

JESUS APPEARED TO THE DISCIPLES



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Luke 24:36-49 from the Bible.



If you're ever in Ozark, Missouri, you should check out Smallin Cave. For a small fee, you can explore the miles of dark tunnels and wade in the pools of frigid water. The cave's darkness would scare the world's bravest man. The only light in the pitch black is the very dim, battery-operated lamp attached to your helmet. Sounds fun, right?

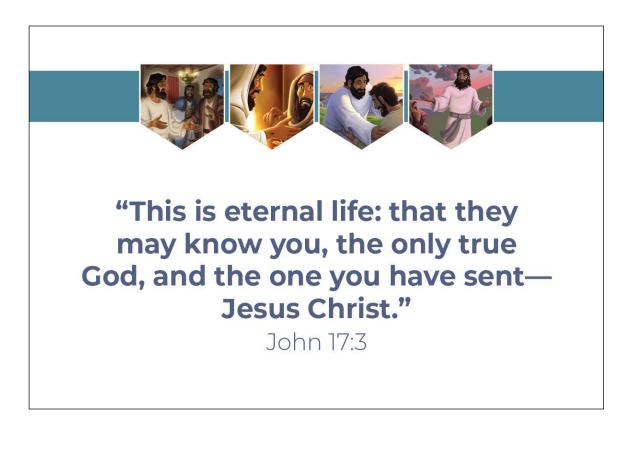
The tour of Smallin Cave is a frightening experience, yet people continue to sign up. Why? Because they know they are not alone in the dark; they have an experienced guide to help them through the cave.

After Jesus was crucified, His disciples were afraid and confused. Some had heard Jesus was alive but doubted, and then Jesus appeared. In the middle of this frightening experience, Jesus came to them with a message of hope and peace! He showed them the wounds on His hands and His feet. He ate with them. He taught them. Their faith was strengthened by Jesus' presence. In return, they couldn't wait to share the message that Jesus is alive!

For 40 days, Jesus presented Himself to at least 500 people and proved that He is alive. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8) Jesus is still alive today. He sends out believers to tell others about Him.

Pray: Jesus, we worship You because You are alive! When we have doubts, please remind us that You are with us. Help us tell others the good news that You are alive!









Ask Jesus to remind you of His presence as you go throughout the day. What can we do to remind ourselves that Jesus is with us? How does this knowledge help us face challenges?

Evenings

Ask God to increase your faith in Jesus and your courage to share Him with others. What are some of the doubts that you need faith to overcome? How can we encourage others who may have doubts about Jesus?



For Fun

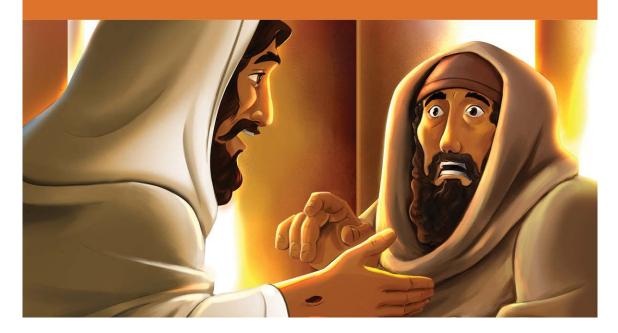
Visit a museum or an exhibit with historical artifacts. Discuss how these artifacts provide evidence of people, places, and events in the past. Remind kids of the evidences we have in Scripture that prove Jesus is God's Son and that He is alive. (Focus on the stories of the Bible that show Jesus' power, the eyewitness accounts of Jesus following the resurrection, etc.)

To Serve

Make a video recording of your testimony to post on social media. Share the video for others to see and hear God's faithfulness. Encourage other Christians to post their own testimony to help those who may be feeling scared, alone, or doubting God.



JESUS APPEARED TO THOMAS



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of John 20:24-29 from the Bible.



Have you ever heard someone say, "I've got to see it to believe it"? Despite what others say or do to prove something is true, we all tend to want to see it, hear it, or feel it for ourselves before we'll believe it to be true. But this isn't new...it happened in the Bible too!

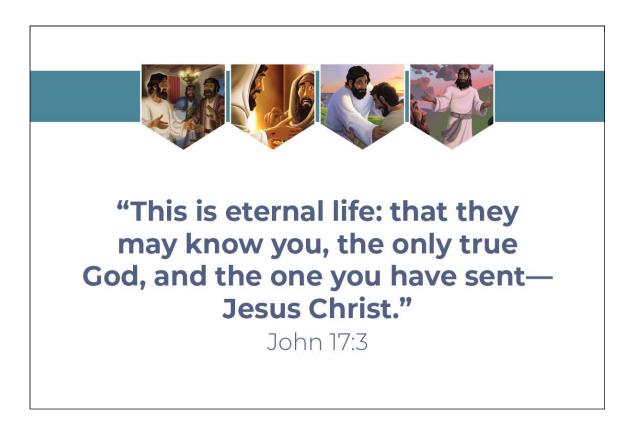
After Jesus was resurrected, He appeared to His disciples in a house in Jerusalem. These men were thrilled to share the news that they had seen the Lord, but it wasn't enough for Thomas. Thomas wasn't there when Jesus came, and so Thomas had a hard time believing that Jesus was alive. Thomas said he wanted to see Jesus for himself and touch Jesus' scars.

