

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 4, 2018



#### BIBLE STORY:

*Matthew 8:1-15*

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Matthew 9:36*

#### BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus made sick people well. (BT)*

*Jesus healed sick people. (P)*

#### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus has power over everything—even sickness.*

#### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus is God the Son and has authority over everything—even sickness.*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*1 Corinthians 1:10-25*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*1 Corinthians 1:23*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

**MONDAY:** *1 Corinthians 2:1-8*

**TUESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 2:9-16*

**WEDNESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 3:1-9*

**THURSDAY:** *1 Corinthians 3:10-17*

**FRIDAY:** *1 Corinthians 3:18-23*

**SATURDAY:** *1 Corinthians 4:1-5*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Matthew and 1 Corinthians together as a family:



- **Jesus' appeal.** Jesus came to earth to provide for the salvation of people. While Jesus was living on earth, He was the example of how others should live. Jesus' life exemplified what a God follower should look like, and people wanted to follow Him. The end of Matthew 4 tells us that Jesus was healing many people, and they began to follow Him from all the regions around Galilee. Matthew 5–7 records Jesus' longest recorded sermon which included many thoughts for people who truly wanted to follow God. As Jesus finished His sermon, He walked down the mountain and the people followed Him.
- **Jesus' compassion.** Matthew 8 records a few stories of healings that Jesus performed. These miracles are placed in Scripture as a way to help us see that Jesus was going to do what He said in the sermon He just preached. The first person Jesus encountered was a man with leprosy. This disease during that day and time was a horrible life sentence. With no known cure for leprosy, the lepers lived away from society and were instructed to keep away from those who were clean. The leper's faith in Christ brought him right up to Jesus Who healed him immediately. The faith the leper showed in Christ was an example for the crowd gathered that day and is an example for people today. On the same occasion, Jesus healed the servant of a Roman centurion with only His words. Jesus also healed Peter's mother-in-law who was home sick in bed. These healings showed that Jesus is God the Son and has power over everything—including sickness.
- **Paul's commission.** Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers and reminded them that all believers benefit from the same salvation through faith in Christ. Paul taught the Corinthians that because they share the same salvation, they should be united in their conviction of preaching the risen Christ. Paul said that Christ's example of unity with those who were sick and needed healing should be an example for Christians to lead united lives.

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 11, 2018



#### BIBLE STORY:

*Matthew 8:23-27*

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Matthew 8:27*

#### BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus took care of His friends. (BT)  
Jesus did things no one else could do. (P)*

#### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus has power over everything—even nature.*

#### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus is God the Son and has authority over everything—even nature.*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*1 Corinthians 6:12-20*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*1 Corinthians 6:14*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *1 Corinthians 4:6-13*

**MONDAY:** *1 Corinthians 4:14-21*

**TUESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 5:1-8*

**WEDNESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 5:9-13*

**THURSDAY:** *1 Corinthians 6:1-11*

**FRIDAY:** *1 Corinthians 6:12-20*

**SATURDAY:** *1 Corinthians 7:1-7*

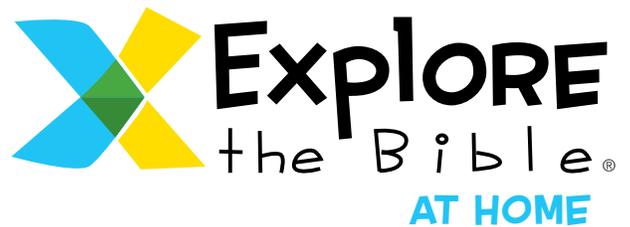
## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Matthew and 1 Corinthians together as a family:



