

Family Bible Study Series

Dear Family,

As you know, Satan has a strong foothold on our society. He is attacking from all angles in all types of ways. His arsenal is heavily equipped with alcohol, drugs, violence, TV, negative peer pressure, complacency, busy-ness and many other tools he has at his disposal.

The only way we can truly overcome Satan and the arsenal that he uses is faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Romans 10:17 states it like this, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the Word of God." If we want our family to withstand the pressures of the world, we must be in the Word.

Unfortunately, many families are too busy and have decided to put spiritual development low on the priority list. We spend quality time in activities such as work, sports, school, and recreation, but have little or no time to spend developing our relationship with God. Some families have left it to the church to provide their only spiritual food on Sundays and Wednesdays. Because of that, many of us are spiritually malnourished. We need to be in God's word more! We need to teach our children the importance of Bible study!

That is the reason we have put together the "Family Bible Study Series." These lessons are designed to be very simple, basic and applicable to the entire family. They are written so that someone unfamiliar with the Bible could use these outlines. They can also be used as a starting point for a family that may be older. Just take these lessons and add more depth to them. The most important thing is for us to begin to open the Word of God as a family. This is where we can develop a spiritual life that can withstand the storms of Satan! How is your family spiritually?

You can NEVER start too young or too old!

May God bless your efforts to develop a strong God-centered home.

Tony Hall
Youth & Family Minister

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Keys to Having a Good Home Bible Study

- ?? Have a family meeting and discuss what night and time of the week would be best to have the study.
- ?? Stick to the time that is agreed upon and start and finish on time!
- ?? Make a decision that this will be a family priority.
- ?? Start with a prayer.
- ?? Give each family member time to discuss what has happened during their day.
- ?? Do not allow the discussion time to become a place for family gripes and arguments.
- ?? Give each family member an opportunity to share how he or she was able to work on last week's lesson.
- ?? Always remember what the purpose of this study is...
 - To develop a closer relationship with God.
 - To develop a closer relationship with each other.
 - To unite as a Godly family.
- ?? Take time to work on your family project. (*See back page for a list of suggested projects.*)
- ?? End with a prayer.

Noah and the Ark Week # 1

OBJECTIVE: To discuss the story of Noah and the ark and its application for us today: We must follow God's pattern.

Feasting on the Word:

Genesis 6:5-22 – 9:17

Family Discussion:

How did God feel about how wicked the people on earth had become? (vs. 6:6)

What did God decide to do about man's wickedness? (vs. 6:7)

How did God feel about Noah? (vs. 6:8-9)

What did God tell Noah to build? (vs. 6:14)

What did God tell Noah to put on the ark with him and his family? (6:19-20)

Did God give Noah specific instructions on how to build the ark? (vs. 6:15-16)

Did Noah follow God's specific instructions? (vs. 6:22, 7:5)

How long did it rain? (7:12)

How long did the waters flood the earth? (vs. 7:24)

When Noah finally came out of the, ark what did he do? (vs. 8:20)

What is the sign of the covenant that God made with Noah that He would never again destroy all living creatures this way? (9:13)

Challenge:

God gave instructions to Noah on how to specifically build the ark. Has God given us any instructions? (Psalm 119:105) Should we follow God's instructions specifically, or can we change them a little? (Rev. 22:19) What happens if we do not follow God's will? (Luke 13:3,5) What can we do as a family to help each other follow the will of God?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Abraham and God's Promises Week # 2

OBJECTIVE: To discuss the story of God's promises to Abraham and its application to us today: God always keeps his promises!

Feasting on the Word:

Genesis 12:1-4, 13:14-17, 17:15-17 and 21:1-5
1 Kings 4:20; Joshua 21:43-45; Galatians 3:6-9

Family Discussion:

When God told Abraham to leave his home and go to another land, what did God promise him? (Genesis 12:1-3) How old was Abraham when God made these promises? (verse 4) Read more about God's promises to Abraham in Genesis 13:14-17.