One of the amazing things about Jesus is that He knows our doubts and questions, but He provides exactly what is needed to help us believe. For Thomas, Jesus appeared to him and invited him to touch the scars on His hands and side. For us, Jesus has provided evidence in Scripture, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the testimonies of other believers to prove He is alive. He also offers us even more faith to help us believe and follow Him!

Jesus is still alive today. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed. Jesus sends out believers to tell others about Him and gives us the Holy Spirit to help us.

Pray: Jesus, thank You for understanding our doubts and questions. You are faithful to love us and give us exactly what we need to believe and follow You. Help us have faith and trust that You are alive.









Ask God to increase your faith in Him, in His Word, and in His power to save sinners through Jesus. How do you think God feels about our doubts? How does God respond to our doubts with love and grace? How does the Spirit help us believe—even when we have doubts?

Evenings

Thank God for the stories in the Bible of His faithfulness and power. Praise Him for the stories that are especially powerful and memorable for you. How does remembering the stories of God's faithfulness help you trust in what you haven't seen?



For Fun

Set up an obstacle course through the house and direct kids to navigate the course blindfolded. Attempt the course a second time with a family member guiding kids by her voice. Discuss how faith is believing in something not seen. Tell kids that even though we have not seen Jesus, we are blessed when we believe in Him.

To Serve

Walk your neighborhood and pray for your neighbors. Ask God to help them believe in Jesus and follow Him. Pray that God would provide faith for your neighbors—even if they have doubts or objections.



JESUS FORGAVE PETER



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of John 21:1-19 from the Bible.



Even the best golfers hit bad shots. They can use the best ball, the best clubs, and practice their swing for hours every day, but they will still hit it in a bunker from time to time. If they're playing with friends, the one who hit the bad shot might ask for a mulligan. A mulligan is a doover shot or a second-chance.

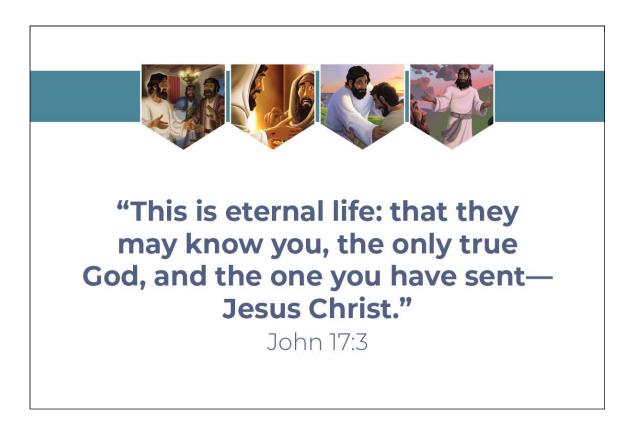
As we look at the story of Peter's life, we see a man who loved Jesus and would do anything for Him. But in the last hours of Jesus' life, Peter denied Him three times. After all he had seen Jesus do and heard Jesus say, Peter abandoned Jesus. But Jesus had not abandoned Peter. Jesus gave Peter a second chance—a mulligan.

While Peter had denied Jesus three times, Jesus gave Peter three chances to confess his love and devotion to Him. Not only did Jesus give Peter a second chance to express his love for the Savior, but Jesus also gave Peter a new mission—to show and share the love of Jesus with the world. Jesus restored Peter and used him to build the church of believers from every part of the world.

The disciples had turned away from Jesus when He was arrested, but Jesus still wanted to use them in God's plan—as fishers of men who would tell people the good news about Jesus. Jesus is the Lord who forgives us and makes things right again.

Pray: Jesus, thank You for being such a gracious and forgiving friend to us. Even when we fail, You have the power to restore us and use us to accomplish Your plans. Help us stay faithful to You and the work You have called us to do.









Thank God for allowing us to be a part of His mission. Praise God for the opportunities He has given you to serve Him and tell others about Jesus. How does it feel to know that God chose you to make you a part of His mission?

Evenings

Ask God for help in areas where you struggle to trust Him. Ask Him to give you the power to choose Him over other things. How does God's grace to give second chances help us turn to Him when we struggle or fail?



For Fun

Go fishing as a family. If you're unsure where or how to fish, check with your local library to see if they have fishing gear to check out. As you fish, retell the story of Jesus appearing to His disciples. Ask kids to describe how Peter might have felt before and after his conversation with Jesus.

To Serve

Go out to eat as a family and choose another table to bless by paying for their meal. Arrange with the waiter to pay their bill without the other party knowing. Talk with kids about how Jesus' sacrifice has paid our debt and given us a new life with a new mission. Remind kids that just as Peter was restored by Jesus, Jesus makes us a new creation when we trust in Him.



GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Matthew 28:16-20 from the Bible.



Have you ever tried to walk through your house when it's completely dark? If so, you know just how dangerous it can be. You might trip, run into something, or step on something because you can't see in the dark.

