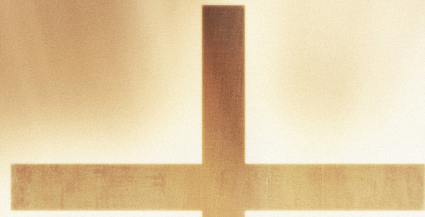




| A Devotional Resource *for* Families



# It Is Finished

GOD'S STORY THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT



# It Is Finished

GOD'S STORY THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

by Andrew Keasling

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# How to Use This Book

The book you now have in your hands has been a labor of love. It began with a realization that no matter how excellent and effective our teaching may be, it cannot compete with the influence of you as parents. God has called you specifically and gifted you uniquely to lead your kids “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Plainly said, you are the greatest spiritual influence in the lives of your kids. To some of you that is a very intimidating and overwhelming thought (I know I feel that way).

Therefore, we as the church want to help encourage and equip you in your role as the primary discipler of your children, and that is why this book exists. Our goal is to set you up in the best way that we can to have spiritual conversations as a family. Our hope is that you will have opportunities on Sundays, perhaps at lunch after Sunday school, as well as a couple of times a week with the Family Devotionals provided, to talk about God and His importance in our everyday lives.

To help accomplish this, we have standardized the Sunday school curriculum so that everyone from JK-12th grade will be learning the same things each week (age appropriately, of course). This allows you as parents to know exactly what all of your kids are learning without having to keep track of multiple e-mails or schedules. Below you will find exactly what is included and how best to use it.

## **OUTLINE**

We provide you with the main points that your students will be learning each week. We do this so you can be best prepared to discuss what they learned and answer any questions that might come up. We also have included a lengthy section of context for each lesson. We believe it is important for all of us to see how each story in the Bible does not stand alone, but instead fits into the larger drama that God has unfolded.

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS**

The point of these questions is to be conversation starters for you as a family. They are not exhaustive as to the content of what your children have learned that Sunday, but should just get things started for your family. Our hope is that your children will come to expect a conversation about what they learned in Sunday school for two main reasons. First, we want them to see spiritual conversations as a normal and important part of life and second, we hope this expectation will make them more attentive to what they are learning.

## **FAMILY DEVOS**

We have provided two days worth of Family Devotionals for you to do as a family at home. We chose this number so as to not overwhelm families or discourage them for not being able to live up to expectations. Our hope is that the two provided will be a springboard for even more times of family worship during the week. The two we have included will help build a foundation for the Bible character that they will study on Sunday. You will also see a page on “How to Do Family Devotions” which is there only as a resource for you and not a concrete model that must be followed. In the end, the most important thing is for families to spend time together focused on God’s Word and prayer; how that is accomplished is secondary.

*Andrew Keasling*

# Teaching Schedule

This curriculum is designed to be used during the "school year." The following dates apply to 2018-19.

PROMISE OF THE MESSIAH			
Week 1	August 12	Promise of the Messiah	
COMING OF THE MESSIAH			
Week 2	August 19	The Word Becomes Flesh	John 1:1-18
Week 3	August 26	Genealogy of Jesus	Matthew 1:1-17
Week 4	September 2	Birth of Jesus	Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-21
Week 5	September 9	John the Baptist	John 1:19-42
MINISTRY OF THE MESSIAH			
Week 6	September 16	Jesus' Baptism	Matthew 3:13-17
Week 7	September 23	Jesus' Temptation	Matthew 4:1-11
Week 8	September 30	Jesus Calls the Disciples	Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9-13
Week 9	October 7	Jesus Ministers Through His Disciples	Matthew 9:35-10:33
MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH			
Week 10	October 14	Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven Is Near	Mark 1:14-15
Week 11	October 21	Jesus' Audience	Matthew 4:23-25, Mark 6:30-44
Week 12	October 28	Beatitudes	Matthew 5:1-12
<i>November 4: Stewardship Sunday</i>			
Week 13	November 11	Jesus Teaches on the Kingdom: Part I	Matthew 5:13-7:14
Week 14	November 18	Jesus Teaches on the Kingdom: Part II	Matthew 5:13-48
Week 15	November 25	Jesus Takes the Message to Gentiles	John 4:1-42
Week 16	December 2	Jesus' Claims About Himself	John 6:35, 8:12, 10:11, 14:6, 15:5
POWER OF THE MESSIAH			
Week 17	December 9	Power Over Nature	Mark 4:35-41
Week 18	December 16	Power Over Demons	Mark 5:1-20
Week 19	December 23	Power Over Disease	Luke 4:38-40, 5:12-26
Week 20	December 30	Power Over Death	John 11:1-54
Week 21	January 6	Transfiguration	Luke 9:28-36
PURPOSE OF THE MESSIAH			
Week 22	January 13	Jesus' Arrest and Trial	John 18:1-19:16
Week 23	January 20	The Crucifixion	Passages from Matt., Mark, Luke & John
Week 24	January 27	Resurrection	Luke 24:1-49
ESTABLISHMENT OF CHURCH			
Week 25	February 3	Ascension and Giving of Mission	Acts 1:1-11
Week 26	February 10	Coming of the Holy Spirit	Acts 2:1-41
Week 27	February 17	Protecting the Church: Ananias & Sapphira	Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-5:16
<i>February 24: World Missions Conference</i>			
Week 28	March 3	Church's First Martyr: Stephen	Acts 6:1-7:60
MISSION OF THE CHURCH			
Week 29	March 10	The Church Scattered	Acts 8:1-40
Week 30	March 17	Conversion of Saul	Acts 9:1-22
Week 31	March 24	Holy Spirit Goes to the Gentiles	Acts 10:1-11:18
Week 32	March 31	Persecution of God's People	Acts 11:19-12:25
Week 33	April 7	The Missionary Journeys: Part I	Acts 13:1-3, 13-52
Week 34	April 14	The Missionary Journeys: Part II	Acts 16:11-34
<i>April 21: Easter Sunday</i>			
ENCOURAGEMENT TO CHURCH			
Week 35	April 28	Paul's Imprisonment	Selections from Acts 21, 22, 25 & 28
Week 36	May 5	Paul's Letters	
WHAT IS YET TO COME			
Week 37	May 12	Revelation Overview	
Week 38	May 19	The End of the Story	Revelation 21:1-8, 22-27

# How to Do Family Devotions

When discussing family devotions, the first thing you must know is that there is not just one correct way to do them. Each family is made up of distinct individuals, each with a different personality. Therefore, trying to create a “one-size-fits-all” approach to family devotions is foolish. Below are some helpful hints and guidelines as you lead your devotions. Some of them will be very helpful, while some you will realize do not work for your family. In the end, the point is for you as a family to take time together, reading God’s Word and praying together.

However you accomplish this is truly a secondary concern.

## PLACE MATTERS

- It will be important to find a consistent place where you always do family devotions. Changing the location can drastically change the dynamics.
- Everyone should be at the same eye level. You don’t want some on the floor and some in chairs or on the couch. This will encourage participation by all members because they will feel as if they are a part of the group.
- Minimize the distractions. Honestly, doing family devotions is hard enough! Only you know what might distract your kids so be sure you eliminate as many interruptions as possible.

## PRAYER MATTERS

- It is important for your children to see the importance of prayer. Therefore, be sure that you pray to begin and end your time together. Often it works best to choose one family member to open the time in prayer (which also helps settle busy hearts). At the end is an opportunity to let everyone pray.
- Give your children a role in prayer. One of the things that my family does that has been successful is that we have four prayer categories: (1) Zachary’s Class, (2) Bryson’s Class, (3) Our extended family and friends, and (4) Missions. Each time we give someone in the house one of these prayer categories. To minimize the “I want...” of our children, we rotate who assigns who to prayer. That way, everyone gets a chance to decide who prays for what. It has saved a lot of disagreements. For our missions category, we alternate between a Mission Memphis partner and a World Missions partner and it has been such a blessing to watch and hear our kids pick up on and pray for those ministries. We also switch it up some nights and just have a time of confession or adoration or thanksgiving so they don’t think of God as just someone from whom you ask things.

## THE WORD MATTERS

- God’s Word is the only thing He promises will bear fruit. It is so important to not only expose them to God’s Word but also to teach them how to think about it. One of the best ways to start doing this is to continually remind them that these stories are REAL - Isaiah 55:11.
- Get them to interact with the Bible for themselves. It is a huge temptation to just provide the answers for them (since we know everything) but they will get so much more out of it if they think about it for themselves. The hardest part for me in this is that I lose the control. I have to constantly remind myself that I want them to get something out of God’s Word and not get frustrated when they don’t get out what I want them to.
- Encourage every little step. It will be very important to encourage every interaction they have with God’s Word. They will be more willing to share when they know it is a safe place for them to come with their thoughts. At times, that will mean you are going to go down some rabbit trails, but it will be worth the journey. As a part of that, you need to make sure that they get the truth; this means gently correcting when their theology gets out of whack.

## TIME MATTERS

- One of the most important things you are teaching your children is that being together is very important. Just the simple act of carving out time every week that does not involve the TV or a meal out will bear fruit. The intentional act of studying the Word and prayer together will bear fruit even if it is down the line.
- Have fun! I know it sounds silly but if your kids have fun doing family devotions, they will want to keep doing them. For us, that is a short game or a role playing moment at the beginning but for you, it can be whatever. Sometimes I think we are afraid that we will be irreverent when we attempt to have fun, but we must remember that God created fun and laughter, so participating in those activities pleases Him.





# D6 Driving Values

At Second, we believe in three guiding principles, known as the D6 Driving Values. We hope that as you and your family go through these devotions together, you will be further encouraged in your relationship with the Lord, your church community, and in your Kingdom mission.

## THE LORD IS MY PRIMARY DEVOTION

- Confronted by the holiness of Christ, I seek Him in daily worship, prayer, and repentance. *Isaiah 6:1-8*
- Compelled by the love of Christ, I strive to be obedient to Him in my thoughts, words, and deeds. *II Corinthians 5:14*
- Created new in Christ, my identity is no longer in the things of this world. *II Corinthians 5:17*
- Confident of the eternity secured for me in Christ, I have peace in the midst of the troubles of this life. *Phillipians 4:6-7*

## THE CHURCH IS MY PRIMARY COMMUNITY

- Knowing that the Gospel liberates me from idols, I cannot imagine not joyfully worshipping God every week with my brothers and sisters in Christ. *Thessalonians 1:9b*
- Knowing that the Church is called to be a holy nation, set apart from the things of the world, I will embrace this calling by seeking to be Christ-like in all aspects of my life. *I Peter 2:9-12*
- Knowing that I am a steward of my resources and not an owner, I cheerfully release my resources to build His Kingdom and not my own. *Matthew 25:14-30*
- Knowing that the Body of Christ is essential to my sanctification, I actively seek relationship and accountability within the church in order to grow in Christ. *Ephesians 4:11-16*
- Knowing that God has given me spiritual gifts to use in the church, I willingly serve. *I Corinthians 12:4-7*
- Knowing that Jesus is present where two or more are gathered in His name, I happily pray with and for my brothers and sisters in Christ. *Matthew 18:20*

## BUILDING CHRIST'S KINGDOM IS MY PRIMARY MISSION

- Belonging to Christ's Kingdom causes us to live as a distinct people who are called to be about applying Christ's work of redemption as far as the curse is found as we eagerly await His imminent return and the renewal of all things. *Romans 8:19-21*
- Building Christ's Kingdom in all of life is an act of worship, and the reason I am alive is to multiply worshippers and redeem culture. *II Corinthians 5:16-21*
- Building Christ's Kingdom begins in multiplying worshippers of Christ in my own household. *Joshua 24:15*
- Building Christ's Kingdom is the lens through which I filter every decision as I further the work of redemption. *Romans 12:1-2*
- Building Christ's Kingdom prioritizes Christ's work of redemption to the extent of intentionally sacrificing our time, money, and talents in furthering the application of the redemption of Christ. *I Corinthians 10:31-33*

# OVERVIEW OF NEW TESTAMENT

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. – Matthew 24:14*

AT LAST!! Although so many of the Jews during Jesus' time missed the significance of who He was, for those who saw and believed, the purpose and goal of their lives had been fulfilled. The One who had been promised to Adam and Eve in the Garden and the One they had prayed and longed for had finally come, the Messiah.

As we study the New Testament this year, we need to keep in mind three main themes that appear. These themes are present throughout the New Testament as rails to help keep us on track so we don't get distracted. It all boils down to a Messiah, a Message, and a Method.

## **MESSIAH**

From the first chapter of John's Gospel when he announces that the "Word has become flesh" to the last chapter of Revelation where we are encouraged to plead "Come, Lord Jesus, come," this is all about Jesus. He comes to make God the Father more known by revealing His heart for His people and helping us to rightly see the kingdom of heaven. Jesus is the main thread that is woven through the entire Bible but especially through the New Testament.

## **MESSAGE**

Jesus came to love and heal and care for those in need, but He also came with a message, the Good News that through Him our sins could be forgiven and that we can be restored to right fellowship with God. Jesus again and again points us back to the Kingdom and His Father, all the while being the fulfillment of God's promise to His people. He was the One who amazed the crowds because He taught with authority and many followed and believed because of it.

## **METHOD**

God's ultimate plan didn't stop with Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension. The message of the Gospel still has places to go and people who need to hear it; therefore, God empowers His people by His Holy Spirit to be His witnesses and messengers. They too are given the ability to do wonders to accompany their teaching, and multitudes are saved because of the Lord working through them. This call and promise extends to us as God's people. Just as we see Peter, Paul and the early church boldly proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we too are to faithfully share the good news and live as becomes followers of Jesus Christ so that others may also receive the hope that we have.

In the end, we are driven by the love of Christ and the hope of what is to come. We are reminded that Christ has once and for all conquered sin and death and that this world is passing away. Jesus has made a way for us to be with Him forever, and in thankfulness we are to be people who proclaim the Messiah and the Message until He returns to bring us home.

# 1

## PROMISE OF THE MESSIAH

### PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

### WEEKLY FOCUS

To see the connection between the Old and New Testaments  
and to set the stage for the New Testament

## OUTLINE

### I. Larger Story of the Bible

- A. Not just collection of many smaller books
- B. Has continuity and flow
- C. Fits together
- D. Need to see the common themes and purposes to truly understand it

### II. Purpose of the Old Testament

- A. To spread God's Glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth
  - 1. Show God's heart and love
  - 2. Show God's holiness and perfection
  - 3. Show His control over all of human history
- B. To reveal Himself through His people and how He interacted with them

### III. Purpose of the New Testament

- A. To continue to spread God's Kingdom through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
  - 1. God comes to Earth
    - a. Reveals the Kingdom
    - b. Lives among us
  - 2. God saves the Earth from sin
    - a. Jesus lives the perfect life
    - b. Death and Resurrection defeat death and Hell
  - 3. God sends His people to spread this "Good News"
    - a. Empowers them with Holy Spirit
    - b. Builds a church

### IV. Historical Context of Time Between the Two Testaments

- A. Israel is ruled by other nations
  - 1. Started with exile
  - 2. Persia (539-331 BC), Greece (331-164 BC), Hasmonenans (164-63BC), Rome (63BC-70AD)

- B. People long for the Messiah to come
  - 1. Know and study the Prophecies
    - a. Close to 300 foretelling His coming
  - 2. Looking for religious leader
    - a. Lead them back to God
  - 3. Looking for political leader
    - a. Kingdom of God and Son of David
- C. 330 years of silence—No more prophets

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- How does the Bible make a difference in your life on a daily basis?
- What is God's purpose in the Bible? How are you participating in carrying out that purpose?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What are your general attitudes about the Bible? Why?
- What difference does the Bible make in your everyday life?
- What is God's purpose in the Bible? How are you participating in carrying out that purpose?

SUNDAY TEACHING

WEEK

**1**

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you remember being punished? Why do you remember it?

## READ ISAIAH 53:3-10

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who do you think this passage is talking about?
- Would it surprise you to know this was written 700 years before Jesus?
- How did the person this happened to respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What do these verses say about Jesus?
- Why was Jesus punished?
- How would you respond to all of this happening to you? How did Jesus respond?
- What does verse 10 tell us about why this happened?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How often do you think about the fact that Jesus took all of the penalty that your sins deserved?
- What are ways that you have gone astray and turned to your own ways instead of God's?
- What is the end result of what happens here for us?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you were hurting and you remember someone caring for you really well?

## READ ISAIAH 42:1-4

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does verse 1 tell us about how God feels about His servant?
- Who do you think Isaiah is writing about here?
- What does it mean that the servant won't grow faint or weary?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does God give his servant to help Him?
- How does it feel to know that we have the SAME Spirit in us that Jesus had?
- How has God dealt with you tenderly in the past?
- When are times that you have grown faint and weary of doing what is right?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does verse 3 say and mean?
- When are times you have felt like a bruised reed? Like a faintly burning wick?
- How has God met you in those times?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)



# 2

## THE WORD BECOMES FLESH

COMING OF THE MESSIAH

### PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

### WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how Jesus is part of the Trinity as the Word made flesh

# JOHN 1:1-18

## CONTEXT

- Beginning of John's Gospel
- Written to all people and not just Jews but especially to Greeks
- Important for John to explain that Jesus was not just man but also God
- Before we see Jesus' ministry

## OUTLINE

### I. The Word - Logos

#### A. Gives us a new name for Jesus

1. Would relate to Greeks who believed there was a "Logos" that would bring harmony and connection to the whole universe
  - a. Would relate to Jews who understood that God's Word was powerful and preeminent

#### B. Was with God and was God

1. Sets distinction in persons of Trinity
  - a. Jesus was not only with God but also was God (and is)
2. From the beginning
  - a. Was a part of creation
  - b. Brought light into the world
3. Gave gifts to those who believed
  - a. Gave right to become children of God
  - b. Many did not believe
  - c. Full of grace and truth

- C. Word became flesh
  - 1. Jesus put on skin and moved into the neighborhood
  - 2. Came to live among us
    - a. To speak as One who knew us and God
    - b. Show us the Kingdom of God
    - c. Reveal the Father's heart
    - d. Understand and relate to temptation
  - 3. Came to die for us
    - a. Took our place and punishment

II. SO WHAT??!!

- A. What difference does it make that Jesus is God?
- B. What difference does it make that Jesus came in flesh?
- C. How does that have any impact on you on a daily basis?

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What do you remember from the lesson this morning?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is God? How does it make a difference in your life on a daily basis?
- What do people at your school say about Jesus?
- How does it make you feel that Jesus took your place and died for you?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- How does Jesus being fully God and fully man make a difference in your life?

SUNDAY TEACHING

WEEK

2

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could travel and visit anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

**READ JOHN 14:1-11**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus say about His Father's house?
- What three things does Jesus say He is in verse 6?
- What does it mean that whoever has seen Jesus has seen the Father?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does it make you feel that Jesus Himself prepares a place for His people in heaven?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the Way? The Truth? The Life?
- How does Jesus' words and life reveal God the Father to us?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does Jesus preparing a place for you make a difference in your life?
- How does Jesus being the Way impact your daily life? The Truth? The Life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you can remember being either afraid or in awe of nature? Maybe it was a big storm or natural disaster or just a beautiful sunset or rainbow.

