

The image features a dirt road that recedes into the distance towards a flat horizon. The sky above is a light grey color with a network of fine, irregular cracks, resembling parched earth or a broken surface. The overall mood is one of desolation and uncertainty.

# WHEN GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

**FAMILY STUDY GUIDE  
3 WEEKS**



## **Hey, families!**

Enjoy this family study guide as a supplement to the current sermon series. Our prayer is that it stirs up meaningful conversation with your kids, gets them involved as much as possible, and encourages kids (big and little) to read what they can. We hope you have fun as a family!

The greatest spiritual influence will always be you. We're here for support and to cheer you on!

Sunnybrook Family Ministry Team

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**@sunnybrookkids**

# WEEK 1

## When God Seems Inattentive

### Kicking it Off:

If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?

### Big Idea:

When we face difficulties and periods of waiting, we don't have to understand God's plan to trust His purpose. Just because God is silent, it doesn't mean He is absent.

### Key Scriptures:

"You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient." Colossians 3:12 NIV

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1 NIV

### Talk About it Together:

- Has there been a time in your life where you felt God wasn't listening to you?
- How do you think our relationship with God would be different if He answered every prayer right away?
- What feelings do you have when you don't think God is listening?
- How can we remind ourselves that God does hear us, and He has a plan for us?



**Family Activity:**

Create a journal of ways God is working in your life: Reflect each day on the good things that happened and write down at least one way God was at work. Thank Him for being there for you.

**Talk to God:**

Dear God, thank you for always loving and supporting us. Help us to remember that you are good, and that you have a purpose for us even when we don't see or understand it. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the ways you are working in our lives. Amen!



# WEEK 2

## When God Seems Late

### Ice Breaker:

If you could teleport anywhere, where would you go?

### Big Idea:

With God, a waiting season is never a wasted season. If God always met your expectations, He would never have the opportunity to exceed them.

### Key Scriptures:

“Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don’t lose hope. Wait for the Lord.” Psalm 27:14 NIV

“We hope for what we don’t have yet. So, we are patient as we wait for it.” Romans 8:25 NIV

### Talk About it Together:

- What is something you don’t like waiting for?
- Why do you think waiting is such a difficult thing for us to do?
- What do you think God is trying to teach us when we have to wait? (**Patience**)
- How can we use the patience God gives us with friends and family?

### Activity:

Choose an item (could be something in the house like a toy, a quarter, marble, or anything small enough to fit in your pocket), use this item as a prayer reminder. Every time you touch or notice the item, say a breath prayer for patience. (Example: \*inhale\* God give me patience \*exhale\* with my siblings).

### Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for setting an example of how we can have patience with our friends, with our family, and in any situation, we are in. Give us strength to choose patience when we need it most. Help us to remember that through you, all things are possible. Amen!



# WEEK 3

## When God Seems Uncooperative

### Ice Breaker:

What is your favorite weird food combination and why?

### Big Idea:

Praying isn't about getting what we want, but trusting God to give us what we need.

### Key Scripture:

"God has shown me amazing and wonderful things. People should not think more of me because of it. So I wouldn't become proud of myself, I was given a problem. This problem caused pain in my body. It is a messenger from Satan to make me suffer. Three times I begged the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak." So I am very happy to brag about how weak I am. Then Christ's power can rest on me."

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 NIV

### Talk About it Together:

- Why didn't God remove the hardship from Paul's life? **So Paul would lean on God.**
- Do you think God does the same for us?
- Do you think God knows everything and is in control of everything? Can we trust that the Creator of everything knows what we need more than we do?
- Talk about an experience where you're glad God didn't give you what you wanted, but gave you something better instead.