- **Jesus the man.** Following the healing miracles at the beginning of Matthew 8, Jesus accompanied His disciples to a boat and they began to cross the lake. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were experienced fishermen and had often fished the waters of this lake. As the boat made its way across the lake, Jesus, displaying His full humanity, fell asleep. Soon a storm arose on the lake. This was not uncommon for the lake and the experienced fishermen had likely seen storms similar to this before. The storm described in Matthew, though, was much worse than a normal storm on the lake and even through the storm, Jesus slept.
- **Jesus the Son.** As the storm raged, the disciples began to try and navigate the ship across the lake to safety. The waves however were too strong and began to swamp the boat. Fearing for their lives, the disciples woke Jesus up and asked Him to save them. Jesus, displaying His full deity, immediately spoke to the wind and waves, and calmed the storm. Amazed, the disciples wondered aloud Who Jesus was. Jesus encouraged the disciples to have greater faith in the future as they continued to follow Him.
- **Joined with Christ.** Paul spent a great deal of time in his first letter to the Corinthians talking about the deity of Christ. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that Jesus was the Son of God and had lordship over everything—including nature. Paul spoke about a different type of nature, however, when he taught the Corinthians. Paul spoke about human nature. Just as Christ has authority over the natural world, He also is Lord over the natural desires of man. Paul declared in 1 Corinthians 6 that all things might be permissible, but not everything might benefit the physical body, or the body of Christ. Believers are joined to Christ through the Holy Spirit Who lives inside them, and Christians should show honor to God by desiring to live holy lives.

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 18, 2018



### BIBLE STORY:

*Matthew 14:13-21; 15:32-39*

### BIBLE VERSE:

*Matthew 15:32a*

### BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus cared about people.*

### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus cared for others.*

### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus had compassion for the people and helped them.*

### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*1 Corinthians 7:1-13*

### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*1 Corinthians 7:17*

### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *1 Corinthians 7:8-16*

**MONDAY:** *1 Corinthians 7:17-24*

**TUESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 7:25-31*

**WEDNESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 7:32-40*

**THURSDAY:** *1 Corinthians 8:1-6*

**FRIDAY:** *1 Corinthians 8:7-13*

**SATURDAY:** *1 Corinthians 9:1-7*

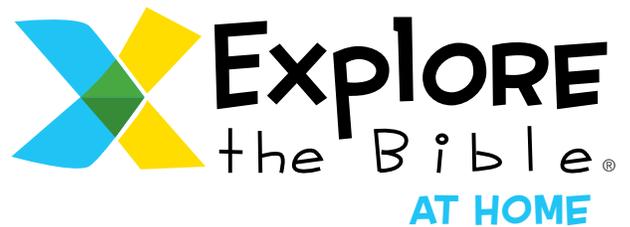
## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Matthew and 1 Corinthians together as a family:



- **Jesus showed compassion for all people.** Jesus continued His display of God-honoring living by showing compassion to all people. Jesus showed no distinction between those He helped, healed, and cared for. Jesus based His response to people on faith and nothing else. Those who had faith in Jesus received His healing and compassion regardless of their upbringing or age. Matthew 14 shares the story of Jesus' compassion on a crowd of Jewish followers. The Jews should have been prepared for Jesus' arrival, but many did not understand Who He was. The crowd Jesus ministered to in Matthew 15 was a group of Gentile followers. The Gentiles, unlike the Jews, believed in Jesus through faith, not tradition.
- **Meeting physical needs.** Jesus told the disciples in both feeding miracles to provide bread for the crowds. The disciples, in both instances, had no food with them and looked around to see what the crowd had available. The amount of food gleaned was minute, but Jesus took the bread and fish and provided food until everyone had their fill. Jesus provided miraculously for the physical needs of the people, but His desire to meet the spiritual needs of the people was much more important. Jesus' life exemplified holy living in order to draw more people to become God followers.
- **Honor God with your life.** Paul continued his teaching of the Corinthian believers by encouraging them to remain faithful to God and honor Him by keeping the vows they had made to one another in their marriages. The Corinthians had forgotten what a God-honoring life looked like and began to display behaviors that were more in line with unbelievers than those who followed Jesus. Paul highlighted several instances for the Corinthians in which they needed to show compassion that mirrored the compassion Jesus showed for the crowds. Paul told the Corinthians to remain faithful to God no matter what circumstances they were in. Like Jesus showed compassion for the crowds who were hungry for physical food, Paul encouraged the Corinthians to remain hungry for spiritual food and be compassionately fed by God's Word.

