

Year **2**

Quarter 1

Obedience & Disobedience

Family Devotional

*Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You
established the earth, and it abides.—Psalm 119:89–90*



Answers
BIBLE CURRICULUM

GOD'S WORD FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Answers Bible Curriculum

Year 2 • Quarter 1 • Family Devotional

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Introduction

Welcome to the *Answers Bible Curriculum* family devotional. We pray God will use this guide as a tool to help you as parents to train and disciple your children. We encourage you to take time in the evening (or morning) during the week to have an intentional time of family Bible study, worship, and Scripture memory. You could do this every night or a couple nights each week. Make it a habit, and don't let the to-dos and pressures of our busy lives rob you of this precious time together.

While it's true that the church has a God-given responsibility to teach God's Word and lead in worship, God gives the primary responsibility for a child's spiritual development to his or her parents. Below are just a few of the Scriptures that admonish parents to be actively involved in training and teaching their children the things of the Lord:

Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, "Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children." (Deuteronomy 4:9–10)

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they

shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4–9)

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

To use this guide, we suggest you read the lesson summary out loud, and then read each of the Scriptures and discuss the answers among yourselves. Of course, you'll want to adjust the questions based on the ages of your children. If you plan on having a family devotional time each night of the week, you will want to read ahead and split up each lesson into five or six smaller sections.

We have included space for family prayer requests. It is important to spend time in prayer, lifting up the needs of each family member and praying for each one's spiritual growth. You can also use this time to lift up the needs in your church, any missionaries you know or support, etc. Record the prayer requests, and then review them from time to time to be encouraged about how God has answered.

As parents, God has given you a great responsibility and privilege to train the next generation. You may not feel up to the task, but remember, our sufficiency is from God (2 Corinthians 3:4–6), and He delights in using the weak and foolish things of the world so that His wisdom and power are manifest (1 Corinthians 1:26–31).



1 God Calls Joshua

Lesson Summary

Because the Israelites had refused to obey God and enter the Promised Land, God sentenced an entire generation, all those aged 20 years and older, to die in the wilderness. Only Joshua and Caleb were exempt because of the faith they had exhibited in urging the people to go in to Canaan.

Forty years passed and that generation perished. God would now fulfill the promise made to His people so long ago. After the death of Moses, the Lord spoke to Joshua and reassured him that He would be with him. That promise was coupled with the command to be obedient—to “observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you” (Joshua 1:7). God’s purpose was to honor the covenant He had made to the people and to bring them into their promised possession. God’s purpose would stand, but He would demand obedience from the Israelites in order for them to see the fulfillment of His promises. He commanded Joshua to consider His Word, to meditate on it day and night, and to observe to do it. Only then would his way be prosperous, and only then would God grant him success.

Just as it was necessary for Joshua to meditate upon and obey the Word of God to be successful in what God had called him to do, so we must pay careful attention to God’s Word for our own spiritual health and success in what God has called us to—whether as a parent, child, spouse, student, employee, boss, teacher, or whatever position God has given us.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Psalm 119:16, 119:20, 119:24, 119:35, 119:40, 119:47–48, 119:70–72, 119:97, 119:167

1. How does the psalmist view God's Word?

2. Why does the psalmist delight in and love God's Law?

Psalm 119:27, 119:34, 119:73, 119:125; 1 Corinthians 2:10–14

3. What do we need to understand God's Word?

Psalm 19:7–11; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16–17

4. What are some ways that God uses His Word in our lives?

5. Read the following passages and identify specific areas where God's Word helps us.

- Psalm 119:9–11 –

- Psalm 119:66, 119:98–100, 119:104–105, 119:130 –

- Psalm 119:50, 119:92 –

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Joshua 1:8–9 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Prayer

Thank God for His sure, everlasting Word. Thank Him for inspiring it and preserving it for thousands of years. Ask Him for a love for His Word as the psalmist had. Ask God to remind you often to read, study, memorize, and meditate on His Word.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



Lesson Summary

Under Joshua's leadership, Israel was about to enter the Promised Land and begin the fulfillment of the promise that God originally made to Abraham and that had been passed down generation to generation.

