



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 1
READINGS 1-5

THE STORY BIBLE

The Story Bible includes questions, projects and prayers for your family to explore. This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

God Creates the World Part 1
page 19

God Creates the World Part 2
page 23

God Creates Adam and Eve
page 26

Sin Enters the World
page 30

Cain and Abel
page 33

BOGO (Buy One - Give One)

If you bought one of the Bibles to give away to a relative, neighbor or friend, here's a prayer you can pray before you bring it to them:

"Lord God, heavenly Father, thank you for Your Word. It brings life, hope and peace to our lives. I want to give this Story Bible away. Lord, I bring before you (name the person you want to give the Bible to). Open their hearts to receive it gladly. Give me opportunity to share the hope that I have in your forgiveness. Work mightily in their hearts. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

GOD CREATES THE WORLD—Genesis 1-2 | KtBN page 12

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ What did God say when he was finished? What's good about His creation?
- ♦ What does it mean to you that God said, "Let Us make Man in Our image."?

Prayer: Dear Lord, the power of Your Word created this wonderful world. Thank you for it. Amen!

THE FALL INTO SIN—Genesis 2-3 | KtBN page 14

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ What wrong thing did Adam and Eve do?
- ♦ What was the lie of Satan? How does Satan lie to us today?
- ♦ What promise did God give Adam and Eve?

Prayer: Father in heaven, sin destroys all of us. Thank you for sending Jesus as our Savior. All my sins are forgiven. Today is a new day because of You. Thank you. Amen.

THE CHILDREN OF ADAM AND EVE—Genesis 4 | KtBN page 16

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why do you think Cain killed his brother Abel?
- ♦ Even as God pronounced judgement on Cain for his sin, what did He do for him?

Prayer: Father, You loved and took care of Cain even when he sinned. Forgive my sins, for Jesus' sake. Thank you for always being there for me and giving me hope! In Jesus name. Amen.

NOAH AND THE FLOOD—Genesis 6-9 | KtBN page 18

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ God gave them the rainbow as a sign of the covenant he made between God and man. What does the sign of the rainbow mean?
- ♦ The cross is our sign from God. Of what does the cross of Jesus remind us?

Prayer: Dear Lord, Your sign of the rainbow is a promise to us. So is the cross of Jesus. Remind us of Your never-ending love and forgiveness for us. Thank you. Amen.

GOD CALLS ABRAM—Genesis 12-13 | KtBN page 22

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Look at the first paragraph and list all the blessings God promised Abram.
- ♦ Make a list of the blessings we have because of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross.

Prayer - Lord, you set apart Abram and blessed him by Your grace. Your love never fails, and Your forgiveness for us never ends. Thank you for all Your blessings to us. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 2 | READINGS 6-10

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Noah and the Flood

page 36

God's Promise to Noah

Page 41

God Calls Abram

Page 44

Abram Rescues Lot

page 47

God's Covenant with

Abraham

page 51

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

ABRAM RESCUE LOT - Genesis 13-14 | KtBN page 24

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ If Abram rescued them, why do you think Melchizedek gave credit to God?
- ◆ What blessings have you been given, that is a gift from God?

Prayer: Lord God, help me to realize and give thanks for all your blessings Amen.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM - Genesis 15 & 17 | KtBN page 26

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ "Righteousness" means "being made right." Talk about how Jesus Christ has made us "right" in the eyes of our Heavenly Father. (Hint - what did Jesus do on the cross)
- ◆ Think about a person you know who does not have faith in Jesus as their Savior. Pray for an opportunity to tell them about Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, you blessed Abraham and Sarah with hope that would last forever. Thank you for sending Jesus, who is our hope and strength. Amen.

ABRAHAM'S VISITORS - Genesis 18 & 21 | KtBN page 28

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ It was 25 years before God fulfilled his promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. Where do you need patience with God?
- ◆ Abraham & Sarah were quick to show mercy and hospitality to strangers. Is there someone in your community that might need your mercy/hospitality. How might you do that?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, you surprised Abraham and Sarah with a baby when they were very old. Continue to surprise me with your grace. Amen.

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC - Genesis 22 | KtBN page 30

- ◆ Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:
- ◆ What did Abraham tell Isaac, when he asked about the lamb for the sacrifice?
- ◆ Describe a time when God pulled out a seemingly impossible situation.

Prayer - Lord, you provided the sacrifice for Abraham and spared his son Isaac. Thank you for your sacrifice, which has changed our life forever. Amen.

ISAAC AND REBEKAH - Genesis 24 | KtBN page 32

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac that shared his values. What values do you think are important for a spouse?
- ◆ 2 Corinthians 6:14 talks about the importance of Christians marrying another Christian. Why is that important?

Prayer - Lord, you brought a godly woman in Rebekah to marry Isaac. Lord, bless our homes with godliness and contentment, trust in you. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 3 | READINGS 11-15

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Abraham's Visitors from Heaven

Page 54 - Genesis 18

The Birth of Isaac

Page 58 - Genesis 18, 21

Abraham and Isaac

Page 61 - Genesis 22

Isaac and Rebekah

Page 64 - Genesis 24

Jacob and Esau

Page 68 - Genesis 24, 27

Do you know someone who may be blessed by reading the great stories of the Bible? How about a neighbor? a co-worker? a friend? maybe even a relative? Even though you can't get the deep discounts on these bibles anymore, they are probably still on sale through Concordia Publishing House or Amazon. How about ordering one for them - bringing it to them - and while you are there, inviting them to church with you? But before you go: pray that God would open their hearts to your gift and invitation. God WILL give you the opportunity. Be bold and courageous.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

JACOB & ESAU - Genesis 25 & 27 | KtBN page 34

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Who helped Jacob deceive his father, Isaac? Why?
- ♦ Have you ever held anger against someone for something they did to you? What can you do, with the Lord's help, to resolve it?

Prayer: Dear Lord, forgive me for the times I have held anger against others. Help me to turn to you when I am angry, that you may turn it to joy. Amen.

JACOB'S DREAM - Genesis 27-28 | KtBN page 36

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ What did the Lord promise to Jacob in his dream?
- ♦ In his Word, what has God promised you?

Prayer: Dear Lord, you are a God of promises, and without fail, you have kept every one. Thank you for your fulfilled promise of my Savior Jesus. Amen.

JACOB'S FAMILY - Genesis 29-31 | KtBN page 38

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Jacob waited fourteen years for his love, Rachel. What is something you've waited a long time for?
- ♦ After all those years, God blessed Jacob and Rachel with a large family. How has the Lord blessed you?

Prayer: Lord, you continually bless us in ways that are far too numerous to count. May I always be thankful. Amen.

ESAU FORGIVES JACOB - Genesis 32-33 | KtBN page 40

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why was Jacob "greatly afraid" to meet his brother Esau?
- ♦ The lack of forgiveness can break relationships apart and cause deep hurt. Are you withholding forgiveness from someone? Ask the Lord for direction.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I am sorry for the times that I withheld forgiveness from others. Thank you, that by your grace, you do not withhold it from me. Amen.

JOSEPH'S DREAMS - Genesis 37 | KtBN page 44

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Joseph's brothers have come to hate him. What various things have caused this anger?
- ♦ Anger, by itself, is not sinful. It becomes sinful when we act on it - whether with thoughts, words, or deeds. What can we do to not let anger become sinful?

Prayer: Gracious Lord, the Bible tells us you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Help me to be slow to anger too. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 4 | READINGS 16-20

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Jacob's Dream

page 71 - Genesis 27-28

Jacob's Family

page 74 - Genesis 29-30

Esau Forgives Jacob

page 78 - Genesis 31-33

Joseph and His Brothers

page 83 - Genesis 37

Joseph Feeds Egypt

page 89 - Genesis 40-41

Here's a great way to do family devotions:

1. Talk about the highs and lows of your day - let everybody talk about their life for a bit.
2. Read the Bible Story for the day
3. Use some of the questions/activities
4. Use the prayer for the day included, then include some of the highs and lows of your family in that prayer. Then ask God to bless our home!

Remember, this doesn't need to take a LONG time - especially with younger children. But what a blessing it is to pass on the faith to those in our home! That's why we BRING IT HOME!!