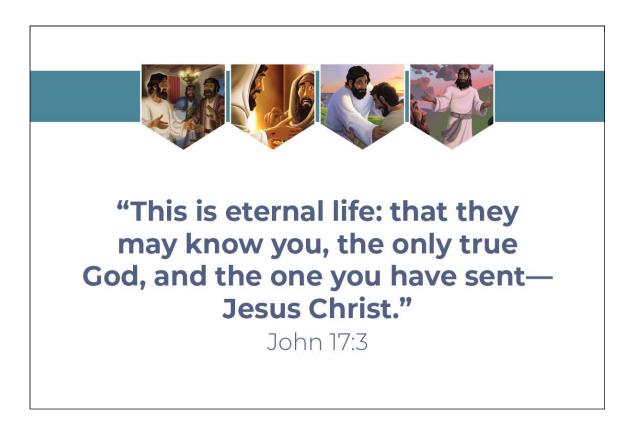
John 1 tells us that Jesus was born as the true light. He came as a light to help us know God so we can become a part of God's family. God wants us to know Him, so He sent Jesus to show us what He is like. In His miracles, Jesus was showing us God's power over everything. When Jesus healed a person in need, it was an example of God's compassion for us. As Jesus taught people, they got to experience the wisdom of God. And when Jesus died on the cross for sin, He showed us God's unfailing plan to save sinners. Jesus is the greatest display of God's love for you!

John 3:16 says, "For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." God did not want us to walk in darkness, so He sent His Son, Jesus, to be the light of the world. Now, those who follow Jesus get to shine His light and share the good news of the gospel with the world so they can know God too!

Jesus came to earth as a baby, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross for our sins. He rose from the dead and invites us into God's family forever. God wants us to know Him and to tell others about Him, too.

Pray: God, thank You for showing us who You are by sending Jesus to live with us. Through Jesus, we see Your love for us and Your plan to save us from sin. Help us share this good news with others. Amen!









Thank God for the many gifts He has given your family. How are these good gifts a reminder of who God is and what He is like? What is the greatest gift Jesus has given us?

Evenings

Ask God to bring His light to the darkness in your city or community. Amid bad news around us, how can we remind ourselves of the good news of Jesus? How can your family be a light that points your community to Jesus?



For Fun

Choose a night this week to eat dinner in the dark. Use a small candle or lantern to illuminate the table. As you eat together, talk about how the light reminds us that Jesus—even as a baby—was the light our world desperately needed! Remind kids that faith in Jesus brings us to God.

To Serve

Partner with a local charity like the Salvation Army to donate Christmas gifts for children in need. Shop as a family for the items and pray that God would use something as simple as a Christmas gift to point children to Jesus!



JESUS GAVE HIS FOLLOWERS A MISSION



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Acts 1:1-11 from the Bible.



Ludolph Van Culen died in 1610 at the age of 70. His gravestone reads, "3.1415926535897 9323846264338327950288..." Ludolph was a mathematician who spent his entire life trying to calculate the mathematical constant known as Pi. He was able to calculate the number up to 35 digits, which was a major accomplishment considering he didn't have a calculator or computer.

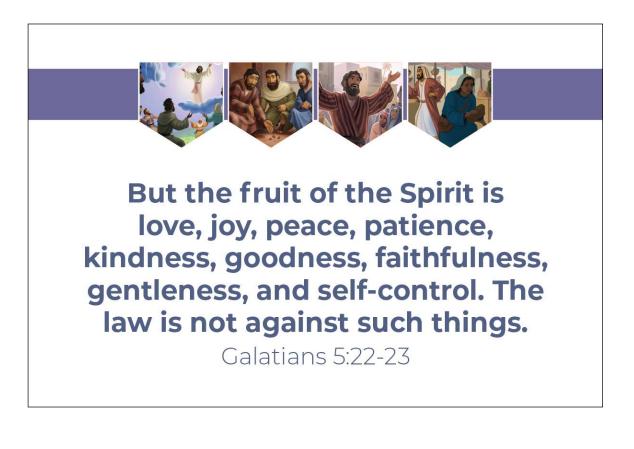
Ludolph Van Culen had a mission. The numbers on his gravestone show just how important this mission was to him. So important in fact that he would spend his whole life working to complete it. For those who follow Jesus, life has an even greater mission.

Before Jesus returned to Heaven, He gave instructions to all His followers. The mission He gave them was to go and make other disciples by telling them about Jesus and all He had said. The Holy Spirit would fill His followers with power, and their witness would spread to the ends of the earth! Today, we carry on this mission Jesus gave to His disciples. When we become followers of Jesus, the Holy Spirit fills us with the same power to tell others about Him until the mission is complete. Our life has a mission, and it's more than just a bunch of numbers!

Jesus left earth and returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us do God's work. One day, Jesus will return to make all things new and to rule as Lord over all.

Pray: Jesus, help us live out the mission You called us to complete. Show us the people who need to hear about You and give us the power to be Your witness to all the world.









Ask Jesus to empower you for the mission He has given to His disciples. What is the mission Jesus has given His followers? How can we play a part in His mission today?

Evenings

Pray for missionaries who share the message of Jesus all around the world. Pray for the protection and boldness of missionaries in foreign countries. How can the work of missionaries encourage us to live on mission at home?



