

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

John 1:3

BIBLE VERSE:

John 3:16

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus came to love and help all people.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sin. (YK)

Jesus is the Word of God who became fully human to rescue us from our sin. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 1:3-14

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 1:7

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 1:1-2*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 1:3*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 1:4*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 1:5-6*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 1:7-8*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 1:9-10*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 1:11-12*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study John and Ephesians together as a family:



- **In the beginning was the Word.** John, like other Gospel writers, began his Gospel with a genealogy of sorts. John, however, began in the very beginning. John introduces Jesus as “the Word.” “In the beginning the Word was with God and the Word was God.” This simple statement identifies Jesus as being present at creation and John goes further to say that Jesus was responsible for all of creation. Creation came through Jesus. John’s writings about Jesus are even more astonishing when John announces that Jesus Christ became flesh and lived on earth taking on human form.
- **Jesus and Nicodemus.** One evening a man named Nicodemus approached Jesus and asked what he could do to be saved. Nicodemus was identified by John as a ruler of the Jews. This designation would have meant that Nicodemus was not only a religious leader but he would have served on the 71 member Jewish high council called the Sanhedrin. These men were from the main religious parties of the day, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and were ruled by the high priest. The council weighed in on religious life and would have been knowledgeable of Jewish religious law. The Sanhedrin, however, did not have any authority in legal matters and could offer no sentences or punishments for what they perceived to be crimes. As a member of the Sanhedrin, Nicodemus knew the law, so when he came to Jesus, he truly was interested in eternal life.
- **The way to eternal life.** Jesus told Nicodemus that the only way to eternal life was to be born again. Misunderstanding what Jesus said, Nicodemus was confused. How can a grown man be born a second time? Jesus explained the second birth was a spiritual birth and not a physical one. Paul, in the Book of Ephesians, told the church that God had provided the blessing of salvation through the sacrifice of Christ. Jesus’ sacrifice showed God’s grace, redemption, and protection.

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

John 4:1-42

BIBLE VERSE:

John 4:42b

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus told people about God’s love.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Nothing can satisfy our hearts but Jesus. (YK)
Only Jesus can satisfy our hearts and give us
eternal life with Him. (OK)*

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 1:15-23

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 1:18

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 1:13*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 1:14*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 1:15-16*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 1:17*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 1:18-19*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 1:20-21*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 1:22-23*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study John and Ephesians together as a family:



- **Not by accident.** Jesus, John tells us, “had to travel through Samaria.” Jesus was not in Samaria by accident. Jews of Jesus’ time did not go into Samaria since it was considered unclean. Samaria had previously been the capital city of the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the ancient divided kingdoms. The remnant left in Samaria once it was captured, intermarried with foreigners who had moved in when the rest of Israel was taken away. This intermarriage with people who were not God-followers encouraged Jews to avoid this area. Jesus, however, had a divine appointment in Samaria. So as John says, Jesus “had to travel through Samaria.”
- **Jesus broke down barriers.** Jesus was in the business of doing things the way God wanted and not conforming to what the traditional Jews of His day had made the Jewish faith out to be. Not only did Jesus go to Samaria, but while there, He intentionally spoke to a woman, something no Jew of His day would have done. Jesus asked the woman for water from the well and proceeded to tell the woman about His mission. The woman rightly identified Jesus as the Messiah who was to come and ran back into the town to gather all those she could, telling them to come hear the things Jesus taught. Jesus taught with great authority, and many in Samaria, because of the woman’s testimony, became followers of Jesus.
- **God’s power.** The Samaritan woman identified Jesus as the Messiah and rejoiced with others for the change Jesus brought to her life. Paul encouraged believers in Ephesus to rejoice in the change God had brought to them as well. Paul told the church that God would help them see God’s plans for their lives as they grew in their relationship and understanding of who God is. Increasing one’s heart knowledge of God leads to greater opportunity to serve Him. Paul also reminded the church that their hope would increase as they continued to learn more about God. A relationship with God results in a display of God’s power.