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

JOSEPH IN EGYPT - Genesis 39-41 | KtBN page 46

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ A lot of bad things happened to Joseph. How do you know God was with Joseph, even during these bad times?
- ◆ Joshua 1:9 says, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." What comfort does this bring to you?

Prayer - Dear Lord, when I face tough times, remind me of your love and faithfulness. Amen.

JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS - Genesis 42-45 | KtBN page 48

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ What do you think is the best way to get over hurt?
- ◆ Romans 8:28 says "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." How did God work through Joseph's life of slavery and rejection by his brothers?

Prayer - Gracious Father, teach me to give all my hurt to you. Remind me of your great promises, which give me peace. Amen.

JACOB'S BLESSING - Genesis 45-49 | KtBN page 50

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ In the "Did you know" section, the 2nd point talked about Jacob adopting Joseph's sons. Why did he do that?
- ◆ In our baptism, God has adopted us into His family. What benefits to we receive from being a part of God's family?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, through baptism you adopted us into your family. Thank you for being our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE BIRTH OF MOSES - Exodus 1-2 | KtBN page 56

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ It's always interesting to see how God can turn potential disaster into blessings. Can you think of some things in your life that turned from disaster to blessing? What were they?
- ◆ Are there people you know who are experiencing hardships? How may you help "bless" their lives?

Prayer - Father, your hand is always upon us, even when things seem the darkest. Let your love and grace shine especially during those times. Amen.

GOD CALLS MOSES - Exodus 2-4 | KtBN page 58

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Even though we sometimes forget, God never forgets His promises. What promises did God have for the people of Israel?
- ◆ How is God's Word, Baptism and the Lord's Supper a reminder of God's promise to us?

Prayer - Dear Lord, your promises are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness to us. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 5 | READINGS 21-25

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Joseph Feeds Egypt

pg 89 - Genesis 40-41

Joseph Forgives

pg 91 - Genesis 42-45

Jacob Blesses His

Children

pg 95 - Genesis 48-49

The Birth of Moses

pg 98 - Exodus 1-2

Moses and the Burning

Bush

pg 101 - Exodus 2-4

How about finishing your Bible reading time with the Lord's Prayer?

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be
done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory, for ever
and ever. Amen.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

MOSES AND THE PLAGUES - Exodus 5-10 | KtBN page 60

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Why does God wait and sometimes allow people to go through suffering? (If you have a hard time with this question, ask your pastor's opinion)
- ◆ Look at the "Words to Remember" section at the top of the page. What was God's response to his people, even as they were suffering?

Prayer - Lord, I don't always understand why things happen the way they do. But I trust in your mercy to see me through it. In Jesus name, Amen.

THE PASSOVER - Exodus 11-13 | KtBN page 62

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Why did God call this event "the Passover?"
- ◆ God told them to always remember the day of "Passover". Why do you think it was important to remember and tell their children about it?

Prayer - Lord, by Your great power and might you rescued the people of Israel from their bondage. Thank you for Jesus, who has released us from the bondage of sin, death and the power of the devil. Amen.

CROSSING THE RED SEA - Exodus 14-15 | KtBN page 64

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ What did Moses tell the people, when they got afraid of Pharaoh's horses and armies coming after them?
- ◆ How do you think the Lord fights for you today?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, protect and defend us with your powerful hand. Keep us strong in our trust in You, especially during times of trouble. Amen.

GOD PROVIDES MANNA AND QUAIL - Exodus 16 | KtBN page 66

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ God gave them just enough food for one day at a time. What do you think it taught them?
- ◆ On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much, so they could rest on the Sabbath. Why is it important to stop, rest and take time to worship the Lord?

Prayer - Lord, you provide for everything I need. Keep my eyes open and willing to serve those who may not have as much as I do. Amen.

GOD GIVES THE LAW - Exodus 19-20 | KtBN page 68

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Look in the "Did you Know" section. What is the purpose of God's Law?
- ◆ None of us can keep God's Law perfectly. Talk about what Jesus has done to take care of our problem with sin. Think about one person you know who needs to hear this message and pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

Prayer - Heavenly Father, the law shows us our sins and our need for you. Thank you for forgiveness of sins. It has changed our lives! Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 6 | READINGS 26-30

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Moses and the Plagues

Page 104 - Exodus 5-10

The Passover

page 107 - Exodus 11-13

Crossing the Red Sea

page 110 - Exodus 14-15

God Provides Quail and Manna

page 115 - Exodus 16

The Ten Commandments

page 117 - Exodus 19-20

Do you pray for your enemies? For people who have hurt or disappointed you? One of the most powerful testimonies of God's grace and mercy is seen in our prayers for our enemies. Who has hurt you in any way? How might you pray for them? Include them in your prayers this week. See what God can do, both for them and for you!

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

NOTE: The intervening material (pages 72-75, 80-81 & 84-85) is a great read for all ages.

Don't pass it up!

THE TWELVE SPIES - Numbers 13-14 | KtBN page 76

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why can be it be easy to doubt the power of God, like so many of the men did in this story?
- ♦ Why weren't Caleb and Joshua afraid to occupy the land?

Prayer - Lord, there are times when I am afraid, in spite of all your promises to me. Give me the strength to be bold and courageous in my witness of your love! Amen.

WATER FROM A ROCK AND FIERY SERPENTS - Numbers 20-21 | KtBN page 78

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why do you think God dealt so harshly with Moses and Aaron?
- ♦ Looking back in life, where did you see God working in your life, even when you really messed up?

Prayer - Lord, so often I mess up. I'm asking you to forgive me and work through my messes, that I may see your grace and power. In Jesus name, Amen.

THE DEATH OF MOSES - Deuteronomy 18, 31 & 34 | KtBN page 82

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Look at the "Words to Remember" section. This is a great verse to memorize - to print out and stick to your refrigerator or hang on a wall. What does this verse mean to you?

Prayer - Father in heaven. I trust in you. Through everything in life, remind me of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.

RAHAB HIDES THE SPIES - Joshua 1-2 | KtBN page 86

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Look at "Words to Remember". Another great verse to memorize. Think of the toughest thing you are going through right now. How does this verse apply to your situation?
- ♦ Notice that God was with Rahab and preserved her life? Who do you know who may not be a believer? Think of ways you can reach out to them with the forgiveness of sins in Jesus.

Prayer - Lord, you provide for everything I need. Keep my eyes open and willing to serve those who may not have as much as I do. Amen.

ISRAEL ENTERS THE PROMISED LAND - Joshua 3-5 | KtBN page 88

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ It seems that whenever something significant happened, God's people marked the event by building an altar made of stones. How might you remember significant events when God was powerfully present in your life?
- ♦ The people of Israel had "the commander of the army of the Lord." How might God be our protector and shield in times of trouble?

Prayer - Gracious Lord, you promised to always be with us. Keep me mindful of your promises of grace, mercy and peace. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 7 | READINGS 31-35

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

The Ways of God

pg 121 - Exodus 33-34;40

The Twelve Spies of Canaan

pg 124 - Numbers 13-14

The Bronze Serpent

pg 127 - Numbers 21 & 33

Good-bye Moses

pg 130 - Deut. 18 & 34

Rehab Believes

pg 134 - Joshua 2

When children are little, we teach them to count using anything around you, like silverware, toys or pillows. Find your old small Catechism and teach yourself or your kids the 10 Commandments. Do one or two at a time, whenever you can. Make it fun. It's a great part of learning about the Christian Faith.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

THE FALL OF JERICHO - Joshua 6 & 24 | KtBN page 90

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ After the Israelites literally crushed and overcame the city of Jericho, why do you think Joshua reminded them to "Fear the Lord. Serve him in sincerity and faithfulness"?
- ◆ Joshua chose for him and his house to "serve the Lord." What do you think this would mean for your family?

Prayer - Dear God, we pray that you would be Lord and Savior of our home today. Keep our eyes fixed on your promises and help us to be faithful to you. Amen.

DEBORAH THE PROPHETESS - Judges 2 & 4-5 | KtBN page 96

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Once again We see God's people doing evil. After all this why do you think God offered them help against their enemy.
- ◆ How does God promise to help us even when we sin?