Their first obstacle was the city of Jericho—a formidable walled city just across the Jordan River from where the Israelites were camped. Joshua sent two spies to the city to look it over and report back. In God's providence, the spies came to lodge at the house of a harlot, Rahab.

Rahab's home was built on the wall and offered a safe and inconspicuous haven for the men. When Rahab realized who these two men were, she explained to them how she had come to believe in the God of Israel. She was well aware—as apparently all in Jericho were—that Israel was a nation whose God had delivered His people in a dramatic, miraculous fashion from Egypt. This God had also provided victory for His people over the most notorious kings on the other side of the Jordan. This was no small feat, and Rahab had come to worship this God of Israel.

Rahab demonstrated her faith and offered protection to the spies. Her faith saved her household from destruction. And her faith, by God's amazing grace, put her in the Messianic line.

God is in the habit of using fallen, imperfect people. He delights in taking sinners and making them into saints. The account of Rahab serves as a reminder to us that, no matter our past, God can change lives, redeem sinners, and use even the worst of us for His glory.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

1. What are some of the sins that keep people from inheriting the kingdom of God?
2. What kind of lifestyle did God save you from?
3. What hope is offered to sinners in this passage?

Titus 3:3–7

4. What were some things that characterized our lives before we were saved?
5. What has God done in His mercy and grace for us?

Galatians 5:19–26

6. What are some of the sins that keep people from inheriting the kingdom of God?
7. Were any of these characteristic of your past life? In what ways has God changed you?
8. What qualities are evidence of a spirit-filled life? What is our job and what is God's job in our ongoing sanctification?

Matthew 1:5; Hebrews 11:30–31; James 2:25

9. What do these three references to Rahab in the New Testament tell us about the grace of God?
10. What is the most interesting part of Rahab's story to you?

11. Do the sins in our past (or present) make us unworthy to serve God?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Joshua 1:8–9 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Prayer

Praise God for His amazing grace that is given to sinners. Thank Him for changing you from an enemy to a friend, from a sinner to a saint, from a rebel to a servant, and from a stranger to a beloved child. Ask Him for the strength and boldness to share the good news of Jesus to those around you.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

3

The Battle of Jericho



Lesson Summary

God had chosen Joshua to lead the children of Israel into their promised inheritance. They defeated the kings on the east side of the Jordan, defeated Jericho with its large walls and fortifications, and then followed that with many more victories as they moved into the land of Canaan.

For five years the Israelites continued fighting and conquering the land until 31 kings and their cities had been defeated, from the far north in modern-day Lebanon to south of the Dead Sea (Joshua 12:7–24). Following this, Joshua divided up the land among the tribes as God had commanded. There were still battles to fight, and more territory to conquer, but for now they had rest in their Promised Land.

At the end of Joshua's life, he gave a farewell address to the Israelites and had them covenant together to serve the Lord. He knew their hearts were wayward and wanted to do all he could to ensure their continued faithfulness to the Lord God of Israel.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Joshua 23:1-6

1. Who had fought for the Israelites and conquered the nations?
2. What command did Joshua give to the people in verse 6? How does this compare to what the Lord commanded of Joshua in Joshua 1?

Joshua 23:7-16

3. What warning did Joshua give to the Israelites?
4. What would be the consequences of intermarrying and associating with the conquered peoples of the land?
5. How does God view idolatry?

Joshua 24:14–27

6. What did Joshua charge the people to do (vv. 14–15)?
7. What was the people's response (vv. 16–18)?
8. What did Joshua predict would happen? What did he do to try to avoid it?

Judges 2:6–13

9. How long did the people stay true to God and worship Him alone?
10. What happened to the next generation who had not witnessed all that the Lord had done?
11. Read the following passages and discuss how obeying these commands might have averted the apostasy of the Israelites:

- Deuteronomy 6:5–9 –
- Deuteronomy 11:18–24 –
- Psalm 78:1–8 –

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Joshua 1:8–9 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Prayer

Thank God for recording the true history of the world in His Word. Ask Him to reveal any idols that you may be worshipping or serving. Ask God for wisdom and strength to teach your children and pass on a legacy of faith to the future generations.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

4

Israel Disobeys God



Lesson Summary

Judges 1:11–12 tells us, “Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals; and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger.”