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

John 9:1-38

BIBLE VERSE:

John 9:5

BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus made sick people well.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God can use our tough times to help us learn more about His mercy and love. (YK)

God can use our suffering to help us learn about His mercy, power, and love. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 2:1-10

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 2:8-9

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 2:1-2*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 2:3*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 2:4-5*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 2:6-7*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 2:8-9*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 2:10*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 2:11*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study John and Ephesians together as a family:



- **Healing of the blind.** In the biblical accounts of Jesus healing someone, the healing of blindness is the most common. Jesus' healing people of blindness may have highlighted for the religious leaders the depth of spiritual blindness they possessed. Jesus proved through these healing events that He had power over both physical blindness and spiritual blindness.
- **Total blindness.** The man in John 9 is identified as having been born blind. For men in Jesus' day, being born blind was not something the man could ever be healed from. Resigned to sitting by the side of the road and begging for money, this man had no way of earning income through physical labor. He truly had no hope of ever being able to see and nothing he could do would restore his sight.
- **Spiritual blindness on display.** When Jesus encountered the man, Jesus stooped down, spit in the mud, and made a paste that was applied to the man's eyes. Once applied, Jesus instructed the man to go to the Pool of Siloam and wash. When the man did as Jesus instructed he was able to see. To reveal the spiritual blindness of the people, several things happened: First, it appears that the man's own friends and neighbors were not able to identify him as the man born blind. Whether this is John's way of identifying spiritual blindness or if they really couldn't recognize him, we don't know. Either way, John's point is made. Second, blind to the miracle that occurred, the religious leaders were more concerned with their law than with miracles.
- **In Christ alone.** The story of Jesus healing the blind man is shadowed in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Paul wrote to the church that salvation—a release from spiritual blindness—comes only by God's grace through faith. Just as the man did nothing to earn his sight, believers can do nothing to earn their salvation.

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

BIBLE STORY:

John 11:1-44

BIBLE VERSE:

John 11:25a

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus cared about people. (BT)

Jesus did things no one else could do. (P)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God can use our tough times to help others learn about Him. (YK)

God can use our suffering to bring glory to His name. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 2:11-22

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 2:14

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 2:12*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 2:13*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 2:14-15*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 2:16*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 2:17*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 2:18*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 2:19-20*

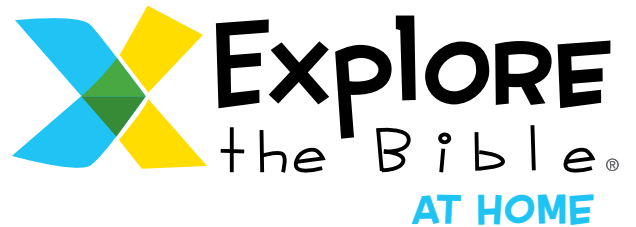
FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study John and Ephesians together as a family:



- **Sick unto death.** Jesus was friends with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. These siblings lived in the little town of Bethany, about six miles from Jerusalem. Jesus visited the family often. One day Jesus received a message from the women that their brother, Lazarus, was sick. When Jesus heard the news, He did not hurry to depart, but stayed where He was two more days. Jesus announced to the disciples that Lazarus's sickness would not end in death. However, by the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days. His body had already been placed into a sealed tomb. How could Jesus' pronouncement that this illness would not end in death be true?
- **The resurrection and the life.** The women knew that Jesus was coming, and when Martha heard the news she ran to meet Jesus. Martha greeted Jesus by saying, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." In conversation Martha discovered Jesus' deity and identity as the one who brought resurrection.
- **Lord over death.** Jesus knew that death was not the end for Lazarus, or for anyone. Jesus knew that God was going to do something miraculous so that the people there would know Jesus as God's Son and thus glorify God. After four days a body would begin to decompose and stink. The women were concerned for the stench when Jesus asked them to roll the stone from the entrance of the tomb. With the stone rolled away, Jesus called Lazarus's name and the man came out of the tomb alive. Jesus is Lord over death.
- **New life in Christ.** Far worse than physical death is a spiritual death. Jesus raised Lazarus physically from death, but Paul cautioned the Ephesians to beware of wanting to remain in their state of life before Christ. Through salvation, Paul told the church, believers can have reconciliation with God and offer peace to all people. Jesus' example of the raising of Lazarus leads believers to rejoice in their new life through Christ.