Prayer - Lord, help us when we are reluctant to trust in you. Fill us with faith, trusting in your goodness and mercy for us Amen.

GIDEON DEFEATS MIDIAN - Judges 6-8 | KtBN page 98

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Gideon felt like God wasn't with them like He was in the past. Have you ever felt like this? How?
- ◆ What do you think God was trying to show them by using only 300 men to defeat such a large Midian army?

Prayer - Lord, your power, faithfulness and love for us is even more than we could ever imagine. Thank you for sticking with us, even when we are weak. Amen.

GOD MAKES SAMSON STRONG - Judges 13 & 15-16 | KtBN page 100

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Why do you think the people of Israel often fall into unbelief and evil in God's eyes? How do you see this in your life?
- ◆ Samson was captured by his enemies and carried away into prison. In spite of this, how did God use him?

Prayer - Lord when I am weak, you are strong. Keep me faithful to your promises and be with me wherever I go! Amen.

RUTH'S STORY - The book of Ruth | KtBN page 102

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Ruth called Boaz "one of our redeemers". Read the information in the "Did you know" section and talk about the meaning of "redeemer."
- ◆ In the last paragraph of the story, we find out that Ruth's great grandson was King David. Jesus is from the line of David. How is Jesus our redeemer?

Prayer - Lord, you are our redeemer. You protect our inheritance of heaven buy paying for our sins. Thank you. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 8 | READINGS 36-40

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Entering the Promised Land

page 137 - Joshua 3-4

The Fall of Jericho

page 140 - Joshua 6

Deborah the Prophetess

page 143 - Judges 2,4

The Lord Stops the

Enemies

page 146 - Judges 4-5

Gideon

page 148 - Judges 6

Adding prayer before meals is a time honored tradition which keeps our focus on God as the giver of "our daily bread." The prayer goes like this...

"Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen"

Take the time to sit together at your dinner table to eat together. Those few minutes a day, where you can share the highs and lows of the day, and pray together while you eat strengthens family bonds.

Give it a try.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

HANNAH AND SAMUEL - 1 Samuel 1-2 | KtBN page 106

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ The story says that Hannah poured out her soul before the Lord in prayer. Why do you think it's good to "pour our souls" out to God in prayer?
- ♦ What does Hannah's prayer teach us about God?

Prayer - Help me to trust in your timing Lord. No matter what, I put my trust in you. Amen.

GOD CALLS SAMUEL - 1 Samuel 2-4 | KtBN page 108

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why did Samuel not realize it was the Lord who was calling him?
- ♦ Why do you think it's good for us to listen to God as he speaks to us in the Bible?

Prayer: Almighty Father, thank you for speaking to us through your Word. Amen.

SAUL BECOMES KING - 1 Samuel 8-11 | KtBN page 112

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ After many years of following the Lord, why do the people of Israel ask for a king?
- ♦ By wanting to be like other nations, Israel rejected God as their king. Has there been a time in your life that, in trying to fit in with the crowd, you pushed God to the side, or rejected him as your king?

Prayer: Gracious Lord, in the midst of our sinfulness, we turn away from you and your goodness. Forgive me. Thank you for never turning your back on me. Amen.

SAMUEL ANOINTS DAVID - 1 Samuel 15-16 | KtBN page 114

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why does God reject Saul as King?
- ♦ In our sinful human nature, we are often quick to judge someone's worth based on appearance. Ask the Lord to help you see the others as he sees them.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for using the "least likely to succeed" as your instruments.

DAVID FIGHTS GOLIATH - 1 Samuel 17 | KtBN page 116

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ What task is David given that puts him in close range to hear Goliath?
- ♦ David trusts that the Lord will deliver Goliath into his hand. In what areas of your life can your trust in the Lord grow?

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to trust you with the big and little matters in my life, knowing you will guide me through them. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 9 | READINGS 41-45

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

A Sword for the Lord

page 150 - Judges 7-8

Samson

page 153 - Judges 14-15

The Lord Makes Samson Strong

page 155 - Judges 15-16

Ruth Goes Home with Naomi

page 158 - Ruth 1-2

A Blessing for Ruth

page 161 - Ruth 2-4

We partnered again with Concordia Publishing House to offer "The Story Bible" and "Know the Bible Now" for \$15.00 a piece. This might be a really great time to buy a couple and give them to friends or neighbors who might not have a church home. How about wrapping up one as a gift and inviting them to a service with you? What a great way to bring the Gospel to your friends or neighbors. So easy! Try it. See your pastor for more details on how to get it. The offer ends on December 7th.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

DAVID AND JONATHAN - 1 Samuel 18 & 20 | KtBN page 118

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ King Saul was jealous of David, and wanted to hurt him. How does jealousy hurt relationships?
- ♦ How can God help us get over jealousy?

Prayer - Lord, you made me who I am. You gave me faith. Be with me. Help me to appreciate all that I have and all that I am by your power. Amen.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID - 2 Samuel 7 | KtBN page 122

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ If you were to build a new church, what would you want it to look like?
- ♦ God told David that He would make his name great. And He did. Who, in the New Testament, was called "The son of David?" (Hint, he died and rose again...)

Prayer - Lord, you dwell in our hearts by faith. Thank you for sending Jesus, our Savior and King! Amen.

SOLOMON BECOMES KING - 1 Kings 2 & 3 | KtBN page 126

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why do you think God was pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom?
- ♦ Solomon asked for this gift so he could serve others. Make a short list of people who might need some help. How could you honor God by helping them?

Prayer - Lord God, thank you for giving Solomon the gift of understanding so that he could help others. Give me opportunities to help others and so let your love shine. Amen.

SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE - 1 Kings 6 | KtBN page 130

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ God made his presence known in the temple in the form of a cloud. Talk about how the people must have felt when they saw this cloud.
- ♦ God reveals himself to us just as powerfully in His Word (the Bible) but also in Baptism and the Lord's Supper. How does it make you feel to know that God is there for us, all the time - in His Word and Sacraments?

Prayer - Lord God, you have made your presence known to us through Your Word, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Thank you for your presence and peace. Amen.

GOD PROVIDES FOR ELIJAH - 1 Kings 17 | KtBN page 134

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ God provided just enough flour and oil for the widow, her son and Elijah, that they could stay alive during the drought. Talk about how they must have felt seeing the oil and flour never running out.
- ♦ We pray "Give us this day our Daily Bread". In terms of "daily bread" what are you most thankful for?

Prayer - Father, we pray "Give us this day our daily bread". Thank you for everything that we have to support us in this body and life. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 10 | READINGS 46-50

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Hannah's Prayer

page 164 - 1 Samuel 1-2

God's Promise

page 167 - 1 Samuel 2

God Calls Samuel

page 169 - 1 Samuel 3

Saul Becomes King

page 172 - 1 Samuel 8-11

Samuel Anoints David

page 176 - 1 Samuel 16

During the season of Advent, how about using this prayer after you read one of the stories of the Bible:

Stir up your power, Lord God, and come. With your overflowing grace and mercy, fill our hearts that we might share the good news of your love with those we meet. As we prepare to celebrate once again the birth of the Christ child – even as we await his return among us – help us to recognize and celebrate how you are present in our lives each and every day. Amen.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL - 1 Kings 18 | KtBN page 136

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ In the second paragraph Elijah asked "How long will you limp between two different opinions?" What do you think he meant by that?
- ♦ What are some things that interfere with our relationship with God?

Prayer - Lord, clear away those things in life which interfere with our relationship with you. Keep our faith strong in You. Amen.

GOD TAKES ELIJAH TO HEAVEN - 1 Kings 19 & 2 Kings 2 | KtBN page 138

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Elijah wanted give up and quit after being threatened with death. What did God do to reassure Elijah?
- ♦ In Matthew 28:20 Jesus said, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." How does that bring us assurance when times are tough?

Prayer - When times are tough, Lord, assure me with your peace and love. Keep my eyes always fixed on you. Amen.

NAAMAN AND ELISHA - 2 Kings 5 | KtBN page 140

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why do you think Naaman was, at first, angry with Elisha?
- ♦ Why do you think God chose to heal Naaman quietly and simply, without a lot of hand waving and theatrics?