**READ EXODUS 40:34-38**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened at the Tabernacle?
- What effect did it have on Moses?
- How did the people of Israel know it was time to go?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why was it important that God's Glory entered the Tabernacle?
- How did God show He was with His people?
- During Jesus' day, where did the Glory of the Lord reside?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What is the new Tabernacle/Temple? Hint: 1 Corinthians 6:19
- How should we live as the Temple of the Holy Spirit? What effect does that have on your daily life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# 3

## GENEALOGY OF JESUS

COMING OF THE MESSIAH

### PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

### WEEKLY FOCUS

To see Jesus as the fulfillment of promises made to Abraham and David  
that the Messiah would be their offspring

# MATTHEW 1:1-17

## CONTEXT

- Beginning of Matthew's Gospel
- Written specifically to Jews
- Important for Matthew to trace Jesus' lineage through Abraham and David
- Fulfillment of God's promises to and through these guys
- All nations would be blessed through them

## OUTLINE

- I. The Genealogy
  - A. Kind of a boring way to start an important story
  - B. Being able to trace yourself to the patriarchs was essential at this time to the Jews
    1. True Jews over half-breeds
    2. Inheritance as God's chosen people
  - C. Importance of its arrangement
    1. 3 groups of 14 males in the line (others we will address later)
      - a. Group 1 from Abraham to David, Israel's greatest king
        - i. Time of power, pride and blessing
      - b. Group 2 from David to the Babylonian exile
        - i. Time of disgrace and shame
      - c. Group 3 from exile to Jesus
        - i. From low point in history to culmination of all history
    2. Made this way to make it easier to memorize for God's people
      - a. Would be used as an important proof for Christians as they shared with Jewish people
  - D. Importance of who is included
    1. Connection to Abraham as father of Israel
    2. Connection to David
      - a. Often called Son of David



3. The women included
  - a. Women not typically included in genealogy
  - b. Tamar - seducer and adultress- Gen. 38
  - c. Rahab - prostitute of Jericho
  - d. Ruth - not a Jew but a Moabite
  - e. Wife of Uriah (Bathsheba)- puts David's sin front and center
  - f. Not just a perfect family tree that led to Jesus
  - g. Shows what Jesus came to do- break down barriers
    - i. Barriers between males and females
    - ii. Barriers between Jews and Gentiles
    - iii. Barriers between saints and sinners

## II. SO WHAT??!!

- A. What difference does it make that Jesus is connected to Abraham and David now?
- B. What difference does it make that Jesus had "sinners" in his line?
- C. How does that have any impact on you on a daily basis?

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is related to both Abraham and David?
- Why does your heritage of faith matter?
- How does Jesus having a messed up family line make a difference in your life?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- What difference does it make that Jesus is connected to Abraham and David now?
- What difference does it make that Jesus had "sinners" in his line?
- How does that have any impact on you on a daily basis?

WEEK

3

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is your most treasured possession? Why?

## READ GENESIS 22:1-19

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did God ask Abraham to do?
- How did Abraham respond?
- How did God provide for both Abraham and Isaac?
- What did God say to Abraham about the future?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are the things in your life that you just don't want Jesus touching? Why?
- What promise did God give Abraham? How did He fulfill it?
- How does this picture show us Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What things do you need to give up as a sacrifice to the Lord?
- How are you being a blessing to other people as God promised Abraham that he would be?
- What, if God asked you to, would you just say no to?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Which is your favorite city that you have ever visited? Why?

**READ JOSHUA 2:1-24**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did Joshua do before they attacked Jericho?
- Who did the spies find and talk to?
- How did Rahab protect the men?
- What promise did the men make to Rahab?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why do you think Rahab did what she did?
- Why was she an unlikely person for God to use?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time that you stood up for the Lord or His people against the crowd?
- What are ways that the Lord can use you at your school to help His people?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# 4

## BIRTH OF JESUS

COMING OF THE MESSIAH

### PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

### WEEKLY FOCUS

To see Jesus' birth as fulfillment of promises from Scripture  
and the difference it makes for us

# MATTHEW 1:18-25

## LUKE 1:26-38, 2:1-21

### CONTEXT

- Found in two books of the Bible:
  - Matthew: focus on birth as fulfillment of Scripture
  - Luke: focus on how birth immediately went out to “outsiders”
- Helps us see dual role of His birth:
  - Fulfillment of promise to Jews
  - Kingdom of God now goes to Gentiles as well

### OUTLINE

#### I. The Nativity Story

##### A. Fulfillment of the Promises

1. Messiah born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2
  - a. Orchestrated the census
  - b. Led Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem
2. Messiah born to a Virgin - Isaiah 7:14
  - a. Chose Mary
    - Young, betrothed girl
    - Submissive to God
  - b. Chose Joseph
    - Honorable man
    - Listened to God
3. Importance of Jesus as fulfillment of Prophecy
4. There were over 300 Old Testament prophecies about Messiah that were fulfilled by the life of Jesus Christ. Josh McDowell separates these into 61 different categories, and, following the argument of an older writer, Peter Stoner (*Science Speaks*), he says that if you just took eight of these prophecies, the odds of a person coincidentally fulfilling all eight of these would be one in 10 to the 17th power. Since we can't easily picture what that means, he gave this illustration: Suppose you took the state of Texas and spread silver dollars two feet deep across the whole state, then marked just one of them and buried it somewhere in the state. Then, if you chose one person, blindfolded him, and told him to pick just one silver dollar, his chances of getting the marked one on his first try would be one in 10 to the 17th power! (Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict, Vol. 1*, pp. 144, 167)

- B. Kingdom of God had come for the whole world
  - 1. Purpose of Messiah—save the people from their sins
    - a. Not to rule the Jews
    - b. Not to subdue the enemies of Israel
    - c. Shows the Kingdom is one of forgiveness
  - 2. Place of the Messiah—manger
    - a. Not where you would expect to find the King
    - b. Shows the Kingdom is one of humility
  - 3. People of the Messiah—shepherds
    - a. Not the most likely recipients of the Good News
    - b. Took the message with them
    - c. Shows the Kingdom is one of inclusion
- I. SO WHAT?!!
  - A. What difference does it make that Jesus was born as Scripture had commanded?
  - B. Why does it matter that God's Kingdom is one of forgiveness? One of humility? One of inclusion?
  - C. How are you living out forgiveness, humility, and inclusion in your own life?

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What about Jesus' birth did you find most important?
- What difference do the details about Jesus' birth really make in your life?
- How are you living a life of forgiveness, humility, and inclusion?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- What difference does it make that Jesus was born as Scripture had commanded?
- Why does it matter that God's Kingdom is one of forgiveness? One of humility? One of inclusion?
- How are you living out forgiveness, humility, and inclusion in your own life?

SUNDAY TEACHING

WEEK

4



# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time someone really served you? When is a time you truly served someone else?

## READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-9

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Paul say to do to complete his joy?
- How can we have the same mind as Jesus?
- How did Jesus look out for the interest of others instead of His own?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How would Jesus look at your life and what would He do differently?
- What would it look like to live in humility? How did Jesus?
- Who is someone God has placed in your life whose needs you ought to be looking out for?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you are living out Jesus' mind and love?
- What are ways you are living out of selfish ambition?
- Where are specific places you feel like God may be calling you to serve others?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could be named something other than your name now, what would it be and why?

## READ ISAIAH 7:14

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What sign was God going to give Israel?
- What would be His name?
- What does Immanuel mean?
- Why is God being with you so important?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How would Israel know who the Messiah would be?
- What are ways you have seen God being with you?
- What would people say about Jesus by watching your life? Why?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does God show Himself to people today?
- What are ways you are being the hands and feet of Jesus to those around you?
- How can you allow the Lord to shine through you more?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# 5

## JOHN THE BAPTIST

COMING OF THE MESSIAH

### PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

### WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God had prepared the way for Jesus to come through John the Baptist

# JOHN 1:19-42

## CONTEXT

- John had just told us that Jesus was Word made flesh
- Introduced to John the Baptist
- Make sure we know the truth as others begin to question

## OUTLINE

### I. Testimony of John the Baptist

#### A. Different sort of guy

1. Mark 1:1-8
  - Lived in wilderness
  - Ate locusts and wild honey and wore camel hair

#### B. Not the Christ!!

1. Not the one who would save anyone else

#### C. The voice of one crying out in the wilderness

1. Fulfillment of Scripture
2. Isaiah 40:3
3. Preparing the way for the Messiah

#### D. Saw his mission as pointing others to Jesus

1. Told his own disciples about Jesus
2. Basically lost people and influence for sake of Jesus

### II. Jesus as Lamb of God

#### A. Sacrificial system of OT

1. Perfect lamb without blemish was given as offering for sins - Exodus 29:38-42
2. Passover Lamb—Exodus 12:11-13
3. Lamb on way to slaughter—Jeremiah 11:19, Isaiah 53:7

- B. Culmination of salvation
  - 1. Takes away the sins of the world
  - 2. Makes all bad things untrue
  - 3. Reverses the curse and impact of sin

**III. SO WHAT??!!**

- A. What difference does it make that Jesus is Lamb of God?
- B. What sticks out to you about John the Baptist?
- C. Who do you need to point to Jesus as he did?
- D. What do you stand to lose for pointing people to Jesus?
- E. How can you point people to Jesus at your school?

**FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the Lamb of God?
- In what ways can you be like John the Baptist at your school?
- If you do point people to Jesus, what might it cost you?
- Who is someone specifically that you need to point to Jesus?

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- What difference does it make that Jesus is Lamb of God?
- What sticks out to you about John the Baptist?
- Who do you need to point to Jesus as he did?
- What do you stand to lose for pointing people to Jesus?
- How can you point people to Jesus at your school?

SUNDAY TEACHING

WEEK

5

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could only say one message for an entire week what would it be and why?

## READ ISAIAH 40:3-5

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does verse 3 say about the voice?
- Who was this voice?
- What will this voice reveal to the world?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What message does your life proclaim about Jesus to others?
- How can your life be a highway that others can use to get to God?
- Do you use it that way?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you reveal the glory of the Lord?
- What are other ways you could reveal the glory of the Lord?
- What message do your words proclaim about Jesus? What about your life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could have an exotic animal as a pet, what would it be and why?

## READ EXODUS 12:1-13

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did God command the people to do in verses 3-6?
- What were they called to do with the blood?
- What was it going to do for them?
- How were they supposed to eat their meal? Why?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why was it important for the lamb to be without blemish?
- Who was the blood a sign for?
- How did God protect His people? How does He protect you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How has the Lord "passed over" your sins?
- What would be the sign on your doorposts?
- How have you seen God protect you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)



# 6

## JESUS' BAPTISM

MINISTRY OF THE MESSIAH

### PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

### WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how Jesus' ministry began and how God the Father  
encouraged Him at the beginning

# MATTHEW 3:13-17

## CONTEXT

- Jesus was born but had not yet done any ministry
- John the Baptist had come preaching “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near”
- John had been baptizing people and many came to Him

## OUTLINE

### I. Jesus' Baptism

#### A. Purpose of Baptism—forgiveness of sins

1. Jews didn't get baptized; baptism was for people converting to Judaism from other faiths or who weren't born Jews
2. Shows just how unique this was—allowed Jesus to know that His time had come
  - a. Been waiting for 30 years to begin His ministry
  - b. Jews realized their need for forgiveness
    - Conscious about God and their sin

#### B. Why did Jesus get baptized then since He had no sin?

1. Even John protested to baptizing Jesus
2. Two main reasons
  - a. To identify with sinners—those He came to save
  - b. So those present would believe in Him

#### C. Why would His baptism make people believe?

1. The coming of the Spirit
  - a. Bringing power and wisdom
  - b. Point back to the dove from Noah's ark
    - Was the one who helped Noah know when it was safe to leave

2. The Voice from Heaven
  - a. "This is my beloved Son"
    - From Psalm 2:7
    - Reminds Jesus who He is before temptation
    - Lets the people know who He is
  - b. "With whom I am well pleased"
    - From Isaiah 42:1–description of Suffering Servant
    - Affirms what lies ahead for Jesus as detailed in Isaiah—the way of the cross
    - Truly the Messiah has come bringing the Kingdom with Him

## II. SO WHAT?!!

- A. What difference does it make that Jesus was baptized?
- B. If you are in Christ, what do you receive and what would God say to you?
- C. What parts of your life do you think Jesus just can't relate to?
- D. What role did the Holy Spirit play in Jesus' ministry?
- E. What role does the Holy Spirit play in your life?
- F. How does what God said to Jesus encourage you?

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- Why did Jesus get baptized?
- What did Jesus hear and receive at baptism? Why is that important?
- If you are in Christ, what do you receive and what would God say to you?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- What difference does it make that Jesus was baptized?
- If you are in Christ, what do you receive and what would God say to you?
- What parts of your life do you think Jesus just can't relate to?
- What role did the Holy Spirit play in Jesus' ministry?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in your life?
- How does what God said to Jesus encourage you?

SUNDAY TEACHING

WEEK

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# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## **OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY**

- What is the weirdest thing you have ever eaten?

## **READ MATTHEW 3:1-12**

### **QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD**

- What was John the Baptist preaching?
- What else are we told about John?
- What was he doing out in the wilderness?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### **QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What did John say to the Pharisees and Sadducees? What do you think he meant by that?
- Why did the people go out to John?
- What was his message?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### **QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What would John the Baptist say to you if he was looking at your life?
- What are things you need to repent of?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could give one message to the entire world, what would it be and why?

**READ JOHN 12:27-36**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happens while Jesus is teaching the crowds?
- What does the voice say?
- Why did Jesus say the voice came? Who was it?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it mean to glorify God?
- What are ways that you are currently glorifying God with your life?
- What did the crowd think about the voice they heard?
- When else did God speak to Jesus while He was on Earth?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you can better glorify God with your life?
- When is a time that you have felt the Lord "speaking" to you? Did you listen or ignore it?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# 7

## JESUS' TEMPTATION

MINISTRY OF THE MESSIAH

### PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

### WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how Jesus was tempted  
in order to understand us when we are tempted

# MATTHEW 4:1-11

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had just been baptized
- The voice of the Father still rings in His head “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”
- Jesus has yet to begin His ministry

## OUTLINE

### I. Jesus’ Temptation Setting

- A. Orchestrated by the Holy Spirit—“Jesus was led by the Spirit”
  1. Mark tells us it was immediately after baptism
- B. Was at a time of physical weakness—fasted for 40 days
  1. Shows His humanity—“He was hungry”
- C. Was at a place of emotional weakness—the wilderness
  1. Would be completely alone—people didn’t go there

### II. The Tempter

- A. Satan, the devil
  1. Father of lies - John 8:44
  2. Comes to steal, kill and destroy - John 10:10
  3. The same crafty serpent from the Garden
  4. Even used Scripture out of context to tempt Jesus

### III. Jesus’ Temptations

- A. Turn bread into stones—He was hungry
  1. Temptation to use His powers for selfish gain—fulfill His need
  2. Temptation to not believe that God is enough and will provide
    - a. I can take care of this myself
- B. Jump off the temple and be saved
  1. Temptation to be spectacular—all attention on Him



2. Temptation to take the easy way out
  - a. Temple was centrally located and always had much foot traffic
  - b. If He jumps off Temple and He is saved, He would instantly have crowds of believers
  - c. Could speak about the Kingdom without the cross
- C. Gain the world by a simple bow
  1. Temptation for power
    - a. Rule without having to die
    - b. You can have it all now

#### IV. Jesus' Victory over Temptations

- A. Knew God's Word
- B. Full of the Spirit
- C. Remembered who He was
  1. The words of the Father at His baptism
  2. Beloved Son with whom I am well pleased

#### V. SO WHAT??!!

- A. What difference does it make that Jesus was tempted? How does it encourage you?
- B. Where are the places in your life where you are most susceptible to temptation?
- C. What are specific ways you are tempted to be selfish, spectacular, and powerful?
- D. How do you stand up to temptation in your life?

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How was Jesus tempted?
- How did Jesus resist those temptations?
- How can you resist temptations in your life?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- What difference does it make that Jesus was tempted? How does it encourage you?
- Where are the places in your life where you are most susceptible to temptation?
- What are specific ways you are tempted to be selfish, spectacular, and powerful?
- How do you stand up to temptation in your life?

SUNDAY TEACHING

WEEK

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# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is one time you were really tempted to do the wrong thing? How did you respond?

## READ I CORINTHIANS 10:12-13

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What is the warning from verse 12?
- What does this passage say about temptation?
- How does God show His faithfulness?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time that you thought you were standing firm but really weren't? How did you figure it out?
- How does it make you feel that any temptation you go through is common to all people? Does it feel that way?
- How does God help us when we are tempted?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways in which you feel most tempted right now?
- What are some of the ways in which you have seen God provide ways out for you when you are tempted?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you had superpowers for a day, what would you do with them?

**READ LUKE 4:1-13**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened to Jesus right after His baptism?
- What does it say about Him in verse 1?
- What was the first way the devil tempted Him? How did Jesus respond?
- What was the second way the devil tempted Him? How did Jesus respond?
- What was the third way the devil tempted Him? How did Jesus respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What was the devil trying to get Jesus to do?
- What did Jesus use to respond to temptation?
- Do you know your Bible well enough to help you when you are tempted?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways the devil tries to get you to not trust God?
- What are ways that the devil tries to get you to take shortcuts?
- What verses help you when you are feeling tempted?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# 8

## JESUS CALLS THE DISCIPLES

MINISTRY OF THE MESSIAH

### PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

### WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how Jesus called others to join Him in ministry

# MATTHEW 4:18-22, 9:9-13

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had just gone through His temptation in the wilderness
- Jesus was beginning public ministry
- Calling of Matthew was as Jesus was going along and doing ministry

## OUTLINE

- I. Jesus' plan was to raise up servants for after He would leave
  - A. Those to carry His message and ministry after He died
  - B. Was the design from the beginning of His ministry
- II. Jesus' call
  - A. Jesus went after them—didn't wait for volunteers
  - B. Didn't go after the usual suspects
    1. Fishermen—not very respected
    2. Tax collector—considered a sinner and a thief
    3. Shows that Jesus came for sinners and not the righteous
  - C. Made ministry a context they would understand
    1. Fishers of men to fishermen
  - D. "Follow Me"
    1. Not just believe
    2. Right now
    3. If you follow me, I will make you into what I need you to be
      - a. They didn't have to have it all together

### III. Response of the Disciples

- A. Immediately—didn't think about it or wait around or get advice
- B. Left everything—nets, booth, boats, family
- C. They followed
  - 1. Not sure what it would look like or mean
  - 2. Ready for the adventure
  - 3. Jesus was the most important thing to them

### IV. SO WHAT??!!

- A. What do you think disqualifies you from being used by Jesus?
- B. What do you think Jesus wants you to do at your school to be a "fisher of men"?
- C. What are you not willing to give up in order to follow Jesus?
- D. Are you actually following Jesus? Give one example of how you are.