For Fun

Host a strengths competition for your family. Include events to see who can lift the heaviest object, do the most jumping jacks, or stand on one foot the longest. Talk about how these events require strength and dedication. Remind kids of the mission Jesus gave to His disciples, and how He promised to give them the power through the Holy Spirit to complete the mission!

To Serve

Put together a care package for foreign missionaries. Work with your church, a local missions office, or IMB.org to coordinate sending the care package directly to missionaries or with a short-term mission team. Be sure to thank the missionary for sacrifices they've made to carryout Jesus' instructions to make disciples.



THE DISCIPLES REPLACED JUDAS



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Acts 1:12-26 from the Bible.



In show business, there is a common phrase that says, "The show must go on!" This means that no matter what happens, everyone in the play is committed to continue performing until the show is complete. The actors have a mission to entertain the audience and give them their money's worth, so this phrase is a reminder that they will complete this mission at all costs.

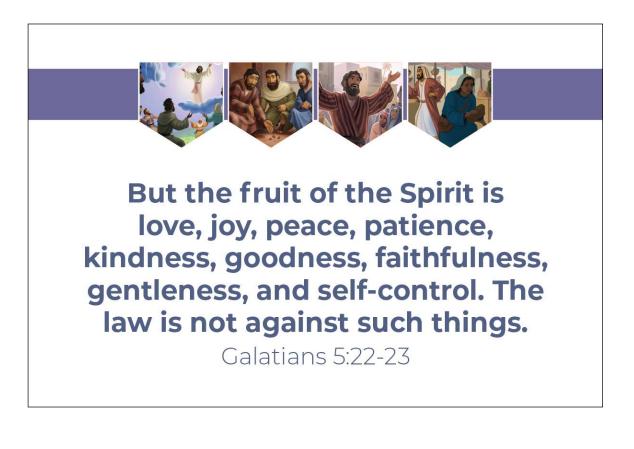
However, this phrase is even more true of the mission God has called His followers to complete. The disciples were committed to the mission of telling others about Jesus—even after one of their friends betrayed Jesus. They knew the mission mattered more than anything, so they chose a replacement for Judas and continued the mission.

God has called believers to spread the good news of Jesus across the whole earth and see people trust in Him as Savior and Lord. No matter what hard things we face or what might happen to us, we can keep serving others and keep sharing the good news because the mission matters. We can work together to see God do great things as He builds His church.

Matthias was chosen to join the apostles in sharing what they learned about Jesus. God calls us to join in this mission of sharing the gospel, working in community and seeking Him in prayer.

Pray: God, thank You for allowing us to be part of Your mission of making disciples. Help us face hard times with the attitude that Your mission matters. We want to tell the world about Jesus so they can know and follow Him!









Ask God to give you courage for sharing Jesus today. No matter what challenges you might face, ask God to help you complete the mission He has called you to do. Who is someone you can share the gospel with today?

Evenings

Thank God for His constant presence and faithfulness to lead His people. Praise God for being powerful enough to always accomplish what He wants to accomplish and thank Him for allowing us to be a part of it. How can we encourage other believers to be on mission for God?



For Fun

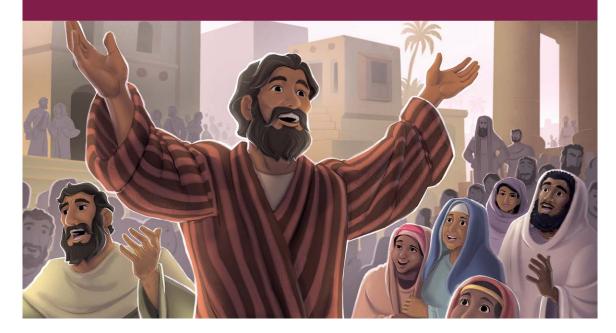
Practice memorizing the names of the 12 disciples—Matthias and the other eleven mentioned in Acts 1:13. Challenge kids to memorize the names in alphabetical order or in the order listed in Acts. Talk with kids about some of the Bible stories that teach us how these men served God and shared Jesus with others.

To Serve

Volunteer your family to help the church by serving on a Sunday or helping with a special project. Consider such ideas as serving with kids, greeting people at the church doors, or working in parts of the church that need to be organized and cleaned. As you serve, talk with kids about how the eleven disciples each had different gifts and abilities they used to serve Jesus in various ways. Remind kids that God put these men together to fulfill His mission for the church, and God has put your family where you are to serve His mission also.



THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Acts 2:1-13 from the Bible.



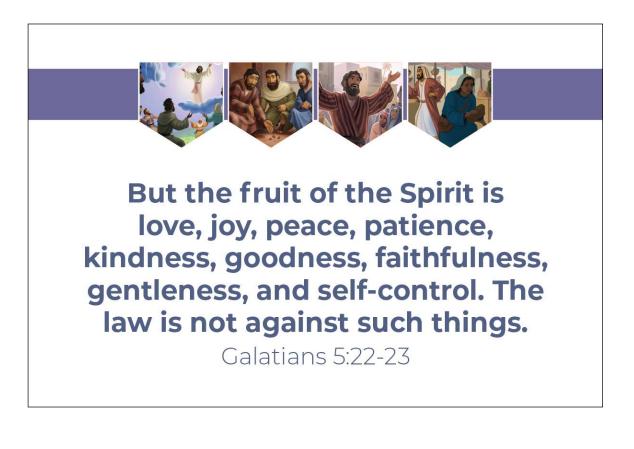
This week's Bible story taught us about the arrival of the Holy Spirit. Several weeks after Jesus was crucified and resurrected, the Holy Spirit came to the waiting disciples just as promised. Immediately, they were filled with power and began to share the good news with others! Peter told the people to turn away from their sins and be baptized. As the people heard the message of Jesus in their own language that day, about 3,000 of them believed in Him!