Prayer - Be with me Lord. Help me when I struggle and grow sick to trust in you for everything in life. Amen.

JONAH'S STORY - the Book of Jonah | KtBN page 144

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Jonah didn't like Nineveh, and initially wanted God to punish them for their sin. God had other plans though. What did he do to change Jonah's mind?
- ♦ How do you forgive someone who seems to be your enemy? Why is it good to forgive even our enemies?

Prayer - Father you care about everyone in the world. You want all people to be saved. Lord, give us opportunity to let your love and forgiveness shine to others. Amen.

ISAIAH SEES THE LORD - Isaiah 6-7, 9 & 53 | KtBN page 150

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Isaiah wrote that Jesus name would be Immanuel. Google "Immanuel" and find out what it means. How is Jesus "Immanuel?"
- ♦ Isaiah also wrote "and with His stripes we are healed." Think about that wrong thing you have said, thought or done. God has forgiven you through His son Jesus. What does that mean to you?

Prayer - Lord I am so thankful for the gift of forgiveness and life we have in Jesus. Teach me to live in the power of your forgiveness. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 11 | READINGS 51-55

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

David Sees the Army

pg 180 - 1 Samuel 17

David Fights Goliath

pg 182 - 1 Samuel 17

David and Jonathan

Become Friends

pg 185 - 1 Samuel 18

God's Great Promise to

David

pg 188 - 2 Samuel 7

The Wisdom of Solomon

pg 193 - 1 Kings 3; Prov. 8

In your daily prayers, include a neighbor or a friend who doesn't know Jesus Christ as their Savior or is not engaged in the practice of the faith. Here's a sample prayer you could use:

Dear Lord Jesus, You came into this world to give Your life to save sinners. Right now I bring before You _____ who is dear to me. They need your forgiveness and grace in their lives. Today I ask the Holy Spirit to touch that lost or doubting heart. Give me an opportunity to invite them to church or to share with them the hope I find in You. Amen.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

KING HEZEKIAH PRAYS – 2 Kings 18-19 | KtBN page 154

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ When it seemed like everything was against King Hezekiah, what did Hezekiah say in his prayer? (3rd paragraph from the end)
- ◆ How might hardships in life actually teach us to trust in God even more?

Prayer - Lord God, help me be confident that You will never forget me. Keep my eyes always fixed on your promises. Amen.

KING JOSIAH - 2 Kings 22-23 | KtBN page 158

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ After King Josiah found out that they were breaking the commandments handed down to them by God, what did he do in response in words and actions?
- ◆ Why do you think it seems so easy to fall into unbelief and sin?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, help me examine every part of my heart, mind and soul. I confess my sins to you. Thank you for Your son Jesus, who has won forgiveness for me. Amen.

GOD CALLS JEREMIAH – Jeremiah 1, 23 & 31 | KtBN page 162

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ God told Jeremiah that before he was born, God knew him. How does it make you feel to know that God knew you, BEFORE you were born?
- ◆ Look at the last line of the story you are reading today. That's a promise to YOU, because of Jesus. He not only forgives you, God no longer remembers your sin, because of His son Jesus. How does this make you feel?

Prayer - Before I was born, You knew me. Thank you for Your Love and constant care for me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

ISRAEL AND JUDAH IN EXILE – 2 Kings 17 & 24-25 | KtBN page 168

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Why do you think Israel and Judah were taken into captivity and exile?
- ◆ Sometimes we make bad decisions like the kings and people of Israel and Judah. What do you think God would have us do in response? (hint, read "Words to Remember" at the top of the page)

Prayer - Lord, I often fail in keeping your commandments. I confess my sins to you and call upon your mercy and forgiveness, won for us on the cross by Your son Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOD'S PROMISES TO THE EXILES – Ezekiel 8 & 36 | KtBN page 174

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ After God promised punishment for Israel's evil deeds, what GOOD things did he promise as well?
- ◆ God hates sin, but loves us. Look at the last two paragraphs. How do you think this might apply to your life and relationship with God?

Prayer - Lord, forgive my sin and change my heart. Bring the power of your love and forgiveness into me. In Jesus name. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 12 | READINGS 56-60

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Solomon Builds the Temple

page 197 - 1 Kings 5-6

Jonah

page 199 - Jonah 1-4

Israel goes Away

page 203 - 2 Kings 17

Isaiah Sees the Lord

page 205 - Isaiah 6; 52-53

King Hezekiah Prays

page 209 - 2 Kings 18-19

If you are reading these Bible stories with your family, try praying, out loud, for the members of your family. Pray for their needs, their hurts, even how they are a blessing to you. Ask God's grace to shine in their lives. You will be amazed at how God answers your prayers for family members!

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

THREE MEN IN THE FIERY FURNACE - Daniel 3 | KtBN page 178

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ What was King Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to the three men coming out of the fiery furnace unharmed?
- ♦ Describe some opportunities you might have to stand up for your faith in Christ?

Prayer - Lord God, give me a strong faith to meet the daily challenges I face. Make me a bold and courageous witness to Your Love and forgiveness. Amen.

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN - Daniel 6 | KtBN page 180

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ How do you think it's becoming more difficult to stand up for what you believe?
- ♦ What did you learn from Daniel, who stood up for what he believed?

Prayer - Gracious Father, teach me to trust that you will always be with me, especially when I face harm and danger. In Jesus name, Amen.

DANIEL SEES HEAVEN - Daniel 7 | KtBN page 182

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ "Ancient of Days" is referring to God the Father. How was he described?
- ♦ "...one like a son of man" refers to Jesus, the Son of God. He is our Savior and Lord. From this description, what do you think "Savior and Lord" means?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, your mercy never fails. You reign as Lord over the heaven and the earth, and I'm grateful for you. Amen.

A NEW TEMPLE AND A NEW WALL - The Books of Ezra & Nehemiah | KtBN page 190

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Look at the "Words to Remember" section. What does that mean to you, when facing difficult times?
- ♦ This story makes us think of how our church works together for the glory of God. How can you band together with your church to let God's love and forgiveness shine in your community?

Prayer - Father, build us up as a family of believers in our church, so we might band together and let the power of your mercy shine to our community. In Jesus name, Amen.

ESTHER AND THE KING - Esther 1-2 | KtBN page 196

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ This story is in two parts (you will read the final part next week). Haman was mad, because Mordecai wouldn't bow down to him. What did Haman's anger lead him to do?
- ♦ Use your Bible, or google "Ephesians 4:26-27". What does this teach us about "anger"?

Prayer - Lord God, heavenly Father, keep me from the consequences of anger that goes unchecked. Teach me to love others like you love us. In Jesus name. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 13 | READINGS 61-65

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

King Josiah's New Book

page 21 - 2 Kings 22

God Calls Jeremiah

page 215 - Jeremiah 1; 23 & 31

God Provides for Elijah

page 218 - 1 Kings 16-17

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

page 221 - 1 Kings 18

Elijah is Taken to Heaven

page 224 - 2 Kings 2

This week is a wonderful and BUSY week for all of us. Don't neglect being in the Word together. If you gather together with family or friends, how about reading the Christmas Story out loud, to those gathered with you? It's found in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verses 1-20. What a great addition to your Christmas family tradition!!

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

GOD SAVES HIS PEOPLE - Esther 3-8 | KtBN page 198

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Mordedai said, "Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" What opportunity do you think God is giving you, right now, to show God's mercy and grace to someone's life?
- ♦ Esther prepared for approaching the King by having the people fast, and we can also infer, "pray". What opportunity to show God's mercy to someone else could you pray for, right now?

Prayer - Lord, give us an opportunity to show Your mercy and love to someone in our community. Give me the strength to carry through with it. Amen.

WAITING FOR GOD'S MESSENGER - Malachi | KtBN page 202

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Malachi's words call us to examine how we are living. It is a call to repentance (which literally means turn 180 degrees). Where is God calling you to repent - to turn 180 degrees and go the other way?
- ♦ Jesus offers us forgiveness of our sins. With can His power and grace help us live in a way that is repentant (think of our definition of "repentance")?