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What was Jesus' call to the disciples? How do you think He is calling to you?
- How did the disciples respond? How are you responding to God's call of being a "fisher of men"?
- What are specific ways that you are following Jesus in your life?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- What do you think disqualifies you from being used by Jesus?
- What do you think Jesus wants you to do at your school to be a "fisher of men"?
- What are you not willing to give up in order to follow Jesus?
- Are you actually following Jesus? Give one example of how you are.

SUNDAY TEACHING

WEEK

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# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Have you ever gone fishing before? What was it like? What was fun? What was frustrating?

## READ ACTS 3:1-10

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where was Jesus? Who was He with?
- What did He ask Simon to do?
- What was Simon's response?
- What happened when Simon obeyed?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How do you respond when Jesus asks you to do something?
- What was Simon's response to the huge catch? Why?
- What does Jesus tell Peter he will do now?
- How does God call us to that as well?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time that you sensed the Lord calling you to do something? How did you respond?
- What are ways that you are currently being used by the Lord to catch men?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you had to introduce Jesus to someone else, what would you say?

## READ ACTS 8:26-40

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did John say about Jesus?
- What did Jesus say to the disciples?
- What did Andrew do? What happened with Peter?
- What did Jesus say to Philip? How did Philip respond?
- How did Jesus show who He was to Nathanael?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it mean that Jesus was the Lamb of God?
- Why was it a good thing for Andrew to tell Peter?
- Who is someone you could tell about Jesus?
- How are you like Nathanael?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you have pointed others to Jesus?
- What are excuses you have made to keep from having to follow Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# 9

## JESUS MINISTERS THROUGH HIS DISCIPLES

MINISTRY OF THE MESSIAH

### PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

### WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how Jesus used the disciples to join Him in ministering to others

# MATTHEW 9:35-10:33

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had been teaching and healing the crowds
- Jesus had been preparing the disciples to do ministry themselves by bringing them along and letting them watch
- Encourages them to pray for workers to be sent (9:35-38)
- Jesus is ready to give them their shot

## OUTLINE

- I. Jesus wants them to see themselves as His workers
  - A. 9:37-38
  - B. Gives them a picture they will understand—harvest the fields
- II. Jesus gives them power—10:1-4
  - A. Authority over unclean spirits
  - B. Authority to heal diseases
  - C. Jesus gives us all what we need to do what He calls us to do
    1. Gives us the same Holy Spirit that He had
- III. Jesus sends them out—10:5-15
  - A. Gives them specific instructions
    1. Go to lost sheep of Israel
    2. Proclaim “The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand”
    3. Heal and cast out
    4. Take nothing with you

**IV. Jesus warns them what is to come**

- A. Beware of men
  - 1. You will be sheep among wolves
  - 2. Will be brought before authorities—preparing them
- B. God will tell you what to say
- C. Have no fear
  - 1. They can only kill the body
  - 2. God has His eyes even on the sparrow so definitely on you

**V. SO WHAT??!!**

- A. What would it look like for God to use you at your school?
- B. How are you living as one who has been sent?
- C. What makes you afraid to really live for Jesus?
- D. Do you truly believe that God is aware of you and with you? Why or why not?

**FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?
- How can you be an extension of Jesus at your school?
- What things keep you from living for Jesus every day at school?

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- What would it look like for God to use you at your school?
- How are you living as one who has been sent?
- What makes you afraid to really live for Jesus?
- Do you truly believe that God is aware of you and with you? Why or why not?

SUNDAY TEACHING

WEEK

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# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Have you ever had a cast or crutches or a wheelchair? What was that like for you?

## READ ACTS 3:1-10

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where were Peter and John going?
- Who did they run into? What are we told about him?
- What did he say to Peter and John? How did they respond?
- What happened to the man? How did the people respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What would life be like for this man?
- What did Peter have him do before he spoke to him?
- What was important about what Peter said to the man?
- How did the man respond to being healed?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When have you seen someone like this before? How did you respond?
- What would it take for you to be this bold with your faith to someone else?
- When was the last time you truly rejoiced over what the Lord has done for you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Pick your favorite game and pretend you are explaining it to someone who has never played. What would you say?

**READ ACTS 8:26-40**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the angel of the Lord say to Philip?
- Who did Philip find there? What was he doing?
- What did he need?
- What happened once Philip explained it?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Where are the places in your life where you encounter people who need to know about Jesus?
- Who was the Scripture talking about?
- Who are the people in your life who are explaining Jesus to you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are the people in your life who are helping you understand God and His Word?
- How can you be like Philip to others you know?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)



# 10

## REPENT FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS NEAR

MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

### PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

### WEEKLY FOCUS

To understand the importance of Jesus' first message to those He ministered to

# MARK 1:14-15

## CONTEXT

- John the Baptist was baptizing and teaching people to prepare for the coming of Jesus
- Jesus had been baptized and heard the voice of God the Father
- Jesus had just gone through His temptation and resisted the devil
- Jesus begins His ministry

## OUTLINE

- I. **Jesus began His ministry with a very simple message**
  - A. Continuing what John the Baptist had started
    1. Matthew 3:1-2
    2. Especially since he had just been arrested
  - B. "The time is fulfilled"
    1. The Jewish people had longed and prayed for the Messiah to come
    2. Jesus was telling them that now was that time
    3. Greek word is "Kairos" which means a special time appointed by God
  - C. Repent
    1. What we are to do
    2. Acknowledge our sin and turn and go the opposite way
      - a. Not just be sorry but be different
  - D. Believe in the Gospel
    1. Not enough to just repent but we must also believe
    2. Trusting in God's Word
      - a. We are sinners and are separated from God
      - b. Jesus came and lived a perfect life for us
      - c. Jesus died and took the punishment of our sin once and for all
      - d. Jesus rose again to show His victory over sin and death

- e. If we trust in Him, we get Jesus' righteousness for our sin and God sees us as right before Him
- f. We have hope that we will be with God forever
- 3. We show we believe by living different lives
  - a. Lives that bring glory to God
  - b. Being followers of Jesus
- E. For the Kingdom of God is near
  - 1. Reminds us that there is a King who will rule
  - 2. He has come to bring about God's plan for the world
    - a. Jesus is the visible representation of God for us
    - b. Allows us to know God's heart more
  - 3. Jesus brings us a taste of God's Kingdom that won't be fully restored until He comes back
    - a. The New Heavens and the New Earth

## II. SO WHAT?!!

- A. What are the sins in your life you need to repent of?
- B. What difference does it make that the Kingdom of Heaven is near to you?
- C. Who truly is the king of your life?

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What was Jesus' first message in ministry?
- What does it mean to repent? What are things you need to repent for?
- Is repentance enough? Why or why not?
- What else does Jesus call us to do?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What does it mean to repent?
- What else are we to do besides just repent?
- How does your life show that you believe the Gospel to be true?
- Why does it matter that the Kingdom of Heaven is near?
- Who is the true king of your life?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?

SUNDAY TEACHING

WEEK  
10

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you had to apologize for something you did even though you didn't want to?

## READ ACTS 3:11-26

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What had just happened and how were the people responding?
- What did Peter say to the people?
- What does he tell them to do in verses 19-20?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How would you have responded if Peter said those things to you?
- What does it mean to repent?
- What are some things you need to repent of?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How have you denied Jesus?
- What are some things in your life that you need to repent of and turn over to Jesus?
- Who in your life helps to show you the places where you need to repent?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you were very sad and sorry over something you did? How did you respond?

## READ II CORINTHIANS 7:8-13

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Paul say about his letter?
- What did their grief cause them to do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What did Paul's letter cause them to do?
- What does godly grief produce? What about worldly grief?
- How are you at repenting?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What is godly grief?
- How have you experienced this in your own life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

11

# JESUS' AUDIENCE

MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see the people that Jesus was teaching and how He treated them

# MATTHEW 4:23-25, MARK 6:30-44

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had just gone through His temptation and begun His ministry
- Word of Jesus spreads quickly and crowds begin to gather wherever He goes

## OUTLINE

### I. Jesus' audience—Matthew 4

- A. Jesus went throughout all of Galilee
  - 1. Taught in the synagogues
    - a. Went to people who wanted to worship God
  - 2. Accepted the outcasts of society—diseases and afflictions
    - a. Healed all of them—didn't turn people down
    - b. Proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom
- B. His fame spread even to Syria
- C. Great crowds followed Him wherever He went
  - 1. Continued to heal all that came to Him

### II. Jesus' compassion on the crowds - Mark 6

- A. Jesus wanted to give the disciples a rest after being sent out to do ministry
  - 1. Sent them away to desolate place by boat
  - 2. Had not even had time to eat
- B. Crowds saw them leave and ran around the Sea of Galilee to meet them on the other side
  - 1. Jesus' response to the crowd
    - a. Not frustrated because they were interrupting His rest
    - b. Jesus had compassion on them
      - They were like sheep without a shepherd
      - Saw their need for help
- C. Jesus teaches them about the Kingdom
  - 1. What He would do with the crowds
    - a. Say that their needs weren't just physical but spiritual



- D. Jesus also met their physical needs
  - 1. Knew they were far away from anything
  - 2. Knew they had no food
- E. Set an example for His disciples to follow
  - 1. To care for their needs and teach them about the kingdom
  - 2. Gave them a role in caring for the people
    - a. Collected the food that was there
    - b. Handed it out to the people

### III. SO WHAT??!!

- A. Why is it important how Jesus treated the crowds?
- B. How do you treat people who "can't do anything for you"?
- C. How did Jesus meet their physical and spiritual needs?
- D. How can you meet the physical and spiritual needs of those around you?
- E. Who is someone you know who has needs that you could meet?

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How were the people who were always around Jesus?
- How did Jesus treat the crowds around Him?
- How did Jesus show His disciples how to treat the crowds?
- How can you follow Jesus' example?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Why is it important how Jesus treated the crowds?
- How do you treat people who "can't do anything for you"?
- How did Jesus meet their physical and spiritual needs?
- How can you meet the physical and spiritual needs of those around you?
- Who is someone you know who has needs that you could meet?

SUNDAY TEACHING

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# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you wandered off and got lost? What happened? How were you found?

**READ EZEKIEL 34:1-16**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does the Lord say about the shepherds? What were they supposed to do but didn't?
- What happened to the sheep?
- Is this really about sheep at all?
- What does the Lord say He will do in verse 11?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does it make you feel that the Lord Himself searched for His people?
- What does God say He will do once He has gathered them?
- How have you felt the Lord taking care of you lately?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you are: strengthening the weak? Healing the sick? Helping the injured? Seeking the lost? Bringing back strays?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is someone that was very kind to you when you really needed it? What did they do?

**READ JOHN 10:10-18**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it say the thief comes to do?
- Why did Jesus say He has come?
- What does Jesus call Himself?
- What is the difference between shepherd and hired hand?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who is the thief?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the Good Shepherd? What does that look like?
- How does it make you feel that He knows you so well?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it mean that He knows His own and His own knows Him?
- How are we supposed to follow Jesus' example of being a good shepherd?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

12

# JESUS TEACHES THE BEATITUDES

MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how Jesus taught what it meant to be blessed

# MATTHEW 5:1-12

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had been baptized and heard the voice of God the Father
- Jesus had just gone through His temptation and resisted the devil
- Jesus begins His ministry by calling the first disciples
- Jesus begins to minister to the crowds and teaches them about God and the Kingdom

## OUTLINE

- I. How the Kingdom sees people
  - A. Blessed are
    1. Poor in Spirit
      - a. Those who rely on God and not the things of the world
        - Realize that they don't have the power but need help from God
      - b. Different than those who are proud in spirit
        - Try to do it all on their own
      - c. What blessing they receive
        - The Kingdom of Heaven
    2. Those who mourn
      - a. Those that have to endure suffering and sadness
        - God sees our sadness and struggles and enters in
      - b. What blessing they receive
        - Comfort from God
    3. Meek
      - a. Those that are humble and gentle
        - Especially towards others
      - b. Different than those who try to get and earn out of their own power
      - c. What blessing they receive
        - Inherit the Earth

4. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
  - a. Have an appetite for spiritual things
    - Prayer
    - God's Word
    - Obedience
  - b. Different than those who have an appetite for the world
  - c. What blessing they receive
    - They will be satisfied
    - Those who long for their fulfillment in the things of this world will always in the end feel empty
    - God gives us a full life in Christ
5. Merciful
  - a. Those who do not give others what they deserve
    - Forgive those that may not deserve it
  - b. Different than those who are harsh and demanding of others
    - Make them try to work harder to earn mercy
  - c. What blessing they receive
    - They shall receive mercy
    - Matthew 6:14–Be forgiven as we forgive others
6. Pure in heart
  - a. One who loves the Lord with all their heart (Deut. 6:5)
  - b. Has an undivided heart for the Lord over the things of this world
  - c. What blessing they receive
    - They shall see God
    - The hope of being with Him forever in Heaven
7. Peacemakers
  - a. The world is always full of fighting and conflict
  - b. Only those who see outside themselves and care more about others than themselves can be peacemakers
    - Not just people who are unwilling to deal with hard things
    - Those who value true peace between others
  - c. What blessing they receive
    - Called sons of God
    - God is about peace so His children will also be about peace

8. Those persecuted for sake of righteousness
  - a. We will be persecuted for following Jesus
    - Jesus told us it would happen
    - When we do what is right, it is smell the of death to some because of the guilt they feel
    - God never leaves us alone in the midst of persecution
  - b. What blessing they receive
    - A great reward in Heaven

II. SO WHAT?!!

- A. God calls us to hard things in following Jesus
- B. He also promises great blessings for those who are willing to endure
- C. He sees the difficult things we go through
- D. He responds with His love and care for us

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- Which of the beatitudes describe you? Which do not?
- Which ones are the hardest for you? Why?
- How does it make you feel that God connects the hard things with His blessings?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- Which of the beatitudes describe you and which do not?
- Which of these are the hardest for you to live out? Why?
- What are specific ways you can be these things at school? At home?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?



# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you won a prize or award? How did it make you feel?

**READ LUKE 6:20-23**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What word does Jesus use to call the people? What does that mean?
- What will happen for those who are hungry?
- What will happen for those who weep?
- What does He say to those who are hated and left out?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How can Jesus say that these people are blessed?
- Where will they receive their reward?
- Have you ever been excluded because you follow Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Which of these situations do you deal with most often? Which one are you dealing with now?
- How has following Jesus impacted your life and relationships?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Take a few minutes and have each person make a list of the blessings in their life. Share them with everyone else and talk about them.

## READ PSALM 1

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does the man that is blessed do and not do?
- What are we to do with law of God?
- What picture does that psalmist give to describe that person?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How often do you meditate on the Law of God?
- What is the benefit of a tree planted by water?
- What water are you being refreshed by right now?
- What is the different between the righteous and wicked here?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How have you stood in the way of sinners or walked in counsel of wicked or sat in the seat of scoffers?
- What are ways that you delight in the Law of the Lord? What does that look like?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

13

# JESUS TEACHES ON THE KINGDOM: PART I

MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how Jesus taught about God's Kingdom  
so the people could understand God better

# MATTHEW 5:13-7:14

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had just gone through His temptation and begun His ministry
- Word of Jesus spreads quickly and crowds begin to gather wherever He goes

## OUTLINE

- I. **Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom**
  - A. Jesus came to reveal God's Kingdom to the people
  - B. Came as fulfillment of the Kingdom
    1. Not just tell us about it but show it to us
- II. **How we are supposed to worship**
  - A. Prayer – Matthew 6:5-15, 7:7-11
    1. "When you pray..."
      - a. An expectation that we will pray
    2. How to pray
      - a. Not so others will notice
        - Praying to the Father in secret
      - b. Not with many words
        - God is our Father and knows what we need
      - c. Jesus gives us an example of how to pray–Lord's Prayer
      - d. Our prayers should always include forgiving others
      - e. We should pray expecting that the Lord will answer us
  - B. Fasting – Matthew 6:16-18
    1. "When you fast"
      - a. An expectation
      - b. We will take things out of our life for a season to better focus on God

2. How to fast
  - a. Not looking gloomy but joyful
  - b. Not trying to be noticed by others but the Lord
3. Avoiding idolatry – Matthew 5:19-24
  - a. Not giving things of this world ultimate value
  - b. Having the things that will be in Heaven be our greatest desire
  - c. Our hearts always go after the things we treasure

**III. What we need to know about Jesus**

- A. Jesus came as fulfillment of the Law - Matt. 5:17-20
- B. Jesus has authority - Matt. 5:28-29

**IV. SO WHAT??!!**

- A. Why were these teachings so important for the crowds at this time? For us?
- B. What part of it most applied to you this morning? Which was the hardest to hear?
- C. What things from Jesus' teaching do you already live out? Which are hardest for you?

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What did Jesus say about the Kingdom?
- Why did He teach them about this?
- What applied to you and what is hardest for you to live out?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Why were these teachings so important for the crowds at this time? For us?
- What part of it most applied to you this morning? Which was the hardest to hear?
- What things from Jesus' teaching do you already live out? Which are hardest for you?

SUNDAY TEACHING

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What are some of the things you are most worried about right now? Why?

## READ MATTHEW 13:1-23

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What picture did Jesus give the crowd to help explain the Kingdom of God?
- What happened to the seed on the path? Seed that fell on rocky ground? Seed that fell among thorns? Seed that fell on good soil?
- What was Jesus actually talking about?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How do you receive God's Word when it is given to you?
- How are you like the hard path? What are the "thorns" that choke God's Word in you?
- How can you help make your life good soil?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Which of the soils do you think best describes you right now?
- What are the worries in your life that most often choke out God's Word in you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you were able to find some buried treasure, what would you hope would be in it?

## READ MATTHEW 13:44-46

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What is the first thing Jesus said the Kingdom of heaven is like?
- What did man do for the field? Why?
- What was the second picture Jesus gave for the Kingdom of Heaven?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How is the Kingdom of God like a great treasure?
- How have you "sold everything" for it?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What would you not be willing to give up for God?
- What are ways you have "sold everything" for the Kingdom?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)



14

# JESUS TEACHES ON THE KINGDOM: PART II

MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how Jesus taught about God's Kingdom  
so the people could understand God better

# MATTHEW 5:13-48

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had just gone through His temptation and begun His ministry
- Word of Jesus spreads quickly and crowds begin to gather wherever He goes

## OUTLINE

- I. **Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom**
  - A. Jesus came to reveal God's Kingdom to the people
  - B. Came as fulfillment of the Kingdom
- II. **How we are supposed to act as people of the Kingdom**
  - A. Salt and Light – Matthew 5:13-16
    1. Are to be different than the world
    2. Makes a difference wherever they are
      - a. Salt brings flavor and preserves
      - b. Light breaks up darkness
      - c. We are to be like these things
  - B. Anger – Matthew 5:21-26
    1. Anger in our hearts is the same as murder
    2. We are to always seek to be reconciled to each other and not hold on to grudges
  - C. Lust – Matthew 5:27-30
    1. Looking at another with lust is same as adultery
    2. Our hearts are as important as our actions
    3. We need to get rid of the things in our lives that cause us to sin

- D. Oaths – Matt. 5:33-37
  - 1. Not to swear on anything
  - 2. Let our yes be a yes and our no be a no
    - a. Need to be trustworthy people in our words and actions
- E. Retaliation - Matt. 5:38-42
  - 1. Need to not look for revenge against those that hurt us
  - 2. Forgive as Jesus forgave us
    - a. He did not look to get even
- F. Loving our enemies - Matt. 5:43-48
  - 1. Called to love our enemies
    - a. Very hard for us to do
    - b. Easy to love those who love you
    - c. Jesus loved even those like us who were against Him

### III. SO WHAT?!!

- A. Why were these teachings so important for the crowds at this time? For us?
- B. What part of it most applied to you this morning? Which was the hardest to hear?
- C. What things from Jesus' teaching do you already live out? Which are hardest for you?

