

GOD CALLED MOSES



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Exodus 1:6–2:10,23-25; 3:1–4:20 from the Bible.



Have you ever written a note to a friend using a secret code? Maybe you replaced certain letters with shapes or had them read every other letter in a sentence, like this: Gpovd Inosvfezs ycowu! Could you crack the code? (God loves you!)

As we open the book of Exodus, we see God speaking to Moses—not through a secret code but through a burning bush that never burned up. Why might God use such a dramatic sign to get Moses' attention? Maybe because He was calling Moses to rescue His people from slavery in Egypt.

In Exodus 3:10, God says to Moses, "Therefore, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you may lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." God promised to be with Moses and to give him all he needed to lead His people out of slavery in Egypt. The calling of Moses points to a greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God's people. Jesus gave up His life to save us from slavery to sin.

God saw His people suffering as slaves in Egypt and sent Moses to rescue them. We all suffer as slaves to sin, and God sent Jesus to rescue us by dying and rising again.

Pray: God, we praise You because You are great. We see Your great power in how You used Moses to rescue the Israelites, and we see Your great love in sending Jesus to rescue us from sin. Help us trust that You will be with us and give us the power we need to do what You tell us to do. Amen.









Ask God to help you be obedient to whatever He tells you to do. Why could Moses trust God? How can we trust God when He calls us to be a part of His mission?

Evenings

Thank God for loving us enough to speak to us. Ask God for help to listen when He speaks to us through His Word, through other believers, and through the Holy Spirit. How does God's Word call us to be a part of His mission?



For Fun

Clear an open space in your living room and invite a family member to attempt walking through the room while blindfolded. As they walk, have a non-blindfolded family member guide them using only their voice. Let every family member take turns in each role. After the activity, discuss how God called Moses and promised to be with him wherever he went.

To Serve

Volunteer to rake leaves for neighbors or church members unable to do the work themselves. As your family serves together, discuss how God used Moses to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Remind kids that helping others do what they cannot do for themselves is a great reminder of how Jesus came to rescue us from sin, which we could never do for ourselves.



MOSES CONFRONTED PHARAOH



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Exodus 5:1–6:13,28–12:42 from the Bible.



Water turned into blood. Frogs, gnats, and flies covered the ground. Sores appeared all over the Egyptian peoples' bodies. Natural disasters and locusts destroyed all the plants. Darkness covered the whole land.

The plagues were full of destruction and death. Someone might read that and wonder what the point was. Why did all of that terrifying stuff happen? As God was delivering the plagues to Egypt, He said to Pharaoh, "For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." (Exodus 9:15-16)

God used the plagues to make Israel trust Him and believe in Him as their God. God makes all things work together so people would see His power and believe in Him. This is God's purpose in everything He does. This doesn't mean that God causes bad things to happen. Remember, God is good and He's not capable of being evil. Evil things happen because there is sin in the world, but God has power even over sin. While some kings may use their power to be harsh and terrorize their people, God has used His power to love us and send Jesus to save us!

Because of Pharaoh's hard heart, Egypt suffered but God's people were saved. Because of Jesus' loving heart, He willingly suffered on the cross so we could be saved from sin. His blood saves us from our sin just as the Passover lamb's blood saved the firstborn of the Israelites.

Pray: Lord, You are more powerful than anyone and anything, and we know that You are the one true God. Help us trust that You are working all things according to Your plan and for Your glory. Even when we don't understand what is happening around us, we can trust that You are in control, and You are good. Amen.









Ask God to give you a heart that is softened by His grace. Ask God to remind you how much He has loved you—even when you didn't deserve it. How does remembering God's love help us love Him and others as we should?

Evenings

Thank God for all the events of your day—the good and the bad. Thank Him for being powerful enough to use all things for His glory. Ask Him to give you faith to trust in His control when things aren't as great as we expected and strength to praise Him when things are going better than we deserve.



For Fun

Play a game of "Plague Charades." Write a few of the plagues or draw scenes that relate to the plagues (swatting flies, realizing you have sores on your arms, being caught in a thunderstorm). Tell a family member to draw a slip of paper and act out the scene while the rest of the family guesses. Review the plagues with your kids and talk about how God used these events to show His power and authority over creation and Pharaoh.