God promised to make Abraham's family into a great nation, but Abraham and Sarah didn't have any children. What miracle took place to make this promise begin to come true? (Genesis 17:15-17 and 21:1-5)

Abraham was 75 when God made the promise, and he was 100 when the promise began to come true. However, the rest of the promise (to become a great nation) continued to be fulfilled for hundreds of years! (1 Kings 4:20)

God promised to give Abraham and his descendants the land of Canaan. Read how that promise came true hundreds of years later when the Israelites finally settled in "the Promised Land." (Joshua 21:43-45)

God also promised Abraham that through his family all nations would be blessed. That promise came true when Jesus, Abraham's descendant, died to save mankind from their sins. Read and discuss Galatians 3:6-9.

Challenge:

Think about this: All of God's promises come true. If you are a Christian, the promises God made to Abraham, thousands of years ago, *continue* to be fulfilled...in YOU! Did you know that you were part of the promise?

?? A great nation: Abraham is called "the father of all who believe" in Romans 4:11. Are you a believer? Then you are one of Abraham's descendants!

?? Promised Land: It was Canaan for the Israelites, but it's Heaven for Christians.

?? All nations will be blessed: You, as a Christian, in *this* nation today, are blessed since Jesus died to save you from your sins!

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Abraham and Isaac

Week # 3

OBJECTIVE: To discuss the story of Abraham and Isaac and its application to us today: Faith in action!

Feasting on the Word:

Genesis 22:1-14

Hebrews 11:17-19

John 1:29

James 2:14-24

Family Discussion:

God tested Abraham's faith, commanding him to do what? (Gen.22:1,2)
Did Abraham rebel or obey? (vs. 3)

We get the first glimpse of Abraham's great faith by the statement he makes to his servants in verse 5. Who does he say will come back?

What did Isaac ask his father? (vs. 7) What was Abraham's reply? (verse 8)

How far did Abraham go in obeying the command to sacrifice his son? (vs. 9-10) What stopped him? (vs. 11-12) Abraham named that mountain, "The Lord Will Provide." Why? (vs. 13-14)

Did the prediction that Abraham made in verse 5 ("we will come back to you") come true? Read Hebrews 11:17-19 to find out what Abraham was thinking when he said that.

This story has a deeper meaning. Reread Genesis 22:8, then read John 1:29. Who is "the Lamb" that was sacrificed for us?

Challenge:

Abraham proved his faith in God by what he did. Faith requires obedience! Read and discuss James 2:14-24. Do you believe in God? Then show it! Let each family member name some ways to prove his or her faith.

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Joseph the Dreamer Week # 4

OBJECTIVE: To understand that God gives everyone talents that can be used for God's purposes.

Feasting on the Word:

Genesis 37:3-11, 17b-21, 23-25, 28, 31-36

39:1-6, 19-21

41:1a, 8, 14-32, 39-43

Family Discussion:

Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him?

Why did they get angry when they heard about his dreams?

What plot did they devise to get rid of Joseph?

Where did Joseph end up?

Was it Joseph's fault he was a slave or that he was put in jail?

Who protected Joseph through all his troubles?

What talent did God give to Joseph that helped him to get out of jail?

How did Pharaoh reward Joseph after his dreams were explained?

How did Joseph's gift of interpretation prove to be a blessing for Joseph as well as others?

Challenge:

Think carefully about each member of your family. Be sure to thank God for the particular talents that each member has been given. God never gives us talents or gifts so that we can keep them to ourselves. He wants us to share the good things He has given us with others! Look for ways that you can bless those around you by using the special talents that God has given you.

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Joseph the Forgiver Week # 5

OBJECTIVE: To understand and apply Joseph's attitude of forgiveness.

Feasting on the Word:

Genesis 41:38-41, 53-57

Genesis 42

Genesis 44:14-15, 18-29

Genesis 45:1-11, 14-15

Family Discussion:

How powerful did Pharaoh make Joseph in the land of Egypt?

How much grain was stored and under Joseph's control?

Who sent Joseph's brothers to Egypt? Why?