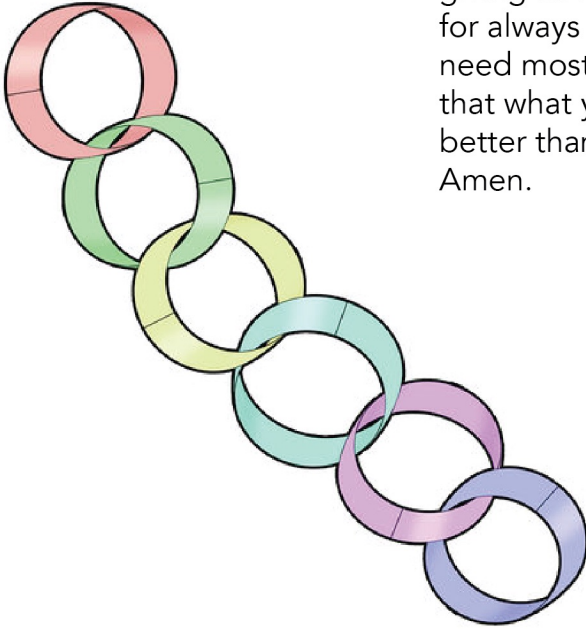


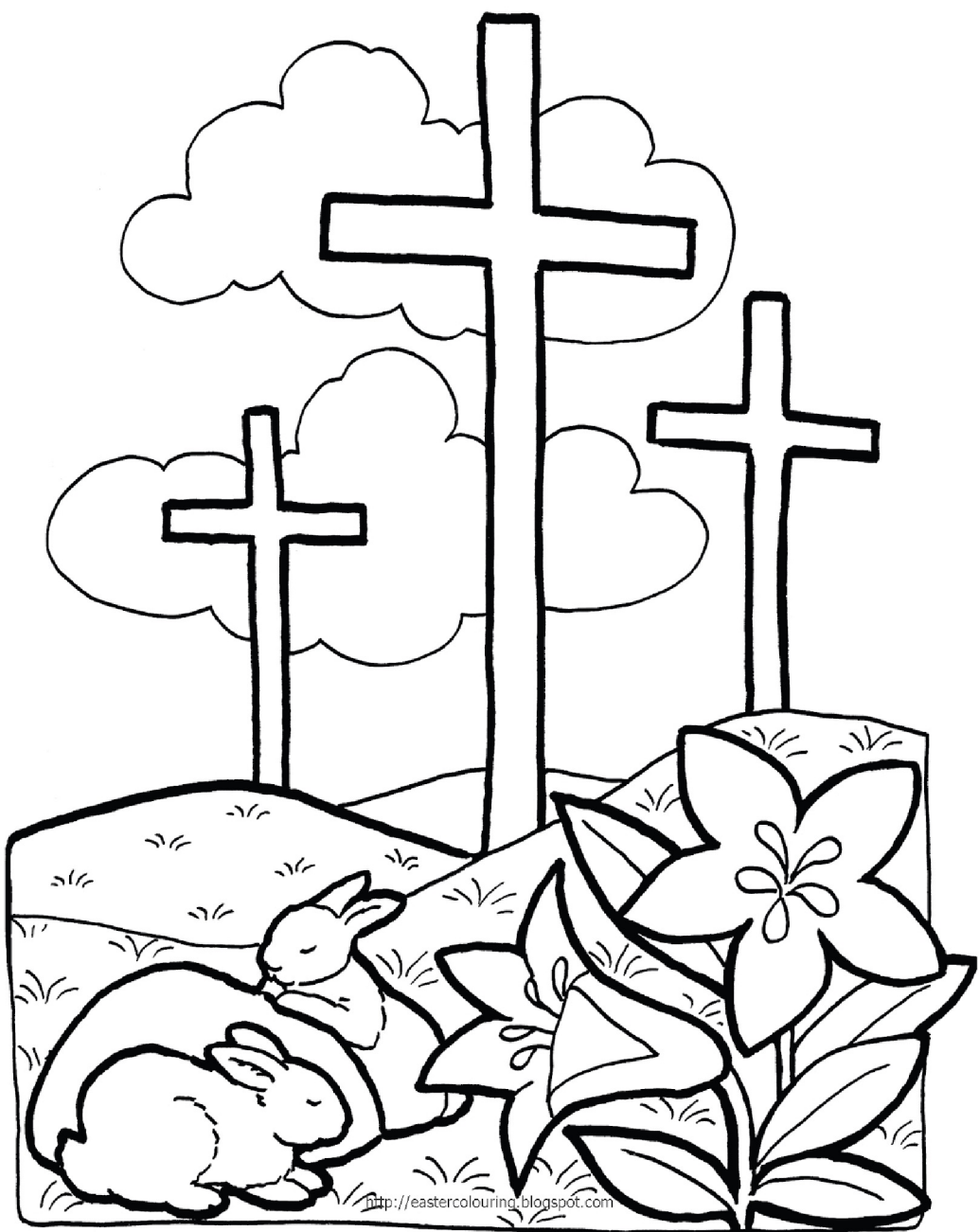
**Activity:**

Make a paper chain countdown to Easter, and rip a link off each day.

**Prayer:**

Dear God, thank you for listening to our prayers. We know that you always hear us. Thank you for not always giving us what we want, but for always giving us what we need most. Help us to trust that what you have for us is better than what we want. Amen.









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