To Serve

Research the foods eaten at a traditional Passover Seder meal and prepare some of those dishes for your family. Invite another family to join you in partaking in the Passover meal. As you eat, talk about the symbolism of the foods and how the Passover meal points to Jesus.



MOSES PARTED THE RED SEA



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Exodus 13:17–15:21 from the Bible.



The Bible tells us that the Israelites were in Egypt for 430 years, and there were about 600,000 men leaving with Moses. If we add to that number the women, children, and other Egyptians who wanted to be a part of the Israelites, we can estimate that there were more than two million Israelites leaving Egypt! That's equal to the population of Chicago, Illinois, which is the 3rd largest city in the United States!

Now, think about all those people crossing the Red Sea on dry land while God held back the water. How amazing it must have been to see a whole city of people walk through the middle of that miracle! Once again, God demonstrated His power over creation and the enemy so His people could be free.

The Bible describes how our sin makes us enemies of God, but it also shares God's plan to rescue those who believe. Ephesians 2:4-5 says, "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!"

When there was no way out and all hope seemed lost, God provided a way for the Israelites to be free. Likewise, when we were lost in our sin and without hope, God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin!

The Israelites faced certain death, but God miraculously made a way for them to be saved by parting the Red Sea. We are all sinners and face certain death for our sin, but God miraculously made a way for us to be saved by sending Jesus to die in our place for our sin and rise again.

Pray: God, thank You for showing us Your great power through the story of the Red Sea and through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Help us believe in Your power to save and to know Jesus as the Savior who offers us new life with You. Amen.









Ask God to remind you of His great power when you pray. Ask Him to give you boldness when you pray and confidence that He can do anything He chooses! Is there any limit to God's power? How does God's power give us confidence to ask Him for things in prayer?

Evenings

Praise God for the ways you saw His glory in creation today. Think of how the vastness of the sky reminds us of God's greatness, the brightness of the sun reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world, and the evergreen trees are reminders that we can have eternal life through Jesus.



For Fun

Fill a large bowl with water. Use cups or spoons to scoop water from the bowl. Allow kids to use their hands to attempt to 'hold back' the water as it falls into the bowl. Discuss God's power over creation and how He is the only one who can hold back the waters as He did for the Israelites.

To Serve

Visit a local lake or river to collect trash and debris from the shoreline. Dispose of the trash in appropriate bags or bins. As you stand in front of the body of water, talk with kids about how God parted the waters of the Red Sea. Imagine what it would've been like to see this miracle and how it might have increased your faith in God.



GOD PROVIDED FOR HIS PEOPLE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Exodus 15:22–17:7 from the Bible.



Did you know there are world records for food? For instance, the largest chocolate peanut butter cup weighs more than 440 pounds. The longest rolled fruit snack was as long as a football field at 300 feet long. In 2011, the largest hamburger for sale was created in California and weighed 777 pounds. Can you imagine trying to eat that much food?

When the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, they started complaining to Moses because they had nothing to eat or drink. I bet they would have loved to have a bite of that 777-pound hamburger! But God gave them something greater than a hamburger. God heard their cries, and He gave the Israelites quail every evening and manna every morning.

This bread was a symbol of God's faithfulness to meet the needs of His people. God gave the Israelites instructions for when to collect the manna and how much to eat. God provided this thin,flaky bread every morning for 40 years! That equals to more than 7,000 gallons of manna per person! That should be a world record!

The people complained against Moses and against God, but God still chose to give them the food and water they needed. We are all sinners and are enemies of God, but Christ still chose to die for us so that we might be saved.

Pray: God, You are faithful to meet our needs. Thank You for sending Jesus to meet our greatest need and making a way for all who believe to have eternal life with you. Amen









Thank God for the ways He has taken care of your family. How has God provided for your family? How can you give thanks for His provision?

Evenings

Ask God to help you grow in contentment. Like the Israelites, we can grumble and complain for more. How can thanking God for all He has provided help us to remain content? How has He already provided everything we need in Jesus?



For Fun

Make a list of things you need to live, like shelter and water. Assign a different family member to read each of the following scriptures: Psalms 81:10, Malachi 3:10, and Philippians 4:19. Discuss how the whole Bible points to God's provision for us through Jesus. We can give thanks because God provides for our needs.