The sin of idolatry is given the strongest condemnation and carries the most severe punishment of any sin in the Bible. God is a jealous God and will not share His glory with another (Isaiah 42:8). The Israelites worshipped carved images made of wood, stone, or metal. That is not a temptation in our twenty-first century culture. However, idolatry is not limited to bowing down to carved images. In fact, whenever we give anything but God the attention or affection that He alone deserves, we are committing idolatry.

John Calvin is often quoted as having said that man’s nature is a perpetual factory of idols. How easily we erect idols in our hearts, whether possessions, people, relationships, personal achievement, or anything else we depend on, rely on, or place our trust and security in.

God alone is worthy of our worship.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Exodus 20:1–6

1. What do the first two of the Ten Commandments deal with?
2. What does it mean that God is a “jealous God”?

Jeremiah 10:1–16

3. How is God altogether different from pagan idols?
4. What will happen to the idols of men?

Ezekiel 6:1–7; Deuteronomy 7:1–5

5. What was God going to do to Israel because of their idolatry?
6. Why did God command the Israelites to destroy the inhabitants of the land?

7. What do these verses tell us about how God views idolatry?

1 Corinthians 8:1–4, 10:19–20

8. What status does Paul give to idols?

9. What or who is really behind idols that pagans worship?

Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5

10. What does Paul equate idolatry with?

11. How is covetousness related to idolatry?

Matthew 6:19–24

12. What are some ways that we lay up treasures on earth?

13. How does the place of our treasure affect where our heart's allegiance truly is?

14. Can a person serve two masters? Why not?

15. In what ways can we guard ourselves from money (or anything else) becoming an idol?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Joshua 1:8–9 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Prayer

Praise God that He is the Creator of the universe, and worthy of all our worship. Ask Him to reveal any idols that you may be trusting in or worshipping instead of Him. Ask God for power to smash those idols, and to replace them with undivided love and devotion for Him.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



5

God Uses Gideon

Lesson Summary

Gideon was a judge raised up by God to bring deliverance to His people while they were under the oppression of the Midianites. He was an insignificant man from a weak clan (Judges 6:15). And yet God chose Gideon, in spite of his position and abilities, to deliver His people. Because Gideon trusted in God and obeyed God's instructions, God gave him a great victory and established him as judge over Israel.

Like Gideon, all of us are weak, insignificant humans. We are sinful creatures with fears, failings, and faults. And yet, God has chosen us to be His children. He has chosen us to do significant things for Him. And like with Gideon, it is His power and His plans that will succeed. Our job, as the old hymn encourages, is to trust and obey.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

1. What does God think about our human wisdom?
2. Does the message of the Cross represent wisdom or foolishness? Explain.
3. How does our wisdom or strength compare with God's?

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

4. What characterizes those who are called to faith in Christ?
5. Why did God choose “foolish things”? The “weak things”?
6. Do we have any cause to glory in our wisdom, strength, or accomplishments?
7. What has God done for us, and in whom should we glory?

8. What are the verbs in this passage that describe what God has done for us? Blessed, chose . . .

9. What do we have because of God's gracious choice according to His good pleasure?

10. What is God's ultimate purpose in saving and redeeming sinners (vv. 6, 12, 14)?

11. What was our part in all that God has done for us (v. 13)?

12. Read the following passages and discuss what they tell us about God's part and our part in our spiritual growth, our works, and our sanctification.
 - 1 Corinthians 3:5–8 –

 - 1 Corinthians 15:9–10 –

 - Philippians 1:6 –

- Philippians 2:12–13 –

- Hebrews 13:20–21 –

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Joshua 1:8–9 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Prayer

Praise God that though we are weak, He is strong. Thank Him for His Holy Spirit and His Word, which work effectively in us to conform us to the image of Christ. Ask God for the faith required to trust and obey Him, no matter the cost or how foolish it may appear to others.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

Lesson Summary

The recurring cycle of Israel's history during the time of the judges continued for the 300-year period. This cycle included the Israelites' disobedience and idolatry, God's judgment on them through neighboring nations, their cry to God that He would deliver them, God's mercy and compassion in raising up judges to deliver them, and finally Israel's fall back into disobedience.