Prayer - Dear Father, lead me to repentance and faith. Guide me in your paths, and keep my eyes fixed on your mercy. In Jesus name, Amen.

THE BIRTH OF JOHN FORETOLD - Luke 1 | KtBN page 214

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ In these days, children were their parent's retirement plan, as well as their pride and joy. How would their son John be a blessing to everyone around him?
- ♦ Talk to someone else about how your family/children are a blessing to you.

Prayer - Lord, we are thankful for children and families. Keep us ever mindful of your blessings upon our lives each and every day. Amen.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD - Luke 1 & Matthew 1 | KtBN page 216

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Look at the last line of the story. What does the name "Jesus" mean?
- ♦ Think of the worst sin you have thought, said or done. Now read about the meaning of Jesus' name again. What does this promise mean to you? How does this give you hope today?

Prayer - Lord, you were born to give us hope - to make everyday a new day in the power of your forgiveness. Keep us ever mindful of your grace and favor for us. We love you. Amen.

THE BIRTH OF JOHN - Luke 1 | KtBN page 218

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Look at the "Words to Remember" section. John the Baptist was going to prepare the way for the Lord (Jesus). How do you think he will prepare people? (if you don't know, you can cheat by looking ahead on page 230 and reading the 1st paragraph)
- ♦ The story tells us that Zechariah began to prophecy (which means "preach"). What are some things he preached about his son's upcoming ministry?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, thank you for sending John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare our hearts by faith to receive our Savior and King, Jesus Christ. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 14 | READINGS 66-70

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Naaman and Elisha

page 227 - 2 Kings 5

The Three men in the Fiery Furnace

page 232 - Daniel 3

The Lord leaves the Temple

page 235 - Ezekiel 8; 10-11 & 36

Johoiachin's New Clothes

page 238 - 2 Kings 24-25

Daniel in the Lions' Den

page 241 - Daniel 6

The New Year is a time for to think about bringing change into our life. Think about three things you would like to change/strengthen in your spiritual life/walk with Jesus. Write them down and pray about them for a bit. Today is a NEW day!!!

1)

2)

3)

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

THE BIRTH OF JESUS - Luke 2 | KtBN page 220

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ What are some things you do to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas?
- ◆ What did the shepherds do after the angel told them about the birth of Jesus? Is there someone you can tell?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world as a baby to save us. Thank you for this most precious gift. Amen.

THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN - Matthew 2 | KtBN page 222

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ The wise men brought gifts for Jesus. What were they?
- ◆ Myrrh was a perfume used in preparing bodies for burial. How might this be a sign of what is coming to Jesus?

Prayer - Lord, wise men came to visit and bring your gifts. Everyday, you bring us gifts of your mercy and peace. Thank you for this greatest of all gifts. Amen.

THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE - Luke 2 | KtBN page 224

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ What did Jesus and His parents do in Jerusalem?
- ◆ Near the bottom of the story, it tells us that Jesus was "submissive" to his parents. But Jesus is God's Son - why was it important for Jesus to be submissive, listen and obey his parents?

Prayer - Dear Jesus, you became like us and yet you were perfect in every way. You offered up your perfect life as a payment for our sins. Thank you for your mercy, which is new every day. Amen.

JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS - Matthew 3 and John 1 | KtBN page 230

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Here's that word "repent" again. Do you remember what it means? (hint, look at "Did you know" section)
- ◆ If Jesus was sinless, why did John the Baptist baptize him? (hint, look again at the "did you know" section)

Prayer - Lord Jesus, you were baptized by John the Baptist, to connect yourself to us. Remind us when we fail - to turn to you alone in repentance and faith. Amen.

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS - Matthew 4 | KtBN page 232

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ What did Jesus use to defeat the temptations of Satan? (hint - what did he quote/refer to)
- ◆ How might God's Word help us get through times when we are tempted to sin?

Prayer - Lord Jesus, the power of Your Word chases away temptation. Keep us strongly tied to Your Word and keep us safe in your presence. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 15 | READINGS 71-75

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Daniel Sees Heaven

pg 245 - Daniel 7

A New Temple

pg 247 - Ezra 3;7

A New Wall

pg 251 - Nehemiah 1-2; 4

Esther and the King

page 253 - Esther 2-5

The Lord Saves Esther

page 256 - Esther 5-9

It's always a good thing to encourage your family to commit some Scripture to memory. With the New Year, here is a perfect Bible verse to memorize.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

~ 2 Corinthians. 5:17

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

JESUS CALLS DISCIPLES - John 1 and Luke 5 | KtBN page 234

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ John called Jesus the "Lamb of God". Why was that an important title? (Hint: read "Words to Remember" at the top of the page for your answer)
- ♦ Why do you think the disciples left everything behind to follow Jesus?

Prayer - Dear Jesus, you called the disciples to follow, and they did. Keep our ears and our hearts attentive to Your Word, and teach us to follow you. Amen.

JESUS CHANGES WATER INTO WINE - John 2 | KtBN page 236

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why do you think Jesus did miracles? (Hint: read "Words to Remember" for your answer)
- ♦ Why do you think Jesus produced so many gallons of wine that was better than the good wine they served first at the wedding?

Prayer - Lord God, Your miracles show us your power and reign in this world. We thank you for the miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit, working through Your Word to lead us to Faith in You. Amen.

JESUS CLEARS THE TEMPLE - John 2 | KtBN page 238

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why was Jesus so upset with the money changers in the temple? (Hint: look at the notes in the "Did You Know" section)
- ♦ Jesus talked about his death and resurrection after 3 days in the tomb. Look at the last paragraph. Why did Jesus talk about this now?

Prayer - Lord, teach us to keep your Name Holy among us and Your Word as a powerful part of our daily lives. In Jesus name. Amen.

JESUS TEACHES NICODEMUS - John 3 | KtBN page 240

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ You hear some religious people talking about being "born again" with different definitions. Look at the first sentence of the fourth paragraph - Jesus describes being "Born again" by a very specific action. What is it?
- ♦ Look at the last paragraph. Teach yourself and your family to memorize this first sentence. It is the heart of the Gospel.

Prayer - Dear Jesus, you loved us so much that you gave up your life to pay for our sins. Thank you for your mercy, when has changed our lives forever. Amen.

JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN - John 4 | KtBN page 242

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ When the Samaritan woman found out who Jesus was, what was her first reaction?
- ♦ Think about three people you know who need to know the forgiveness of sins offered to us in Jesus Christ. Identify them by name - pray for them - and ask God to give you an opportunity to invite them to church with you.

Prayer - Heavenly Father, there are people around me which need Your mercy and grace. Give me an opportunity to make a difference in their lives with Your love. Give me the strength of faith to carry through. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 16 | READINGS 76 - 80

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Waiting for God's Messenger

page 258 - Malachi 2-4

The Birth of John Foretold

page 267 - Luke 1

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

page 269 - Luke 1

Mary Visits Elizabeth

page 272 - Luke 1

The Birth of John

page 275 - Luke 1

This week, we read about a lot of miracles performed by Jesus. Jesus used miracles to authenticate His message. It also gave Jesus the opportunity to share the Gospel with others.

Would you like to see God work? Pray for a friend, relative or neighbor who doesn't know Jesus as their Savior, or who doesn't go to church. Pray that God gives you an opportunity to invite them to worship with you - or to share the Gospel message of forgiveness with them. Then look for the opportunity to happen. Jesus said in Matthew 7 "Ask and it will be given unto you...". He will give you this opportunity - so look for it - and act on it. See what God will do in that person's life! The worst they can say is "no thanks" - but what if they agree and come to church with you? God uses us to spread the message of the Gospel. See the miracle happen!!

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

JESUS REJECTED AT NAZARETH – Luke 4 | KtBN page 244

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Re-read the words Jesus spoke from the prophet Isaiah. How do you think Jesus fulfilled these words in His ministry?
- ◆ Some hearing Jesus were upset that he was including Gentiles (Non-Jews) in God's salvation plan. (see "Did you Know" last note). Think of some people you know who you are convinced would never come to believe in Jesus as their Savior. Name them and pray that they would get an opportunity to hear the Gospel.