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 25, 2018



### BIBLE STORY:

*Matthew 21:1-17*

### BIBLE VERSE:

*Matthew 21:9b*

### BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*People showed their love for Jesus.*

### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus is worthy of praise.*

### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus is worthy of honor and praise.*

### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*1 Corinthians 9:19-27; 10:31-33; 11:1*

### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*1 Corinthians 10:31*

### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *1 Corinthians 9:8-18*

**MONDAY:** *1 Corinthians 9:19-27*

**TUESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

**WEDNESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 10:14-22*

**THURSDAY:** *1 Corinthians 10:23-33*

**FRIDAY:** *1 Corinthians 11:1-6*

**SATURDAY:** *1 Corinthians 11:7-16*

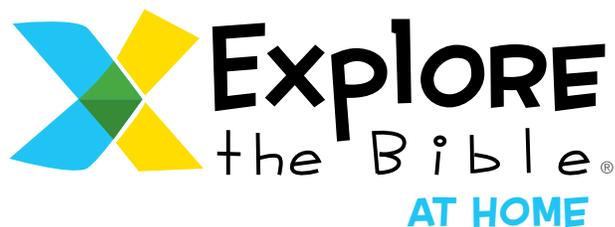
## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Matthew and 1 Corinthians together as a family:



- **The King is coming.** Matthew 21 is a wonderful story of praise and honor. In ancient times residents of a city would honor their king, returning from war, with a sort of parade through town. To show honor to their king the people would take off their outer robes and lay them in the street, making a path for the king's animal to follow. Jesus, King of kings was met by crowds in Jerusalem who welcomed Him just as they would have welcomed an earthly king returning victorious from war. Jesus was victorious, but the people who welcomed Him in this way did not understand the kingdom Jesus was bringing with Him.
- **My house will be called a house of prayer.** Once He entered Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple, the place reserved for worship of God. What Jesus found in the temple, was not worship, but tables set up to sell and buy various things for the worshipers to give an offering to God in the temple. This angered Jesus because God's house was a house of prayer and those buying and selling were not honoring God with their actions. Jesus turned over the tables and left the temple complex to spend the night outside the city.
- **Follow Me!** As we have already seen, Jesus lived His life as a way to represent God. Jesus' life influenced others to become followers, not just of Him, but of God. Paul told the Corinthians that their lives needed to represent God and they should use their influence to lead others to become followers of Christ. Paul did not leave the Corinthians in the dark; he told them that he, Paul, had lived a life that honored God, and they should use his example to lead others to become followers as well.
- **Run the race with endurance.** Paul compared the Christian life to running in a race. Paul compared the discipline a runner uses to train to the discipline a Christian must follow in order to lead others to Christ. The analogy of a race would have been very familiar to the Corinthians who often raced, and they quickly understood what Paul was talking about. Jesus lived a life of discipline that led others to follow Him. Christians should live disciplined lives that lead others to also want to follow Christ.

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 1, 2018



#### BIBLE STORY:

*Matthew 27:11-52; 28:1-15*

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Matthew 28:6*

#### BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus' friends saw Him. (BT)*

*Jesus is alive. (P)*

#### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus paid for my sin. He is alive!*

#### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sin. Jesus is alive!*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*John 20:3-9; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*1 Corinthians 15:20*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

**MONDAY:** *1 Corinthians 12:12-17*

**TUESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 12:18-26*

**WEDNESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 12:27-31*

**THURSDAY:** *1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

**FRIDAY:** *1 Corinthians 14:1-5*

**SATURDAY:** *1 Corinthians 14:6-12*

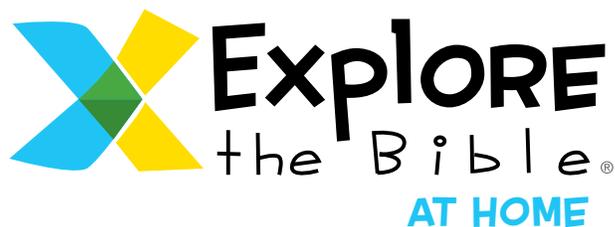
## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Matthew, John, and 1 Corinthians together as a family:



- **Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sin.** God's plan for the redemption of all people was all about Jesus. Jesus lived a life that honored God. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price for all sin for those who have faith in Christ. Jesus was betrayed by Judas for the payment of 30 pieces of silver. Jesus was arrested, tried unjustly, and sentenced to death. Roman crucifixion was painful and slow, but Jesus died quickly, taking upon Himself the sin of the world. Jesus' death on the cross was not the end, however.
- **An empty tomb.** Early on Sunday morning two women went to the tomb to finish preparing Jesus' body for burial. As the women approached the tomb, an earthquake occurred and the stone that had sealed the entrance of the tomb was rolled away. The women looked inside the tomb and discovered it to be empty. An angel nearby announced that Jesus was not there because He had been resurrected, just as He said. The women returned to the disciples and met the risen Christ along the way. The women left to tell Peter and John what they had seen, and the men ran to the tomb and found it just as the women declared. Jesus was risen! The tomb was empty.
- **The resurrection of Christ gives Christians hope of a future resurrection.** Paul taught the Corinthians that the curse of sin had entered the world through the actions of one man—Adam. As a second Adam, the curse of sin has been broken by the actions of one man—Jesus. Believers find true life through the resurrected Christ. Paul encouraged the believers in Corinth to believe that in the future, Christians would also experience a resurrection. Along with this resurrection, Christians would enjoy an eternal reign with Christ. Paul could faithfully encourage the believers since the resurrection actually happened. Had Jesus still been in the tomb, it would have been impossible for the Christians then or now to experience the hope that comes with the knowledge of an empty tomb and future with Christ.

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 8, 2018



### BIBLE STORY:

*Judges 2:11-19 ; 3:7-31*

### BIBLE VERSE:

*Judges 2:16*

### BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*God wanted the people to love Him. (BT)  
God wanted the people to love and worship  
Him. (P)*

### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Sin breaks our relationship with God.*

### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*The consequence of sin is that our world and  
our relationship with God are broken.*

### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*1 Corinthians 11:17-29*

### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*1 Corinthians 11:26*

### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *1 Corinthians 14:13-19*

**MONDAY:** *1 Corinthians 14:20-25*

**TUESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 14:26-32*

**WEDNESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 14:33-40*

**THURSDAY:** *1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

**FRIDAY:** *1 Corinthians 15:12-19*

**SATURDAY:** *1 Corinthians 15:20-28*

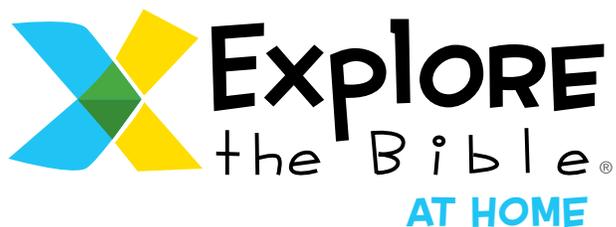
## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Judges and 1 Corinthians together as a family:



- **Remember Me.** God's plan for Israel was to have Him as their king, though nations around the Israelites had earthly kings. God had set His people apart, different in that they followed Him alone. Once Joshua died the people of Israel struggled without a leader. The Bible tells us that the people started to follow their own ways instead of the ways of God. The people did not remember the laws God had given them for living holy lives.
- **Going in circles.** When the people of Israel forgot God, they slipped into a continuous cycle of sin and repentance. Once the Israelites sinned, God would send oppressors as a consequence. The people would realize their mistake, cry out to God, and God would send a deliverer in the form of a judge. These judges were typically military leaders who led the Israelites to defeat their enemies. The Judges also refocused the people's attention on God by reminding the people of God's past faithfulness. Once the victory was won, God allowed the land to have peace until the people again forgot God. And the cycle repeated.
- **Remember the sacrifice.** Paul wrote to the Corinthians long after the events recorded in Judges. Even though there was a great expanse in time, the message was the same—remember! Paul was inviting the Corinthians to remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross as they took part in the Lord's Supper. The Corinthian church was not treating the observance of the Lord's Supper with the importance it needed. The Lord's Supper was set aside to remember the sacrifice of Christ so the church would always remember the mission God had called them to complete. The Israelites' inability to remember God as their King led them down a path that led to oppression from other nations. The Corinthians' misuse of the Lord's Supper led them down a path that destroyed their witness to those who needed faithful examples of a Christian life. Both groups were called to remember. As Christians we need to remember God's blessings of the past and Christ's sacrifice.