What patience God showed to the Israelites as they entered into idolatry again and again! And what faithfulness He demonstrated to His people. And His faithfulness was demonstrated not only in mercy and grace, but also in discipline as well—like a father is faithful to discipline the children he loves (Hebrews 12:5–11).

This period of the judges is characterized by the twice-repeated phrase, "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). Without strong leadership, as they had under Joshua, the nation spiraled down into sin, both personal and corporate. The book of Judges details the idolatry, lust, immorality, deception, and other vices that come from the wicked hearts of men. This historical book includes accounts of heroic men and women, terrible immorality, less-than-perfect leaders, and God's faithfulness.

Samson is one of the better-known characters from this time period, and there are many lessons that we can learn by examining his life.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Judges 13:1–5, 13:24–25; Numbers 6:1–8

1. What were the unusual circumstances surrounding Samson's birth?
2. What was a Nazirite vow, and what were the restrictions for a person taking such a vow?
3. What was to be Samson's role in God's plan (13:5), and how did God begin to prepare Samson?

Judges 14:1–4

4. What did Samson ask from his parents? What was their response?
5. Were the Philistines one of the groups that God prohibited intermarrying with? (See Exodus 34:11–17, Deuteronomy 7:1–4.)
6. Why didn't Samson's parents want him to marry a Philistine?

7. Who was ultimately behind Samson's desire to marry this young Philistine woman? Why?

Judges 15:1–20

8. How would you describe Samson's character? What were some of his weaknesses? Where did his strength come from (v. 14)?
9. How do these events demonstrate God's mercy and longsuffering?

Judges 16:1–30

10. How would you describe Delilah's character? Why do you think Samson listened to her?
11. What gave Samson his strength and why did it leave him (vv. 18–20)?
12. How did Samson's death fulfill God's plan for his life?

13. What are some lessons we can learn from Samson? What does this account tell us about God?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Joshua 1:8–9 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Prayer

Thank God for His true Word, which tells us of men like Samson, faults and all. Thank God for His mercy and grace that He pours out on imperfect, sinful people. And thank Him for His Holy Spirit, who indwells believers to give them the power to overcome sin and live lives pleasing to God.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



7 Everyone's Right, Right?

Lesson Summary

In the lesson this week for the junior high level and above, we watched a video featuring Bill Jack. Bill gave us four questions that we can use to cause a person to think about his or her worldview and to reveal logical and moral weaknesses in a person's beliefs.

The four questions are:

- What do you mean by that?
- How do you know that is true?
- What difference does that make in your life?
- What if you are wrong?

The Bible has much to say about the nature of truth, morality, and man. It also gives us instructions for how we are to engage those who are in opposition to the faith.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Colossians 2:1–10

1. What does it mean that Paul wants the Colossians to have “the full assurance of understanding”?
2. Where do we find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge? Where do we often look instead? What are some of the “persuasive words” in our day that could deceive us?
3. What are some examples of “philosophy and empty deceit” that people use to cheat us? What are they seeking to cheat us of?
4. If we are complete in Christ, who is the head of all principality and power, why do we often look elsewhere for fulfillment or truth?

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

5. As we battle for the hearts and minds of men, what does Paul remind us about how we are to wage war (vv. 3–4)?
6. What are we called to destroy as we battle for truth (v. 5)?
What are some things in our culture that are against the true knowledge of God?
7. What does it mean to take “every thought captive to the obedience of Christ”? How do we do that?

2 Timothy 2:15–26

8. With what attitude are we to approach our knowledge of God’s Word (v. 15)? Why is it important to know and rightly divide the truth?
9. What types of things are we to avoid, shun, or refuse (vv. 14, 16, 23)? Why?

