

FAMILY STUDY GUIDE
5 WEEKS

ASKING

FOR A

FRIEND



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CAN GOD LOVE ME?

Start Talking:

Take turns sharing a high and a low from today. If there are stories behind your responses – please share!

Big Idea:

We don't always understand the ways of God, but we know he is in control.

Key Verses:

1 Timothy 1:15

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Colossians 1: 21-22 (GNT)

At one time you were far away from God and were his enemies because of the evil things you did and thought. But now, by means of the physical death of his Son, God has made you his friends, in order to bring you, holy, pure, and faultless, into his presence.

Start Sharing:

1. What is something you have done recently that was right?
2. What is something you have done recently that was wrong?
3. How do you know when something is right or wrong?
4. What happens when you do a wrong thing or a right thing? How did you feel?
5. Read 1 Timothy 1:15 again. What



WEEK 1

do you think the word sinner means and why did Jesus care about those kinds of people?

Start Doing:

Get enough blank pieces of paper so that everyone can have two as well as writing utensils.

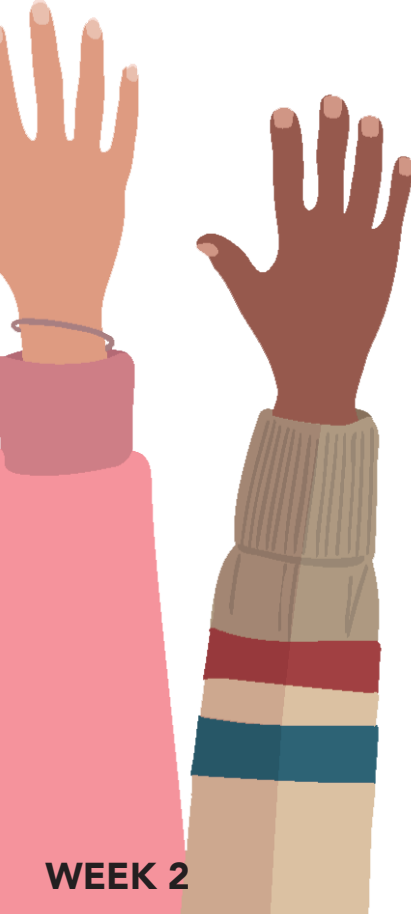
1. Hand out one piece of paper and a writing utensil to everyone (*keep the other papers with you*).
2. Have everyone look at how clean and nice their papers are (*relate this to what a perfect life or person might look like*).
3. Have everyone make multiple marks of any kind on their paper. Stop and take a look at the marks and see how it has changed the paper. Try to have them erase the marks or rip them out (*trying to keep the paper intact as much as possible*).

LESSON: After making marks on the paper, can you make the paper look exactly the way it was before? No. Once we sin and do wrong things, we "mark up" our lives and things get a little messy. There was only one person who was truly perfect and that was Jesus. He is the only one that can make our "papers" look brand new again if we trust in Him. We can ask Him to forgive us for being a sinner and doing wrong things. God says he will forgive us and make us new again.

4. Hand out the second blank piece of paper (*relate this to starting over again with Jesus. Note that we can start over as many times as we need to, and that Jesus will always love us no matter what*).

Start Praying:

Dear God, thank you for always loving us no matter if we do right things or wrong things. Help us to choose the right things and to remember that you love us. In Jesus' name, amen.



DO GOD AND SCIENCE WORK TOGETHER?

Start Talking:

Take turns sharing a high and a low from today. If there are stories behind your responses – please share!

Big Idea:

If we believe in God, we can also believe in how he used science to make things.

Key Verses:

Colossians 1: 16-17 (GNT)

For through him God created everything in heaven and on earth, the seen and the unseen things, including spiritual powers, lords, rulers, and authorities. God created the whole universe through him and for him. Christ existed before all things, and in union with him all things have their proper place.

Start Sharing:

Let's learn a new word: Origin. Already know that word? How about "commencement" or "derivation"? They all basically mean the same thing – the beginning. Do you know any other words that mean "the beginning"?

In every process that we know as humans, there is a beginning, middle, and end. Share about something you know that has gone through this process. Example: I planted a tomato seed, it grew into a tomato plant, it produced tomatoes, the plant died in the winter.

Break down your beginnings: After sharing, think about where you started the “beginning” of your stories – is it possible that there was a beginning before that? Example: God made the plants that produced the tomato seeds so that I could plant another seed to grow another plant.

Break down your middles: Think about the middles of your stories. What scientific thing could God have been doing in that process. Example: God created the inner workings of the plant to know how to pull water from the ground into the plant, use sunlight as food, produce flowers that bees pollinate, etc. If your stories were human based like beginning, middle, and end of a school year. What natural things has God wired your brain and body to do to allow for that story to take place?

