



March Theme

We are family!

Monthly Memory Verse

“Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!” **Psalm 144:15b**

Monthly Challenge Verse

“I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

- Genesis 12:3

March 26 - Life Application

**God gives us parents and grandparents to BLESS us.
(Genesis 49)**

Parents: *This month, we are learning about God's perfect family, and how He protected and cared for them through His Providence. We also see that He blesses us in many ways-through His plan for our families, and by blessing us through parents and grandparents. **This week, we learned that Jacob called all of his sons to come to him so that he could bless them.** After listening to the sermon, take some time during the week to have great conversations with your kids. Read **page 116** (The End of an Era) together in The Action Bible, and use **Genesis 49** in your Bible for reference.*

1. Last week, we learned that Jacob blessed Joseph and his grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh. **What did he do in Genesis 49?** (*He blessed his other sons.*)
2. **Did he have blessings for all of his sons?** (*No - he was not pleased with the actions of some of them.*) **Why?** (**Verses 2-7:** *Reuben, who was first-born, was supposed to inherit Jacob's position as leader of his people, but he was told he was too unstable and also disrespectful to his father. Simeon and Levi were too angry and violent.*)
3. **Who did Jacob bless to be the leader of his people, the Israelites?** (*Judah*) **Why?** Read **verses 9-10.** (*Judah was compared to a lion, and Jacob prophesied that all people would obey him and his tribe.*)
4. Read **verse 11.** **Does this remind you of Jesus? How?** (*Jesus would come from the tribe of Judah. Think of the story of Easter. Jesus was the lion - see **Revelation 5:1-10.** Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem to be crucified for us. Jesus was the choice vine.*)
5. **How did Jacob bless the other brothers?** Read **verses 13-27** and discuss together. **Did Jacob know his sons very well?**
6. **Who did Jacob bless more than all the others? Why?** (*Joseph - because of what had happened to him at the hands of his brothers, and also because of his faith, leadership, and strength of character throughout his life.*)
7. **Parents:** It's important for parents to know their children and encourage them in their giftedness. It's also important for fathers (parents) to bless their children. Please read through this week's family challenge. **How can you bless your own children?**

FAMILY CHALLENGE FOR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

1. Write down the things you see in each child. **How did God create them to do good things in this world for him? What are the special things you see in their character? What are their strengths? How do they interact best with others?**
2. Using your own best way of doing this, **bless your children:**
 - Make a card, write a song, make a book, a video, use art, etc. - letting them know all you see in them and the way God created them.
 - Bless them, tell them your dreams for them, pray for them.
 - Pray for strength, guidance, protection, wisdom for them.
 - Pray for their future spouse and family. Pray for their future work and service to the Lord.
 - Give them a token of your love for them, something they can keep as a reminder of this time of blessing.

PRAYER

God, Thank You for being our heavenly Father. Thank you for blessing us with your love, your great care in creating us, your protection over us, and for giving us wisdom in making wise choices. Help us to do these things for our own children and grandchildren. In Jesus' Name, Amen.