To Serve

Go shopping for supplies to put into a "Care Kit" for those in need. Include items like toothpaste, socks, lip balm, lotion, sanitizer, and bottled water. Place the items in a ziplock bag with a note that says, "God loves you." Keep the bag in your car and be ready to give it away the next time you see someone in need.



MOSES LED THE ISRAELITES



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Exodus 17:8–18:27 from the Bible.



Getting a snack from the highest shelf of the pantry, learning how to ride your bike, learning to tie your shoes—these are just some things that we can't do unless someone helps us. It can be hard to ask for help because we want to do things on our own, but we can do more and feel better about our work when we do it together!

Moses had some tough jobs as the leader of God's people. One of his jobs was to be a judge for the people. The people would come to Moses to complain and present their case. It was long and lonely work for Moses. Jethro, Moses' father-in law, observed this and saw that it was not good for Moses to do it all on his own every day.

Jethro gave Moses advice about leading the people. He told Moses that it wasn't good to lead alone. He encouraged Moses to choose trustworthy men to act as judges over smaller groups of people. Then, Moses would not have to work so much, and the people would not have to wait so long to solve their problems.

Moses needed others to help him lead God's people and teach them God's laws. Just as Jethro did not want Moses to lead alone, God does not want us to follow Jesus alone. God gave us brothers and sisters who love Jesus and encourage us to love God and obey God and tell others about Jesus.

Moses was a great leader, but he was just a man. He was not able to meet all the needs of all the people by himself. Jesus is fully man and fully God. He is able to hear and respond to all of our prayers, and His death and resurrection provides salvation to everyone who trusts in Him.

Pray: God, thank You for giving us people who help us every day. Thank You for friends and family who love us and want to help us accomplish more for Your glory. Most of all, thank You for Jesus, who is always willing to help us with all our needs. Amen.









Ask God to give you the wisdom and humility to ask for help today. Ask Him to show you the areas where you need help and the people He has given to help with your needs.

Evenings

Thank God for meeting all our needs in Jesus. Thank Him for sending Jesus to cover our greatest need—the forgiveness of sin and a perfect Savior to lead us. How does our need for forgiveness help point us toward Jesus?



For Fun

Play a game with your kids where you hold your hands behind your back and let them take turns slipping their arms under yours to act as your hands. Let them "help" you make a sandwich and eat it. Mention how fun it is to be the hands for someone else. This week encourage your kids to be the hands for someone you know who could use some help. You could hold the door open at the store, make a meal for another family, or serve in a local ministry as a family. Read 1 John 3:23 and discuss how we can help by loving and praying for one another.

To Serve

Contact your church and ask for ways you can help or encourage the facilities staff. If possible, assist in cleaning, setting up, or maintenance needs around the church. Explain to kids that working together means more work can be done quicker, but the greatest benefit is building relationships as you work alongside others.



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Exodus 19:1–20:17; 31:18 from the Bible.



Have you ever played a game with someone that added rules to the game or changed them as the game went on? Without knowing the rules, you can't know when you do something wrong or why you might get penalized. It's also not fair if the rules change and other players get a chance that you didn't get. It can be very frustrating to not know the rules. You just wish you knew what is required to win the game!

God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments to help them know what is required for a person to be righteous. Everyone had the same commandments, and they didn't change. The first four commandments showed the Israelites what it meant to love God and how to have a right relationship with Him. The other six commandments taught the Israelites how to live with and love others.

God's rules are good and are meant to help us love Him, love others, and live a life that is righteous. There was one big problem. The Israelites—and all people for that matter—could never perfectly follow those rules. The Bible is clear that we all sin and fall short of God's standard for holiness. Our obedience can't save us.

Salvation is found in Jesus alone, the only perfectly righteous One. He takes away the sin of anyone who believes and welcomes them into God's family. To those who believe in Him, Jesus gives power through the Holy Spirit to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" and to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-39).

God gave His people commandments so they would know how to honor Him and live rightly. Because of sin, no one is able to keep these commandments perfectly. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect, sinless life. Jesus died and rose again so that sinners can be forgiven.

Pray: God, thank You for giving us the commandments to show us what it means to live a righteous life. We all sin, but You loved us enough to send Jesus to bring us back to You. We praise You for crediting His righteousness to all who believe in Jesus! Amen.









Thank God for the Bible showing us what it means to be righteous. Praise Him for showing us how we can receive the righteousness of Jesus when we believe in Him. What does the Bible say about our ability to perfectly obey? What did God do to bring us back into a relationship with Him?