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What did Jesus say about the Kingdom?
- Why did He teach them about this?
- What applied to you and what is hardest for you to live out?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Why were these teachings so important for the crowds at this time? For us?
- What part of it most applied to you this morning? Which was the hardest to hear?
- What things from Jesus' teaching do you already live out? Which are hardest for you?

SUNDAY TEACHING

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What things that you own would be the hardest for you to give away? Why?

## READ MATTHEW 19:16-30

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What question does the man ask Jesus?
- How does Jesus respond?
- What does the man say and how does Jesus respond?
- What did the man do? Why?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you are trying to earn eternal life by what you do?
- What are ways that you try to convince yourself and others that you are doing the "right things"?
- What things would Jesus ask you to give away?
- What are ways you can be following Him?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you believe that you have done all Jesus has required of you?
- What would Jesus say to you that you would need to give away or do to be closer to Him?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the best party you have ever been to? Why?

## READ EXODUS 7:1-13

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What was the king doing and who did he invite?
- How did those who were invited respond?
- How did the king respond to those who said no?
- Who then did he invite to the wedding feast?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What is this a picture of?
- Which of the guests would you be?
- What does who He invites to the party say about God?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How have you turned down God's invitations to you?
- How have you been too busy to notice or care?
- What other things get your attention over God?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

15

# JESUS TAKES THE MESSAGE TO THE GENTILES

MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how Jesus' message went beyond the Jews even to the Gentiles

# JOHN 4:1-42

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had just gone through His temptation and begun His ministry
- Word of Jesus spreads quickly and crowds begin to gather wherever He goes
- Jesus had spent the beginning of His ministry with Jews in the synagogues but now His focus broadens

## OUTLINE

### I. Jesus and the Samaritan woman

#### A. Jesus HAD to go through Samaria

1. Going from Judea to Galilee
2. Was not how most Jews went—went around Samaria
  - a. Hated the Samaritans because they were “half-breeds”
    - Part Jew and part Gentile
    - Came from Assyrian captivity
    - Samaritans were so rejected by Jews that they made their own temple and had their own mountain for worship—made Jews more mad
    - Would be like how many Americans look at radical Muslims
3. There were other routes to take, but the context infers that Jesus had a divine appointment with this Samaritan woman

#### B. Jesus shows His compassion for all people

1. Goes from religious and moral Nicodemus to immoral Samaritan woman
2. Woman was at well at noon which is not when anyone came to draw water
  - a. Heat of the day, was avoiding the gossip and stares
3. Jesus talks to the woman
  - a. A rabbi was never alone with a woman, let alone a Samaritan woman
  - b. Most Jews completely ignored Samaritans and most men ignored women who weren't their wives



4. Jesus pursues her heart
    - a. Asks about her “husband”
    - b. Knew her hurt and pain and guilt and shame
    - c. Was willing to point out her sin so she would believe in Him
    - d. Talked about “real” things with her
  - C. Jesus shows the Kingdom is for all people
    1. Teaches her about living water
      - a. That He knows streams that will quench thirst forever
      - b. Spring that wells up unto eternal life–Heaven
    2. Teaches about worship
      - a. Not about where but who
      - b. Spirit and truth
    3. Teaches about salvation
      - a. Salvation comes from the Jews
      - b. There is a Messiah and He is Him
  - D. Jesus ministers to the whole Samaritan town
    1. Many came to see and believed
    2. Jesus stayed two days longer teaching them about the Kingdom
    3. Many believed because of what Jesus said
      - a. “He is indeed Savior of the world”
      - b. Why He went there
- II. SO WHAT??!!
- A. Why is it important that Jesus went to the Gentiles?
  - B. Why does that matter for us today?
  - C. How did Jesus treat the Samaritans differently than the religious leaders?
  - D. Who is someone or a group of people that you do not want to share the Gospel with?

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- Why did Jesus go to Samaria?
- What did Jesus teach the Gentiles?
- What impact did Jesus have on the Gentiles?
- Who is someone you wouldn't share the Gospel with? Where is a place you wouldn't go?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Why is it important that Jesus went to the Gentiles?
- Why does that matter for us today?
- How did Jesus treat the Samaritans differently than the religious leaders?
- Who is someone or a group of people that you do not want to share the Gospel with?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could live in another country, which would it be and why?

## READ ROMANS 15:8-13

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who does it say that Jesus became a servant to? Why?
- What is supposed to happen to the Gentiles?
- Who are Gentiles? Why is this so good for you and me?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why is it important that Paul quotes the Old Testament here?
- What do these verses tell us about God's plan from the beginning?
- Who do you need to be sharing about God's grace and mercy?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are people not like you that God has given you a heart for?
- How is God using you to bring light into dark places and giving people hope?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could have any famous person over for dinner at your house, who would it be and why?

## READ MATTHEW 8:5-13

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who approaches Jesus once He enters Capernaum?
- What does he ask Jesus to do?
- How does the centurion respond to Jesus' willingness to come?
- How does he show his faith in Jesus?
- What happens to his servant?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does the man believe about Jesus and His power?
- How did Jesus respond to his faith?
- What does Jesus say to the centurion?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you are demonstrating your faith in Jesus to others?
- How have you seen your faith rewarded as the centurion did?
- Where is a place the Lord is asking you to step out in faith?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

16

# JESUS' CLAIMS ABOUT HIMSELF

MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how Jesus taught about Himself  
so that the people would see Him more clearly

# JOHN 6:35, 8:12, 10:11, 14:6, 15:5

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had just gone through His temptation and begun His ministry
- Word of Jesus spreads quickly and crowds begin to gather wherever He goes
- Jesus had spent the beginning of His ministry with Jews in the synagogues but now His focus broadens

## OUTLINE

### I. I AM

- A. Points back to Exodus 3:14
- B. God reveals Himself to Moses—tell them I AM has sent you
- C. Jesus uses this as well so people will connect Him to God the Father

### II. I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE - John 6:35

- A. Context - Moses and manna in the wilderness
- B. Jesus will be found by those who seek Him and believe in Him
- C. Jesus will satisfy our spiritual hunger

### III. I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD - John 8:12

- A. Jesus came to bring light into the darkness
  - 1. Show us truth about God
  - 2. Teach us truth about God
- B. Jesus came for the whole world

### IV. I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD - John 10:11

- A. Came to take care of His people
- B. Gave away the purpose of His coming
  - 1. Lay down His life for His sheep

V. I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE - John 14:6

- A. Jesus makes clear that He is the absolute and pinnacle
- B. Jesus lets us know that He is the only way to be with, know, and follow God

VI. I AM THE VINE- John 15:5

- A. Jesus is the way for us to grow in righteousness
- B. Jesus connects us to what really matters - God

VII. SO WHAT??!!

- A. What does it mean for us that Jesus is the:
  1. Bread of Life
  2. Light of the World
  3. Good Shepherd
  4. Way, Truth and Life
  5. Vine

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the following things, and why is it important?
  - Bread of Life
  - Light of the World
  - Good Shepherd
  - Way, Truth and Life
  - Vine

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- What does Jesus being the following mean to us:
  - Bread of Life
  - Light of the World
  - Good Shepherd
  - Way, Truth and Life
  - Vine

SUNDAY TEACHING



# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What are you looking forward to doing when you get to Heaven?

**READ JOHN 11:17-27**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What had just happened before this?
- How long had Lazarus been dead?
- Who went to Jesus and what did she say?
- How did Jesus respond to her?
- What did Jesus say about Himself?
- How did she respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life?
- How is Jesus your life?
- How does this change how you see this life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What difference does it make day-to-day that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life?
- What hope does this give you in your current situations and struggles?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could change your name what would you change it to and why?

## READ EXODUS 3:1-22

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where was Moses and what was he doing?
- How did God appear to him and what did he say?
- How did Moses respond?
- What was God's plan for His people and Moses?
- What was Moses' excuse and how did God respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why is it so important to know God's name?
- Why is it important He is I AM?
- How did Jesus use this name also?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What difference does it make to you that God is the great I AM?
- How does this help you in your everyday life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

17

# POWER OVER NATURE

POWER OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see Jesus' power over all of creation

# MARK 4:35 - 41

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had just gone through His temptation and begun His ministry
- Jesus had been teaching the crowds and doing miracles
- Jesus was looking to get the disciples a rest from the crowds
- Jesus had just gone through His temptation and begun His ministry
- Easy for us to either see Jesus as man or God instead of acknowledging His dual natures

## OUTLINE

### I. Jesus was HUMAN

- A. Jesus was tired after long day of ministry
  1. Was looking for a break for Him and disciples
  2. Decided to leave on boat across Sea of Galilee
- B. Jesus slept
  1. Easy to forget that Jesus needed things such as food, drink, and sleep
  2. During a very fierce storm—Greek word refers to earthquake

### II. Jesus was GOD

- A. Shows His power over creation
  1. Rebuked the winds and the waves
    - a. As you would treat an unruly child
    - b. Shows His authority over them
  2. "Peace, Be still"
    - a. Didn't take much, no prayer or appeal
    - b. Had the power Himself
  3. Shows equality with God of Old Testament that Jews knew
    - a. Calms waves – Job 12:15, Psalm 33:7
    - b. Calms the storms – Job 28:25, Psalm 107:25-30, Amos 4:13

- B. How can Jesus have this kind of power over nature/creation
  - 1. Was the Creator—John 1:1-3
    - a. Was with God at Creation
    - b. All things were made through Him
    - c. Without Him nothing was made
- C. Why does this matter?
  - 1. Disciples needed to see who Jesus truly was (not just a good teacher)
  - 2. The storm provided an invaluable lesson for them - Jesus is in control so trust Him
    - a. Jesus not only rebukes the storm but their lack of faith
    - b. Jesus has made them a promise"  
- "Let us go to the other side of the lake"
  - 3. Can we trust God when things don't work out as we thought they would??
    - a. What have we to fear

### III. SO WHAT??!!

- A. What do you think that Jesus has no control over?
- B. Why is it important that Jesus could control nature? How can He?
- C. If He can control nature, what else can He control? Do you truly believe that?
- D. How would you live differently if you truly believed that Jesus was this powerful?
- E. What do you simply not trust Jesus about struggles in your life? Why?

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What difference does it make that Jesus is both God and man?
- What does Jesus' power over nature have to do with you?
- What things in your life do you not trust Jesus with?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- What do you think that Jesus has no control over?
- Why is it important that Jesus could control nature? How can He?
- If He can control nature, what else can He control? Do you truly believe that?

SUNDAY TEACHING

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you remember feeling very scared? What did you do and what made it better?

## READ MATTHEW 14:22-33

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did Jesus have the disciple do and what did He do?
- What happened to the boat when He had finished praying?
- What did Jesus do?
- How did the disciples respond?
- What did Jesus do?
- What did Peter ask and do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time recently that you stepped out in faith like Jesus did?
- What distracted Peter from Jesus? What distracts you from Jesus?
- How did Jesus respond to Peter's cries?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How often do you spend time by yourself praying to the Lord?
- What things are drawing your attention off of Jesus right now?
- Where do you see Jesus asking you about your doubts?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is your favorite fruit? Why?

**READ MARK 11:12-14, 20-25**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What was Jesus doing and what did He find?
- What did Jesus say to the tree?
- What happened to the tree?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why do you think Jesus cursed the fig tree?
- How did it show His power over nature?
- In what ways do you find yourself doubting God?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How did what Jesus did with the tree encourage their faith?
- What does Jesus say about forgiveness here?
- In what areas do you struggle to have faith?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)



18

# POWER OVER DEMONS

POWER OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see Jesus' power over evil forces

# MARK 5:1-20

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had just gone through His temptation and begun His ministry
- Easy for us to either see Jesus as man or God instead of acknowledging His dual natures
- Jesus has just calmed the storm before the disciples so they are coming to terms with who Jesus really is

## OUTLINE

- I. **Jesus is confronted by evil**
  - A. Man who was possessed by demons
    1. Called himself Legion because of the sheer number of demons
    2. The people were afraid of the man so tried to get rid of him
      - a. Made him live among the tombs
      - b. Tried to chain him but was unable to
    3. The man had a miserable life
      - a. Was always alone
      - b. Was crying out and cutting himself
  - B. The man acknowledges Jesus and His power
    1. Ran to Him
    2. Fell down at His feet—a show of worship
    3. Called Him the Son of the Most High
      - a. Knew who Jesus really was
- II. **Jesus defeats evil**
  - A. Calls the spirits to come out of the man and they do
    1. Sends them into the pigs
      - a. Have to give the demons permission to do anything
    2. Man was clothed and in his right mind

**III. The responses to Jesus' power**

A. The crowds–Fear

1. Were afraid when they saw the man healed
2. Asked Jesus to go away from them
3. Didn't want to have anything to do with Jesus

B. The man–Follow

1. Out of thankfulness for what Jesus had done, he wanted to go with Jesus
2. Jesus told him to go somewhere else
  - a. Go home—to your friends and family
  - b. God would speak powerfully to those who knew him best

**IV. SO WHAT??!!**

- A. Jesus has power over everything—even the very scary things
- B. Jesus has the power to heal and change us completely
- C. Jesus calls us to go to the places where He has put us so that we can tell others about Him

**FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How did Jesus show His power in this passage?
- Why do you think the people responded like they did?
- Where is a place that Jesus has put you where you can tell others about Him?

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How did Jesus show His power?
- What are some scary things that you are glad Jesus has power over?
- How would you respond if you had seen all this?
- Where are places you can tell others about Jesus?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?

SUNDAY TEACHING

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the most amazing thing you have ever seen someone else do? What made it so amazing?

**READ MARK 1:21-28**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did Jesus do once He got to Capernaum?
- How did the people respond to His teaching?
- Who came in and what was wrong with him?
- What did Jesus do?
- How did the people respond to that?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why would Jesus ask the spirit to be quiet?
- How did the people respond to what Jesus had done?
- How did it show His power?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you have seen Jesus' authority in your life?
- What are ways that you need Jesus to "make you clean" like this man?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What bad guy from TV or movies or books do you like the least? Why?

## READ MATTHEW 17:14-21

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who came to Jesus and what did he ask?
- Who else had the man brought his son to?
- What did Jesus do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What was the demon doing to the boy?
- Why couldn't the disciples cast out the demon?
- In what ways do you need to grow in faith?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are things in your life that are damaging?
- What are ways you have shown your true faith in God?
- When have you been so desperate as to kneel before the Lord and plead with Him for something?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

19

# POWER OVER DISEASE

POWER OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see Jesus' power over sickness and disease in this world

# LUKE 4:38-40, 5:12-26

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had begun His ministry
- Jesus had been teaching the crowds and doing miracles

## OUTLINE

### I. Jesus' Power

- A. Leprosy was most feared and dangerous disease at this time
  - 1. Thought to be very contagious
  - 2. Little hope of recovery—death sentence
- B. Jesus also healed the blind, the lame, the deaf, the mute, etc.
  - 1. Showed His power over all of the things that were “uncurable” in those days
- C. Had same control over sickness as He had over the storm - “rebuked” the fever - with a touch or a word

### II. Jesus' Compassion

- A. Responded to the plea of the leper with a touch - 5:12-13
  - 1. No one touched lepers...EVER!!
- B. Responded to the plea of His disciples - 4:39
- C. Responded to the faith of the paralyzed man's friends - 5:20

### III. Responses of the crowds at his healings

- A. “All who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him”- 4:40
- B. Reinforced His teaching—the crowds had never seen anything like this
- C. Showed Him to be the Messiah—fulfillment of Isaiah 35:5-6

### IV. SO WHAT??!!

- A. When was the last time you thought about Jesus' power?
- B. What difference does it make to you that Jesus is this powerful?



## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What does Jesus' power over diseases have to do with you?
- What things in your life do you not trust Jesus with?
- What things do you just have a hard time believing that Jesus can do?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- When was the last time you thought about Jesus' power?
- What difference does it make to you that Jesus is this powerful?

SUNDAY TEACHING

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could heal any one disease what would it be and why?

**READ MARK 5:21-34**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened when Jesus crossed to the other side?
- Who came to Jesus and what did he ask?
- What was Jesus' response to Jairus?
- What happened along the way and what did Jesus do about it?
- What are we told about the woman and what happened to her when she touched Jesus?
- How did Jesus respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What had the woman tried before coming to Jesus? What was the result?
- Why did Jesus want to find the woman who had touched Him?
- What did He say to her?
- How do you think that made her feel?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Where do you need Jesus to heal you right now?
- Where is a place in your life that you need to reach out to Him in faith?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you were really sick? How did it make you feel? How did you feel when you finally got better?

**READ LUKE 17:11-19**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who did Jesus encounter as He was passing along?
- What did they say to Jesus?
- How did Jesus respond to them and what happened as they obeyed?
- How did the lepers respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What do you know about leprosy and why was it so bad both physically and socially?
- How do you respond when you see the Lord at work in your life?
- How often do you spend time thanking God for His blessings?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How have you been made new by Jesus as you have obeyed?
- How have you gone back and thanked God for all He has done for you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

20

# POWER OVER DEATH

POWER OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see Jesus' power over even death itself

# JOHN 11:1-54

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had begun His ministry
- Jesus had been teaching the crowds and doing miracles

## OUTLINE

### I. The Setting

- A. Jesus got word that Lazarus was sick
  - 1. Jesus was close to the family—Jesus loved them (verse 5)
  - 2. His sisters Mary and Martha had taken care of Jesus and disciples
  - 3. Mary had anointed Jesus with perfume
- B. Jesus stayed where He was for two more days
  - 1. A very curious response
  - 2. Knew the purpose of the illness
    - a. To bring glory to God
- C. It was very risky for Jesus to return to Judea
  - 1. Jews were plotting to kill Him
  - 2. Disciples think they are going to their deaths as well - verse 16

### II. The Action

- A. Jesus arrived and found that Lazarus was dead and had been in tomb for four days
  - 1. Will show God's glory because no one can accuse Lazarus of only being sick and not really dead since he was in tomb for four days
- B. Many were there mourning with the sisters—Jesus had healed diseases but this was different
- C. The sisters go out to Jesus
  - 1. Martha - "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died"
    - a. Showed great faith in Jesus' power
    - b. Still trusted that Jesus could do something

- c. Knew he would rise again in Last Days
- 2. Mary - "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died"
  - a. Showed great faith in Jesus' power
- D. Jesus' compassion
  - 1. Jesus weeps when he sees Mary and the crowd weeping
  - 2. Was greatly moved in His spirit and greatly troubled
    - a. How He felt about death—was never meant to be
  - 3. The Jews saw His tears as love for Lazarus
  - 4. Jesus cries even though He will raise Lazarus very soon
    - a. Glorifies God by showing how He feels our pain and hurt
    - b. Jesus weeps with us in our sadness
- E. Jesus shows His Power
  - 1. Jesus tells them to take away the stone
    - a. People protest - there will be a bad smell
      - Decay of body
  - 2. Jesus prays to the Father
    - a. Does so for the benefit of the crowd
    - b. Jesus was constantly bringing glory to God
  - 3. "Lazarus, come out"
    - a. With three words He returns Lazarus to life
    - b. The Creator even has power over dead creation
    - c. Lazarus rises up and comes out
      - i. Still wrapped in grave clothes to prove it was no hoax

### III. The response of the people

- A. Many of the Jews believed in Him because of this
- B. Pharisees resolved to put Jesus to death
  - 1. This was final event that put into motion God's plan
  - 2. Jesus no longer walked openly among the Jews

**IV. SO WHAT??!**

- A. When was the last time you thought about Jesus' power?
- B. What difference does it make to you that Jesus is this powerful?
- C. Do you truly believe that Jesus has compassion like this over your hurts and disappointments?

**FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What does Jesus' power over death have to do with you?
- What things in your life do you not trust Jesus with?
- What things do you just have a hard time believing that Jesus can do?
- Do you truly believe that Jesus cares this much about your pain and disappointment?

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- When was the last time you thought about Jesus' power?
- What difference does it make to you that Jesus is this powerful?
- Do you truly believe that Jesus has compassion like this over your hurts and disappointments?



# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Have you ever been to a funeral? If so, what do you remember and how did you feel? What makes it so sad?

**READ MARK 5:21-23, 35-43**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who comes to Jesus and what does Jesus decide to do?
- What happens while Jesus was talking to the woman in the crowd and how does Jairus respond?
- What did Jesus do?
- What did Jesus find when He got there and how did He respond?
- What did He do for the girl?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time that you just haven't believed that Jesus can do what He says He can do?
- How did the people respond to what Jesus did?
- How are you bringing Jesus to those you know who need Him?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does Jesus' power over death give you hope daily?
- Who are the people that you know that Jesus needs to bring from death to life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you were really sad? Who cheered you up and how?

**READ LUKE 7:11-17**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where had Jesus gone and who was with Him?
- Who did He run into and what happened?
- What did Jesus say to her?
- What did Jesus say to the dead man?
- What happened? How did the crowds respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why would this be so hard for the woman besides just losing her child?
- Why do you think Jesus had compassion on the woman?
- How has He made you alive?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How did this show both God's heart and power?
- When is a time that something God did seized you with fear and caused you to worship Him?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

21

# TRANSFIGURATION

POWER OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through  
its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see Jesus' power to make us into new creatures

# LUKE 9:28-36

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had begun His ministry
- Jesus had been teaching the crowds and doing miracles
- Jesus had been showing the disciples His power in different ways and even had given them power to do the work

## OUTLINE

- I. Jesus went up on the mountain to meet with God
  - A. Took Peter, James, and John with Him
  - B. To go and pray
- II. The disciples were surprised by what happened
  - A. Saw Jesus as He truly is
    1. His appearance had changed
      - a. His face and clothes were bright white
      - b. Dazzling to look at—like looking into the sun
  - B. We often forget that Jesus is holy
    1. Completely perfect as God is
    2. Got to see a picture of what Jesus will be like in eternity
      - a. Remind them who Jesus really is as He walks among them
  - C. Moses and Elijah showed up
    1. To show that Jesus was greater than the Law—Moses
    2. To show that Jesus was greater than the Prophets—Elijah
    3. Spoke to Jesus about Him leaving, which would happen soon
  - D. Didn't know what to do
    1. Peter suggests that he make shelters for Moses and Elijah
      - a. Just wanted to stay there in that moment forever

- E. God shows up
  - 1. Cloud comes down over them
  - 2. Voice comes out of the cloud
    - a. This is my Son, my Beloved
    - b. Listen to Him
  - 3. Speaking directly to the disciples
  - 4. Reminds them of who Jesus is and that they should listen to and obey Him

III. SO WHAT??!

- A. When was the last time you thought about Jesus' power?
- B. What difference does it make to you that Jesus is this powerful?
- C. How often do you think about Jesus' holiness?
- D. How often do you find yourself listening to His voice?

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How did Jesus show His power?
- How would you have responded if you had been there?
- Why is it so important to listen to Jesus?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What does this passage show us about Jesus?
- How did the disciples respond to what happened?
- What does it mean that Jesus is holy? How did we see that here?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Share a time that you had to tell someone else something you saw that they didn't. Was it easy or hard? Why?

## READ 2 PETER 1:16-18

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Peter say they didn't follow?
- What does he say that they were eyewitnesses of?
- What did they see and hear when this happened?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you have been an eyewitness to what God has done?
- Why was it important that Peter could be an eyewitness?
- What have you seen God do that you need to share with others?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you can testify as a witness to what you have seen the Lord do in your life? Do you?
- How have you experienced Jesus in His glory?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you wore a mask or had your face painted? How did other people respond?

## READ EXODUS 34:29-35

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who came down from the mountain and what did he have?
- What was different about Moses after spending time with God?
- How did the people respond to Moses?
- What did Moses do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What is different about you after you spend time with God?
- How often do you spend time alone with God?
- How does God making you different reveal Him to others?
- Was it right for Moses to veil his face? Why or why not?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How have you changed because you are following Jesus?
- How have others responded to you differently? How are you afraid others might respond?
- What are ways you are "veiling" what God has done because you are afraid how others might respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)



22

# JESUS' ARREST AND TRIAL

PURPOSE OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through  
its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God even used Jesus' trial for His purposes

# JOHN 18:1 - 19:16

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had come to the end of His ministry
- Religious leaders had been seeking a way to get rid of Jesus
- Judas agrees to betray Jesus

## OUTLINE

### I. The Arrest

- A. Jesus is with His disciples praying in the Garden
  - 1. A place familiar to the disciples
  - 2. Not trying to hide from Judas
- B. Had washed their feet and taught them many things
  - 1. Showed His love and care for them
- C. Judas brings with him a band of soldiers and religious leaders
  - 1. Brought weapons and lanterns to arrest Him
  - 2. Jesus knew what would happen—asked who they wanted
  - 3. Jesus responded with I AM
    - a. Soldiers fell down
  - 4. Jesus said He would go with them if they let the rest go
    - a. Caring for disciples to the very end
    - b. After showing His power the soldiers wouldn't refuse
  - 5. Simon's response—attack
    - a. Cuts off ear of High Priest's servant - Malchus
      - i. Gives us a name to be verified
    - b. Jesus heals the ear

### II. Trial Part 1- The High Priests

- A. Questioned Jesus about His teaching
  - 1. Response - I have taught openly in synagogues
    - a. Was not hiding then or now

- B. Jesus struck for His response
  - 1. Not showing “respect” to High Priest
  - 2. Jesus says, If I said something wrong, tell me what it was
- C. Jesus shows that He is in control
- D. Jesus shows that He is blameless

### III. Trial Part 2- Pilate

- A. They brought Jesus to him but wouldn't enter themselves
  - 1. Couldn't kill Jesus without Pilate
  - 2. Didn't want to defile themselves - wanted to eat Passover
  - 3. Willing to kill innocent man though
- B. Pilate's responses
  - 1. What has he done?
  - 2. Judge him by your own law
- C. Pilate talks to Jesus
  - 1. Are you the King of the Jews?
    - a. Do you say this or someone else
    - b. My kingdom is not of this world
    - c. I have come for this purpose
      - i. Bear witness to the truth and the Kingdom
- D. Pilate finds no fault with Jesus
  - 1. Tells the crowd
  - 2. Offers to release a prisoner
    - a. They ask for Barabbas
- E. Pilate punishes Jesus to placate the crowd
  - 1. Has him flogged and beaten
    - a. Purple robe and crown of thorns
    - b. Wardrobe of a king
- F. Pilate still looks to release Jesus
  - 1. Religious leaders incite the crowd
    - a. Crucify Him

2. Pilate tells them to kill Him themselves
- G. Pilate talks with Jesus again
  1. Where are you from?
    - a. Jesus didn't answer
    - b. Pilate is frustrated by Jesus' silence
      - i. Don't you know I have authority over you
  2. Jesus' response
    - a. You have no authority except what has been given from above
- H. Jesus shows He is in control and blameless
- I. Pilate finally relents and allows Jesus to be crucified
  1. For fear of what the crowd was saying
    - a. You are no friend of Caesar

#### IV. SO WHAT?!!

- A. What was significant about Jesus allowing these things to happen to Him?
- B. How does Jesus show His perfection and control through all of this?
- C. How have you been tempted like the crowd or Pilate to dismiss Jesus?
- D. How did Jesus continue to show His care and concern for His people throughout it all?

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What difference does Jesus' arrest and trials make?
- How was Jesus fulfilling His role through His arrest and trial?
- How did Jesus show His power and perfection through this?
- What are ways that you face the same kind of pressure that the crowds and Pilate felt when it comes to Jesus? What do you do with that pressure?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- What was significant about Jesus allowing these things to happen to Him?
- How does Jesus show His perfection and control through all of this?
- How have you been tempted like the crowd or Pilate to dismiss Jesus?
- How did Jesus continue to show His care and concern for His people throughout it all?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you felt really betrayed by a close friend? What happened and were you still friends after?

**READ MATTHEW 26:47-56**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened while Jesus was still speaking?
- What did Judas do to show them who Jesus was?
- What did one of His disciples do? (we are told in John it is Peter)
- How did Jesus respond to Peter's actions?
- What did Jesus say to those who came to arrest Him?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time you could have stood up for Jesus but didn't?
- What are ways you try to fight for Jesus but don't need to?
- How does Jesus use His arrest to talk about God?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How have you betrayed Jesus like Judas?
- How have you tried to take matters into your own hands like Peter?
- When have you done what Jesus did?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you were blamed for something you didn't do? How did you respond? What happened?

**READ MATTHEW 27:11-31**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who is Jesus meeting with and what does he ask Him?
- How did Jesus respond to him?
- How did the governor try to free Jesus and how did the crowds respond?
- What happened to Jesus after He was sentenced to die?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When have you chosen someone or something else over Jesus?
- What should Pilate have done? Why wouldn't it have mattered?
- How does Jesus show the full extent of His love here?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does it make you feel that Jesus not only died for you but also that He was tortured for you?
- How have you chosen to go with the crowd rather than Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

23

# THE CRUCIFIXION

PURPOSE OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see Jesus' death on the cross and its benefit for us

# MATTHEW 27:32-61, MARK 15:21-47, LUKE 23:26-56 & JOHN 19:16-42

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had come to the end of His ministry
- Judas agrees to betray Jesus and Jesus is arrested
- Jesus is tried before Pilate and crowd demands His death
- Jesus is beaten and then given over to be crucified

## OUTLINE

- I. The Crucifixion
  - A. Was gruesome and tortuous way to die
    1. Used by Romans to deter criminals
    2. Death was by asphyxiation
  - B. Jesus was crucified with criminals
    1. Identified with sinners even to His death
    2. Was nailed in hands and feet to cross
    3. Was made fun of and insulted by crowds and criminals
  - C. Jesus' heart on the cross
    1. "Father forgive them"—to crowds and soldiers
    2. Gave away His mother to John to take care of
    3. Offered salvation to criminal who believed
    4. Did not retaliate in word or deed against those mocking Him
  - D. Was His purpose in coming
    1. Isaiah 53:10- Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
    2. Drank the cup of God's wrath for us
      - a. Took on punishment for our sin



**II. Death of Jesus**

- A. Was fulfilling Scripture
  - 1. My God why have you forsaken me - Psalm 22
  - 2. I thirst
  - 3. Side was pierced
- B. Trusted God's plan
  - 1. Even when it was difficult and painful
  - 2. Committed His spirit into God's hands
- C. Reveals His purpose
  - 1. It is finished—sin and punishment

**III. Burial of Jesus**

- A. In a new tomb—no other bodies to get mixed up with
- B. Borrowed tomb—had nothing of His own
- C. Nicodemus and Joseph risked much to get Jesus' body
  - 1. Were religious leaders

**IV. SO WHAT??!!**

- A. Why does Jesus' death matter for us today?
- B. How does the cross affect how you live daily?
- C. What are you willing to risk for Jesus?

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What difference does Jesus' death make?
- How often do you truly think about the cross?
- How does the cross affect how you live each day?
- What are you willing to risk for Jesus?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Why does Jesus' death matter for us today?
- How does the cross affect how you live daily?
- What are you willing to risk for Jesus?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you felt very alone? What happened to make you not feel that way anymore?

**READ MATTHEW 27:45-55**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened from the 6th hour to the 9th hour?
- What did Jesus cry out to God?
- What happened to the temple curtain?
- What happened after that?
- How did the Centurion respond to all of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why did Jesus say this to God? What was happening to Him during this time?
- Why was it a big deal that the temple curtain tore in two?
- Who was with Jesus at the end? Why is that significant?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How do you see God's heart and power here at the cross?
- How does it make you look at your sins differently to see what it cost to pay for them?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you felt made fun of by others? How did it feel and how did you respond?

**READ LUKE 23:26-43**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who did they get to help Jesus carry His cross?
- What did Jesus pray to God from the cross?
- What did the guards do with Jesus' clothes?
- What did the people say to Jesus while He was on the cross?
- What happened with the criminals crucified with Jesus?
- What did Jesus say to the one who defended Him?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why were the people so cruel to Jesus on the cross?
- Why was it so important what Jesus said on the cross?
- When is a time that you have been tempted to disown Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How have you seen and felt Jesus forgive you?
- How have you mocked Jesus to others?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

24

# THE RESURRECTION

PURPOSE OF THE MESSIAH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see Jesus' power over death by conquering it for Himself and for us

# LUKE 24:1-49

## CONTEXT

- Jesus had been discussing His death for sometime
  - Talking about it to His disciples
- Jesus was arrested and given an unfair trial
- Jesus was in complete control during the whole process as fulfillment of His purpose and Scripture
- Jesus shows His heart on the cross
  - Praying for forgiveness for those who hurt Him
  - Offering salvation to criminal who believed
  - Taking care of His mother
- Jesus died and immediately some believed

## OUTLINE

- I. **The Witnesses—The Women**
  - A. They went to honor Jesus
    1. Now that He was gone and Sabbath was over they went to prepare His body with spices for burial
  - B. The women who had been with Him and stayed beside Him even through His crucifixion—verse 10
    1. Wouldn't leave Him
    2. No disciples to be found
  - C. Women were not seen as credible witnesses at this time
    1. Unlikely message bearers of such great news
    2. The way God operates—takes that which is unlikely and makes it perfect
- II. **The Surprise**
  - A. They found the stone rolled away—would be very difficult
    1. We can tell by their response—perplexed
  - B. The angels—"two men in dazzling appearance"
    1. The women's response—bowed down in fear
    2. Reminded the women of Jesus' predictions
      - a. Said to the women "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how He told you"
      - b. "The Son of Man must be delivered into hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the 3rd day rise"
  - C. Their response
    1. Remembered Jesus' words
    2. Went and told what they saw and heard to the rest of the disciples

**III. Response of the disciples**

- A. Didn't trust the women's report
  - 1. Seemed like an idle tale
- B. Peter went to see for himself
  - 1. Found it like the women said
  - 2. Believed
  - 3. Went home marveling at what had happened

**IV. Jesus appears on the Road**

- A. Two disciples were talking about all that had happened
- B. Jesus appears and asks them about it - they didn't know it was Him
- C. The disciples are sad and confused and explain all that had been taking place regarding Jesus
- D. Jesus' response - "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things then enter into His Glory?"
- E. Jesus interpreted the Scriptures and how they pointed to Him
  - 1. Started with Moses (author of Genesis) - beginning
  - 2. And all the Prophets - end
  - 3. Showed them how all they knew about God through the Scripture pointed not only to Jesus but also His death and resurrection
- F. Jesus stays with the disciples and reveals Himself by breaking of the bread as He did at Last Supper
- G. Response of disciples—"Didn't our hearts burn while He opened the Scriptures for us?"
  - 1. Went and told the rest of the disciples

**V. Jesus appears to rest of the disciples**

- A. Appeared while they were talking
- B. Asked about their trouble and doubts
  - 1. Wasn't angry about their doubts but understanding
  - 2. Showed them His hands and feet
- C. Offered them some fish... wait Huh???
  - 1. Showed He was flesh and not Spirit
- D. Told them how all has to be fulfilled about Him
  - 1. Opened their minds to understand the Scripture
- E. Made them His witnesses

**VI. SO WHAT?!!**

- A. Why does Jesus' resurrection matter for us today?
- B. How does the resurrection affect how you live daily?
- C. What did Jesus secure for you by conquering death?

**FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What difference does Jesus' resurrection make?
- How should we live differently based on Jesus' victory over sin and death?
- How does His victory apply to us?
- How do you live out Jesus' victory daily?
- How are you at being His witness?

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Why does Jesus' resurrection matter for us today?
- How does the resurrection affect how you live daily?
- What did Jesus secure for you by conquering death?



# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the most amazing thing you have ever witnessed? How did it affect you?

**READ MATTHEW 28:1-15**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who were the first ones who went to see the tomb?
- What happened when they got there? What did they see?
- What did the angel say to the women?
- What did they do with this news?
- Who met them along the way and what did they do?
- What did the chief priests do to cover up what happened?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why did the women go to the tomb?
- When has God surprised you like this?
- Who are the people you need to go and tell?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How often do you think about the resurrection?
- What difference does it make in your everyday life?
- Who do you need to go and tell what God has done?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time you were surprised by a visitor? How did you respond and what did you do?

**READ JOHN 21:1-19**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where did the disciples go?
- What did Jesus do for them?
- How did Peter respond? How did he know it was Jesus?
- What did Jesus do with them?
- What did Jesus ask Peter and how did Peter respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- When is a time that you just went back to your normal life after you experienced God in an amazing way?
- What was so important about Jesus asking Peter if he loved Him three times?
- How would you respond to that question?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How do you see Jesus continually pursuing you like He did the disciples?
- How has Jesus restored you when you have denied Him?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

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# ASCENSION AND GIVING OF THE MISSION

ESTABLISHMENT OF CHURCH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through  
its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see Jesus' ascension to the Father as He gives the mission to His disciples

# ACTS 1:1-11

## CONTEXT

- Jesus has died and risen again
- He has shown Himself to disciples on the road and in the upper room
- He has sought after the disciples who returned to old life of fishing
- He has proved His resurrection and now is ready to give them the mission

## OUTLINE

- I. **Jesus promises them power**
  - A. Giving of the Holy Spirit
    1. Power to resist sin
    2. Power to be new - 2 Corinthians 5:17
    3. Power for our mission and purpose—Be witnesses
- II. **Jesus give them a purpose—be His witnesses**
  - A. Starts where they are
    1. Jerusalem and Judea
  - B. Becomes their new identity
    1. No longer Jews or fishermen or Galileans but Christians
    2. We are no longer Americans or Memphians first
      - a. Galatians 3:28
      - b. Colossians 3:9-11
  - C. Identity comes at a price
    1. Bought with a price - 1 Cor 6:20
    2. With instructions—Honor God with your body
      - a. We need to not give away cheaply that which God considered valuable enough to pay for with blood of His Son

**III. Living out our purpose**

- A. "Don't just stand there"
- B. Our whole lives reflect the character of God
  - 1. Our lives, relationships, and actions
  - 2. Friendships, thought life, sex life
  - 3. God created relationships to reflect Him
    - a. When we use God's gifts wrongfully or selfishly we are blaspheming against Him
    - b. We are showing the world a false picture of Holy God
- C. Witnesses require words and actions
  - 1. How are we testifying about Jesus in word and deed?