10. How are we to engage those who are opposed to the truth (v. 24)? Why? Whose influence are they under (v. 26)? How should this knowledge affect our approach to evangelism?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Joshua 1:8–9 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Prayer

Thank God that in Jesus Christ are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Thank Him for His Word, which is truth. Ask God for boldness to engage unbelievers in discussions about truth; for wisdom on when to use the four questions with others; and for a spirit of love, kindness, and patience toward those who are opposed to the gospel.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

8

God Blesses Ruth



Lesson Summary

The Old Testament is not only full of wonderful accounts of God's actions in working out His eternal plan, such as the details in the book of Ruth, but it also records the lives of men and women who exercised faith in the living God. And, as in the case of Boaz, some of these individuals were “types” of Christ—men whose lives pointed forward to the Redeemer, Jesus.

The redemption of Ruth by Boaz is a touching account of commitment and compassion, but it is much more than that. As Ruth's close relative (“kinsman-redeemer” in the NIV), Boaz is certainly a type of Christ, our Redeemer. While it was costly for Boaz to redeem Ruth, Jesus Christ paid so much more for His bride. He set aside the privileges of His Godhood for our benefit (Philippians 2:5–11). For our sakes, He who was rich became poor (2 Corinthians 8:9). He who was without sin became sin for us “that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Boaz went beyond the call of duty to show his love and concern for Ruth, and Jesus more so.

Read and Discuss

Discuss the questions below as you summarize the events of the book of Ruth.

Ruth 1

1. What happened to Naomi's husband and sons after they moved to Moab?
2. How did Ruth respond to Naomi's request that Ruth return to her people?

Ruth 2

3. What did Ruth do to help provide food for herself and Naomi?
4. How did Boaz show kindness to Ruth?

Ruth 3

5. What was Naomi's plan to bring Ruth and Boaz together?

6. What happened at the threshing floor after Boaz awoke?

Ruth 4

7. What was Boaz's offer to Naomi's closest relative?

8. Why didn't this man want to redeem Naomi's land?

9. How did God use Ruth and Boaz to further His plan of redemption?

10. Read the following passages from the New Testament and discuss how Ruth's situation and Boaz's actions in redeeming Ruth are similar to our situation before we knew Christ and His actions in redeeming His bride.

- Ephesians 2:11–16 (see Ruth 1:4; Deuteronomy 23:3–6) –

- Romans 5:8 –

- John 10:15–18 –

- Galatians 4:4–5

- 1 Peter 1:18–19 –

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Prayer

Thank God for the wonderful account of the book of Ruth. Thank Jesus that He came as our Redeemer—to transfer us from Satan’s domain, to set us free from our bondage to sin, and to give us eternal life. Ask Him for boldness to share this good news with others.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

9

God Calls Samuel

Lesson Summary

Samuel was the much-prayed-for son of Hannah and Elkanah. God had answered Hannah's prayers for a child, and so Hannah fulfilled her vow to dedicate her son to God's service. The boy Samuel served in the Tabernacle in Shiloh with Eli the priest. 1 Samuel 2:26 says that, like Jesus, Samuel "grew in stature, and in favor both with the Lord and men." (See Luke 2:52.)

We don't know exactly how old young Samuel was when God spoke to him, but he was probably between the ages of 10 and 16. God gave Samuel a message of judgment against the family of Eli because of their sin. Eli's sons were wicked men. They served as priests, but they had no regard for the Lord. They disdained the offering of the Lord, and they slept with the women who served in the Tabernacle. And because of these grievous sins, God had determined to put them to death.

We can learn a lot about God's holiness and His justice from these first few chapters of 1 Samuel. And we can learn from the bad example of Eli, who failed to restrain his sons, and so suffered the same fate as they did.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 Samuel 2:12–34

1. How would you explain what the sons of Eli were doing (vv. 12–17, 22)?
2. How did Eli reprimand them? Did they listen to him? Why or why not (vv. 22–25)?
3. What did God say to Eli through the man of God? Why was God going to judge Eli's family (vv. 27–34)?