Evenings

Think through your day and take a moment to confess the ways you disobeyed God's commandments. Thank God for the gift of Jesus who took the punishment of sin and credits His perfect life to all those who believe in him.



For Fun

Play a game of "Simon Says". Play a few rounds while making the game increasingly difficult. Try to make it so that no one can perfectly follow the calls to move. Discuss how hard it is to follow God's rules perfectly. Then talk about how Jesus kept all the commandments perfectly on our behalf, and how we are saved by grace and not by following rules.

To Serve

Use a poster board to write out the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20:1-17. Over a 10-day period, study one commandment each day. Discuss how the commandment might help a person to love God or love others. Talk with kids about the ways we might disobey the commandment, and how it points us to Jesus as the only perfectly righteous one.



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Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Exodus 32; 34:1-9 from the Bible.



The average person will spend 52 days of their life waiting in line. That's a lot of ... waiting! We don't like waiting in line at the store, waiting for our food to be ready, and waiting on our sister to get out of the bathroom. The worst is waiting on someone to help us do something we really want to do for ourselves. Waiting makes us impatient and frustrated, which leads us to say or do things we wouldn't normally do.

This was exactly the case for the Israelites. God led His people into the wilderness, but He did not leave them there alone. He was there with them. He provided meat, bread, and water to satisfy them. But when Moses went up on the mountain and did not return for several weeks, the people felt abandoned. Instead of trusting God and being patient, they decided to make something new to worship.

When God saw what they were doing, He wanted to destroy the people. It may sound harsh, but God had every right to do so! They took the worship that belonged to God—the one who saved them from Egypt—and gave it to a metal cow!

The Israelites deserved to be punished for their sin against God, but Moses asked God to forgive the people. In the same way, we deserve to be punished for our sin, but God has made forgiveness available through Jesus.

The people chose to worship a golden calf instead of God, and God's anger burned against them. Moses interceded so that God would forgive them. We are all sinners who deserve the wrath of God, but Jesus interceded for us through His life, death, and resurrection so we can be saved!

Pray: God, forgive us for making other things more important than You. Help us remember Your faithfulness and help us keep You first in our lives. Thank You for Jesus and for His sacrifice to save us from our sin. Amen.









Praise God for being a compassionate and merciful God. Thank Him for not immediately giving us the punishment we deserve when we sin, and for giving us the chance to be forgiven through faith in Jesus.

Evenings

Ask God to help you trust Him more than anything else. Have you ever trusted in your own ability, other people, or other things more than God? Why Does God deserve to be first in our lives?



For Fun

Bake cookies together as a family. Allow each family member to help in the process. While the cookies bake in the oven, talk about how hard it is to wait for something you really want—like cookies! Talk with kids about how our impatience often reveals what we truly desire most. Pray as a family that God would work in your hearts to desire Jesus and His will more than anything.

To Serve

Take time this week to clean out a closet or toy box. As you prepare to donate or get rid of items, talk about how we all desire to have things that make us feel happy or more popular. Discuss with your kids how our "stuff" can be an idol—something that we love or trust to satisfy us more than God. Ask God to cleanse your heart of any idols and to help you look to Him as your only need.



BUILDING THE TABERNACLE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Exodus 35:4–40:38 from the Bible.



The Royal Standard is a unique flag that shares the location of the King of England. The flag is used to let the locals know that the King is near them. When he is staying in Buckingham Palace, the flag flies over the palace to show that he is home. When he travels, the flag is flown from the car, plane, or other home for however long he is there. When he leaves, the flag is lowered and goes with him to the next location. With a flag that always tells people where he is, it doesn't sound like the King would be good at hide and seek!

When the Israelites left Egypt, God went with His people. Like the Royal Standard that shows the King's presence, God made His presence known by leading the people with a cloud by day and fire by night. God desired to dwell with His people, so He gave Moses instructions to build the tabernacle. This tent would be God's home to dwell among His people.

Wherever they traveled, the Israelites would set up the tabernacle in the center of camp as a powerful reminder that God was with His people. God has always wanted to be with His people. Even when sin separated Adam and Eve from God in the garden, God had a plan to be with His people. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live on earth with people. Through Jesus, all who believe can be reunited with God, and one day they will dwell with Him for all eternity!

