

# ELEMENTARY



**JULY** 2020







**WEEK THREE** 

SAY **THIS** 

**MATTHEW 14:22-33** 

Peter Walks on Water

Stay focused on Jesus.

DO **THIS** 



#### BED TIME

Have you ever started something big and then lost your nerve in the middle? It's often easier to talk yourself into tackling something hard than

to complete it. But you don't have to do it on your own! Jesus is always with you and you can live with confidence that He's got this. Pray for each other, that you will keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and ask for His help all along the way.

### REMEMBER THIS

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6, NIV

LIFE

**CONFIDENCE**—Living like you believe what God says is true



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### PASSING DOWN A FAITH-FILLED LIFE, **NOT A TRIAL-FREE LIFE**

By Courtney DeFeo

Do you remember the first time your child was in harm's way? I remember the time my oldest kicked a bright, bouncy ball and then fell, landing on her head on the concrete. I remember when my youngest got her feelings hurt by a friend and cried real tears, not whiny tears.

I've watched my kids hurt many times and it stinks.

My knee-jerk reaction is to protect, hover, block, or tackle-basically do anything to prevent my children from feeling pain.

The same goes with their faith. I want them to fall in love with Jesus and never walk away, while at the same time never experience hardship. And then I realize I love them too much to desire a trial-free life. Because I remember my biggest moments of personal and spiritual growth were during my trials.

Bringing faith to life in our home is a great privilege. I'm encouraged that we don't have to have a perfect life to pass down a faith-filled life. God has got this. Our role is to simply teach our kids what we already know and to continue learning and sharing more day by day as we grow.

You can make a difference even if you're only one second ahead of your children in your own journey to know Jesus Christ better.

Admitting when you are afraid lets vour kids know fear isn't failure and that God understands.

Saying you're sorry when you make a mistake can teach your kids about forgiveness.

Responding with "I don't know" when they ask hard questions teaches them it's okay to be uncertain.

Suggesting you learn more together teaches them how to discover more about what they believe.

And trusting God to lead our kids through tough times allows our kids to learn to trust God on their own.

Is anyone with me? Let's slowly unpeel our grip and let God be God. It's hard to imagine, but He loves our kids even more than we do.

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## CONFIDENCE LIVING LIKE YOU BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS IS TRUE



### **READ COLOSSIANS 3:1**

DAY 1

Find a way to set a timer for one minute and write down as many things as you can think of that start with the letter 'M.'

How did you do? You probably came up with quite a list. Why? Because you were super focused on the letter 'M!'

Whatever we focus on is going to be at the front of our hearts and minds all day long. This week, try to turn your thoughts to Jesus as much as you can. Think about His love for you. The cool stories He told to teach people about God. The miracles He performed. The work He is still doing in your life. The more you focus on Him, the more He will naturally come to your mind throughout the day.

**KNOW** that thinking about Jesus and heaven can make your day much better!

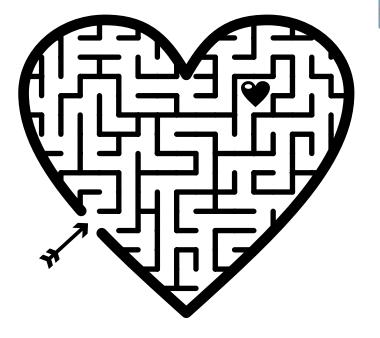
### **READ JEREMIAH 29:13**

DAY 2

Find your way through the maze to the right.

When we search for God with our whole hearts we are focused on what He says and won't get distracted. God promises that we can find Him when we focus on Him. As you go throughout your day today, look for God in the simple things. Maybe it's a pretty sunset, or your dad shows you love by making your favorite dinner. When you really focus on finding God, you'll find Him.

**ASK** God to show Himself to you.



### **READ HEBREWS 12:2**

DAY 3

This verse talks about the journey of faith Jesus started while He was on earth. He was the one who started the journey AND He finished it. We're all on our own faith journey and sometimes we lose focus. Today, we're going to practice keeping our focus.

Head outside with a friend or family member and make a starting line and a finish line. Together, come up with at least three different version of how to finish the race. Is it walking in zigzags, walking backwards, or racing with your eyes closed? Add an extra challenge by spinning around with your eyes closed.

It's a lot easier to focus on the finish line when there aren't distractions. It's easy to switch our focus to things other than Jesus. But in reality, that can make our lives much harder. When we focus straight ahead on Jesus, we win the race! Take some time to think through what distracts you from Jesus.

**THANK** God for sending Jesus so that we can learn from Him.



DAY 4

Match the following activities with their results.

If you focus on . . . You'll likely have . . .

Studying hard Good grades

Being kind Peace
Exercising Friends
Jesus Strength

Yes, God promises us peace if we focus on Jesus! No matter what hard thing you are facing today, if you focus on Jesus, you can find peace.

**KNOW** that focusing on Jesus brings peace.