How did Joseph respond when he saw his brothers?

What did Joseph ask his brothers to bring back to him from their home?

How did Jacob feel about sending Benjamin with his brothers?

What caused Joseph to weep at different times in the story?

Compare the way Joseph's brothers cared for Joseph as a lad and their care of Benjamin. Do you think they had repented?

How did Joseph show his feelings about his brothers and father at the end of the story?

Did Joseph have to tell his brothers who he was? Did he have to forgive them?

Who did Joseph say was responsible for his ending up in Egypt? How did his faith in God help Joseph to repair his relationship with his family?

Challenge:

Think of a time a family member or another person wronged you in some way. How did it make you feel? Was it easy to forgive? Have you ever needed forgiveness? How did it feel to be forgiven? How can you use Joseph's story of faith, repentance, and forgiveness as a godly model to mend relationships in your own life?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Moses and the Burning Bush

Week # 6

OBJECTIVE: To discuss the story of the burning bush and its application to us today: No excuses!

Feasting on the Word:

Exodus 3
Exodus 4:1-17

Family Discussion:

What was unusual about the bush that was on fire? (3:2,3) What did God tell Moses to do? Why? (vs. 5)

Why did God want Moses to go back to Egypt? (3:7-10)

Moses was not sure he was the man for the job. He tried to make excuses. What was his first excuse in 3:11? What was God's answer to that excuse? (verses 12 and 19-20)

What was Moses' second excuse in 4:1? What was God's answer to that excuse? (4:2-9)

What was Moses' third excuse in 4:10? What was God's answer to that excuse? (verses 11-12)

In verse 13, Moses begged God to send someone else. How did God feel about that in verse 14? However, God provided Moses with help so he could do the job. What did God say in verses 14-17?

God gives each of us opportunities to do things for him. Talk about some of them. What are some excuses people give for not getting involved? Read Ephesians 3:20,21 and Philippians 4:13. Discuss how these verses can help you overcome the temptation to make excuses.

Challenge:

Discuss this: Have you been making excuses to God for why you CAN'T do something He wants you to do? Are you afraid to teach others about Jesus? Are you waiting on others to invite you to get involved in church work? What did God do every time Moses made excuses? Pray for God to empower you to do great things for him.

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Moses and the Ten Plagues

Week # 7

OBJECTIVE: To discuss the story of the ten plagues and its application to us today: God's mighty power!

Feasting on the Word:

Selected texts from Exodus, chapters 7-12
Psalms 77:11-15

Family Discussion:

God told Moses that there were going to be great miracles and mighty acts of judgment against Egypt. Why? (7:1-5)

Discuss God's power in the first plague. (7:19-21) What was the second plague? (8:1-6) Try to imagine frogs everywhere in your house: in your bed and in your food! Then imagine what it was like when they all died! (See v. 13, 14)

What was the third plague? (8:16, 17) In the fourth plague, what insects swarmed the Egyptians, but not the Israelites? (8:20-24)

What happened during the fifth plague? (9:1-6) Why was that a bad thing for the Egyptians? Notice how God makes the sores happen in the sixth plague. (9:8-10)

God's mighty power is enormously displayed in the seventh plague. What happened? (9:17-26) More swarms of insects are seen in the eighth plague? What were they? (10:12-15)

What a miracle in the ninth plague! (Read 10:21-23.) How could total darkness cover the whole land of Egypt, but not in the section where the Israelites lived?

What was the tenth plague? Discuss God's power over life and death as you read Exodus 11:4-7, then 12: 21-23, and 29-30.

Challenge:

Only God, who made *all* things, has the power to do what's impossible. Read aloud together Psalms 77:11-15. Say a prayer of praise to God.

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Moses and the Exodus

Week # 8

OBJECTIVE: To discuss the story of the exodus and its application to us today: The joy of being rescued!

Feasting on the Word:

Exodus 3:7-10, 12:31-42, and 14:10-31
Galatians 1:3-5; Mark 16:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

Family Discussion:

According to Exodus 3:7-10, God said He would “rescue” the Israelites. Why did they need to be rescued?