God told Moses and the people to build the tabernacle so that He could dwell among them. We no longer need a tabernacle, because those who trust in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection have been given the Holy Spirit so that God lives in us, not merely near us.

Pray: God, thank You for loving us with an everlasting love and always wanting to be with Your people. Even when sin separated us from You, You sent Jesus to dwell with people. Help us to believe in Jesus so we can have new life and dwell with You forever and ever. Amen.









Ask God to remind you of His presence throughout your day. How does God's presence bring us peace? How can our love for others be a reminder of God's desire to have a relationship with them?

Evenings

Thank God for your church. Church, like the tabernacle, is a place where we can worship God. Anyone who believes in Jesus has received the Holy Spirit, who dwells with them and in them. This means we can always experience His presence and worship Him!



For Fun

Use blankets and furniture to make an indoor tent. Climb into the tent and read the Bible story together. Tell stories of times you felt God's presence with you and celebrate the fact that God wants to dwell with His people!

To Serve

Volunteer to clean or decorate your church for an upcoming service. Work as a family to prepare the space for worship. As you work, talk with kids about the specific instructions God gave for the tabernacle construction. Remind your kids that the Holy Spirit dwells with and in every believer.



WORSHIP AT THE TABERNACLE



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Leviticus 16; 19; 26 from the Bible.



Have you ever heard the term "scape goat?" This is phrase describes how a person or group takes the blame for others, but did you know this term actually came from the bible? After sacrificing one animal, Leviticus 16:20 talks about how the High Priest would symbolically lay the sins of the Israelites onto a live goat, and then send the goat into the wilderness. This was the scape goat.

God gave the Israelites rules for how they should worship and what to do when they sinned. The Israelites were commanded to worship God through offerings and sacrifices. One of the most important ways the Israelites were commanded to worship God was through the sin offering.

Because sin must be punished, the sin offering required the Israelites to sacrifice an animal. This sacrifice could not fully cover the penalty of sin, so more sacrifices had to be made. It was a sad reminder of the consequences of sin.

The sacrifices God required of His people were a hint of what God was going to do to forgive sinners. We no longer need to offer sacrifices because we trust in Jesus. Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice that takes away our sin once and for all. Jesus became our scape goat!

God instructed the Israelites to sacrifice animals to demonstrate the forgiveness and removal of sin. God gave His one and only Son, Jesus, as the perfect and final sacrifice for sin. Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins and made clean forever.

Pray: God, You are worthy of worship! Thank You for giving us many ways to worship You. Help us give You the praise You deserve and help us glorify You with our lives. Amen.









Offer your day to God and ask Him to be glorified through everything You do. How can your obedience be an act of worship?

Evenings

Make a list of ways you can worship God. Thank Him for giving us many options to offer the praise He deserves. What are some ways You worshiped God today?



For Fun

Use the Internet to look up funny laws that are technically still enforceable in the United States. Talk about how those laws might have once had a purpose, but are no longer needed. Now, flip through the book of Leviticus together and read some of the laws God gave the Israelites. Some of these laws are no longer needed, but they still show us how we are to relate to a holy God. Talk about some of the ways your family can use offerings as a way to worship God.

To Serve

Make a monetary donation to a local ministry or missionary partner of your church. Ask each family member to contribute money to the offering. Talk with kids about how our offerings allow us to thank God for all He provides and celebrate what He can do through the ministry of those you support.


THE PEOPLE GRUMBLED



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Numbers 11–12 from the Bible.



We live in a world that is never satisfied and always wants more: more money, more toys, more clothing, more followers. We are constantly told to get more, or else we won't truly be happy. But there is a big problem with always wanting more. If we always want more, then we are never satisfied. No matter how much we receive or achieve, there is always more.

God had done miraculous things to rescue the Israelites, and He had provided for them in ways that only He could do. And yet, they wanted more. They wanted God to do more, give them more, and let them be more important than Moses. Though God had given them way more than they deserved, they were not satisfied with God or His gifts.

If we aren't careful, we can get so focused on the treasures of this world that we forget the treasure we have in Christ. Even the good things God gives to us can make us forget how good He is as the Giver. The way to be satisfied with God is to always remember He provided Jesus to meet our greatest need of forgiveness and salvation. Rather than wanting more, we can be completely satisfied with Jesus because He is more than enough!