This all happened on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost is a special day when the people of Israel would celebrate God's faithfulness to provide a plentiful harvest. When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples celebrated an incredible harvest as so many people joined them in following Jesus. On this day, the church was born, and the message of Jesus began to spread throughout the world. Now, the harvest continues as the Holy Spirit empowers every believer to share the hope of Jesus with others!

God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit's help, Jesus' disciples could begin their work to share the gospel with the entire world. God gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Pray: Thank You, God, for sending Your Holy Spirit as promised. As we learn more about Jesus, help us trust in Him as Savior and Lord. Give us opportunities to share the gospel with those around us so that the whole world may hear about Jesus and believe in Him!









Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit who is God with us! Since the Holy Spirit is God with us, how should this help us in times of trouble?

Evenings

Pray for missionaries who serve God around the world by sharing the gospel with people. How does this week's Bible story show us God's love for people of all nations?



For Fun

Download a translator app or use an online translator to practice speaking common phrases in other languages. Talk about the disciples' ability to share the gospel in various languages so that the people could hear about Jesus. Remind kids that God loves people of all nationalities and desires to save all who trust in Jesus as Lord.

To Serve

Refer to <u>"The Gospel God's Plan for Me" Poster</u>. Use the guide to practice sharing the gospel. Challenge each family member to use the images, Scripture verses, and kid-friendly language to present the gospel to another family member.



THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES US



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Galatians 5 from the Bible.



Have you ever seen a fruit tree that is ready for harvest? Its branches are full of ripe fruit that is ready to be picked and enjoyed. Not only does the good fruit teach us what type of tree it is, but the fruit also shows us that the tree is healthy and growing as it should. You can tell a lot about a tree by its fruit!

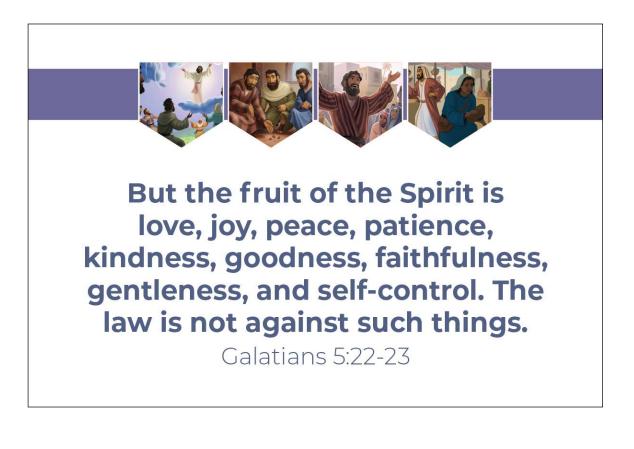
When Paul wrote to the church in Galatia, he warned them about false teachers who say they had to follow the old laws of Moses in order to be saved. Paul told them to instead live by following the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is in every person who trusts in Jesus, and the Spirit gives them the power to become more like Jesus.

When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit changes the way we think and act. As we obey the Spirit and follow Him, He begins to produce fruit in us that shows we belong to Christ. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Just like a healthy tree produces good fruit, a growing follower of Jesus can be identified by the fruit of the Spirit!

The Holy Spirit changes our minds and hearts so that we want to obey God, and He gives us power to obey. The Holy Spirit guides us as believers as we live out God's mission for us to share the gospel in all the world.

Pray: God, thank You for giving us Your Spirit when we trust in Jesus. We want to know Jesus more so that we can grow to be more and more like Him. Help us grow and produce good fruit that honors You!









Pray for your pastor and church staff. Ask God to give them wisdom as they teach God's Word to the members of the church. How does all you learn at church help you to grow in Christ?

Evenings

Thank God for the Christians He has placed in your life who set an example for following Jesus. How have your parents or other adults been a picture of Jesus in your life? How can our lives help others see what Jesus is like?



For Fun

Make a fruit salad with a variety of fruits. Allow kids to pick fruits from the grocery store that they haven't tried before. As you enjoy the fruit salad, talk with kids about the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5. Ask kids to describe how this fruit reflects Jesus Christ.

To Serve

Write a card and make a special treat for your Pastor. Deliver the gift to them on Sunday or during the week to tell them "Thank You" for sharing the truth of the gospel with your family and encouraging you to grow in your faith. Talk with kids about the fruit of the Spirit and how your family can continue to honor God by following the Spirit.



PETER PREACHED IN JERUSALEM



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Acts 2:14-47 from the Bible.



Home improvement shows on TV are extremely popular. People love to watch a renovation that produces a big transformation with incredible design skills. The climatic moment in each show is when the host reveals the new dream home that was once outdated or in bad shape.