After the tenth plague (death of the firstborn), Moses led all the Israelites out of Egypt (the exodus). Read about it in Exodus 12:31-42. How many Israelites left Egypt? (vs. 37)

After they left Egypt, they came to the Red Sea. They had no bridges and no boats, and the enemy was chasing them. What did God do to rescue them again? (Exodus 14:10-28)

Can you stack up water into a pile and make it stay there? (*If you have small children, let them try this!*) Of course you can't! Then how do you explain Exodus 14:29? What does verse 30 say that the Lord did that day? As a result of this great miracle, what did the people do? (vs. 31)

Just when we needed it most, God came to *our* rescue too! He sent Jesus, His Son, to take away our sins by nailing them to the cross. Read Galatians 1:3-5. Being rescued means being saved from something bad. What do you have to do to be saved? Read Mark 16:16. What are you being saved *from*? (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)

Challenge:

For small children: Talk about a storybook or a cartoon where someone was rescued. Talk about how they felt. *For older children and adults:* During the war with Iraq, a young female soldier was captured and beaten. She lay in a hospital for several days, suffering from wounds and broken bones. The enemy was all around her. How do you think she felt when her fellow soldiers bravely came in and rescued her? Now relate that to being saved from eternal suffering! How should we feel about being rescued?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Prayer Life of David Week # 9

OBJECTIVE: To understand David's feelings about God by reading some of the psalms he wrote.

Feasting on the Word:

Psalm 23

Psalm 145:1-21

Psalm 103:1-22

Family Discussion:

Look at each psalm and discuss the following:

Do you think this psalm was a prayer or a song?

In what ways does David describe the Lord in this psalm?

How does David see himself compared to God?

What characteristics of God are mentioned?

What does God find pleasing in people? What does He find displeasing?

How is David comforted by God's presence?

What things does God provide for David and others who love God?

Who should praise the Lord? Why?

How does God feel when we sing or pray to Him? How do you feel when you sing or pray to God?

When should we pray?

Challenge:

Write your own psalm that tells how you feel about God, why you trust in Him, and why He is praiseworthy. God loves you and wants to hear how you feel about Him in your own words!! Memorize Psalm 23.

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

David and Goliath

Week # 10

OBJECTIVE: To read the story of David and Goliath and to discuss how we can emulate the courage David had.

Feasting on the Word:

I Samuel 17:1-51

Family Discussion:

How did David respond to Goliath's threats? How did the Israelite army respond? Why were the responses so different?

What did David's older brothers think about his attitude? What do you think God thought about their attitude?

What did King Saul want David to take into battle? Why didn't David take it? What did he use to protect himself instead? Why do you think David took five stones?

David was from the tribe of Benjamin, which was known for having excellent slinging skills. What previous experiences did David have that caused him to believe that God would protect him? How did his past experiences end up as a benefit to his whole nation?

What happened to the Philistines after David killed Goliath?

Do you think David might have been scared even though he was courageous?

Who was really responsible for the outcome of this battle?

Challenge:

How do you feel when you see or hear others mocking or making fun of God? List some ways that you might be courageous when it comes to standing up for God in your day-to-day life. Make a commitment to study God's word faithfully while you are young so you will have the skills to stand firmly against the enemies of God. Ask God to help you to remember to trust in Him when circumstances look difficult so that you can be courageous like David even when others are not.

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Daniel's Training Week #11

OBJECTIVE: To discuss the story of Daniel's training and its application for us today: God blesses those who follow Him.

Feasting on the Word:

Daniel 1:1-21

Family Discussion:

Judah was captured by what group of people? (vs. 1)

What was the name of the king of Babylon? (vs. 1)

In verses 3 & 4, the king ordered that some of the Israelites from the royal families be brought to him. What characteristics were the young men have?

Who were four of the young men taken from Judah and what were their names changed to? (vs. 6,7)

What does Daniel not want to do in verse 8?