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 15, 2018



#### BIBLE STORY:

Judges 4-5

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Judges 5:3b*

#### BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Deborah knew God helped the people.*

#### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Good leaders obey God.*

#### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*We should trust God when He gives us a command to obey.*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*1 Corinthians 12:4-12,21-26*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*1 Corinthians 12:26*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *1 Corinthians 15:29-34*

**MONDAY:** *1 Corinthians 15:35-49*

**TUESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 15:50-58*

**WEDNESDAY:** *1 Corinthians 16:1-4*

**THURSDAY:** *1 Corinthians 16:5-12*

**FRIDAY:** *1 Corinthians 16:13-24*

**SATURDAY:** *2 Corinthians 1:1-7*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Judges and 1 Corinthians together as a family:



- **Trust God.** Judges 4 highlights Deborah, an important judge in Israel's history. Deborah is described as not only a judge but also a prophetess. Deborah heard messages from God which she delivered to people. One man to whom Deborah spoke, Barak, had heard a message from God, but had neglected to follow through on God's command. Deborah encouraged Barak to trust what God had called him to do and be faithful in following those commands. Barak decided he would do what Deborah said, but only if she would come with him.
- **God delivers.** Deborah warned Barak that his actions would not bring glory to himself; God would deliver the oppressors to a woman. Barak gathered an army of 10,000 men and went against the iron chariots of the Canaanites. God threw the Canaanites into confusion and they scattered. As Deborah had warned, a woman, Jael, killed the oppressor, Sisera, commander of the Canaanite army. Deborah and Barak worshiped God for the victory He brought.
- **Gifted by God.** Deborah and Barak were gifted by God to complete the task He had called them to. In Old Testament texts we see how God commanded people to do things and always provided the resources they needed to accomplish the task. Paul shared with the Corinthians that God gives believers gifts through the Holy Spirit to be used for His kingdom. God gives gifts to people so they will be equipped to fulfill a God-initiated role in the ministry of the church.
- **Use God's gifts.** God, through the Holy Spirit, provides gifts to believers today. God expects these gifts to be used to add value to His church as people accomplish kingdom work. Barak was given a task to do and God provided the gifting Barak needed to complete his task; Barak just didn't use them well. When God calls us to accomplish something for His kingdom, He provides all we need to accomplish those tasks.

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 22, 2018



### BIBLE STORY FOR PRESCHOOLERS:

Judges 6–8

### BIBLE VERSE:

*Judges 6:16a*

### BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*God helped Gideon know what to do.*

### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*We can always trust God.*

### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*We grow in our faith by being obedient to God.*

### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*1 Corinthians 13:4*

### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *2 Corinthians 1:8-11*

**MONDAY:** *2 Corinthians 1:12-22*

**TUESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 1:23–2:4*

**WEDNESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 2:5-11*

**THURSDAY:** *2 Corinthians 2:12-17*

**FRIDAY:** *2 Corinthians 3:1-6*

**SATURDAY:** *2 Corinthians 3:7-11*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Judges and 1 Corinthians together as a family:



- **God will make Himself great.** Gideon was from what he called the weakest clan in Israel. God called Gideon, but Gideon was unsure that he could do what God was calling him to do. As we have already learned, God gives unique gifts to those He calls. It was no different for Gideon. Gideon called together an army as had previous judges. There is a marked difference in this account than in the account of Deborah and Barak. Gideon secured an army of 30,000 men who answered his call; three times more than Barak. But, Gideon's army was too large for God. Through a series of tests, the army was reduced to only 300 men. There was no doubt once the battle ended that God's greatness, not the army of Gideon, secured the victory.
- **Obedience grows faith.** Though Gideon struggled at first to complete God's call, he began to trust God completely as his faith grew. By the end of Gideon's story, we see that Gideon's faith in God allowed God to defeat the Midianites without Gideon or his men even raising their swords. In total confusion, the Midianites attacked themselves. Gideon and his men pursued those who fled on foot and won the battle.
- **Understanding love.** Paul told the Corinthian church that the gifts God gives to further His kingdom are to be used with love. Paul spends a lot of time explaining the characteristics of true love. True love is characterized as patient, kind, not boastful, not rude, not selfish, and not arrogant. Believers who use their spiritual gifts through love will make a greater impact for the kingdom. Paul said that without love, spiritual gifts are useless.
- **Love for God.** Gideon grew in his understanding of Who God is, and as Gideon's love for God grew along with his faith, Gideon successfully fulfilled God's task. Believers today grow in their love and understanding of God and use the gifts God has given to impact others for God's kingdom.