We love a good story of transformation because it reminds us that even the worst thing can be made new. This is true of houses, but it is also true of people. Because of who Jesus is and what He has done to save sinners, we can be made new through faith in Him.

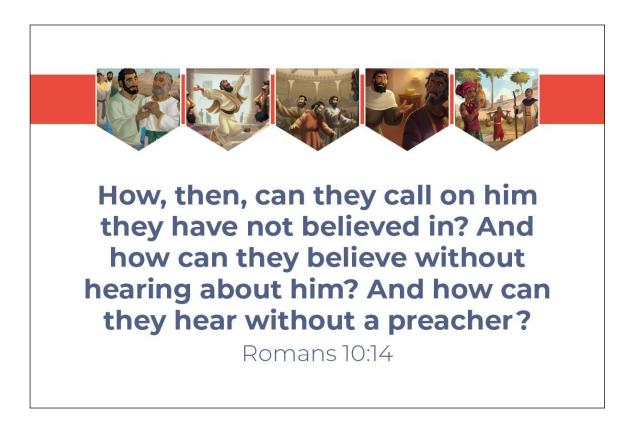
After the Holy Spirit arrived and gave power to the disciples, Peter stood and preached the good news of Jesus to thousands of people in Jerusalem. The people believed and were baptized that same day. They were added to the followers of Jesus, and their lives were never the same! The Holy Spirit changed their hearts and minds to meet together, fellowship, learn God's Word, and pray continually.

Second Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!" When we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, he makes us NEW! Jesus didn't die on the cross so that we could keep on living the same life, and He didn't die on the cross so we could feel better about the times that we mess up. Jesus died on the cross so that we could have a new life, a new identity, and a new purpose. God's grace isn't just something that we add to our life to make it better. It 100%, completely, absolutely, positively changes us!

Peter's sermon shows the Holy Spirit's power to change those who trust in Jesus. God used Peter to preach Jesus to the crowd so that thousands of others would believe and be changed as well. All who believe in Jesus are changed and will never to be the same.

Pray: God, thank You for the new life that comes through believing in Jesus! Thank You that this new life gives us a new identity and a new purpose. Help us honor You with the way we live so that others can see Jesus and believe in Him. Amen!









Praise God for the ways you see new life in His creation. How does Spring remind us of the hope we have in Jesus? How can we help others see these reminders of new life all around them?

Evenings

Ask God for help in living the new life He gives through Christ. What sins continue to trip you up? How can your new identity help you overcome those temptations?



For Fun

Plant grass or bean seeds to help kids see "new life" in action. Use fast germinating seeds in potting soil to get quick results. As the plant grows, talk with kids about how Jesus gives new life to all who believe in Him. Remind them of the power of the Holy Spirit to change those who trust in Jesus.

To Serve

Rake leaves and cleanup a yard for someone you know needs help with this task. Work as a family to bring new life to the landscape. As you work, discuss how loving and serving others is part of the new life Jesus gives us. Remind kids that the Holy Spirit changes our hearts so that we want to live in a way that honors God!



PETER HEALED A MAN



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Acts 3:1-26 from the Bible.



If you could have any superpower, which would you choose? According to a gaming experts report, the top three superpowers are flight, invisibility, and super strength. Although, perhaps many of us would agree that the greatest superpower is the one that makes every vegetable taste like ice cream!

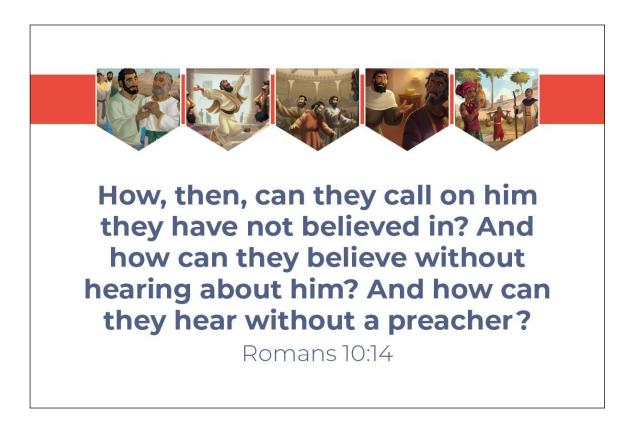
When the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, He gave them supernatural power. Acts 3 shares the story of how Peter healed a man who couldn't walk. Everyone was amazed at the sight of this man walking, leaping, and praising God. When the religious leaders asked Peter who had given him the power to do such a miracle, Peter told them that this man was healed by the power of Jesus Christ!

Jesus had given the disciples a mission, and the Holy Spirit supplied the power to fulfill that mission. The disciples received power better than the ability to fly or have super strength. They received the power to do God's will and boldly share the gospel to the world! This same power is available to all who believe in Jesus as Lord!

After Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to begin working. With the power of Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who was lame. Peter and John showed God's power and pointed to a greater, spiritual healing found in Jesus.

Pray: Jesus, we praise You because Your name is powerful. Help us boldly share the gospel without fear. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to give us the power to fulfill the mission You've given us.









Pray for anyone in your life who is sick or hurting. How does knowing Jesus give us hope that one day He will make all things right?