What does Daniel ask the guard to do in verse 12 & 13?

How did the boys appear after ten days? (vs. 15)

How did God bless these four young men? (vs. 17)

At the end of their three-year training period, how did Daniel and his friends compare to all the others? (vs. 18-20)

Challenge:

God blessed Daniel for his obedience. God wants to bless us if we follow His guidance. What are some blessings we receive when we follow God's plan? Did you find it difficult to find blessings? Are blessings from God always physical? List some specific ways in which your life is better because you follow God. Read James 1:25. Conclude with a prayer asking for guidance for your family and God's richest blessings.

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Daniel and the Lion's Den

Week # 12

OBJECTIVE: To discuss the story of Daniel and the lion's den and its application for us today: We must trust God.

Feasting on the Word:

Daniel 6:1-28

Family Discussion:

Who was king at this time? (Dan. 5: 31)

What did King Darius plan to put Daniel in charge of? (vs. 3)

How did this make the other administrators feel? (vs. 4)

Could they find anything to charge Daniel with? (vs. 4)

What decree did the administrators come up with? (vs. 6-9)

Did he stop praying after the decree was given? (vs. 10)

How often did Daniel pray to God? (vs. 10)

What did the administrators do when they found Daniel praying? (vs. 12)

How did this make the king feel? (vs. 14)

What happened to Daniel? (vs. 16)

Was Daniel hurt in the lion's den? (vs. 20-22)

Why was Daniel saved from the lions? (vs. 23)

What happened to the administrators? (vs. 24)

Challenge:

Have you had times in which you had to take a stand for God, even though you knew others would give you a "hard time" for it? Allow time so that each family member can share their experiences. What is it that helps us make it through the "persecution" of others? What was it that saved Daniel? (Trusting God) Do we trust God enough to take a stand when we know that the world will persecute us?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Daniel's Three Friends and the Fiery Furnace

Week # 13

OBJECTIVE: To discuss the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace and its application for us today: We must put God first.

Feasting on the Word:

Daniel 6:1-28

Family Discussion:

Who was the king during this time? (vs. 1)

How tall was the golden image? (vs. 1)

What were the people to do when they heard the music play? (vs. 5)

What was the consequence of not falling down to worship the image? (vs. 6)

Did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego fall down and worship the statue? (vs. 12)

How did this make the king feel? (vs. 13)

What was their response to the king's command to fall down and worship the idol? (vs. 16-18)

What did the king command after hearing this response? (vs.19-21)

What happened to the soldiers that threw the three men into the fiery furnace? (vs. 22)

What happened to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the furnace? (vs. 26-27)

How did the king react to this miracle of God? (vs. 28-30)

Who did the three men trust would take care of them? (vs. 28)

Challenge:

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego put God before anything else. They were willing to give their lives for God! What would you say is the most important thing in your life? Can you say that God truly holds that position? Are you willing to give up anything for God? Read Matthew 6:33; Are you seeking first the kingdom and the righteousness of God in your life?

Family Project: Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

Suggestions for Family Projects

?? Memorize the books of the New Testament.

?? Memorize the books of the Old Testament.

?? Develop an outreach of service that you and your family can do.

- Write cards to the missionaries.
- Write cards to the shut-ins, widows or widowers.
- Write notes of appreciation to your Bible class teachers.
- Mow someone's yard.
- Plant some flowers for someone.
- Put together a care package for someone in need.
- Spend a day working at the Barely Used Resale Shop in Tyler. (See Tony for more information.)
- Visit the nursing home.
- Sponsor an orphan in our outreach in China. (See Greg Taylor on how to reach, Ron Brown, the missionary for China.)

?? Memorize I Corinthians 13.

?? Memorize the 12 Apostles.

?? Memorize the 23rd Psalm.

?? Memorize the 12 sons of Jacob.

?? Memorize the verses that teach us the plan of salvation.

As you can see there are unlimited opportunities to develop your family. Take time to come up with some of your own ideas to put Christianity to work in your family! I know God will bless you!