1 Samuel 3:10–18

4. Why did God say He was going to judge the house of Eli? What did Eli fail to do (v. 13)?

5. Read the following passages and discuss what they teach about the parents' responsibility in raising their children.

- Ephesians 6:4 –

- Deuteronomy 6:7 –

- Deuteronomy 32:46 –

- Proverbs 3:12 –

- Proverbs 13:24 –

- Proverbs 29:15–17 –

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Prayer

Praise God that He is the omnipotent, sovereign ruler of the universe. He is a just judge who will mete out vengeance on His enemies. Thank Him that He showed His love and mercy in sending Jesus Christ to die for sinners. Ask Him to give you both a love for your enemies and a desire to see God’s holy name honored.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:

Israel Rejects God as King **10**

Lesson Summary

As we studied in this lesson, the Israelites rejected God and His kingship and asked for a worldly king instead. God warned them that things would not be good for them under that worldly king, yet they demanded a king and ignored God and all that He had done for them. God even warned them that when they cried for deliverance from the king they had so desperately wanted, He would not hear them. God agreed to give the people what they wanted and chose Saul to be the first king of Israel.

Samuel had pleaded with the people, but finally God told him to appoint a king over them. And so Samuel obeyed and anointed Saul as the first king. After Saul's anointing and his confirmation as king (1 Samuel 11:12–15), the prophet Samuel gave his farewell speech to the people. He reminded them of all God had done for them, and what He would require of them and their new king.

Samuel's words can be instructive to us as we desire to live for our King, and as we lead those whom He has put in our charge.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 Samuel 12:1–5

1. Why did Samuel ask the people to testify of his honesty in his dealings with them?
2. Did they find anything to accuse him of?
3. If we asked others the same questions as Samuel, how might they respond?

1 Samuel 12:6–12

4. What had the Lord done for Israel?
5. Who had the Israelites forgotten? How did God punish them?
6. Why had God sent deliverers?

7. Who had the people rejected when they asked for a king?

1 Samuel 12:13–19

8. What four things did Samuel warn the people to do?

9. What would be the punishment for disobedience and rebellion?

1 Samuel 12:20–25

10. What does it mean to serve the Lord with all our hearts?

11. What “empty things” had the Israelites turned to? What empty things do we often turn to rather than the Lord?

12. What do we learn about God from verse 22? What comfort does this give you?

13. What did Samuel say would be a sin for him (v. 23)? Who should you be praying for regularly?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Prayer

Praise God for His faithfulness to His people despite our waywardness. Thank Him for the great things He has done in your life. Ask Him to protect you from idols of the heart, which are altogether useless and empty. Renew your commitment to fear the Lord and serve Him alone.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



11

God Rejects Saul as King

Lesson Summary

In our lesson this week, we saw how Saul disobeyed God twice and took matters into his own hands. First, he offered a sacrifice without waiting for Samuel, the priest and prophet of God, as Saul had been commanded (1 Samuel 13:7–14). This did not please God. Second, Saul saved the life of the king of the Amalekites and brought back the good things from the land (1 Samuel 15:1–26). God had commanded that the Israelites destroy everything and everyone. Because of Saul’s disobedience, God punished him by tearing the kingdom from him (1 Samuel 15:27–29).

The Old Testament is replete with accounts of disobedience and punishment, of sin and consequences. And the New Testament over and over ties our obedience to our love for Jesus. God takes obedience seriously, and so should we.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

John 15:1–14

1. How can we bear fruit for God?
2. What does it mean to abide in Christ and for His words to abide in us?
3. What is Jesus's promise in verse 7? How will abiding in Christ change our desires?
4. How can we abide in Christ's love according to verse 10?
5. What will be one outcome of keeping Christ's commandments and abiding in Him (v. 11)?