Evenings

Pray for those who have yet to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Pray for believers who will boldly share the gospel with them and give them the opportunity to trust in Jesus. How does the Holy Spirit give us boldness to share the gospel?



For Fun

Lead kids to investigate different objects that require power in their home. Invite kids to share what type of power sources these objects use such as gas, electricity, solar, etc. Talk about the power of the Holy Spirit and how it is greater than any other power. Remind kids that every believer is empowered by the Holy Spirit to live for Jesus and to share Him with others.

To Serve

Explore opportunities to volunteer at a children's hospital or serve those who are sick in your church. Talk with kids about the man who was healed by Peter through the power of Jesus. Explain that we can pray for healing and recovery for these patients, while we also remember Jesus' promise to make all things right when He returns. Remind kids that Jesus provided the greatest healing when He died on the cross to save us from sin.



PETER CONTINUED TO PREACH



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Acts 4:1-31 from the Bible.



In 2009, Lluis Colet set the World Record for the longest speech by talking for 124 hours without stopping! Colet filled the five days by reading a 700-page speech about art, politics, and other subjects. Even when he was tired, hungry, or had to use the restroom, Lluis Colet kept talking no matter what!

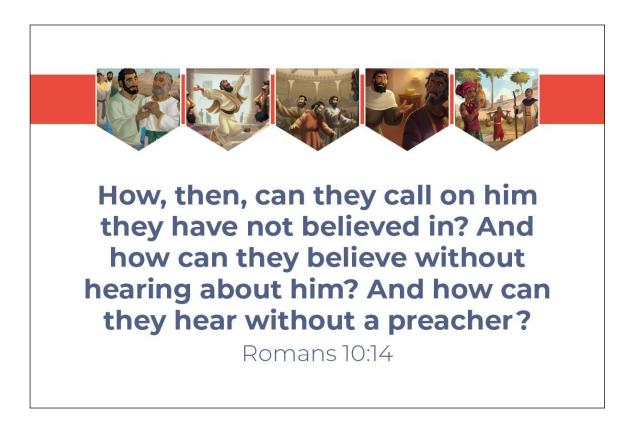
As Peter and John shared about Jesus, some of the religious leaders wanted them to keep quiet. Even when they told Peter to never preach the name of Jesus again, Peter couldn't keep quiet. He kept on sharing so that more and more people would hear about Jesus. God had given Peter and John the power and boldness to tell others about Jesus no matter what!

There were probably times when Peter was tired, and maybe some other times when he was scared. It wasn't easy for Peter to face the angry crowd that recently crucified Jesus. So why did Peter keep preaching? Peter continued to preach because he knew that the good news of Jesus is exactly what everyone needs to hear. Peter couldn't keep quiet because he wanted everyone to know the saving power of Jesus!

Peter continued to preach about Jesus even when it was difficult. Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus' followers from sharing the good news about Jesus. The gospel is great news that we must share if we believe in Jesus Christ.

Pray: Lord Jesus, helps us trust in You and tell others about You even when it's hard. Give us faith to endure these hard times and remind us of the eternal promises You have made. Help us live in a way that gives You glory in every circumstance.









Pray for someone you know is going through a hard time. Ask God to be with them and remind them of His promises. How can remembering God's promises help us face the toughest days?

Evenings

Pray for courage and endurance to face the hardships and suffering that may come with learning about Jesus and following Him. How might following Jesus lead to hard times? How can the way we face these hard times help others see Jesus?



For Fun

Invite each family member to draw another family member's name to be their secret encourager. Explain that each secret encourager should write notes, give gifts, or do chores for the selected family member throughout the week. Remind kids that the Bible includes some of Peter's letters, which were written as an encouragement for his brothers and sisters in Christ when they faced hard times.

To Serve

Ask your church for a list of members who cannot physically attend church. Offer to visit the church member and deliver a meal and Bible study materials from the church. Talk with kids about the benefits of being a part of the church, which includes working together to share the gospel and supporting one another when we face hard times.



PETER CONFRONTED SIN



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Acts 4:32–5:11 from the Bible.



The amount of money Christmas shoppers spend on gifts is now more than \$1 trillion dollars every single year! While it's often said that it's better to give than to receive, we probably hope some of that money goes toward the gifts we really want. Often times, our love for getting what we want can lead us to think more about the gifts than the giver.

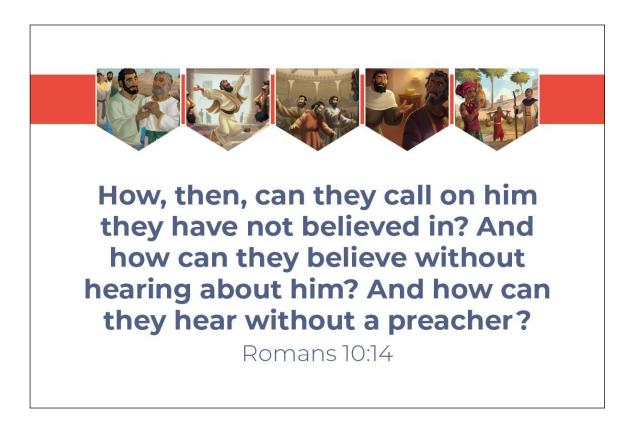
As the early church grew, the people generously gave their own money and possessions to help others. They were able to live generously because they were focused more on the Giver than the gifts! They remembered how Jesus had generously given His life to save them and how through Him we have an eternal inheritance. As a result, they showed their love and appreciation for His gifts by giving to others.