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

John 1-21

BIBLE VERSE:

John 10:11

BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus had many names. (BT)

Jesus helped people know who He was. (P)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*The only way to God is through faith in Jesus.
(YK)*

*The only way to God is through faith in Jesus,
who gave His life for us. (OK)*

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 3:1-13

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 3:6

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 2:21*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 2:22*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 3:1-2*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 3:3*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 3:4*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 3:5-6*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 3:7*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study John and Ephesians together as a family:



- **I AM!** God's covenant name, Yahweh, was revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:14. Since that revelation, the people of Israel were very cautious not to use God's revealed name in conversation or even in discussions about God Himself. God's personal name was highly regarded and anyone caught using the name would be subject to strict religious persecution and separation from the religious community. John's Gospel lists seven instances when the covenant name of God is associated with Jesus. Each of those opportunities leads to a greater understanding of Jesus and a better understanding of God's plan for people.
- **I am the ____.** Seven statements define Jesus in John's Gospel. Jesus is called the Bread of life. Bread sustained life, but Jesus would bring life more abundant through His death and resurrection. Jesus is called the Light of the world. Jesus showed who God is and those who study Jesus' life see what God is like. Jesus is called the gate for the sheep. Shepherds would keep the sheep from escaping a pen by lying down in the opening of the gate to keep the sheep safe. Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. Good shepherds protected their sheep and God protects His people. Jesus is called the resurrection and the life. Jesus raised people from physical death, but more importantly rescues people from spiritual death. Jesus is called the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus is the only way to the Father, no other way exists. Jesus is called the true Vine. Vines are important for growing fruit. Believers grow fruit to be productive for God's kingdom.
- **Light of the world.** Jesus was identified by John as the Light of the world. Paul expanded on this designation as he wrote to the Ephesian believers. Paul claimed that since Jesus' death and resurrection, believers now have the responsibility of illuminating the darkness and sharing the truth of Christ's sacrifice with others. By sharing the gospel message, Christians become the light of the world that God wants them to become.

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

1 Thessalonians 1-5

BIBLE VERSE:

1 Thessalonians 5:11

BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Love and help one another.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*We have hope because Jesus will come again.
(YK)*

*Jesus will come again, and all believers (dead
and alive) will live with Him forever. (OK)*

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 3:14-21

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 3:17

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 3:8-9*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 3:10*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 3:11*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 3:12-13*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 3:14-15*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 3:16*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 3:17-19*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *1 Thessalonians* and *Ephesians* together as a family:



- **Only for a little while.** Paul and his companions, Silas and Timothy, were on a second missionary journey preaching to believers and starting churches where they had new converts. In the town of Thessalonica, the three men spent only a short time—about three weeks—preaching. When they left, the new church had many questions, so Paul wrote to them the Letter of *1 Thessalonians*.
- **Three struggles.** The church had three major concerns about theology and needed Paul to address those issues. The first thing people struggled with was the persecution of believers by the pagan religions in Thessalonica. The pagans of the city had built many temples to their gods and ridiculed the Christians for their faith in Christ. Paul assured the church they would see persecution, but God would give them wisdom to combat the persecution in ways that would honor Him. Second, the church dealt with rampant laziness. Many church members were confused about Christ's return and had stopped doing anything because they believed Christ was coming soon so there was no need for work. Paul rightly told the church to stop being lazy and keep on working. The third issue was the question of when Christ would return. Paul told the church no one knew when Christ was going to return, but the church needed to stay focused on telling others about Jesus until He did return. Knowing Christ was coming should bring the church the hope needed to be faithful to God.
- **Christ dwells in us.** Paul wrote thirteen letters to churches he had visited. Each letter is unique, but many of them share similar messages. Each letter, however, shows that Christ is who He says He is, and He can be trusted to do what He says He will do. In Paul's letter to the Ephesian believers, Paul encouraged believers to receive strength from Christ—who dwells in them—for their mission of spreading the gospel.

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 13, 2019

BIBLE STORY:

2 Thessalonians 1-3

BIBLE VERSE:

2 Thessalonians 3:13

BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Do not stop doing good.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

Don't get tired of doing good while you wait for Jesus to come again. (YK)

We must stay firm in our faith and obedience to God while we wait for Jesus to return. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 4:1-10

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 4:1

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 3:20-21*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 4:1-3*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 4:4-6*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 4:7-10*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 4:11-13*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 4:14*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 4:15*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study 2 Thessalonians and Ephesians together as a family:



- **A second letter to friends.** After Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, he discovered that the church continued to struggle. Paul wrote a second letter to the church to help them have more clarity on what they could expect as followers of Christ.
- **Persecuted for Christ.** The church in Thessalonica continued to struggle with persecution. However, Paul complimented the church for the way they had handled their persecution. Paul shared that he and his companions in ministry had often mentioned the Thessalonian church to others as an example of how to stand firm while being persecuted.
- **The day of the Lord.** One misconception the people in the church had was concern they had missed Christ's return. Paul encouraged the church to accept the fact Christ had not yet returned and they needed to continue preaching the message so others could hear of Christ. Paul gave the church some signs they could look for to identify when Christ's return might be close.
- **Don't get tired of doing good.** Paul encouraged the believers to be faithful to God and continue doing good work, not getting tired of doing that work, so that many more people could hear the gospel and become followers of Christ.
- **Walking worthy.** As Paul had done with the Thessalonians, he likewise encouraged the Ephesian believers to stand strong with Christian attitudes and character, demonstrating the truth of the gospel though they suffered persecution. God expects believers to display godly attitudes and character even though others around them are not living in that way. Paul also encouraged the Ephesians to have a unified faith knowing that God is pleased when people tell others about Him.

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 20, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

1 Kings 5–8

BIBLE VERSE:

1 Kings 8:61

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Solomon built the temple for God.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God is worthy of praise. (YK)

God wants people to have a relationship with Him, so He created a way for people to seek forgiveness of their sin and worship Him at the temple. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 4:11-16

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 4:14-15

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 4:16*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 4:17*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 4:18*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 4:19*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 4:20-24*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 4:25*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 4:26-27*

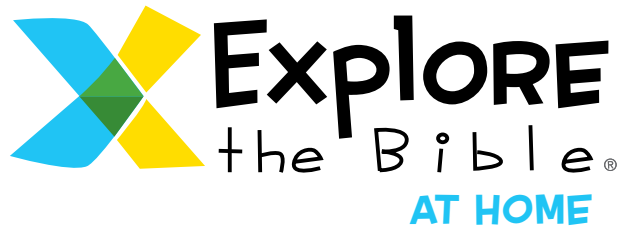
FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *1 Kings* and *Ephesians* together as a family:



- **A place for God to dwell.** King David wanted to build God a permanent structure where the ark of the covenant could reside. The ark was Israel's physical representation of God's presence and had always been in a tent. While David's desire to build this house for God was great, God had different plans. God assured David that David's son, Solomon, would be the one to build the temple, but David set about making plans so Solomon would have everything he needed.
- **The grand temple.** The structure of the temple was grand. The sanctuary was approximately 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. The main structure was separated into two areas, with the smaller interior area being the holy of holies. The holy of holies is where the ark of the covenant would reside. The room was made from cedar boards that had been intricately carved and then covered in solid gold. Think for a moment how grand and glorious that would have been. Around the outside of the sanctuary, rooms were built likely to house the priests and serve as storage for items necessary to temple worship.
- **God is worthy of praise.** When the temple was complete, Solomon called the people to a worship service. The people praised God for the wonderful building that had been built and sacrifices were offered to God. The celebration of the temple lasted for fourteen days, after which the people returned to their homes.
- **Growing in faith.** Once each year the high priest would meet with God in the holy of holies. This meeting would happen on the day of atonement when the high priest would offer sin sacrifices to God for the people. God intended the high priests to always lead the nation to follow God and grow closer to God in faith. Paul shared with the Ephesian church that they should do the same. God intended for the leaders of the church to be the encouragers of a congregation that sought to become mature in their faith.

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 27, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

1 Kings 17:1-24

BIBLE VERSE:

Psalm 31:21a

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Elijah helped people know about God.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God provided for Elijah. (YK)

God is our provider. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 4:17-32

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 4:23-24

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 4:28*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 4:29*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 4:30*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 4:31*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 4:32*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 5:1-2*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 5:3*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *1 Kings* and *Ephesians* together as a family:



- **Elijah the Tishbite.** The prophet Elijah is introduced in *1 Kings 17* as being from the settlers of Gilead. This small region was east of the Jordan River and was both desert and dense forest, depending on where you went. The town of Tishbe has not been identified but would have been somewhere in this region. Elijah was an unknown man until his calling by God. Elijah's message to the wicked King Ahab was that no rain would fall on the land until Elijah said so. This was particularly important because the false god Ahab served, Baal, was the supposed god of weather. Elijah claimed God's superiority and sovereignty with his statements.
- **Down by the river.** God told Elijah to go to a river where God would provide for Elijah's needs. Eventually the river dried up and Elijah was told to go visit a widow who would provide for him. When Elijah saw the woman, he asked her to bring him some water and a small loaf of bread. The woman professed that she had only a small amount of flour and oil with which she was going to make the last meal for herself and her son. Elijah encouraged her to first make a small loaf for him and then her flour and oil would not run out until God sent rain. In obedience to Elijah's word, the woman did as he asked and God provided for the woman and her son during the three-and-a-half-year drought.
- **Be different.** This woman had no idea who Elijah was, but trusted the word from God. Through her belief in what Elijah told her, God blessed the woman and her family during a struggling time. Paul encouraged the Ephesian believers to also trust God's Word and live differently from others. Paul told the Ephesians that life before Christ was characterized by searching for fulfillment through their sin. Paul challenged the church to now pursue Christ so their lives would be examples of Jesus Christ. God physically provided for the widow and her family and God also fills believers with spiritual provision to boldly share Christ with others.