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 29, 2018



### BIBLE STORY PRESCHOOLERS:

*Judges 13-16*

### BIBLE VERSE:

*Proverbs 8:33*

### BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*God chose Samson and helped him.*

### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Sin has a price.*

### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Sin separates us from God and His good plan for our lives.*

### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*2 Corinthians 1:3-14*

### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*2 Corinthians 1:4*

### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *2 Corinthians 3:12-18*

**MONDAY:** *2 Corinthians 4:1-6*

**TUESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 4:7-18*

**WEDNESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 5:1-5*

**THURSDAY:** *2 Corinthians 5:6-10*

**FRIDAY:** *2 Corinthians 5:11-15*

**SATURDAY:** *2 Corinthians 5:16-19*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *Judges* and *2 Corinthians* together as a family:



- **Sin has consequences.** The story of Samson shows that sin has consequences. Samson was the son of Manoah and his wife. An angel had visited Manoah's wife and given her specific instructions on how to raise her son so he would be set apart for God's service. Samson grew up knowing the specific rules God had instructed for him to follow to be set apart. Unfortunately, Samson did not follow God's rules and Samson suffered the consequences of his sin. People today still suffer consequences of sin. Sin separates us from God and from the good plans He has for our lives.
- **Wrong choices lead to hard circumstances.** God's plan for Samson was to begin the overthrow of the Philistines. Samson was supposed to be fighting the Philistines but, instead, Samson married a Philistine woman. Later, Samson returned to the Philistines and fell in love with another woman, Delilah, who would end up being Samson's downfall. Samson's life was filled with choices that countered God's plan. Samson's choices led to a life of misery and suffering. God, as Sovereign, allowed Samson to choose his own path, but God still used Samson to deliver God's people from the oppression of the Philistines.
- **Comfort during trials.** Samson lived a life filled with trials, most of his own making. The end of Samson's story shows that God was with Samson even though Samson didn't wholeheartedly follow God's plan. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians assured the Christians that trials would come. These trials may be the result of self-inflicted poor choices, like those of Samson, or they may be the result of persecution from those outside the church who did not choose to follow God. Samson's life showed that God was with Samson even during those tough times. Christians can rejoice that God is ever-present during those times of testing and He will use that testing to draw us closer to Him.

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 6, 2018



#### BIBLE STORY:

*Ruth 1:1–2:3*

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Psalms 46:1*

#### BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Family members love and care for one another.*

#### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*We can trust God during tough times.*

#### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*God can use anything—good or bad—to accomplish His good plans for us.*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*2 Corinthians 4:5-18*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*2 Corinthians 5:9*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2*

**MONDAY:** *2 Corinthians 6:3-13*

**TUESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 6:14-18*

**WEDNESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 7:1-4*

**THURSDAY:** *2 Corinthians 7:5-9*

**FRIDAY:** *2 Corinthians 7:10-16*

**SATURDAY:** *2 Corinthians 8:1-6*

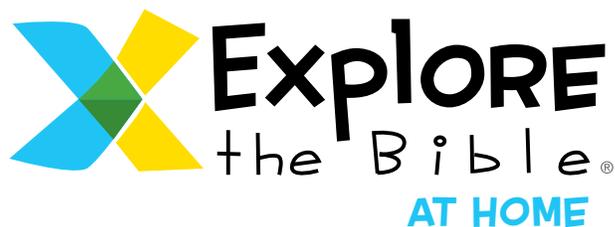
## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Ruth and 2 Corinthians together as a family:



- **Tough times will come.** The Book of Ruth is a story of hard times. Much of this story's beginning is filled with hard things. Elimilech and his family were faced with a terrible famine that had come to Bethlehem, the home of Elimilech and his wife, Naomi. Elimilech decided to take his family to Moab, a city across the Jordan River. Traditionally, the Moabites and the Israelites did not mingle with one another. For whatever reason Elimilech went to Moab, we know that God was in control and allowed him to move there. Even in the tough times, God was in control.
- **God can use anything.** Once the family arrived, the two sons of Elimilech, Mahlon and Chilion, married women from Moab. In a ten-year span all the men of the family died, leaving the three women—Ruth, Orpah, and Naomi—widowed. Naomi discovered that back in Bethlehem the famine had ended, and she decided that she would return to Bethlehem. Naomi encouraged both Ruth and Orpah to return to their family homes so that they could find men to marry. Naomi knew that coming back to Bethlehem with her would lead to more troubled times because she had no one to provide for her, much less her extended family.
- **Faithful.** Ruth refused to be separated from her mother-in-law and returned with her to Bethlehem. Ruth went to work in the fields of a man named Boaz who took notice of her and allowed her to gather grain to support her family. God took the bad times and was turning them for His good.
- **Focus on the unseen.** Naomi and Ruth had no idea what God was doing in areas they could not see, but it was true that God was working. Paul challenged Corinthian believers to focus their minds on the unseen things and the eternal works of God. As Ruth and the Corinthians learned, God's work in areas we cannot see will lead us to God's good rewards for us. God's plans are often unseen, we must trust His plans and obediently follow Him.