**IV. SO WHAT?!!**

- A. Why does being a witness matter for us today?
- B. How are you being a witness for Jesus at your school? In your family? Among your friends?
- C. What would people assume about God based on your life?
- D. How should you begin to witness for Jesus differently?

**FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What are ways that you are currently witnessing for Jesus?
- Why is it important how we live?
- What would those in your school say about Jesus based on your life?
- What are areas in your life where you choose your own selfish desires over what God desires?

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Why does being a witness matter for us today?
- How are you being a witness for Jesus at your school? In your family? Among your friends?
- What would people assume about God when looking at your life?
- How should you begin to witness for Jesus differently?

SUNDAY TEACHING

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you had to go on a long journey, who would you want to go with and why?

**READ MATTHEW 28:16-20**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where had the disciples gathered?
- What did they do when they saw Jesus?
- What did Jesus say to them?
- What promise does Jesus give to them?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why is it important that Jesus gives His authority to us?
- What are ways that you are "going" with your faith to others?
- What are we supposed to do with those we go to?
- What difference does it make that Jesus promises to be with you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are the people in your life that you sense God is calling you to "go" to?
- How will you "go" and "teach" them about Jesus?
- How does it encourage you that Jesus is with you to the end?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you were going away on a long journey, what instructions would you give those staying about taking care of your things?

**READ LUKE 24:36-53**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus do and say for His disciples here?
- How did they respond?
- What did Jesus invite them to do?
- What did Jesus do to help them understand?
- What did Jesus do right before He left?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- In what ways do you find yourself doubting Jesus?
- What does Jesus tell them to do and what will He send to help in verses 48-49?
- How has God opened your mind to understand His Word?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How are you studying all of the Scripture to see how it points to Jesus?
- What are ways you are living out the call to be witnesses?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)



26

# COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ESTABLISHMENT OF CHURCH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see the difference the Holy Spirit makes in lives of believers

# ACTS 2:1-41

## CONTEXT

- Jesus has died and risen again
- He has shown Himself to disciples on the road and in the upper room
- He has sought after the disciples who returned to old life of fishing
- He has proved His resurrection
- He has given His mission over to the disciples with the promise of power from the Holy Spirit

## OUTLINE

### I. The Day of Pentecost

- A. Was annual harvest feast celebration (second most important holiday)
- B. Happened 50 days after Passover
- C. Also known as from the Old Testament
  1. Feast of the Firstfruits - Exodus 23:16
  2. Feast of Weeks - Exodus 34:22, Deuteronomy 16:10
  3. Day of Firstfruits - Numbers 28:26
- D. God caused this important event in New Testament to correspond to important event from Old Testament
- E. The disciples were all together in one place commemorating the event

### II. Coming of Holy Spirit

- A. Mighty rushing wind that filled the entire house
  1. Jesus referred to Holy Spirit as wind - John 3:8
- B. Divided tongues of fire came and rested on each of them
  1. Fire was sign of God's holiness and presence in Old Testament
- C. Holy Spirit filled them all

### III. Effect of Holy Spirit

- A. Spoke in tongues as Spirit gave them
  - 1. Used by God to witness to those in Jerusalem who were there for the Feast
    - a. Each one was hearing in their own language
    - b. Wasn't a special language no one could understand but the languages of those who were in the crowd
  - 2. Was telling of mighty works of God—verse 11
- B. Some were amazed and some mocked them
  - 1. Knew that this was something unique
  - 2. **They have been drinking too much wine**

### IV. Peter's Sermon

- A. Boldness that came from the Holy Spirit
  - 1. Same guy that denied Jesus before the crowds
- B. Quoted from prophet Joel about coming of Holy Spirit
- C. Proclaimed the Gospel clearly
  - 1. Speaks of sin of the people
  - 2. Speaks of perfection of Jesus
  - 3. Point it back to Old Testament
  - 4. Talks about being eyewitnesses to resurrection
- D. Crowd was cut to the heart—verse 37
  - 1. Holy Spirit had prepared them to hear the truth
  - 2. 3,000 were added to the Church that day

### V. SO WHAT?!!

- A. Why does it matter that you have the Holy Spirit?
- B. What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit in us as believers?
- C. Do you truly believe that power like this lives in you?
- D. What difference should the Holy Spirit be making in your life?

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What are ways that you see the Holy Spirit at work in your life?
- What are specific ways you are not trusting the Holy Spirit's power in your life?
- What would a "spirit-filled" life look like for you? How would it be different than how you are living now?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Why does it matter that you have the Holy Spirit?
- What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit in us as believers?
- Do you truly believe that power like this lives in you?
- What difference should the Holy Spirit be making in your life?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you were going away on a long trip, who would you trust to take care of your most important things? Why?

**READ JOHN 14:25-31**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus say will come to be with them?
- What will the Holy Spirit do?
- What else did Jesus say He would leave them?
- Where was Jesus going?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why was it important for them to receive the Holy Spirit?
- How have you experienced Jesus' peace?
- How were they supposed to feel about Jesus leaving? How could they feel that way?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How have you seen the Holy Spirit active in your life?
- When have you felt troubled and afraid recently? Why?
- Why does Jesus say it was good for Him to leave?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is the most helpful person you know? What makes them so helpful?

**READ JOHN 16:5-15**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Jesus say to them about His going away?
- Who will come to them?
- What will he do?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do here?—verse 8
- What else will the Holy Spirit do for us?—verse 13
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How have you felt convicted by the Holy Spirit because of your sin?
- How have you experienced the Holy Spirit guiding you in all truth?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

27

# PROTECTING THE NEW CHURCH

ESTABLISHMENT OF CHURCH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through  
its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see God's desire to protect the Church and the lengths  
to which He will go to do it

# ACTS 2:42-47, 4:32-5:16

## CONTEXT

- Jesus has died and risen again
- He has given His mission over to the disciples
- He poured out His Spirit on the Day of Pentecost
- Peter preaches and 3,000 join their number and thus the Church is born

## OUTLINE

### I. The Reputation of the Church

#### A. A devoted people

1. God's Word - Apostles' Teaching
2. Fellowship—encouragement
3. Breaking of bread—sharing life together
4. Prayers—importance of praying together

#### B. Unity and Care

1. Together in everything
2. Had all things in common
  - a. There was no needy among them

#### C. Favor with the people

1. People saw their example and wanted it too
2. The Lord added to their number DAILY

### II. The Temptation for the Church

#### A. Many were being recognized for their generosity in giving sacrificially to the Church

#### B. Potential for wrong motives and hypocrisy

1. Would undermine the witness of the Church at a very early stage



### III. Ananias and Sapphira

- A. Sold property and kept back some of the proceeds
- B. Brought some of the money to lay at the disciples' feet
- C. Peter knew what had been done by power of Holy Spirit
  - 1. Called him out on his sin
  - 2. Was a lie to the Holy Spirit and God
    - a. Property and proceeds belonged to him but he wanted to appear more generous than he was
    - b. Shows his heart was not for needs but recognition
- D. Upon hearing these words, Ananias died
- E. Sapphira goes to Peter later not knowing what happened
  - 1. Peter asks her about what they did and she too lies about it
  - 2. Tells her as well that her sin was testing the Lord
  - 3. Sapphira also dies

### IV. Response of the Church and others

- A. Great fear came upon the whole Church
  - 1. Reverence for the holiness of God
  - 2. Remembers that He can't be around sin
  - 3. Importance for them to see themselves as an extension of God
    - a. Body of Christ
- B. Continued to be faithful and fruitful
  - 1. 5:14 - "More than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women."

V. SO WHAT??!

- A. Why does our sin matter to God? To the Church?
- B. How do you treat the church? Do you see yourselves like the believers at this time?
- C. How devoted are you to church? How devoted are you to the things of the early church?

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What are ways that the church showed Jesus to the world?
- What did you think about what happened to Ananias and Sapphira? Why did it happen?
- How are you being devoted to the church? To its mission? To its priorities?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Why does our sin matter to God? To the Church?
- How do you treat the church? Do you see yourselves like the believers at this time?
- How devoted are you to church? How devoted are you to the things of the early church?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is something that you have a hard time sharing? Why?

## READ ACTS 4:32-37

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it say about the church in verse 32?
- What else was happening with the early church?
- Who was Joseph and what did he do?
- What was so special about his offering?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why was what the church did so different than the world?
- How did the church show love for each other?
- What would that look like at your church?
- What would it look like if there was not a needy person in your church? Your school? Your city?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are the people that you have this kind of community with?
- Who are the people that God has placed in your life so that you will share with them what He has given to you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is someone you have a lot of respect for? Why them?

## READ ACTS 5:12-16

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened to the church right after the incident with Ananias and Sapphira?
- What did the Apostles do?
- What did the crowds think about them?
- What amazing things did the Lord do through them?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why do you think more believers than ever were added after what had just happened?
- What was happening among the people who came to the church?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are the people who would never feel welcome at your church? Why?
- What would it look like at your church if people came to know Jesus daily?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

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# CHURCH'S FIRST MARTYR

ESTABLISHMENT OF CHURCH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how persecution happened against the Church even early on and how God's people stood up under it

# ACTS 6:1-7:60

## CONTEXT

- Jesus has died and risen again and has given His mission over to the disciples
- He poured out His Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and 3,000 joined their number and thus the church is born
- Church has a reputation for devotion, unity and care for each other and finds favor in eyes of the people
- God protected His Church from hypocrisy and sin through deaths of Ananias and Sapphira
- God continues to add DAILY those who are being saved

## OUTLINE

- I. **The Church continues to grow**
  - A. So many continued to join the church that there were too many for the 12 to keep up with
  - B. Needed to continue to care for the needy among them, especially those who were not Hebrews
  - C. Chose Godly men among them (seven of them) to carry out the duty so the 12 could continue to be devoted to prayer and the ministry of the Word—was beginning of office of deacons
  - D. One of those chosen was Stephen
    1. Man full of faith and the Holy Spirit
  - E. Even a great many of the priests began to follow Jesus
- II. **Stephen's Arrest**
  - A. The religious leaders had begun to arrest and punish the disciples in hopes of stopping the spread of Christianity
    1. When we are truly following Jesus, persecution will ALWAYS follow
  - B. Stephen was doing miraculous things and had great wisdom FROM THE SPIRIT
  - C. Religious leaders stirred up the people with lies against Stephen
    1. Even had false witnesses against Him
  - D. Those present saw that Stephen's face was like that of an angel
    1. Not how we would expect him to be while under arrest and facing false charges

### III. Stephen's Speech

- A. Would be easy place to be silent or at least very careful with your words
- B. Stephen full of Holy Spirit and with great boldness taught them
  - 1. Recounted the history of Israel
    - a. Abraham—Promise of people and place
    - b. Joseph—Protection of God's people in Egypt
    - c. Moses—Delivering God's people and dealing with false worship
    - d. Joshua—Claiming the Promised Land
    - e. David—Promise of the Temple
    - f. Solomon—Building of the Temple
  - 2. Then turned Israel's history of rejection towards God to those present
    - a. "You stiff-necked people"
    - b. "Uncircumcised in heart and ear"
    - c. "You always resist the Holy Spirit"
    - d. "As your Fathers did, so do you"
    - e. "You have persecuted and killed prophets"
    - f. "You have received the Law but not kept it"

### IV. Reaction of the Religious Leaders

- A. Enraged and ground their teeth at him
- B. Stopped their ears and rushed at him
  - 1. Because he saw Jesus in heaven and was telling them
- C. Took him out of the city and stoned him

### V. Reaction of Stephen

- A. Prayed
  - 1. To the Lord—receive my spirit
  - 2. For those stoning him—Do not hold this sin against them

**VI. SO WHAT??!**

- A. How are you serving God's people?
- B. How are you being persecuted for your relationship with Jesus?
- C. How are you being bold in telling others about your faith?
- D. How do you treat those who persecute you?
- E. Who should you be praying for that you just aren't?

**FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What are ways that you should be more like Stephen? Why is that hard?
- Do you ever feel persecuted because you follow Jesus? How?
- How do you handle it when you feel persecuted?
- Who is someone you should be praying for but just don't want to?

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- How are you serving God's people?
- How are you being persecuted for your relationship with Jesus?
- How are you being bold in telling others about your faith?
- How do you treat those who persecute you?
- Who should you be praying for that you just aren't?



# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What was the last thing that you really complained about? What happened and did it get better?

## READ ACTS 6:1-7

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What was the complaint that arose?
- Who did they tell it to?
- How did the Apostles (the 12) respond?
- What did they tell the people to do?
- Who did they choose?
- What did it say about Stephen?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why do you think the Greek widows were being left out?
- How did this plan help them?
- How was Stephen described? Does that description fit you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- If someone were to describe you to others like this description of Stephen what would they say? Why?
- What was the end result of all of this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- As you read the Bible passage, have the family act out what was being done by giving each person a part or two.

**READ ACTS 7:54-60**

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- How did the people respond to Stephen's speech?
- What did Stephen do and see?
- How did the crowds respond to that?
- What did they ultimately do and who was there with them?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why do you think God gave Stephen such a gift as he was getting ready to die?
- What did Stephen say as they were stoning him? What does that remind you of? How could he do that?
- How do you feel knowing Jesus promises to never leave you?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does Stephen show us how to be bold?
- How does Stephen show us how to be forgiving?
- How does Stephen show us how to trust God?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

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# THE CHURCH SCATTERED

MISSION OF THE CHURCH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God used persecution in order to fulfill the Great Commission

# ACTS 8:1-40

## CONTEXT

- Jesus has died and risen again and has given His mission over to the disciples
- With power of the Holy Spirit they have established a growing and vibrant fellowship of believers that are taking the Gospel out
- God continues to add DAILY those who are being saved
- Persecution begins to come to the Church from the religious leaders
- One of the church leaders is killed for his faith in Jesus

## OUTLINE

- I. **The Reaction to Stephen's Death**
  - A. A great persecution rose against the Church, led by Saul
  - B. The church was being ravaged by Saul
  - C. Believers were being dragged out of their homes and put in prison
  - D. The believers were scattered out of Jerusalem
- II. **Why would God allow this to happen? How does this help the Mission?**
  - A. The Church had gotten too comfortable in Jerusalem
  - B. Enjoying great fellowship and encouragement but not staying true to the commands of Jesus
    1. Acts 1:8- "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth."
  - C. They had yet to spread the Gospel outside of Jerusalem
  - D. Now where were they going?
    1. 8:1 - "they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria"

**III. What was the result of this scattering?**

- A. Gospel goes to Samaria
  - 1. Samaritans were enemies of the Jews
    - a. Half-breeds, idolaters, etc.
  - 2. Preached the Gospel in the city with miracles
  - 3. There was much joy in that city
  - 4. Holy Spirit even went out to the Samaritans
- B. Gospel goes to Ethiopia
  - 1. Philip and Eunuch
    - a. Philip went at direction of angel of the Lord
    - b. Finds court official of the Ethiopian Queen who had come to Jerusalem to worship
    - c. Found him reading Isaiah about Jesus and explained it to him
    - d. The man believed and was baptized
    - e. Eunuch went on his way home rejoicing
      - i. Would share the Gospel in Ethiopia
- C. Gospel goes to surrounding towns and Caesarea

**IV. SO WHAT??!!**

- A. Are you being obedient to God's call to share the Gospel where you are?
- B. What are things that have happened that could be open doors for you to share the Gospel?
- C. Who are people you just wouldn't want to take the Gospel to?
- D. Do you listen and respond to the leadings of the Lord?
- E. Are you trusting the work of the Holy Spirit in your life when it comes to your witness?

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- Are you being obedient to God's call to share the Gospel wherever you go? Why or why not?
- Do you listen and obey the leading of the Lord in your life?
- Who are people you would not share the Gospel with? Why?
- Are you trusting the work of the Holy Spirit in your life when it comes to your witness?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Are you being obedient to God's call to share the Gospel where you are?
- What are things that have happened that could be open doors for you to share the Gospel?
- Who are people you just wouldn't want to take the Gospel to?
- Do you listen and respond to the leadings of the Lord?
- Are you trusting the work of the Holy Spirit in your life when it comes to your witness?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could ask God one question, what would it be and why?

## READ ACTS 1:6-9

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What question did they ask Jesus?
- How did He respond?
- What did He promise them?
- What were they then called to be? Where?
- What happened after Jesus finished telling them this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What is a way that you still may not fully understand all that Jesus is doing?
- Where are the places Jesus is calling you to be His witness?
- Are you actually being a witness in those places?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does it feel to know there are still so many things about Jesus that we don't fully grasp?
- What are ways that you are being a witness at your school?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could do magic what would you do?

## READ ISAIAH 63:7-14

## QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who was Simon and what were we told about him?
- What did the people say about him?
- What happened to the crowd and Simon when they heard Philip preach?
- What did Simon think about the miracles Philip could do?
- Who came down and laid hands on and prayed for the people?
- How did Simon respond to this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

## QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you are tempted to draw all the attention to you instead of Jesus?
- How did Peter respond to Simon? Does it seem harsh?
- What was Simon's response?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

## QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you try to "make deals" with God to get what you want?
- Why would Peter be so direct with Simon?
- How are you like Simon?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)



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# CONVERSION OF SAUL

MISSION OF THE CHURCH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God uses even the most unlikely people for His glory

# ACTS 9:1-22

## CONTEXT

- With power of the Holy Spirit they have established a growing and vibrant fellowship of believers that are taking the Gospel out
- God continues to add DAILY those who are being saved
- Persecution begins to come to the Church from the religious leaders
- One of the church leaders is killed for his faith in Jesus
- Even as Church is scattered it is growing in its number and scope

## OUTLINE

### I. Saul

#### A. Was religious leader

1. Very important person
2. Had all the qualifications
  - a. Philippians 3:3-7

#### B. Was persecuting the Church

1. Was giving approval to Stephen's death
2. Continued to threaten and murder Christians
3. Got letters from High Priest to arrest anyone suspected of being in the Way

### II. God comes to Saul

#### A. Saul was on his way to Damascus to arrest Christians

1. Still persecuting and confident he was doing right
2. No repentance in him, no reason for God to call him

#### B. God shows up on the road

1. A light from heaven flashed around him
2. A voice called out to him
  - a. "Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?"
    - i. Jesus calling him personally
    - ii. Saul calls him Lord

- b. I am Jesus whom you are persecuting
  - c. Now go into the city and you will be told what you are to do
  - d. Men stood speechless because they heard voice but saw nothing
3. Saul was blinded by experience for three days
- C. Saul still ends up in Damascus but everything has changed
- 1. He is blind and refuses to eat or drink as he awaits another word from the Lord
  - 2. Instead of walking in confidence with power he must be led in by the hand in humility

### III. God uses Ananias

- A. Calls out to him and he responds, "Here I am Lord"
- B. Gives him specific instructions
- 1. Go to Straight Street to house of Judas
  - 2. Look for man named Saul of Tarsus for he is praying
  - 3. You will lay your hands on him so he will regain his sight
- C. Ananias' Response
- 1. Very honest
  - 2. I have heard about this man and the evil he has done among the saints
  - 3. He has authority to arrest all who call on your Name
  - 4. Doesn't say no but has concerns
  - 5. God isn't frustrated by his questions
- D. God tells Ananias what will happen
- 1. Go for he is my chosen instrument
  - 2. He will carry my name to the Gentiles
    - a. Ironic since he was so devout in protecting the Jewish religious way of life
  - 3. I will show him how much he will suffer for my name
- E. Result of Ananias' Obedience
- 1. Ananias goes and does what the Lord commanded
  - 2. Lays hands on him and prays for him
    - a. You may regain your sight and be filled with Holy Spirit
  - 3. Saul's eyes were opened and he was baptized

**IV. Change in Saul**

- A. Immediately proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues
  - 1. Said He was the Son of God
  - 2. Amazed all who heard him because they knew his reputation
    - a. The man who wreaked havoc for those who called on His name
    - b. Didn't he come to arrest them
- B. Increased in strength and influence
  - 1. Confounded the Jews
  - 2. Proved that Jesus was the Messiah

**V. SO WHAT??!!**

- A. Have you had a change in your life like Saul did?
- B. Have you been obedient even if you didn't want to like Ananias?
- C. What is God calling you to do that you don't want to?
- D. How are you seen by others in how you speak and live?

**FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What is interesting about the way that the Lord came to Saul and changed him?
- What was Saul's immediate response?
- How do you respond to God's grace in your life?
- What is something that God is calling you to that you are unsure about? How should you respond?

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Have you had a change in your life like Saul did?
- Have you been obedient even if you didn't want to like Ananias?
- What is God calling you to do that you don't want to?
- How are you seen by others in how you speak and live?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time someone surprised you by doing something you didn't expect?

## READ ACTS 8:1-3

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does it say about Saul here?
- What was he doing to the Church?
- What happened because of this persecution?
- Where were God's people scattered?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why do you think Saul was doing this to the people of the Church?
- How did God use this to get the Church to fulfill its purpose?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are people today who are doing these kinds of things against God's people?
- Where are the places you need to be going with the Gospel?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who are the people you would want on your side if people were out to get you?

## READ ACTS 9:23-31

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the Jews plan to do about Saul?
- How were they trying to do this?
- How did Saul escape?
- What happened when Saul tried to join the disciples?
- What did Saul do in Jerusalem?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why do you think the Jews wanted to kill Saul?
- Why wouldn't the disciples want Saul to join them?
- Who spoke up on Saul's behalf?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who is someone you need to bring with you to the church?
- What would it look like for you to preach boldly the name of Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

31

# HOLY SPIRIT GOES TO THE GENTILES

MISSION OF THE CHURCH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through  
its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God is at work not just among the Jews  
but also among the Gentiles as well

# ACTS 10:1-11:18

## CONTEXT

- With power of the Holy Spirit they have established a growing and vibrant fellowship of believers that are taking the Gospel out
- God continues to add DAILY those who are being saved
- Persecution begins to come to the Church from the religious leaders
- One of the church leaders is killed for his faith in Jesus
- Even as Church is scattered it is growing in its number and scope
- Saul has been converted from persecuting Christians to following Jesus
- Not all in Church believe that Gospel is for Gentiles

## OUTLINE

### I. Peter and Cornelius

#### A. Cornelius

1. A devout man who feared God with all his household
2. Gave alms generously to the poor and prayed continually
3. God spoke to Cornelius
  - a. I have heard your prayers
  - b. There is a man named Simon Peter who you need to talk to

#### B. Peter

1. On a journey to Joppa and he stops and goes on roof to pray
2. Saw a vision from the Lord
  - a. Saw heaven opened up and there was collection of animals—both clean and unclean—Leviticus 11:2-47
  - b. Told to kill and eat
  - c. Peter refused because they were unclean
  - d. God spoke to him: What God made clean, don't call common (or unclean)



3. God used the vision to prepare Peter for ministry tomorrow
  - a. Jews saw Gentiles as unclean
  - b. Would be visited by Cornelius' people who would be considered unclean
  - c. Would be invited to see Cornelius at his house which would be considered unclean
4. Peter meets with Cornelius' men and then goes to see him
  - a. Peter hears Cornelius' vision and realizes that God is at work
    - i. He shows no partiality
    - ii. Accepts those from any nation who fear Him
  - b. Peter shares the Gospel with those present
  - c. The Holy Spirit comes upon the Gentiles as well
    - i. This was first time we see this happen
    - ii. They began to speak in tongues
    - iii. The Jewish Christians with Peter were amazed
    - iv. Peter commands they be baptized
5. Peter reports back to the Church what God did
  - a. Still much doubt about Gospel going to Gentiles
  - b. Some accused him of sin by going to stay with them
  - c. Tells them how Holy Spirit fell on Gentiles
  - d. Answers their criticism
    - i. "If then God gave the same gift to them as He gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"
  - e. The church then glorified God
  - f. The church also began to more boldly proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles

## II. SO WHAT??!

- A. Who are the people that you would not take the Gospel to?
- B. Where are places that you think the Gospel can't penetrate?
- C. How is God calling you to step out of your comfort zone with the Gospel?

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What is interesting about the way the Lord spoke to Peter?
- How did this message impact his ministry?
- Who are people that you think you can't share the Gospel with? Why?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Who are the people that you would not take the Gospel to?
- Where are places that you think the Gospel can't penetrate?
- How is God calling you to step out of your comfort zone with the Gospel?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who were your favorite people to hang out with when you were little? Why?

## READ ACTS 15:1-17

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What was the discussion among the church?
- What did Peter say to the people there?
- What did he say about the Gentiles and the Holy Spirit?
- Who else spoke up for the Gentiles to be included?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why did they think that people needed to be circumcised to be saved?
- How did Peter argue that the Gospel was to go to the Gentiles?
- How did Peter say they were putting God to the test?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are those not like you who you need to include in the Gospel?
- Why is it important for all peoples to be included in God's plan?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is your favorite thing about church?

## READ ACTS 15:22-35

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who did they choose to send a letter to Gentile believers?
- What did the letter say to them?
- How did the people respond to the letter?
- What did Paul and Barnabas do after the letter was sent?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why was it important to send this letter out to the Gentiles?
- What are ways that the church actually makes it harder on people to believe in Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are the people not like you that need to hear more about Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

32

# PERSECUTION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MISSION OF THE CHURCH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through  
its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see God's power even in the midst of persecution of the church

# ACTS 11:19-12:25

## CONTEXT

- With power of the Holy Spirit they have established a growing and vibrant fellowship of believers that are taking the Gospel out
- Saul has been converted from persecuting Christians to following Jesus
- Not all in church believe that Gospel is for Gentiles
- Holy Spirit goes out to Gentiles which makes major change in who the church is reaching

## OUTLINE

- I. **The church is flourishing**
  - A. Going out to new places—Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch
  - B. To Jews and Greeks—Hellenists
  - C. Many were believing in and turning to Jesus
  - D. Church in Jerusalem sends out people to help them
    1. Barnabas and Saul
    2. Stayed there for a year
    3. Taught and disciplined them
  - E. Gets a new name—Christians
    1. Little Christs
- II. **The Jews are upset and looking for a way to stop them**
  - A. Herod—Herod Agrippa I
    1. Grandson of Herod the Great
    2. Ruled over Jerusalem, Judea, and Galilee
    3. Was friends with Roman emperors
  - B. Herod wants to keep the Jews happy under his rule
    1. Puts James to death - John's brother
      - a. The first disciple to die
      - b. One of the inner circle of three of Jesus—Peter, James and John

2. Arrests Peter, intending to kill him as well
  - a. Puts four squads of soldiers as guards (16 total)

### III. The Lord shows His Power

- A. Earnest prayer was made on behalf of Peter in prison
- B. God sends an angel to rescue Peter
  1. While still chained to guards at night
  2. Allowed him to even get dressed before he left—took time
  3. Peter was unsure if it was real or a dream at first
  4. Peter realizes when angel leaves what the Lord had done
- C. Peter goes to church as answer to their prayers
  1. The people were praying but not expecting God to answer
  2. Didn't believe that Peter was actually there
    - a. Believed him to be dead—"it is his angel"
  3. They finally opened the door and were amazed by what God had done
  4. The news of Peter's rescue spreads to all the church
  5. Herod calls for a search for Peter and when he isn't found the guards are put to death
- D. God deals with Herod
  1. Herod accepts praise that is deserved for God—worship
  2. Does so from people who needed his help
  3. Was struck down for not giving God glory
    - a. Got what he deserved
    - b. Punishment fit the crime
  4. Makes it safe for the church to keep spreading the Gospel
- E. Word of God continued to increase and multiply

**IV. SO WHAT??!**

- A. Who are the people that you would not take the Gospel to?
- B. What are the things that make you afraid to share your faith? Why?
- C. What are ways you have been persecuted for following Jesus? How did you respond?
- D. Do you trust that God is in control and has your best in mind?
- E. Do you truly believe when you pray?

**FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What is interesting about the way the Lord took care of the church?
- How did God show His power to the church?
- How did all of the persecution affect the Gospel going out?
- What keeps you most from sharing the Gospel with others?

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Who are the people that you would not take the Gospel to?
- What are the things that make you afraid to share your faith? Why?
- What are ways you have been persecuted for following Jesus? How did you respond?
- Do you trust that God is in control and has your best in mind?
- Do you truly believe when you pray?



# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- When is a time that you were told not to do something that you knew was right? How did you respond?

## READ ACTS 4:1-22

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened to Peter and John as they were speaking? Why?
- What happened the next day and what did they ask Peter and John?
- How did Peter respond to them?
- How did the religious leaders respond?
- What did the religious leaders decide to do to stop Peter and John?
- How did Peter and John respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How were Peter and John able to be so bold?
- How would you respond if the authorities told you to no longer talk about Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How would others see you and recognize that you had been with Jesus?
- What difference would it make to you if you could no longer talk about Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is the worst punishment you have ever received?

## READ ACTS 5:17-42

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What happened to the apostles here?
- How did God protect and free them?
- How did the high priest respond when he found out they were free?
- What happened next?
- How did Peter respond?
- What did the religious leaders want to do next?
- What was their punishment?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Where are the places where you are obeying God rather than men?
- What did Gamaliel say to the religious leaders?
- What would you be willing to suffer for the sake of Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How did the apostles respond to what happened to them?
- How would you respond to something like this?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

**33**

**MISSIONARY JOURNEYS  
PART I**

**MISSION OF THE CHURCH**

**PURPOSE**

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through  
its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

**WEEKLY FOCUS**

To see how God used Paul to spread the Gospel further

# ACTS 13:1-3, 13-52

## CONTEXT

- With power of the Holy Spirit they have established a growing and vibrant fellowship of believers that are taking the Gospel out
- Saul has been converted from persecuting Christians to following Jesus
- Not all in church believe that Gospel is for Gentiles
- Holy Spirit goes out to Gentiles which makes major change in who the church is reaching
- Church is being persecuted by religious leaders which encourages them to take Gospel to new places

## OUTLINE

### I. God calls Paul and Barnabas

- A. The Holy Spirit said
- B. Set apart for me Paul and Barnabas
- C. Goes back to God's original call for Paul
  - 1. 12:15 - He is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and children of Israel
- D. Church prays and sends them off

### II. Overview of the Journeys

- A. First Missionary Journey
  - 1. Dates- 46-48AD
  - 2. Distance - 1400 miles—Memphis to Las Vegas
  - 3. Places - Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe
  - 4. Countries involved - Cyprus and Asia Minor
- B. Second Missionary Journey
  - 1. Dates - 49-52AD
  - 2. Distance - 2800 miles—NYC to Los Angeles
  - 3. Places - Derbe, Lystra, Phrygia, Galatia, Troas, Neapolis, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus
  - 4. Countries involved - Macedonia, Greece, Syria, Turkey

- C. Third Missionary Journey
  - 1. Dates - 53-57AD
  - 2. Distance - 2700 miles
  - 3. Places - Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Troas, Tyre, Caesarea, Jerusalem
  - 4. Countries involved - Turkey, Greece, Lebanon, Samaria, Judea, Galilee
- D. Fourth Missionary Journey—Journey to Rome
  - 1. Dates - 59-60AD
  - 2. Distance - 2250 miles
  - 3. Countries involved - Turkey, Crete, Malta, Sicily, Italy
- E. TOTAL OF THEM ALL
  - 1. 14 countries or territories
  - 2. Approx. 10,000 miles
  - 3. Memphis to Sydney, Australia—9,000 miles

### III. Purpose of these trips

- A. Spread the Gospel
  - 1. Jews and Gentiles
- B. Encourage the churches

### IV. Paul and Barnabas at Antioch

- A. When they arrived went to the Synagogue—obvious place
- B. Were asked by religious leaders to share
- C. Paul shares Gospel using history of Israel
  - 1. Exodus, Wilderness, Kings, David
- D. Paul shares Gospel using Psalms and prophets
  - 1. Psalm 2:7, Is. 55:3, Ps. 16:10, Hab. 1:5

- E. Response of the people
1. Begged that they would come back next Sabbath and teach the same things
  2. The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear
    - a. Jews and Gentiles
    - b. Jews opposed Paul
    - c. Paul calls out Jews and invites Gentiles
    - d. Gentiles rejoiced and glorified God
    - e. Word of the Lord spread throughout the whole region

V. SO WHAT??!

- A. Where is God calling you to be a missionary?
- B. What doubts, questions, and fears are preventing you from sharing your faith?
- C. Who in your school are you praying for the opportunity to share with?

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What is interesting about the way the Lord used Paul and Barnabas to spread the Gospel?
- What do you find most amazing about Paul's journeys?
- Where is God calling you to go and share?
- Are you trusting His Spirit to speak through you in those places? Why or why not?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Where is God calling you to be a missionary?
- What doubts, questions, and fears are preventing you from sharing your faith?
- Who in your school are you praying for the opportunity to share with?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who is your best friend? Why are they your best friend?

## READ ACTS 14:8-23

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where were Paul and Barnabas?
- Who did they find there?
- What did they do for him?
- What did the people think about them? How did Paul and Barnabas respond to that?
- What happened when the Jews came?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How have you treated others in a way that only God should be treated?
- Why were the people trying to offer sacrifices to them?
- How did Paul and Barnabas respond to the persecution?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways you have felt persecuted for following Jesus?
- What effect did it have on you continuing to follow Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Where is the darkest place you have ever been? What was it like to not be able to see very well?

## READ ACTS 13:4-12

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where did Saul and Barnabas go?
- What did they do when they got there?
- Who did they encounter and what was he trying to do?
- How did Saul respond?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How did God use Saul for the proconsul to believe?
- How did this also affect Elymas?
- Who in your life might seek to know the word of the Lord?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who do you know who is actively trying to keep people from believing in Jesus?
- How did you respond to those people?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)



34

# MISSIONARY JOURNEYS PART II

MISSION OF THE CHURCH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through  
its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God used Paul to spread the Gospel further

# ACTS 16:11-34

## CONTEXT

- With power of the Holy Spirit they have established a growing and vibrant fellowship of believers that are taking the Gospel out
- Saul has been converted from persecuting Christians to following Jesus
- Not all in church believe that Gospel is for Gentiles
- Holy Spirit goes out to Gentiles which makes major change in who the church is reaching
- Church is being persecuted by religious leaders which encourages them to take Gospel to new places
- Church sends out Paul to spread the Gospel to new places
- This is Paul's second time going out on these trips; this time he takes Silas with him

## OUTLINE

- I. **Paul and Silas were preaching the Gospel and people were responding**
  - A. Went to a place in the city where people supposedly met to pray
    1. Went where people might be willing to respond
    2. Praying people that didn't know Jesus
  - B. Woman named Lydia heard and believed
- II. **They encountered a slave girl who had a spirit**
  - A. Had a spirit of divination—could tell people things they didn't know
  - B. Made her owners a lot of money
    1. People would pay them for her to tell them what they wanted to know
  - C. Followed Paul and Silas and told others who they were
    1. These men and servants of the Most High God
    2. They proclaim the way of salvation
    3. Was a great way to get other people's attention
    4. She did this for many days which annoyed Paul
  - D. Paul cast the spirit out of her
    1. In the name of Jesus, come out
    2. She was immediately freed
    3. Made her owners very angry because they would lose much money

**III. Paul and Silas beaten**

- A. The owners grabbed Paul and Silas and took them into the market
- B. Accused Paul and Silas of disturbing the city
  - 1. Said they were telling the people to do things they shouldn't as Romans
- C. The crowds hear this and are angry
  - 1. The crowd begins to beat Paul and Silas and then throw them into prison
    - a. Beat them with MANY blows

**IV. Paul and Silas in prison**

- A. They were put in the deepest part of the prison—inner prison
  - 1. They were put in the stocks
    - a. Their hands and feet were shackled where they couldn't move
- B. Their response to all of this
  - 1. Praying and singing hymns to God
    - a. A very unlikely response to being beaten and wrongly imprisoned
    - b. They were showing their thankfulness that the Lord was with them and protecting them
      - i. Showed their faith in God and His plan for them
    - c. They were being a witness to the others there
      - i. Guards and fellow prisoners
      - ii. Often our greatest witness is in the midst of struggle
- C. God frees them
  - 1. Causes an earthquake that shook the prison to the foundations
    - a. All the prisoners chains' were opened so they could leave easily
  - 2. The prisoners do not leave but instead stay in their cells
    - a. The jailer was responsible for the prisoners so if they escaped he could be put to death
    - b. Paul lets the jailer know they haven't left
  - 3. Response of the jailer
    - a. What must I do to be saved?
      - i. Knew something different and important had happened
      - ii. Knew to go to Paul and Silas
    - b. Paul and Silas tell him about Jesus
      - i. He and his whole family
      - ii. They all believe and are baptized
      - iii. They took care of Paul's and Silas' wounds and had them over as honored guests

V. SO WHAT??!!

- A. Where is God calling you to be a missionary?
- B. What doubts, questions, and fears are preventing you from sharing your faith?
- C. Who in your school are you praying for the opportunity to share with?

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How did God use Paul and Silas?
- What are ways that He could use you?
- What are ways that you have seen God be faithful to you this year?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What is something about you or in your life that you are sure that God can't use? Why?
- How do you typically react when things don't go your way? Why?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

## READ ACTS 16:6-15

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where did Paul and Silas try to go?
- What led them to Macedonia?
- Where did they go in Philippi? Why did they go there?
- Who did they encounter once they got there?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How does the Lord lead and direct you to where He wants you to go?
- What happened once Lydia heard and believed?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Where are the places God has been calling you lately?
- Who in your family does not know Jesus? Have you ever shared Jesus with them?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Which city is your favorite that you have ever visited? Why?