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

1 Kings 18:1-2,18-40

BIBLE VERSE:

Deuteronomy 10:12

BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

People learned about God. (BT)

People learned about God's power. (P)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God is the one true God. (YK)

God is the omnipotent, one true God. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 5:1-14

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 5:1-2

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 5:4-5*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 5:6-7*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 5:8-10*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 5:11-12*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 5:13-14*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 5:15-16*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 5:17-18*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *1 Kings* and *Ephesians* together as a family:



- **One man against a nation.** King Ahab was one of the most wicked kings of Israel. Ahab, and his wife Jezebel, led the nation to worship the false god Baal. They believed that Baal, the false god of storms, would bring rain. Elijah, more than three years before, had announced that rain would not come until he said so. After three years it was time for the rain, but God wanted to make sure that His name would be glorified. Elijah proposed a contest and Elijah alone stood ready to defend the one true God.
- **Baal versus the one true God.** After three years of drought you would think that Ahab would have decided that Baal had no real power, however Ahab still needed some convincing. Elijah's challenge was pretty simple; each side would choose a bull, prepare the offering, and then call down fire from their god. The one who answered was the one true God. This seemed reasonable to Ahab and the prophets of Baal, so Elijah allowed the prophets of Baal to go first. All day they called to Baal, asking him to answer with fire, but nothing ever happened. At the time for the traditional evening sacrifice, Elijah prepared his bull, and had twelve pots of water poured over the sacrifice and the altar, filling a trench he had dug around it. After Elijah's one single prayer, God sent fire which consumed the water, the wood, the offering, and the altar. No doubt was left about who the one true God was.
- **Examples for Christ.** Elijah's life and mission were all about the worship of the one true God. Through his actions and words, Elijah led others to know who God was and encouraged them to follow the one true God. Paul mirrored this theme when telling the Ephesian church that they should imitate Christ in their daily lives. Paul shared with the church that their actions, done with love, would display Christ's character and would make the Ephesian believers a light in the darkness of the world in which they lived. Paul, like Elijah, wanted believers to separate themselves from ungodly behavior and glorify God with right living.

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

2 Kings 4

BIBLE VERSE:

Matthew 19:26

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

God can do anything.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*God can provide more than what we need. (YK)
God can provide beyond our expectations. (OK)*

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 5:15-21

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 5:18

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 5:19-21*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 5:22-24*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 5:25-27*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 5:28-30*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 5:31-32*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 5:33*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 6:1-3*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study 2 Kings and Ephesians together as a family:



- **The miracle of plenty.** Elisha, not to be confused with Elijah, was the prophet who came after Elijah. The ministry of Elisha spanned more than fifty years, during which time God used Elisha to do many miraculous things. Similar to the story of the widow's oil and flour being sustained, Elisha also met a widowed woman who was being pressed by a creditor to settle her husband's estate. Having no money, she was going to lose her sons as payment for the debt. Elisha told the woman to gather jars from her neighbors, as many as she could, then shut herself inside the house and begin pouring the oil into the pots. When God miraculously filled the pots, the woman sold the oil and made enough to pay her creditor and to live on.
- **The miracle of life.** Later Elisha encountered a couple from Shunem who generously built a room on top of their house, so when Elisha was in town, he would have a place to stay. In appreciation for their hospitality, Elisha announced that the couple would have a son. True to Elisha's prophecy, a year later the woman gave birth to a son. When the boy was older he was in the field with his father when he suddenly became ill. After returning to the house, the boy soon died and his mother sent for Elisha. When Elisha came he prayed to God and God restored life to the boy. The boy's mother and father rejoiced for their son's renewed life.
- **Filled with the spirit.** Elisha did not perform any of these miracles through his own power. God used Elisha as the person through whom God performed these miracles. The same God through whom Elisha was able to do miraculous things is the same God who inhabits believers. Paul told Ephesian believers that the Holy Spirit dwells within them from the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit gives direction to believers who listen to His leading. Paul urged the church to rely on God's Spirit to lead them and not on things that distract or lead to reckless living. Almighty God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