The people grumbled because they thought they needed more than God had provided. We also grumble when we wish God would give us more of the things we want. But God has already provided what we need most—His Son, Jesus, who died and rose again so we could be saved.

Pray: God, we have everything we need in Jesus, so help us be satisfied in Him. Help us remember the great price He paid to save us from sin and the great rewards we have in His name. When our hearts desire more, teach us to be content with You. Amen.









Ask God to teach you contentment today. Contentment is trusting that God is good and has given us everything He wants us to have. Ask God to forgive the ways you have let your wants stop you from worshiping Him as the Creator.

Evenings

Thank God for the example of humility we have in Jesus. Jesus willingly came to earth so He could endure suffering and death to save us. Ask God for wisdom and strength to give up your own selfish desires to serve Jesus.



For Fun

Create a complaint jar to keep in the living room or kitchen. Whenever a family member—kids or parents—complain about something, they must put spare change in the jar. At the end of the week, talk as a family about how easily our hearts can fall into complaining and how discontent we can be. Pray as a family for faith to trust in God's good plan for your lives.

To Serve

Cook a meal, assemble a care basket, or do a random act of service for someone this week. Talk about how good it feels to serve others and how this can be an act of worship as it reminds us how Jesus served us. Talk as a family about how serving others can keep our hearts from becoming self-centered and discontent.



THE PEOPLE DOUBTED



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Numbers 13–14 from the Bible.



M.C. Escher was an artist best known for his drawings that tricked the eye. One of his most famous works, House of Stairs, shows multiple staircases that are connected, yet appear to be going in different directions. Escher used different perspectives to make it seem impossible that these stairs could exist, but the drawings are based on mathematics that make it possible.

When the twelve spies returned from inspecting the land God had promised, there was a difference of perspectives. The spies reported how plentiful the land was and even returned with a large cluster of grapes, but they were afraid of the people who lived in the land.

These spies believed it was impossible to defeat the people, but Joshua and Caleb believed God makes all things possible! The two men urged the Israelites not to be afraid because God was with them. They believed God would give them the land He had promised.

Because of their faith, Joshua, Caleb were allowed to enter the land of Canaan. What seemed impossible to many was possible with God. While it is impossible for us to save ourselves from the curse of sin, God has made salvation possible through Jesus! When we place our faith in Him, we receive the reward of eternal life that God has promised.

Joshua and Caleb believed the words that God had spoken, and they were eventually allowed to enter the Promised Land. The people who did not believe would die in the wilderness. If we believe the words that God has spoken about Jesus and place our faith in Him, we will be saved from our sin and will enter the new heaven and new earth.

Pray: God, help us keep our eyes on You. When something seems impossible, give us faith to believe that all things are possible with You. Thank You for sending Jesus and making forgiveness of sin possible through Him. Amen.









Ask God to give you courage to trust Him with your fears. What fears are keeping you from trusting God? How do the stories of the Bible help you believe all things are possible with God?

Evenings

Thank God for the ways He provided for your family today. Give thanks for the house where you slept, the food you ate, and the many blessings that make life comfortable.



For Fun

Go on an exploration walk at a state park or wilderness area. Ask kids to journal or draw pictures of the things they see and experience in the land. After the walk, compare notes about what was seen. Review the story of the spies that inspected the land of Canaan. Talk with kids about why we can trust God and His power when we're afraid.

To Serve

Go grocery shopping as a family and choose different fruits from the produce section. Try to allow each family member to choose their favorite fruit and another fruit they've never tried. Assign each family member a task in making a fruit salad using the fruits chosen at the store. Invite neighbors over to share the salad. Talk about the fruit-filled land God promised His people. Then, talk about all that God has promised and provided for us through Jesus.



THE PEOPLE COMPLAINED



Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Numbers 16:1-3; 20:1-12; 21:4-9 from the Bible.



In the early 1900s, there was no treatment for bacterial diseases that were killing millions of people. In 1928, Penicillin was accidentally discovered and found to be the treatment needed to save lives. It saved thousands of soldiers in World War II. Penicillin continues to be used as treatment for bacterial infections, and there is no way to count the number of lives saved by this medicine.