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 13, 2018



#### BIBLE STORY:

*Ruth 2; 4*

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Psalm 117:2*

#### BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*God loves and cares for families.*

#### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*God is always at work.*

#### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*God is always working to accomplish His redeeming purposes.*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21; 6:1-2*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *2 Corinthians 8:7-15*

**MONDAY:** *2 Corinthians 8:16-24*

**TUESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 9:1-9*

**WEDNESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 9:10-15*

**THURSDAY:** *2 Corinthians 10:1-6*

**FRIDAY:** *2 Corinthians 10:7-11*

**SATURDAY:** *2 Corinthians 10:12-18*

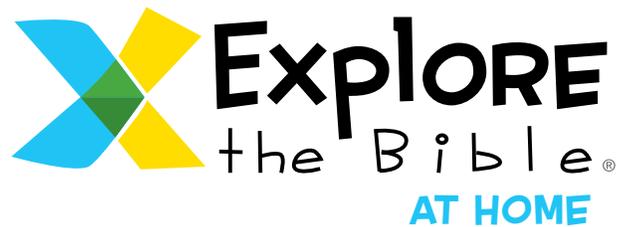
## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Ruth and 2 Corinthians together as a family:



- **God loves and cares.** While the story of Ruth started with a lot of troubled times, we see God's hand at work bringing Ruth and Naomi back into the land of Naomi's family. While Naomi had originally asked Ruth to return to her mother's house, Ruth was convinced that being with Naomi was the place for her. The reality was that God in His abundant love and care for both women led them to return.
- **Kinsman redeemer.** The Israelites had been given a plan by God to redeem those of a family who were left in a situation just like Naomi and Ruth. A kinsman redeemer was a man from a family who would be responsible for redeeming, or buying back, the land of a deceased relative. In this case, since the land also included the widow of the property owner, the redeemer would marry the woman and raise children who would one day own the land of the deceased man. As God had planned it, Boaz was indeed a kinsman redeemer for Naomi's family. Ruth let Boaz know he was a kinsman redeemer for her family and Boaz agreed to redeem the land and marry Ruth. Boaz made this legal at the city gate with 10 elders from the city.
- **New life.** Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi all experienced a new beginning in their lives once Boaz redeemed the land and married Ruth. Naomi had someone to care for her, and Ruth was married to a man who could provide for her. Ruth and Boaz experienced more new life when baby Obed was born. Obed became the grandfather of King David, through whom came Jesus Christ. Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church dealt with new life in Christ. Paul described the salvation experience as being made new—the old ways have passed away and the new man has emerged. Paul emphasized that new life only comes through faith in Christ. As God worked in the lives of Ruth and Boaz, He continues to work in our lives today. God is always at work to accomplish His redeeming purpose in the lives of those who have placed their trust in Him.

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 20, 2018



**BIBLE STORY:**

*Psalms 119*

**BIBLE VERSE:**

*Psalms 119:160a*

**BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:**

*The Bible is a special book.*

**YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:**

*God's Word is good for us.*

**OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:**

*When we delight in God's Word, it helps us resist sin.*

**ADULT CORE PASSAGE:**

*2 Corinthians 9:1-15*

**FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:**

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

**FAMILY READING PLAN:**

**SUNDAY:** *2 Corinthians 11:1-4*

**MONDAY:** *2 Corinthians 11:5-11*

**TUESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 11:12-15*

**WEDNESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 11:16-23*

**THURSDAY:** *2 Corinthians 11:24-33*

**FRIDAY:** *2 Corinthians 12:1-5*

**SATURDAY:** *2 Corinthians 12:6-10*

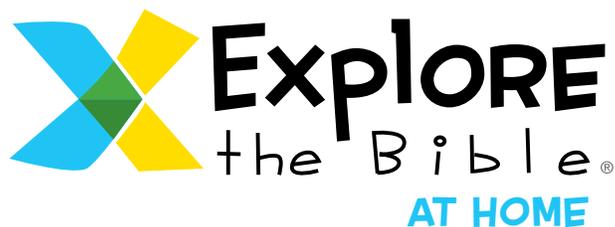
## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Psalms and 2 Corinthians together as a family:



- **Treasure God's Word.** The Book of Psalms is often referred to as the songbook of the Bible. Many of the psalms written in this book were used in temple worship or as personal praises to God. The varied writers had different intents as they wrote their psalms, but the writer of Psalm 119 treasured God's Word so distinctly that he penned 176 verses which speak of the majesty and glory of God's Word. As we read Psalm 119, we should have the same desire to allow God's Word to speak to us and change our lives.
- **Resist sin.** When we treasure God's Word it helps us resist sin. When we become knowledgeable of the things God's Word teaches us, our desire is for God's Word rather than sin. The more we desire to obey God's Word, the less we desire to do things that are opposed to God's Word.
- **Trust God.** Paul wrote to the Corinthians to encourage them to be faithful to what they had heard in God's Word. As God spoke through His Word, Paul drew the Corinthians' attention to several things God wanted all believers to be involved in. The first was putting their faith and trust in God. The time of the Corinthians was a hard time for Christians, and Paul reminded them to remain faithful and trust that God was still in control.
- **Give to the saints.** Paul once again shared with the Corinthians that another way to show their delight for God and His Word was to help those in need. Paul asked the believers to gather an offering for the church in Jerusalem that was in great need of financial help. Their assistance was welcomed and the church faithfully followed through with Paul's request.
- **Delight and believe.** God has always communicated with His people through various means. As Christians we can faithfully hear God's Word as we read the Bible and delight in it. As the Corinthians also learned, we can faithfully believe that God's blessings will come to those who trust Him and His faithful Word.

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 27, 2018



#### BIBLE STORY:

*Psalm 139*

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Psalm 139:14*

#### BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*God made people and loves them.*

#### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*God created me and has a plan for my life.*

#### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*God created me and has a purpose for my life.*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*2 Corinthians 12:7b-10; 13:2-8*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *2 Corinthians 12:11-13*

**MONDAY:** *2 Corinthians 12:14-18*

**TUESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 12:19-21*

**WEDNESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 13:1-4*

**THURSDAY:** *2 Corinthians 13:5-13*

**FRIDAY:** *2 Samuel 1:1-10*

**SATURDAY:** *2 Samuel 1:11-16*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Psalms and 2 Corinthians together as a family:



- **My God knows me!** David, as he wrote Psalm 139, stood in awe of God. David was at a loss for words as he penned this psalm wrestling with the fact that the God Who created the universe had a distinct interest in him, one of God's creations. Psalm 139 is a beautiful description of how much God loves the creation He made. God knows intimate details of each and every aspect of His creation. Why?—because He made it!
- **God's plan.** In addition to the fact that God has intimate knowledge of our lives is the fact that He also has a specific plan for each of His creations. David said that God's plans were in place before God even created us. David ended his psalm by asking God to search his heart and reveal any wrong thoughts or desires that were against God. Likewise, we should also desire to have God reveal our sin so we can approach Him in humility asking for forgiveness.
- **The weak become strong.** God's knowledge of intimate details of His creation is not limited to the good things we experience; God also knows when we struggle and are weak. In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul spoke openly about the weakness he had and told the Corinthians that he prayed often that God would remove what Paul called a "thorn in the flesh." We are not certain what Paul struggled with, but we know he desperately desired God to remove this struggle from him. Paul rejoiced that through his struggle and reliance on God, God made him stronger.
- **Examination.** Your kids likely will wince at the word *examination*, but Paul encouraged the Corinthians to examine their lives daily and ensure they were living lives that honored God. When we live faithful to God's revelation of Himself, and worship the God who knows us intimately, we can do as David did and ask God to reveal to us those parts of our lives that need His healing and our attention.