2 Kings 5

BIBLE VERSE:

Psalm 147:5

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

God will help people when they ask Him.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God has the power to heal. (YK)

God has the power to heal us physically and spiritually. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 5:22–6:4

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 6:2-3

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 6:4*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 6:5-6*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 6:7-8*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 6:9*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 6:10-11*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 6:12*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 6:13*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study 2 Kings and Ephesians together as a family:



- **Commander of the army.** Naaman was a military commander in the Syrian army. The king of Aram trusted Naaman and Naaman was well-liked by not only his king, but by everyone he met. But Naaman had a problem—he suffered from a skin disease, sometimes called leprosy, that during those days was quite contagious. If his condition continued, Naaman would not be able to continue in his role as leader of the army.
- **A ready help.** The Syrian army was known for raiding neighboring lands and bringing the children to serve in their homes. Second Kings 5 tells the story of one of these young girls who lived in Naaman's house and heard of Naaman's problem. The girl told Naaman's wife that he needed only to seek the prophet Elisha in Israel. Naaman went to the king and asked if he could go to Israel to find healing. When Naaman went to the king of Israel, Naaman discovered that Elisha was not there. Elisha knew Naaman was in Israel and sent for Naaman.
- **A strange request.** Elisha did not even come out to meet with Naaman when Naaman arrived. Instead, Elisha sent a messenger to Naaman who instructed Naaman to go to the Jordan River and dip seven times, after which Naaman would be healed. Naaman did not like that Elisha did not come out, himself, and was even more disturbed by the fact that Elisha wanted Naaman to dip himself into what he considered a very dirty river. After being encouraged by his soldiers, Naaman did as Elisha told him, and God healed Naaman from his disease.
- **Living in peace.** The young girl who lived in Naaman's house was not part of his family, but she did reach out to Naaman so he could be healed. Despite her situation, the girl showed compassion as she helped Naaman find healing. Paul taught the Ephesian church about responsibilities to families. Paul reminded the people that each person had a place in a family, whether mother, father, husband, wife, or child. Each role is important and each person should express God's love and show peace in their family relationships.

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 24, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

2 Chronicles 34

BIBLE VERSE:

Deuteronomy 30:20a

BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Josiah loved God and worshiped Him.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*God's Word teaches us how to obey God. (YK)
God's Word reveals God's holiness and our sin
against Him. (OK)*

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 6:10-20

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 6:11

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Ephesians 6:14-15*

MONDAY: *Ephesians 6:16*

TUESDAY: *Ephesians 6:17*

WEDNESDAY: *Ephesians 6:18*

THURSDAY: *Ephesians 6:19-20*

FRIDAY: *Ephesians 6:21-22*

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 6:23-24*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study 2 Chronicles and Ephesians together as a family:



- **The little boy king.** Josiah was eight years old when he became king of Israel. At that young age, Josiah was likely influenced by his royal court until he came of age to make rational decisions. It is even possible that Josiah's young kingship could have been shaped by the prophets Jeremiah and Zephaniah, both of whom prophesied during Josiah's transition to the throne.
- **Seeking the Lord.** The Bible tells us that at the age of 16, Josiah began to seek the Lord. At age 20, Josiah led the nation to get rid of the false idols and gods they worshiped and instead to worship the one true God. By the age of 26, Josiah began to notice the deplorable condition of the temple and began a building campaign to repair the temple. During repairs, a copy of the law, likely the Book of Deuteronomy, was found and read to the king. Josiah tore his robes and asked for God's forgiveness.
- **Temple worship restored.** Josiah sought the counsel of a prophetess who told Josiah that because he had humbled himself before God, God would bless him. God would not relent from punishing the nation because of their many years of sin, but Josiah would live a long fulfilled life since he turned his heart toward God. With the repairs to the temple complete, Josiah led the nation to celebrate the Passover and began regular temple worship as described in the book of the law that was found.
- **God's Word is my shield.** Josiah found the truth of God's Word humbled his heart and led him to worship the one true God. Paul shared with the Ephesians that God's Word is a sword and would be helpful to answer spiritual questions they might have. Paul compared God and His Word to spiritual armor that Christians should wear to repel the attacks of those who were not believers. Josiah fought physical battles using armor, and believers fight spiritual battles clothed in the armor of God's Word.