Prayer - Lord, the entire world needs Your mercy and forgiveness. Please let Your light and forgiveness shine over all those in our community and especially on our home. Amen.

JESUS HEALS A PARALYZED MAN – Mark 2 | KtBN page 246

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Why do you think Jesus made a point of publicly forgiving the paralyzed man's sins?
- ◆ What do you think people thought when they saw this paralyzed man walk out fully healed after talking to Jesus?

Prayer - Dear Jesus, I believe Your Word. I have faith in the forgiveness of sins You won for me on the cross. Keep my eyes fixed on Your promises. Amen.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT – Matthew 5-7 | KtBN page 248

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Find the spot where Jesus said "You are the Light of the World..." As His lights, what did Jesus command us to do? How can we do that among our friends/neighbors?
- ◆ In the sermon, Jesus told us to "love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us". Identify someone you are in conflict with - how can you pray for them?

Prayer - Father, we build our lives on Your mercy, won for us in Your Son Jesus. Shine the light of Your love through us, that others may experience Your grace. Amen.

JESUS CALMS THE STORM – Mark 4 | KtBN page 250

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ What are some things which cause you to be afraid?
- ◆ When the disciples were afraid in the storm, what did Jesus say to change their situation? What did Jesus ultimately do, on the cross, to change our situation?

Prayer - Lord Jesus, even the wind and the rain obey You. Give us faith to trust in You boldly, knowing that You will always have our backs. Amen.

JESUS HEALS JAIRUS'S DAUGHTER – Mark 5 | KtBN page 252

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ What did Jesus say to Jairus when he first met him?
- ◆ Jairus' daughter died, but Jesus raised her up to live again. Knowing that Jesus will do the same for us at the last day, how does that make you feel?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, You defeated sin, death and the power of the devil. In the midst of things that scare us, point us to Your promise of life and salvation for all who trust in You. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 17 | READINGS 81 - 85

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

An Angel Visits Joseph

page 279 - Matthew 1

The Birth of Jesus

page 283 - Luke 2

The Visit of the Wise Men

page 287 - Matthew 2

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

page 290 - Luke 2

John Prepares the Way of the Lord

page 295 - Matt. 3; Luke 3

Memorizing Bible verses is useful for our personal lives and our witness to others. Here are a few powerful verses from the Bible to memorize. If you have family around - try to do one each week.

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

JESUS FEEDS FIVE THOUSAND - John 67 | KtBN page 254

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why do you think Jesus wanted them to gather up all the left overs? What would that show the people?
- ♦ Read the last point of "Did you know"? Why do you think this is so?

Prayer - Lord, you take care of us in this life. Everything we have is from you. Give us insight to share with those who have less, so they can see the power of Your grace through our actions.

JESUS WALKS ON WATER - Matthew 14 | KtBN page 256

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Jesus helped Peter out of the water when he became afraid. What does this teach us when we go through times when we are afraid?
- ♦ Think about the things going on in your life which make you afraid/concerned. How can you give that fear/concern over to God?

Prayer - Lord, you are always there for me. When I am afraid, remind me of your presence. Show me your mercy and guide me through these tough times. In Jesus' name, Amen.

JESUS IS ANOINTED - Luke 7 | KtBN page 258

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Jesus loves sinners, even the very bad ones. Try to put into words, what it means that Jesus loves you enough to forgive all your sins. If you are doing this with your family - talk about it out loud with each other.
- ♦ Jesus told the woman "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Why would this woman, all of a sudden, feel at peace?

Prayer - Gracious Lord, I really need some of Your peace in my life. Keep my eyes fixed on your forgiveness, and let your peace shine brightly in my life. Amen.

PETER'S CONFESSION AND JESUS' TRANSFIGURATION - Matt. 16; Mark 9 | KtBN page 260

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Jesus said he would build His church on Peter's Confession of faith. Why do you think standing up for what you believe about God is important?
- ♦ Why do you think Jesus wanted people to tell no one that he was the Christ? (Hint, read "Did you Know")

Prayer - Lord, we are so very thankful for your mercy in our lives. Keep us strong in the faith and make us bold and courageous witnesses of Your grace to everyone around us. Amen.

JESUS SENDS THE SEVENTY-TWO - Luke 10 | KtBN page 262

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Read the first point in the "Did You Know" section. Where do you need to have more trust in God?
- ♦ Read the last paragraph. Jesus gave them perspective on why they should rejoice. Why do you think he made this point?

Prayer - Dear Jesus, so many people don't know you as Savior and Lord. It seems overwhelming at times. Use me to make a difference in one person's life this week with the power of Your love. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 18 | READINGS 86 - 90

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

The Baptism of Jesus

pg 297 - John 1; Matt. 3

The Temptation of Jesus

pg 300 - Matt. 4, Mark 1, Luke 4

Jesus Calls Disciples

pg 304 - John 1

Jesus Changes Water into Wine

pg 307 - John 2

Jesus Clears the Temple

pg 310 - John 2

Memorizing Bible verses is useful for our personal lives and our witness to others. Here is a great Psalm which brings comfort and peace to many people.

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

THE GOOD SAMARITAN - Luke 10 | KtBN page 264

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Look at the "Did You Know" section and read the definition of "neighbor". Identify a neighbor that could use some "mercy". Plan how you might let them see God's love through your actions/help.
- ♦ How might acts of mercy towards those around us give us an opportunity to share the Gospel with them?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, give us an opportunity to show mercy towards people in need. Make us bold and courageous in our witness and help us show Your love by what we do. In Your name, Amen.

JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN - John 9 | KtBN page 266

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ What was so radical about Jesus that the Pharisees wanted nothing to do with him?
- ♦ Look at the last sentence of the story for today. After he confessed his belief - what did the man do? Why is worship so important?

Prayer - Jesus, You are the Light of the World. Your grace changes our lives forever. Keep our eyes fixed on Your promises forever. Amen.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD - John 10 & Psalm 23 | KtBN page 268

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ What does the Good Shepherd (Jesus) do for His sheep (us)?
- ♦ What does Psalm 23 mean to you?

Prayer - Jesus, You are the Great Shepherd - You protect and keep us through all things. Teach us to follow You wherever life may lead us. Amen.

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS - JOHN 11 | KtBN page 270

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ What did Jesus say to Martha when he first arrived at their place?
- ♦ What was her response?
- ♦ Why do you think Jesus waited until Lazarus died to do this miracle?

Prayer - Lord, You are the Resurrection and the Life. You truly hold the key to eternal life. Thank You for Your mercy and grace, which never end. Amen.

THE PRODIGAL SON - Luke 15 | KtBN page 272

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ It's never too late to come back to God. You've never sinned too much that God can't forgive. What does this mean to you?
- ♦ Look at "Words to Remember". Identify that friend or neighbor who needs Jesus. Include them in your prayers and ask God for an opportunity to invite them to church with you.

Prayer - Jesus, Your mercy never ends. We can't out-sin Your grace. We humbly ask You to continue to shine Your mercy and grace on our lives. We need it. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 19 | READINGS 91-95

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

page 313 - John 3

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

page 316 - John 4

The Disciples Follow Jesus

page 319 - Matt. 4 & Luke 5

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

page 325 - Luke 4

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

page 327 - Mark 1-2

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is about 1 month away. Many people voluntarily give up things for Lent. Here's a great Lenten Challenge - instead of just giving up something - how about ADDING the reading of the Bible. Let's start with Psalms. It's easy to find - right in the middle of your Bible. Here's the plan:

- Read one Psalm each day- any Psalm you want. Just open it up - find a chapter and read the Psalm.
- Read 2 verses at a time. Stop to think about what the verses are saying to you - then pray about those verses. It doesn't have to be a long prayer - just pray about what the Words are saying to you.
- If you want - then pray about anything else that comes to mind. But just keep it short.
- Repeat the process - every two verses - think about it - pray about it and move on.
- Do it for the whole season of Lent.

It's a very fulfilling way to read the Bible. Let God speak to you - think about what He's saying - and then pray about what he just said. Teach your whole family to do this.

We've got one month to prepare for this!!

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

JESUS HEALS TEN MEN - Luke 17 | page 274

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why do you think the other nine who were healed didn't bother with thanking Jesus?
- ♦ Most of us forget to be thankful for all the blessings we have from God. What are some ways we can change that bad habit?