1 John 2:3-6

6. What test does John give us so that “we may know that we know Him”?

7. How does not keeping God’s commandments make a person who claims a knowledge of God to be a liar?

8. What is true of those who keep God’s Word?

9. What must be true of those who say they abide in Christ?

1 John 3:16-24

10. What is one example John gives for how we should show God’s love to our brothers?

11. How can we know that we are of the truth and have assurance (vv. 18-19)?

12. What is a condition for receiving what we ask for?

13. What is Christ’s commandment to us?

1 Corinthians 15:10; Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 13:20–21

14. Who works in us to do God’s will? What is our role?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Prayer

Praise God for who He is—especially for His holiness and justice, and His grace and mercy, shown in Jesus Christ. Thank Him for His Word and His Holy Spirit, which help us obey Him and keep His commandments. Ask Him to show you what it means to truly abide in Him.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



12

God Chooses David

Lesson Summary

As we saw in our last lesson, God rejected Saul from being king over Israel because of his disobedience. Saul offered a sacrifice without waiting for Samuel, and then he failed to completely destroy the Amalekites as he had been commanded. And Saul revealed his heart when instead of repenting when he was confronted with his sin, he made excuses and rationalized his disobedience.

So God chose David, a man after God's own heart, to be the next leader of His people. We know that David was not perfect—no man is—but David loved and trusted the true God rather than his own ways and judgments. David had an unwavering belief in the faithful and forgiving nature of God.

David's psalm of praise to God after the offerings to build the Temple were given (1 Chronicles 29) reflects David's view of God. Like David, if we are to live a life pleasing to God, we must understand who God is and what He is like. That knowledge of, and trust in, God's character—His attributes—will affect how we think and how we live.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 Chronicles 29:1–5

1. How had David prepared for the building of the house of God?
2. What had David prepared for the Temple?
3. How did David honor God in his preparations and offerings?

1 Chronicles 29:6–9

4. How did the Israelites offer to the Lord?
5. What did the people give toward the Temple?

6. What was the source of the joy (v. 9)? See also v. 17b.

1 Chronicles 29:10–19

7. List the attributes of God that David extols in this psalm of praise.

8. What does God own? How does this knowledge affect our view of possessions and offerings?

9. What was David's attitude toward offering to the Lord (vv. 14–15)?

10. What was David's prayer for God's people and his son (vv. 18–19)?

11. How would you describe David's faith and attitude toward God?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Prayer

Praise God for His wonderful attributes—His sovereignty, omnipotence, omniscience, justice, mercy, faithfulness, and love. Ask Him to give you a fresh vision of who He is, and to enable you to live a life that reflects His glory. Ask Him to fix your heart toward Him, and give you a loyal heart that you might keep His commandments.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:



13

Review

Lesson Summary

This week is a review week. We have covered so much this past quarter! This week we want to focus on some of the individuals we have studied—their strengths, weaknesses, goals, and ambitions. We'll take a look at some of the men and women from this quarter who are mentioned in Hebrews 11—the Hall of Faith.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Hebrews 11:1–3, 11:6

1. How does this passage define faith? Re-write this definition in your own words.

2. What is one thing we are to believe by faith (v. 3)?

3. Why is faith so important (v. 6)?

Hebrews 11:30–40

4. How did Joshua demonstrate faith when told by the Lord how the Israelites were to conquer Jericho (see Joshua 5:13–6:27)?

5. How did Rahab demonstrate faith when she welcomed the spies to Jericho (see Joshua 2:1–21)?

6. How did Gideon demonstrate a lack of faith when commanded by the Lord (see Judges 6:11–21 and 6:36–40)?

7. How did Gideon demonstrate faith when God gave instructions concerning attacking the Midianites (see Judges 7:1–22)?

8. How did David demonstrate faith when he faced Goliath (see 1 Samuel 17:19–51)?

9. How did Samuel demonstrate faith when the Philistines came up against Israel (see 1 Samuel 7:7–13)?

10. How did Elijah the prophet demonstrate faith when he challenged the priests of Baal (see 1 Kings 18:20–40)?

11. How have you demonstrated your faith lately?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Prayer

Thank God for the example of faithful believers recorded in the Bible. Ask God to increase your faith in who He is and to help you believe the promises He has made.

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS:
