connection

Jonah tried to run from God's plan, but God never gave up on him. When Jonah finally obeyed, the people of Nineveh repented, and God forgave them. We should always follow God's plan, even when it feels hard—He knows what's best for us and others.

Discuss It

Why do you think Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh? How does this story show that God gives people second chances?

Prayer

Dear God, help me to listen and obey You the first time. Thank You for giving second chances and for always having a good plan. Amen.

Live It

If there's something you've been avoiding that you know God wants you to do—like being kind to someone new or saying sorry—ask God for courage to obey today!

Prophecies About the Messiah

Bible Verse

"But you, O Bethlehem... a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf." – Micah 5:2 (NLT)

Story

Mia's parents promised to take her to the zoo, but the day they planned to go, it started raining. "Are we still going?" Mia asked, worried.

Her dad smiled. "Not today, but we will keep our promise. Sometimes, we just have to wait for the right time."

That night, during family devotions, Mia's mom read about how God made promises long before Jesus was born. **"The prophet Micah said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem,** and hundreds of years later, that's exactly where Jesus was born!"

Mia's little brother, Max, asked, "Did people know when Jesus would come?"

Dad shook his head. "They had to wait a long time. But one day, **the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her she would be the mother of the Messiah.**"

Mia's eyes widened. "That must have been surprising!"

Mom nodded. "It was! But Mary trusted God's plan."

Dad continued, "And God's promises don't stop there. **Zechariah prophesied that when Jesus returns, His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives.** That means He will come back as King one day."

Mia thought for a moment. "So, just like we had to wait for our zoo trip, people had to wait for Jesus?"

"Yes," Mom said. "And just like He kept His promise before, He will keep it again when He returns."

Faith Connection

God kept His promise when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, just like Micah prophesied. Gabriel told Mary about Jesus' birth, and Zechariah prophesied that Jesus will return one day. When God makes a promise, we can trust that He will always keep it!

Discuss It

Why do you think God gave prophecies about Jesus long before He was born? How can we trust God's promises for the future?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for always keeping Your promises. Help me to trust You, even when I have to wait. I know Jesus came just as You said, and I trust that He will return again. Amen.

Live It Think of a time when you had to wait for something good. This week, read a Bible promise and remember that God always keeps His word—just like He did with Jesus!

Jesus Calls the Disciples

Bible Verse

"Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, 'We have found the Messiah!'" – John 1:41 (NLT)

Story

Liam was excited about a new board game he got for his birthday. "This is the best game ever!" he told his friend Noah. "You have to come over and play it!"

That night, during family devotions, Liam's dad read about Andrew and Simon Peter. **"When Jesus began His public ministry at about thirty years old, He started calling disciples to follow Him. Andrew, after meeting Jesus, he immediately went to tell his brother, Simon Peter, 'We have found the Messiah!'"**

Liam's little sister, Emma, tilted her head. "Why was Andrew so excited?"

Mom smiled. "Because the Jewish people had been waiting for the Messiah for a long time, and Andrew realized that Jesus was the One!"

Dad continued, **"Jesus spent about three and a half years teaching and preaching. He called twelve disciples to follow Him, including Matthew, a tax collector.**

People didn't like tax collectors, but Jesus still chose Matthew and changed his life."

Liam grinned. "So, Jesus didn't just call important people?"

"No," Mom said. "He called ordinary people—fishermen like Andrew and Peter, and even tax collectors like Matthew."

Liam thought for a moment. "So, just like I wanted to tell my friend about my new game, Andrew wanted to tell his brother about Jesus?"

"Exactly," Dad said. "When we know Jesus, we should be excited to share Him with others too!"

Faith Connection

Jesus began His ministry at thirty and spent about three and a half years preaching and calling disciples to follow Him. Andrew was so excited to meet Jesus that he immediately told his brother. We should also be excited to share Jesus with others!

Discuss It

Why do you think Andrew was so eager to tell Simon Peter about Jesus? How can we share Jesus with others like Andrew did?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for calling ordinary people like Andrew, Peter, and Matthew to follow You. Help me to be excited to share Jesus with others. Amen.

Live It

This week, tell a friend or family member something you've learned about Jesus. Just like Andrew told Simon Peter, we can share the good news too!

11 - (181-198)

These devotions are built around Bible Fact-Pak 10-point questions. To use them effectively, keep a copy of the Fact-Pak Study Guide nearby for reference. If you don't have one on hand, the summary below provides an overview of the questions to help you understand the origin of these devotions.

Jesus Calls the Disciples

- 181: Jesus began His public ministry at about thirty years old.
- 182: Jesus preached and taught for about three and a half years before His crucifixion.
- 185: Matthew, a tax collector, became one of Jesus' disciples.
- 186: Andrew told his brother Simon Peter, "We have found the Messiah," after meeting Jesus.

Jesus' Baptism

- 183: QQ John the Baptist introduced Jesus as "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."
- 184: John the Baptist described Jesus' baptism as being with the Holy Spirit and with fire
- 189: John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.
- 190: God showed His approval of Jesus at His baptism by sending the Holy Spirit to descend on Him and declaring, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

Nicodemus at Night

- 188: Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus by night seeking the way to eternal life.
- 192: The 1st four apostles Jesus called were Peter, Andrew, James, and John.
- 193: The Beatitudes are the first statements of the Sermon on the Mount, beginning with "God blesses."

Jesus Shows His Power

- 187: Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana.
- 194: Jesus proved His power over nature by calming the Sea of Galilee.
- 196: Jesus revealed His glory to Peter, James, and John on a high mountain during the Transfiguration, where He appeared with Moses and Elijah.