Prayer - Gracious Lord, You love and care for us more than we deserve. Forgive us for shallow thankfulness. Keep us mindful of Your ever-present grace and love towards us. Amen.

JESUS AND THE LITTLE CHILDREN - Mark 9-10 | page 276

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why do you think children were so important to Jesus?
- ♦ Can you name 2 or 3 Christian habits you can teach your children/grandchildren?

Prayer - Dear Lord Jesus Christ, use me to let Your love and forgiveness shine on the people around me. In Your name I pray. Amen.

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS - Luke 19 | page 278

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ If Zacchaeus was such a terrible man (see "Did you know") why do you think Jesus befriended him? Read "Words to Remember" for a clue.
- ♦ Think about someone who is "forgotten" or "rejected" in your community. Pray for an opportunity to make a difference in their lives. How could you invite them to church or witness the faith to them?

Prayer - Lord, everyone needs You. There is no sin You can't forgive. Use me to bring Your Words of Life and hope especially to those who seem deplorable to others. In Jesus name, Amen.

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY - Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19 | page 282

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ The crowds shouted "Hosanna" when they saw Jesus. The word Hosanna means "an expression of joy and praise for deliverance granted or anticipated." What deliverance did Jesus bring?
- ♦ Why do you think the Gospel writers keep on connecting Jesus' life and actions to things that were written about in the Old Testament. (see 2nd paragraph)

Prayer - Dear Jesus, You rode into Jerusalem with people shouting "Hosanna" - "Lord Save us." Continue to pour Your life and salvation into our hearts, that we may serve You joyfully. Amen.

THE WIDOW'S COINS - Mark 12 | page 284

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Read the "Did You Know" section. Why do you think our giving reflects our priorities?
- ♦ Name some ways we are dependent on God for everything?

Prayer -. Gracious Father, be near us and keep us strong in the power of Your grace. Make us mindful that all we have is from Your hands. In Jesus name, Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 20 | READINGS 96-100

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Jesus Calls Matthew

page 331 - Mark 1-2

Jesus Calms a storm

page 333 - Mark 4

Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter

page 336 - Mark 5

Jesus Is Anointed

page 339 - Luke 7

Jesus Walks on Water

page 342 - Matthew 14

It's OK to write in your personal Bible. I take notes and underline things all the time. You can either use a pen or a highlighter.

Here are some Bible verses to look up and underline because they are important. We will keep adding more in the following weeks.

Proverbs 3:5
Isaiah 41:10
Jeremiah 29:11
Matthew 6:33
John 3:16
Romans 1:16
Ephesians 2:8-10
Philippians 4:6-7

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

THE LORD'S SUPPER - Luke 22 | KtBN page 286

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why do you think Judas decided to betray Jesus?
- ♦ What do you think it would have been like to eat the Lord's Supper with Jesus?
- ♦ The Bible tells us that Jesus is given to us in, with and under the bread and wine. Can you think of how that might be something good for us?

Prayer - Dear Lord, so often we betray You in thought, words and actions. Thank you for Your mercy, shown to us in Jesus Christ, who offers and gives forgiveness for all who trust in You. Amen.

JESUS IN THE GARDEN - Matthew 26, Mark 14, and Luke 22 | KtBN page 288

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why do you think Jesus was so upset in Gethsemane?
- ♦ During this time of great stress, what things did Jesus do to help Him get through?

Prayer - Lord, You suffered so much to make us right with our Heavenly Father. We thank You for Your constant love and mercy, which covers all our sins. Amen.

PETER DENIES JESUS - Matthew 26 | KtBN page 290

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ When do you find it difficult to stand up for the Christian faith?
- ♦ Peter denied Jesus 3 times, yet became a powerful leader of the church. How do you think he was able to overcome his earlier failures?

Prayer - Lord, help me to stand strong in my faith when times are tough. Keep my firm in my trust in You through everything I face. Amen.

JESUS' TRIAL - Matthew 27 and John 18 | KtBN page 292

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ In Jesus' time, most people thought the Messiah would be a person who would restore the Nation of Israel. Look at "Words to Remember" to see Jesus' response. What do you think He means?
- ♦ Jesus didn't defend himself. Why do you think he stayed silent? (check out "Did you know" for a hint)

Prayer - Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Your Son Jesus Christ, to take my place and pay for my sin. I am forever grateful to You. Amen.

THE CRUCIFIXION - Matthew 27, Luke 23 and John 19 | KtBN page 294

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ On the cross Jesus said "It is finished". What do you think is finished? What does that mean for you?
- ♦ The curtain of the temple torn in two when Jesus died. It shows us we now have access to God the Father through the sacrifice of His son Jesus. What might you want to talk to God about, knowing you have this access? You can talk to him about these things in prayer. Write them down and talk to Him!

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, You lived the life we should have lived and died the death for sin we deserved. Thank you for Your mercy, which is new every morning. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 21 | READINGS 101-105

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

The Transfiguration

page 345 - Mark 8-9

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

page 348 - John 9

The Beatitudes

page 352 - Matthew 4-5

The Sermon on the Mount

page 355 - Matthew 5-6

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand People

page 358 - John 6

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR MAKING DAILY DEVOTIONS A HABIT:

- FIND A SPECIAL TIME AND STICK TO IT. MAKE IT A PRIORITY.
- DESIGNATE A SPECIAL PLACE TO DO YOUR DAILY DEVOTIONS EVERY DAY.
- STICK WITH IT FOR 6 WEEKS. SIX WEEKS CREATES A STRONG HABIT.
- PRAY BEFORE YOU START THAT GOD WOULD OPEN HIS WORD TO YOU AND DRAW YOU CLOSER TO HIM.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

THE RESURRECTION - Luke 24 and John 20 | KtBN page 296

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Think about the women who went to the tomb in order to embalm Jesus' body with the spices they had prepared. When the two men in dazzling clothes (angels) spoke to them, they had to be shocked. Spend some time thinking and talking about what they may have said to each other.
- ♦ Jesus had talked about his death and resurrection often. Why do you think the disciples were surprised at Jesus' resurrection?

Prayer - Dear Jesus, sin, death nor the devil could hold You down. You rose triumphant and You gave Your victory to us and saved us. Thank you. Amen.

JESUS APPEARS ON THE EMMAUS ROAD - Luke 24 | KtBN page 298

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ The disciples said "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures." Why do you think they had that reaction?
- ♦ Think about some bad/tough times you face. How can the news of Jesus' resurrection give you a little hope and joy?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, You give us hope even when there seems nothing but despair. Keep our eyes fixed on Your promises. Amen.

JESUS APPEARS TO THOMAS - John 20 | KtBN page 300

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ In the third paragraph of the story, Jesus said something to the disciples that Lutherans like to call "The Office of the Keys". Why is it a good name for this passage?
- ♦ Read the last line of our story, because it tells us why this Gospel was written. What does it mean to you that "You have life in His name?"

Prayer - Lord, thank you for Your Word, which creates faith in Your promises. Help me to always keep close to Your gracious Word and promises that I may never let them go. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

JESUS AND PETER - John 21 | KtBN page 302

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Peter denied Jesus three times. Why do you think Jesus restored and forgave him now?
- ♦ Jesus told Peter to "Feed my sheep." What do you think he was talking about?

Prayer - Lord, there is no sin so large that you can't forgive. Remind me again and again of your mercy and use me to connect others to you. Amen.

JESUS ASCENDS TO HEAVEN - Matthew 29 & Acts 1 | KtBN page 304

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ In the second paragraph, Jesus gives us what is called the "Great Commission". What is he commanding us to do?
- ♦ Read the "Words to Remember". Think about good times, stressful times, sad times and uncertain times and what it means that Jesus is "with us always." Talk about it.

Prayer - Gracious Lord, hear my prayer. Give me opportunity to tell one person today about the hope that I have in you. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 22 | READINGS 106-110

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Jesus Sends the Seventy-two

page 361 - Luke 10

The Good Samaritan

page 364 - Luke 10

The Good Shepherd

page 367 - John 10

A Psalm of David

page 369 - Psalm 23

Jesus Raises Lazarus

page 371 - John 11

Memorizing Bible verses as a family is great. Put God's Word in your family's hearts and minds and it will become a blessing to them.