It probably sounds strange for people to use mold as a medicine, but not as strange as how God brought healing through a bronze snake. The Israelites continued to grumble and complain, even after all God did for them. Finally, God had enough of their disobedience, so He sent judgment in the form of venomous snakes. Many of the people were bitten and died from the snakes.

The Israelites knew they had sinned and deserved God's judgment, but they pleaded with Him to remove the snakes. God told Moses to make a bronze snake and mount it to a pole. If anyone looked at the snake, they would recover from the venomous snake's bite. God showed mercy to the Israelites by providing a way—as strange as it may sound—for them to be healed.

We all deserve to be punished for sin, and the ultimate punishment is death. God shows us mercy in an unexpected way by sending His own Son to suffer and die for our sin. God offers us a way to be healed through the sacrifice of Jesus. Anyone who looks to Him for salvation will be saved. That's the good news of the gospel!

Like the Israelites, we sin when we complain and do not trust God. The Israelites faced death for their sin, but when they looked to the bronze snake they were healed. The consequence for our sin is also death, but when we look to Jesus and trust in Him, we will be saved.

Pray: Lord, You are merciful and good. We thank You for sending Jesus to die in our place. Help us look to Him for our salvation and keep our eyes on Him as we live for Your glory. Amen.









Thank God for the mercy He has shown by providing doctors and medicine to us. How is sickness and death a consequence of sin? How are doctors and medicine a part of God's goodness and grace to us?

Evenings

Ask God to forgive the sins you committed today, and ask for His help to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus tomorrow. How can looking to Jesus help us obey Him?



For Fun

Visit the zoo and study the differences between venomous and non-venomous snakes. If you don't have a zoo in your area, look up nature videos on the internet or check out books from your local library. Talk with kids about the fear and chaos that might have come when God sent the venomous snakes to the Israelite camp. Remind kids that God showed mercy by giving the people a way to be healed, and ultimately saved, from the punishment of their sin. He did the same for us through Jesus!

To Serve

Go around your family and ask each person to confess something they recently complained about. Then, have each family member turn that complaint into praise of thankfulness to God for what He has provided. For example, if you've complained about eating peas, you can praise God for providing food!





Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Deuteronomy 31–34 from the Bible.



In 2011, a woman visiting the city of Bellevue, Washington accidentally drove her SUV directly into a lake. While searching for her hotel after dark, the woman ignored the directions of the car's GPS. She took a wrong turn, ended up on a boat ramp, and drove the car into the water. The woman was safe, but the car was never able to be recovered from the lake. What a costly mistake!

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, Moses disobeyed God, and it was a costly mistake. Moses would not be allowed to enter the Promised Land with the people. At the end of his life, Moses took time to remind the people of God's goodness and the need to obey His Law. After Moses died, the people cried for him for thirty days, but God gave the people Joshua to lead them into the land He had promised.

Sin is always costly. Whether big or small, any sin breaks our relationship with God. Our disobedience must be punished, but we see God's mercy through Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for every sin and He paid the cost for us. Only Jesus can cover our costly mistakes. God has given us a greater leader in Jesus. He alone can lead us to eternal life in God's promised kingdom.

Moses led God's people faithfully but died unable to bring them into the Promised Land. Jesus leads us in perfect faithfulness. He died so that all who place their faith in Him will join Him in the new heaven and earth.

Pray: God, forgive us when we disobey You. We know that sin breaks our relationship with You, and it must be punished. We thank You for the mercy You've shown by sending Jesus to cover the cost of sin. Amen.









Ask God to help you worship Him through obedience today. Why does our obedience give God the glory He deserves?

Evenings

Thank God for parents, teachers, and pastors who constantly pray for you. How are these leaders a gift from God? How can they help you to know God's Word and obey?



For Fun

Play "Simon Says" with the whole family. Allow each child in the family to take turns calling out instructions. After the game, talk about how hard it can be to perfectly obey instructions. Explain to kids that all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. Remind them that this is why we need Jesus—the only perfect One who saves us from our sins.

To Serve

Use paper and crayons to create a piece of art with the words Moses shared in Deuteronomy 32:3-4. Use the entire passage or choose words to incorporate into a design. Encourage every family member to participate by adding their own touch to the piece. Review this week's Bible story and talk about how Moses praised God and His Word. Remind kids that Jesus is the Word made flesh and we have even more reasons than Moses to praise God.



JESUS IS OUR GREATEST GIFT



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