Choosing Jesus

- 191: Jesus went without eating for forty days and nights during His temptation.
- 197: The rich young leader failed to follow Jesus because he loved his possessions more than he loved Jesus.

God's Plan Stands Forever

- 195: King Herod gave his stepdaughter the strange and tragic gift of John the Baptist's head.
- 198: Jesus prophesied that the stones of the Temple would all be thrown down, leaving not one on top of another.

The Birth of Jesus

Bible Verse

"...You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." – Luke 2:12 (NLT)

Story

Emma and her little brother, Max, loved Christmas morning. They were always excited to see what was under the tree, but this year, their parents had a surprise. "Before we open gifts," Mom said, "we're going to visit the nursing home and sing Christmas carols."

Max frowned. "But shouldn't we celebrate at home first?"

That night, during family devotions, Dad read about the birth of Jesus. "**Mary was engaged to Joseph when the angel Gabriel told her she would be the mother of the Messiah. After Jesus was born, the first people to hear the good news weren't kings or rulers—it was shepherds out in the fields.**"

Emma tilted her head. "Shepherds? Why them?"

Mom smiled. "God wanted to show that Jesus came for everyone, not just important people. The angel told the shepherds where to find the baby, and they ran to worship Him."

Dad continued, "**Later, Wise Men traveled from far away to find Jesus. They followed a star and brought gifts to worship Him.**"

Max's eyes widened. "So the first people to celebrate Jesus were regular workers and travelers?"

"Yes," Mom said. "God doesn't care about how important we are—He just wants us to come to Him with open hearts."

Emma grinned. "So, like the shepherds and Wise Men, we can worship Jesus by putting Him first on Christmas!"

Faith Connection

The first people to hear about Jesus were humble shepherds, and later, Wise Men traveled to worship Him. God doesn't choose people based on how important they are—He invites everyone to come to Jesus with a heart of worship.

Discuss It

Why do you think God chose shepherds to be the first to hear about Jesus? How can we worship Jesus like the shepherds and Wise Men did?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus for everyone, no matter who we are. Help me to worship Him with my whole heart, just like the shepherds and Wise Men did. Amen.

Live It

This week, take time to worship Jesus. You can sing a song, pray, or read the Christmas story. Remember, Jesus is the best gift of all!

The Wise Men

Bible Verse

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?..." – Matthew 2:2 (NLT)

Story

Noah and his family were on a road trip to visit his grandparents. "How do we know where to go?" Noah asked.

His dad smiled and pointed at the GPS. "This tells us the right direction."

Later that night, during family devotions, Noah's mom read about the Wise Men.

"After Jesus was born, some Wise Men from the East saw a special star in the sky.

They knew it meant a great king had been born, so they followed the star to find Him."

Noah tilted his head. "So the star was like their GPS?"

"Yes!" Dad said. "**When they arrived in Judea, they asked King, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews?'** But King Herod, who ruled over Judea, didn't like hearing about a new king."

Noah frowned. "Why not?"

"Because Herod wanted to be the only king," Mom explained. "But the Wise Men didn't give up. They kept following the star until it led them to Jesus. **When the Wise Men found Him, they gave Him gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**"

Noah thought for a moment. "So they didn't just want to see Jesus—they wanted to worship Him?"

"Exactly," Dad said. "They traveled a long way just to honor Jesus. That's the kind of heart God wants us to have, too."

Faith Connection

The Wise Men traveled far to find Jesus, following the star God placed in the sky.

Even though King Herod was against Him, they kept going and worshiped Jesus with gifts. We can also seek Jesus and give Him the best of our hearts!

Discuss It

Why do you think the Wise Men were willing to travel so far to find Jesus? How can we worship Jesus like they did?

Prayer

Dear God, help me to seek Jesus with all my heart. Teach me to follow You, just like the Wise Men followed the star, and to give You my best. Amen.

Live It

Think of one way you can give Jesus a special "gift" this week—maybe by showing kindness, praying, or reading your Bible. Remember, worship is one of the best gifts we can give!

Preparing the Way for Jesus

Bible Verse

"...He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the LORD's coming! Clear the road for him!'" – Luke 3:4 (NLT)

Story

Emma's family was getting ready for a special visitor—her grandparents were coming for the holidays! "We need to clean the house and get everything ready," Mom said. Everyone worked together to prepare for their arrival.

That night, during family devotions, Emma's dad read about how God prepared the way for Jesus. "**Jesus grew up in a small town called Nazareth. But before He began His ministry, God sent John the Baptist to prepare people for His coming.**"

Emma tilted her head. "How did John prepare them?"

Mom smiled. "John preached in the wilderness, telling people to repent—turn away from sin and follow God. He was like someone announcing that the King was coming!"

Emma thought for a moment. "So, just like we cleaned the house for Grandma and Grandpa, John was helping people get their hearts ready for Jesus?"

"Exactly," Dad said. "John told people to change their ways and follow God, because Jesus was about to begin His ministry."

Faith Connection

Jesus grew up in Nazareth and began His ministry when the time was right. Before He started, God sent John the Baptist to prepare people's hearts. We should also prepare our hearts for Jesus by repenting and following Him every day.

Discuss It

Why do you think John the Baptist's message was important before Jesus started His ministry? How can we prepare our hearts to follow Jesus?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for sending John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. Help me to get my heart ready by following You and turning away from sin. Amen.

Live It

Take a moment this week to "prepare your heart" by praying, reading the Bible, or asking for forgiveness. Just like John helped people get ready for Jesus, we can prepare to follow Him every day!