## READ ACTS 17:16-33

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Where do we find Paul here?
- Why was his spirit provoked?
- Where did Jesus go to teach and who heard him there?
- What did Jesus say about people of Athens?
- How did he tell them about Jesus?
- What was the response of the people?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are the idols out in the world today? Things people worship instead of God?
- Why do you think they had an altar to an "unknown god"?
- What did Paul teach them about the one and true God?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are the idols you find yourself most often running to?
- What are the "new" teachings that the world wants to hear?
- What are ways to use the culture around us to show the truth of the Gospel?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

**35**

# **PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT**

**ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CHURCH**

## **PURPOSE**

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth  
through its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## **WEEKLY FOCUS**

To see how God used Paul even in prison to spread the Gospel further

# ACTS 21:27-36; 22:30-23:11; 25:1-12; 28:1-10, 17-22, 30-31

## CONTEXT

- With power of the Holy Spirit they have established a growing and vibrant fellowship of believers that are taking the Gospel out
- Saul has been converted from persecuting Christians to following Jesus
- Not all in church believe that Gospel is for Gentiles
- Holy Spirit goes out to Gentiles which makes major change in who the church is reaching
- Paul is called by God to go out to many nations to spread the Gospel and establish the church
- Paul encounters much opposition and persecution but remains faithful

## OUTLINE

- I. **Paul's Arrest- Acts 21:27-36**
  - A. Paul is in temple in Jerusalem teaching
  - B. Jews from Asia spoke against him and roused crowd against him
  - C. Accused him of even defiling temple by bringing Greeks in
  - D. People took him to kill him but soldiers arrested him instead
- II. **Paul before the Jewish religious leaders- Acts 22:30-23:11**
  - A. Paul speaks to the men and high priest orders those around to strike him in mouth
  - B. Paul speaks out against them God's judgment
    1. God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall
    2. They looked clean on outside but were not
  - C. Paul tells them that he is a Pharisee which begins dissension
    1. Group was made up of Pharisees and Sadducees
    2. Paul is removed by soldiers for fear he would be killed
  - D. God speaks to Paul
    1. As you have testified about me in Jerusalem so you must also in Rome



**III. Paul appeals to Caesar**

- A. Paul meets with Governor Felix who keeps him in prison for two years
- B. A new governor arrives and Jews appeal to him to kill Paul
- C. Governor gives him opportunity to return to Jerusalem
  - 1. Jews wanted to kill him on the way
  - 2. God's protection by telling him to go to Rome
- D. Paul appeals to be seen by Caesar—which was his right as Roman citizen
- E. Later on, he goes before King Agrippa and after hearing Paul's case says, "This man is doing nothing wrong to deserve death or imprisonment...This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

**IV. Paul on way to Rome**

- A. A great storm arose at sea—caught in it for 14 days
- B. Eventually the ship wrecks at island of Malta
- C. Soldiers wanted to kill prisoners to prevent them from escaping but Centurion stopped them in order to protect Paul
- D. They were welcomed by natives and kindled a fire which made a viper come out and bite Paul and hang on his hand
- E. All waited for Paul to swell up and die but he did not
- F. Paul even healed the father of the chief and many others who were brought to him
- G. The people gave them all that was needed to sail to Rome

**V. Paul in Rome**

- A. Paul gathers Jewish leaders there and meets with them
- B. They say they have heard nothing bad about him but want to hear his views because they have heard much about the church
- C. Paul lived there for two years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him
  - 1. Proclaiming the KINGDOM OF GOD and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ
  - 2. With all boldness and without hindrance

**VI. SO WHAT??!!**

- A. Where is God calling you to be a missionary?
- B. What events in your life make you think God isn't really in control of your life?
- C. What things in your life have become excuses to keep you from sharing Christ with others?
- D. How was God faithful to Paul the whole way? How has He been faithful to you?

**FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- Where is God calling you to go and share?
- What events in your life make you think God isn't really in control of your life?
- What things in your life have become excuses to keep you from sharing Christ with others?
- What about Paul's life sticks out to you? How would you like to be more like him?
- How was God faithful to Paul the whole way? How has He been faithful to you?

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- Where is God calling you to be a missionary?
- What events in your life make you think God isn't really in control of your life?
- What things in your life have become excuses to keep you from sharing Christ with others?
- How was God faithful to Paul the whole way? How has He been faithful to you?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## **OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY**

- When is a time that something bad happened but later you saw that it was for your good?

## **READ PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18**

### **QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD**

- What does Paul say what happened to him is for?
- Who was hearing about the Gospel?
- Why were some people speaking about Jesus?
- What does Paul do in everything?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### **QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How did Paul being in prison encourage other people to share their faith?
- What are the things that you rejoice most in?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### **QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Why did Paul say he was put in prison?
- In what ways are you are defending the Gospel?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What story about yourself or someone in your family is your favorite to tell? Why?

## READ ACTS 24:1-27

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who is on trial and who is it in front of?
- What did Tertullus say about Paul?—verses 5-8
- What did Paul say in response?
- How did Felix respond?
- How long was Paul in prison?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How did Paul use his trial to share Jesus with them?
- Why did Felix keep Paul in prison?
- What is your testimony about what God has done in your life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you have had the opportunity to be bold like this?
- If you had to defend your faith in court, what would you say?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

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# PAUL'S LETTERS

ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CHURCH

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through  
its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see how God used Paul and his writings to encourage  
the church and God's people

# PAUL'S LETTERS

## CONTEXT

- Saul has been converted from persecuting Christians to following Jesus
- Paul is called by God to go out to many nations to spread the Gospel and establish the church
- Paul encounters much opposition and persecution but remains faithful
- Paul ultimately is arrested and beaten for the sake of the Gospel and finds himself in prison for many years

## OUTLINE

### I. Paul's attitude about hardships

- A. Was wrongfully imprisoned simply for sharing the Gospel
- B. Used that time to write and encourage the churches
- C. Saw it as way to identify more closely with Jesus
- D. God used his time in the prisons to encourage the Christians of his time as well as us
- E. Some of the most studied and excellent theological writings ever

### II. Paul's Letters

- A. Make up 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament and 34% of total New Testament content
- B. Written between 48-64 AD
- C. Were written to be read aloud at the churches as an encouragement and as warnings to them
- D. Written to the churches in cities around the world
  1. Romans—Church of Rome—Italy
  2. 1 and 2 Corinthians—Church of Corinth—Achaia (Greece)
  3. Galatians—Church of Galatia—Galatia
  4. Ephesians—Church of Ephesus—Asia
  5. Philippians—Church of Philippi—Macedonia
  6. Colossians—Church of Colosse—Pisidia
  7. 1 and 2 Thessalonians—Church of Thessalonica—Macedonia
- E. Written to young leaders in the church
  1. 1 and 2 Timothy—Timothy, leader in church of Ephesus
  2. Titus—Titus, Paul's fellow worker he left in Crete
  3. Philemon—Wealthy, slave holding Christian in Colosse
  4. Helping them to put their Christian faith into action in their own lives and the church as a whole

- F. Themes of Epistles as a whole
  - 1. Jesus is fulfillment of God's promises in redemptive history
    - a. Messiah, Lord, Son of God
  - 2. New life of believers is gift of God through the cross empowered by Holy Spirit
  - 3. Christians experience salvation by faith and faith expresses itself in transformed life
    - a. What should this new life look like
  - 4. Believers belong to restored Israel, which is church of Jesus Christ and must live out their calling as God's people in a sinful world
  - 5. In this present evil age believers suffer affliction and persecution but await the joy of Jesus' return
  - 6. False teachers are very dangerous to the Christian faith so need to be recognized and rooted out
- G. Emphases of individual books
  - 1. Emphasis on Lord Jesus Christ
    - a. Romans - Christ is **Power** of God to us
    - b. 1 Corinthians - Christ is **Wisdom** of God to us
    - c. 2 Corinthians - Christ is **Comfort** of God to us
    - d. Galatians - Christ is **Righteousness** of God to us
    - e. Ephesians - Christ is **Riches** of God to us
    - f. Philippians - Christ is **Sufficiency** of God to us
    - g. Colossians - Christ is **Fullness** of God to us
    - h. 1 Thessalonians - Christ is **Promise** of God to us
    - i. 2 Thessalonians - Christ is **Reward** of God to us
  - 2. Emphasis on the Gospel Message
    - a. Romans - The Gospel and its **Message**
    - b. 1 Corinthians - The Gospel and its **Ministry**
    - c. 2 Corinthians - The Gospel and its **Ministers**
    - d. Galatians - The Gospel and its **Mutilators**
    - e. Ephesians - The Gospel and its **Heavenlies**
    - f. Philippians - The Gospel and its **Earthlies**
    - g. Colossians - The Gospel and its **Philosophies**
    - h. 1 Thessalonians - The Gospel and the **Church's Future**
    - i. 2 Thessalonians - The Gospel and the **Antichrist**

3. Emphasis of the Gospel on the Believer's Union with Christ

- a. Romans- Justification
- b. 1 Corinthians- Sanctification
- c. 2 Corinthians- Consolation
- d. Galatians- Liberation
- e. Ephesians- Exaltation
- f. Philippians- Exultation
- g. Colossians- Completion
- h. 1 Thessalonians- Translation
- i. 2 Thessalonians- Compensation

III. SO WHAT??!

- A. How should we handle hardship?
- B. How can we look differently at hard things in our lives as a vehicle for the Gospel?
- C. Why are these letters important for all Christians to read?
- D. What are some of the false teachings of the world today that we need to be able to combat with truth?

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How did Paul handle his wrongful imprisonment?
- How did God use it to spread the Gospel?
- What are ways we too can spread the Gospel through hard things in our lives?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- How should we handle hardship?
- How can we look differently at hard things in our lives as a vehicle for the Gospel?
- Why are these letters important for all Christians to read?
- What are some of the false teachings of the world today that we need to be able to combat with truth?



# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Everyone should write a note or letter to someone who has influenced them and mail.

## READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-14

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- Who are we told wrote this letter and who was it to?
- What does Paul say to Timothy in verses 4-5?
- What does Paul say about the Spirit Timothy had been given?
- What does he tell him to do in verse 8? Why?
- What does Paul tell Timothy to do in verse 13?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you live in fear but shouldn't?
- How are you living a life of power? Love? Self-control?
- What are ways you have been ashamed of your testimony about the Lord?
- Who are the people in your life that you follow as they follow Jesus?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who are the people besides yourself and your family that you pray for consistently?
- Do you find it harder to live out of God's power, out of love for others, or with self-control? Why?
- When is the last time you shared your testimony with someone?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What is something you have done that you are very ashamed of? How does it make you feel to think about it?

## READ ROMANS 1:1-17

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does Paul say about himself in the first few verses?
- Who is he writing to? What does he wish for them?
- What does Paul tell them that is encouraging?
- What does Paul say in verse 16?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- How is your faith being proclaimed in your family? School? Church?
- What does it look like to not be ashamed of the Gospel?
- Who is the Gospel for?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Who do you have in your life that mutually encourages you?
- How would your life look different if you weren't ashamed of the Gospel?
- What difference has the Gospel truly made in your life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

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# REVELATION OVERVIEW

WHAT IS YET TO COME

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through  
its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To understand the book of Revelation

# REVELATION

## CONTEXT

- The church has been through much persecution and growth over the years
- Most of the disciples have died for their faith
- God desires to give the church hope about what is to come so they can stand up under persecution
  - Not just for the church then but until Jesus returns

## OUTLINE

### I. General Information

- A. Written by John the disciple
- B. Written on Isle of Patmos
  1. John was exiled there because of his faith
  2. Given a glimpse into heaven
- C. Was written about 96AD
  1. To churches in deep persecution
  2. Emperor Domitian
    - a. Persecuted Christians for not participating in emperor worship
- D. Point of the book
  1. Perseverance
  2. Don't give up even though things are hard
    - a. There will be persecution and hardships for following Jesus
  3. "He who overcomes"
    - a. 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12, 3:21
- E. Is an apocalyptic letter
  1. Letter written to churches
  2. Was a kind of prophecy
    - a. Focus is on the source of the message
    - b. From heaven itself
  3. Makes it very difficult to understand

### II. Revelation is not chronological

- A. Although many books are chronological, we can't assume all are
- B. Showing us a picture of the end times

- C. Is a progressive recapitulation
  - 1. Means it is the same over and over again
  - 2. The end of the world before Jesus comes back

### III. Recapitulation in Revelation

- A. Seven Seals—4:1-7:17
  - 1. Great Judgment Day of the Lord
    - a. Peace taken from Earth
    - b. Death through famine, sword, and pestilence – both people and the land
    - c. Great earthquake and all mountains and islands were moved from their place
- B. Seven Trumpets—8:1-11:19
  - 1. Trees and grass burned up
  - 2. Seas become blood
  - 3. Death and destruction upon mankind
  - 4. Lightning, thunder, rumblings, earthquake
- C. Seven Bowls—15:1-16:21
  - 1. Seas become blood
  - 2. Land and people destroyed
  - 3. People scorched with fire
  - 4. Flashes of lightning, thunder, rumblings, great earthquake
- D. How many times can the people be killed? Is there any earth left to destroy?
- E. Same picture from different angles—Ex. Instant replay in football
- F. The timeframe
  - 1. Two Main sections of the book
    - a. Chapters 1-11—Church persecuted by the world
    - b. Chapters 12-22—Christ persecuted by Satan
  - 2. Revelation 11:2-3—42 months, 1260 days
  - 3. Revelation 12:6—1260 days
  - 4. Revelation 12:14—3.5 years which =1260 days
- G. How the trumpets and bowls are alike
  - 1. 1st Trumpet and Bowl affect the Earth (8:7, 16:2)
  - 2. 2nd Trumpet and Bowl affect the sea (8:8, 16:3)
  - 3. 3rd Trumpet and Bowl refer to a river (8:10, 16:4)
  - 4. 4th Trumpet and Bowl refer to the sun (8:12, 16:8)
  - 5. 5th Trumpet and Bowl speak of the abyss and throne of the best (9:1, 16:10)
  - 6. 6th Trumpet and Bowl speak of the Euphrates River (9:13, 16:12)
  - 7. 7th Trumpet and Bowl speak to the Second Coming (11:15, 16:17)

**IV. SO WHAT??!!**

- A. God reminds us that He is in charge of all things so we can trust Him
- B. We are called to persevere to the end

**FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What is the main theme of Revelation?
- Who was it written to?
- How does it apply to us?
- How does how it is written help us know how to interpret it?
- What difference does it make in your life?

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?
- How does Revelation give us encouragement to stand up under persecution?
- How does Revelation apply to us today?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- If you could have one animal as a pet what would it be? Why?

## READ REVELATION 5:1-14

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What does the one on the throne have?
- What did the angel say?
- What was John's response when no one was found to open the scroll?
- Who did the angel say was worthy to open the scroll?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What did John see when the Lion of Judah appeared? Why was that important?
- How did the elders respond to the Lamb and the scroll?
- What was the song that they sang to Him?
- Who will worship the Lamb?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are ways that you worship the Lord for who He is?
- What is your hope for what is to come?
- How does knowing what will happen affect how you live daily?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- What book or movie has your favorite ending? Why?

## READ REVELATION 20:1-10

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did angel have and what did he do?
- What else did John see?
- What would happen after a thousand years?
- What happens finally to the devil?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What are we told about those who died as martyrs?
- What is our hope when it comes to our enemy?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What was the distinguishing mark of those who were rewarded by Jesus according to verse 4?
- How does knowing how it all will end give you encouragement in your daily life?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)



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# THE END OF THE STORY

WHAT IS YET TO COME

## PURPOSE

To spread God's glorious Kingdom to the ends of the Earth through  
its fulfillment in the Gospel of Jesus

## WEEKLY FOCUS

To see the hope that we have in Christ for eternity

# REVELATION 21:1-8, 22-27

## CONTEXT

- The church has been through much persecution and growth over the years
- Most of the disciples have died for their faith
- God desires to give the church hope about what is to come so they can stand up under persecution
  - Not just for the church then but until Jesus returns

## OUTLINE

- I. God recreates Creation
  - A. Makes a new heaven and a new Earth
    1. The first heaven and Earth had passed away
    2. Were not needed anymore
    3. The new heaven and Earth are perfect and without sin
  - B. Makes a new city
    1. It is a holy city
      - a. Nothing unclean will enter it or be there
    2. It comes down out of heaven to us
      - a. Like a bride dressed for her husband
  - C. Makes a new dwelling place for Himself
    1. With His people
    2. He will be our God and us His people
    3. There will be no more barriers between us and God
      - a. No Tabernacle
      - b. No Temple
        - i. The Lord is now the Temple
      - c. No Curtain
      - d. We will see God face to face

**II. God restores order**

- A. Takes away the effect of sin
  - 1. No more tears
    - a. He will personally wipe away every tear
  - 2. No more hurt and disappointment
  - 3. No more sickness
  - 4. No more sin
  - 5. No more death
  - 6. The old things have passed away forever
- B. Makes us new as well

**III. God wins the final victory**

- A. Revelation 20:7-15
- B. Satan will be defeated once and for all
- C. Death and Hell will also be defeated forever

**IV. Our response**

- A. We will see His face
- B. We will worship Him forever
- C. We will reign with Him forever

**V. SO WHAT??!!**

- A. God has already won the ultimate victory for us in Christ
  - 1. Died on the cross for our sin
  - 2. Rose again to conquer death
- B. We wait until God claims His victory and His people
  - 1. We wait with great confidence
  - 2. We wait with great hope
- C. Knowing that God has won the victory for us should change how we live here on Earth
  - 1. Live without fear of the world or the enemy
  - 2. Live lives of thankfulness in response to what the Lord has done for us

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What gets you most excited about Heaven? Why?
- How does knowing this affect your daily lives? How should it?
- What is one thing you would like to do differently in response to God's love for you?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What stuck out to you from the talk this morning?
- What gets you most excited about Heaven?
- What are you most looking forward to God taking away?
- How should your life look different because of this? How does it look different?
- How does this passage show us God's Kingdom?

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

**OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY**

- What is your favorite book? Why?

**READ REVELATION 20:11-15**

**QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD**

- What did John see in verse 11 and 12?
- What book was opened?
- What happened to Death and Hades?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What happened to those who were dead?
- What was the basis of judgment for the dead?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH** (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What did it say about those whose names were not written in the book of life?
- How does Jesus show His power over death once and for all?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)

# FAMILY DEVOTION

**OPEN IN PRAYER** (choose 1 person to pray)

## OPENING QUESTION/ACTIVITY

- Who are you most looking forward to seeing in Heaven?

## READ REVELATION 22:1-7

### QUESTIONS FOR JK-3RD

- What did the angel show John?
- Where was the river flowing from?
- What else was there by the river?
- What are we told that we get to do in verse 4?
- What does Jesus say will happen soon?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 4TH-8TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- Where else did we see the tree of life?
- What are we told about what heaven will be like in verse 4?
- Who does verse 7 say will be blessed?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

### QUESTIONS FOR 9TH-12TH (in addition to or replacing some of those above)

- What in this description of heaven gets you most excited?
- What is our hope for the future?
- How does this proclaim God's glorious Kingdom?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** (everyone participates)





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