As we read about what happened to Ananias and Sapphira, we are reminded of how easy it is for all of us to let our love for gifts outweigh our love for the Giver. It's easy for our hearts to be influenced by greed, but Jesus can change our hearts. When we trust in Him and remember His incredible generosity as He gave His own life to save ours, the Holy Spirit helps us share His gifts with others.

Ananias and Sapphira wanted to look generous, but they were greedy. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts to want to share with those in need because Jesus generously gave all He had so we can share in His riches and have forgiveness and eternal life.

Pray: Thank You, Jesus, for giving Your life to save sinners. Help us know You as the Giver of all good gifts. Change our hearts to be generous with others like You have been generous toward us. Amen.









Praise God for the blessings He has given to you. Make a list of the people and things He has generously given to you. How does seeing His generosity help you share with others?

Evenings

Ask God to change your heart when you tend to feel or become greedy. When do you feel greed affecting you the most? How can a focus on Jesus' sacrifice help you fight against greed?



For Fun

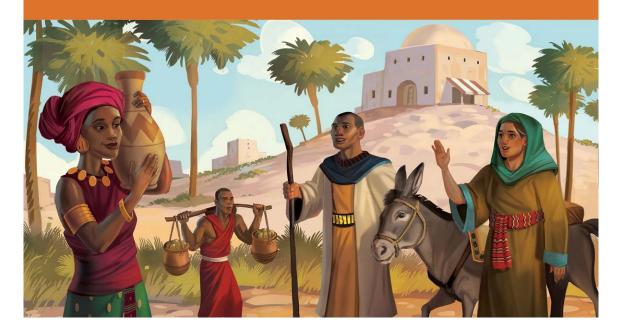
Use a mason jar to create a Blessings Jar for your family. As you think of blessings God has given, write them down and place them in the jar. When you struggle with greed, take time to remember all that God has given you and how He calls you to be generous with others.

To Serve

Use a different mason jar to create a Share Jar for your family. Whenever possible, place spare change or any extra cash in the jar. Decide as a family how you will use the money to share with others. Some ideas might be to donate to a special offering at church, purchase needed items for a local shelter, or pay off lunch debt for students in your school.



WE ARE TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Romans 10 from the Bible.



Think about all the people you encounter in a week. Maybe you see your teacher, bus driver, coach, grocery store clerk, doctor, friends, and your family. You have so many relationships with people, and you'll continue forming new relationships as you grow. Why does God bring so many people into our lives?

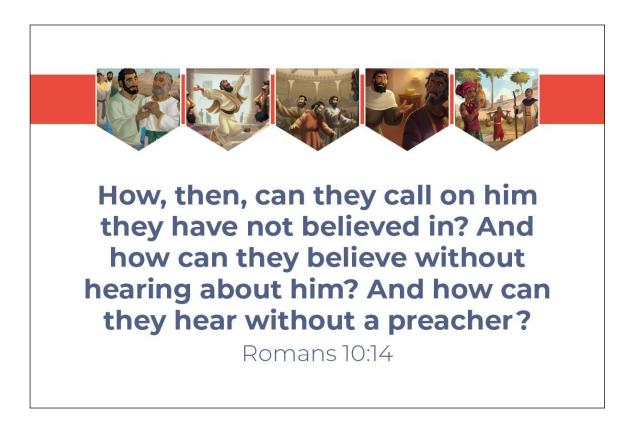
What if the answer to that question is so you can help them know and grow closer to Jesus Christ? Every follower of Jesus has been given a mission to share the good news of the gospel with those God places in our lives. When we know Jesus as Lord, every relationship becomes an opportunity to share Jesus in hopes they will believe in Him as Savior and Lord.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul said that for people to hear the good news someone must share it. Jesus has given His followers the privilege of telling the world about His amazing love and inviting them to believe in Him. Everyone who calls on the name of Jesus will be saved. We are called to tell others about Jesus!

Just as Jesus came into the world so that people might come to trust in Him and be saved from their sins, Jesus has sent the church throughout the world to tell others about the salvation that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

Pray: Jesus, You are loving and good. You want all people to hear the good news of the gospel. Help us go where Your Spirit leads us and give us the courage to tell others about You. Amen.









Ask God to help you see opportunities to share Jesus with others today. What are some reasons why someone might not know about Jesus? What are some ways you can tell them about Jesus?

Evenings

Thank God for the teachers in your church who help kids learn about Jesus. How did Paul describe those who share the good news? How can you express thankfulness for those who help you learn about Jesus?



For Fun

Take a family walk through your neighborhood or in a local park. Discuss ways or methods you've learned to share the gospel with others. Talk with kids about how they might respond if the Holy Spirit leads them to use words and actions to help others learn about Jesus.

To Serve

Make a list of family, friends, or acquaintances who need to hear about Jesus. Talk about ways your family can use these relationships to help them learn more about Jesus. Ask God to give you opportunities to tell them about Jesus. Pray that each person would respond by believing in Jesus.