Consider also, teaching and memorizing the following with your family:

- **The 10 Commandments** and their meaning from *Luther's Small Catechism*
- **The Apostles Creed** (Challenge your family to learn the explanation of the three parts of the creed from *Luther's Small Catechism*.)
- **The Lord's Prayer**

Ask your pastor for a copy of *Luther's Small Catechism* if you don't have one, or order one from CPH.org.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

PENTECOST - ACTS 2 | KtBN page 310

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit caused people to speak in other languages. What were they speaking about? (Look at 2nd Paragraph).
- ♦ After hearing all these people speak in other languages, and hearing Peter's message to them, how did they respond? What did Peter tell them to do?

Prayer - Lord God, continue to pour out Your Spirit on the hearts of those who trust in You. Give us opportunity to let one more person know all that You have done for us. Amen.

PETER AND JOHN HEAL A LAME MAN - Acts 3 | KtBN page 312

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Read the last 2 paragraphs. What was the response to this healing?
- ♦ What did Peter call for them to do in response to what they saw?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, Your Word changes peoples' lives forever. Let Your Word spread all around our community, that people might know the power of Your love. Amen.

GOD'S SERVANT STEPHEN - Acts 6-7 | KtBN page 314

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Look at the 2nd to last paragraph. They write about "Saul" holding the coats of the people who were stoning Stephen to death. Do you know who "Saul" would become?
- ♦ Check out Acts 9, or just google "Saul of Acts". Why do you think the people got so mad at Stephen?

Prayer - Lord, there are times when it is tough to stand up for what we believe. When that time comes for us to stand up for our faith in You, make us bold and courageous. In Jesus name, Amen.

PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN - Acts 8 | KtBN page 316

- ♦ Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:
- ♦ When Philip told the Ethiopian about Jesus, what was his response?
- ♦ Do you know the date of your Baptism? If you have kids with you, tell them about the day they were baptized.

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, the power of Your Word changes our hearts, leading us to repentance and faith. Use us to boldly declare the power of Your love to others, that they too might experience forgiveness and life. Amen.

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL - Acts 9 | page 318

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Saul was vicious to Christians. Why do you think God would call a guy like Saul to become a believer?
- ♦ Why do you think the other disciples of Jesus were initially afraid of Saul?

Prayer - Lord God, heavenly Father, all things are possible through You. Your mercy can change anyone's heart. Work powerfully among my family and friends, so they may come to know You as Savior and Lord. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 23 | READINGS 111-115

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

Jesus Seeks the Lost

page 374 - Luke 15

Jesus Heals Ten Men with Leprosy

page 377 - Luke 17

Jesus and the Little Children

page 380 - Mark 9-10

Jesus and Zacchaeus

page 383 - Luke 18-19

The Widow's Coins

page 386 - Mark 12

We are nearing the end of our "Bring It Home" weekly reading sheets. If you would, please take some time and write to

monte.meyer@mnnlcms.org

and share with him your experiences with Bring it Home and perhaps some suggestions/ideas for year 2. Thanks.

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

PETER AND CORNELIUS - Acts 10 | KtBN page 320

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Early on, Jewish Christians had a difficult time including Gentile Christians in their ministry. Even Peter had this struggle. What was God teaching them in this Story?
- ♦ Think of a person you know who is totally opposite from you - someone you wouldn't associate with. How might you make them feel welcome in your church?

Prayer - Dear God, you taught us that everyone needs You. It doesn't matter how we were born, or what has happened in our life. We need You. Give us a heart for others, so everyone might have the chance to know Your love. Amen.

PETER'S ESCAPE FROM PRISON - Acts 12 | KtBN page 322

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Why do you think Herod the King and some of the Jews hated Christians so much?
- ♦ What are some things about Christianity that is unpopular with unbelievers today?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, sometimes it's difficult to stand up for what we believe. Give us extra faith to boldly profess our faith in You as Savior and Lord. Amen.

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY - Acts 13-14 | KtBN page 324

- ♦ Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:
- ♦ Why do you think Paul spent time in Antioch? (hint: read "Did you know")
- ♦ When the Jews in that area started to contradict his teachings, what did Paul and the others do? What was the Gentile's response?

Prayer - Lord, open our eyes to all the opportunities You give us to share Your love and forgiveness with others. When one way seems closed, open to us another route. Amen.

PAUL'S LETTERS | KtBN page 326

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ What did Paul call the Gospel in his letter to the Romans?
- ♦ What did Paul say about Faith and good works in his letter to the Ephesians?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, we are grateful for the work of St. Paul in bringing the Gospel to us through his letters. Lord teach us to cling to Your Word, because it brings life and salvation. Amen.

PAUL AND TIMOTHY - Acts 16, 1 & 2 Timothy | KtBN page 330

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ In "Did You Know" we find out that Paul mentored people in God's Word. How might you go about mentoring your family and friends to grow in their faith in God?
- ♦ Look at that first paragraph where Paul was writing to Timothy (where the word "Grace" his highlighted). How did Paul describe himself?

Prayer - Lord, we are nothing without Your mercy. Every day we wake is a new day in the power of Your love. Thank You for Your mercy which never ends. Amen.



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 24 | READINGS 116-120

THE STORY BIBLE

This week, read and discuss these 5 stories:

The Triumphal Entry

page 389 - Matthew 21

The Lord's Supper

page 392 - Luke 21-22

Peter Denies Jesus

page 395 - Mark 14

The Passion of Christ

page 398 - Matthew 27

Jesus Dies and Lives Again

Page 402 - Luke 23-24

This is the end of our weekly Bring It Home Print Outs. If you are going through "The Story Bible" you can continue your 5 weekly readings until you are finished.

We hope you enjoyed this series. If you have any questions or comments please contact

monte.meyer@mnnlcms.org

We'd love to hear from you.

Thanks for "Bringing it Home"!

KNOW THE BIBLE NOW

PAUL TELLS LYDIA ABOUT CHRIST - Acts 16 | KtBN page 332

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Look at "Words to Remember". The fact that you are here today, reading stories from the Bible means that God has opened up your heart to pay attention to what is being said. What does that mean to you?
- ♦ Notice how Paul and the others didn't plan out every time they witnessed to others - it just happened. How might you prepare yourself to take advantage of the opportunities God gives you to tell someone else about Jesus or invite them to church with you?

Prayer - Lord every day is new with the power of Your grace. Keep our eyes open for opportunities to share Your love with those around us. Amen.

PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON - Acts 16 | KtBN page 338

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ The slave girl was possessed by Satan. What happened to her when Paul got irritated with the demon's raving?
- ♦ Why do you think Paul and Silas continued to pray and sing hymns to God while they were in prison?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, we don't know how our life will turn out - but we know we can trust in Your never ending love. Keep us always safe in You. Amen.

PAUL SAILS TO ROME - Acts 27-28 | KtBN page 340

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ How do you think the rest of the crew felt when Paul said "everything is going to be OK"?
- ♦ Why do you think God allowed bad things like that to happen to Paul? What might it teach them and others?

Prayer - Lord, even when bad things come against us, Your love endures forever. Through all situations, keep my eyes fixed on Your mercy. Amen.

PAUL WRITES TO THE PHILIPPIANS - Philippians 1 & 4 | KtBN page 33

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Read the material before and after this reading. Note the different themes. Even with all the different themes, what is the central message?
- ♦ In our reading on Philippians, why could Paul have joy, even when he was imprisoned for being a Christian?

Prayer - Lord, be with me always. Never let me go. Even in hard times, point me to Your mercy which is new every day. Amen.

JOHN'S VISION OF HEAVEN - Revelation 21-22 | KtBN page 354

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ♦ Read the "Words to Remember". He is describing heaven and eternal life. What does this passage tell you about heaven?
- ♦ What is the most striking thing about the description of heaven in our reading?

Prayer - Dear God - heaven is going to be great - more than we could ever ask for or imagine. Thank you for sending Jesus to be my Savior and giving me the sure and certain hope of eternal life. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.