Break down your endings: How did your stories end? Did they actually create a new beginning of something? Example: We made salsa with the tomatoes that we can enjoy all year.

Deeper Discussion:

Are we discovering new things by using science or are we using scientific methods to reveal all the ways that God has already set up the world, plants, humans, space, and time?

Start Doing:

Go outside and discover something that you can physically see in nature that is large and something that is small. Compare the two and talk about how God made both.

Keep going! Try to find:

the tiniest thing • the brightest color • the smoothest • the hardest

Start Praying:

Dear God, thank you for your creation and allowing us to discover all the wonderful things about it. Thank you for our all the ways that we see, hear, taste, touch, and smell the world. Thank you for giving us thinking minds and curious hearts. In Jesus’ name, amen.



WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

Start Talking:

Take turns sharing a high and a low from today. If there are stories behind your responses – please share!

Big Idea:

When bad things happen to us or in the world, God still cares and will always help us.

Key Verses:

Romans 8:38-39

For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below—there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Start Sharing:

It's really easy to share stories about bad things that happen to people. News channels usually report on exactly that!

- Talk about some things that have happened recently to people that you know.



WEEK 3

- Talk about something that has happened to you.
- When bad things happen, do you try to find a reason why they happened?
- What happens when you can't find a reason?

God has told us that we can ask for wisdom at any time and he freely gives it to us (James 1:5). But what is wisdom? It is knowing what is right, and then understanding how to do what is right. It is also the ability to know how to respond to things when they happen and how to make good decisions.

Start Doing:

If there is someone you know who is hurting, injured, or sad, create a greeting card for them and mail it! If you don't know anyone at the moment, consider creating a card for someone in a nursing home to brighten their day – you can contact a nursing home to find out general mailing information!

Start Praying:

Try to include any of the “bad things” that you talked about previously in your discussion.

Dear God, we ask for wisdom in our hearts. Please watch over _____ in the situation that they are in. Thank you for always loving us no matter what. In Jesus' name, amen.



HOW CAN I GO TO HEAVEN?

Start Talking:

Take turns sharing a high and a low from today. If there are stories behind your responses – please share!

Big Idea:

Jesus is the only way to God/heaven.

Key Verses:

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Start Sharing:

Talk about all the world religions that you can think of. Do you know what any of them believe? How is it the same or different than what we believe as Christians? If your children are too young to name any of them, explain about the ones that you know or look some up.

Start Doing:

Read John 14:6 together. Get out a physical map or an electronic map and find one of your favorite places to go. Figure out what roads you need to take

to get there and which directions you need to go.

Ways to relate the map to the Bible verse:

1. When we look at the map, we know the “way”. When we know Jesus, we know the way to God/heaven.
2. When we trust that the map is correct, we know the “truth”. When we believe what Jesus and the Bible says, we know the truth.
3. When we know the truth, and follow the way, we have life abundantly and we get to our correct destination.

Start Praying:

Dear God, please give me the faith to believe that you are the only way, the truth, and the life. Help me spread the message about you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

JESUS ANSWERED,

“I AM THE WAY

and the **TRUTH**

and the **LIFE.**

No one comes

to the Father

except

through me.

JOHN 14:6



IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

Start Talking:

Take turns sharing a high and a low from today. If there are stories behind your responses – please share!

Big Idea:

The Bible is the true Word of God.

Key Verses:

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Start Thinking:

To know if the Bible is true, you must believe that the Bible has a purpose. Consider the following truths that Christians believe:

Truth #1 – The Bible tells one big story. All the stories work together to reveal more about God and our world.

Truth #2 – The Bible is about God. While the Bible talks about many different characters, the main character is God.

Truth #3 – The Bible points us to Jesus. Whenever we study the stories of the Bible, we need to ask how they point us to Jesus. The reason God's Word changes our life is because we are introduced to God/Jesus/Holy Spirit, who is the actual author of the Bible.



WEEK 5

Truth #4 – The Bible wants us to obey Jesus’ teachings. The Holy Spirit helps us do that. When we know Jesus more, and trust that what He says is true, we want to be more like Him. God loves us very much and has given us this book to help guide us.

Start Sharing:

- Do you believe everything in the Bible is true? Why or why not?
- What is something that you believe about the Bible that you also follow in your life?
- What is something that you believe about the Bible, but you don’t follow? How can you change that?

Start Doing:

Make some lists.

List 1: Write all the things you do during your day because they need to be done (you believe in doing them). Make sure to include things like being kind to people as well as things like eating lunch or making your bed.

List 2: Write things that you know you should be doing, but don’t quite do yet. Talk about these lists and what it means for you every day.

Start Praying:

Dear God, thank you for giving us the Bible and allowing us to read it freely. Help us to understand it! Please forgive me when I don’t do what you’ve asked me to do, and help me do more things that you want me to do. In Jesus’ name, amen.







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