

# PLANNING GUIDE

## WELCOME

Welcome to Enduring Faith, the flexible, Christ-centered Christian education curriculum from Concordia Publishing House. As one of the leaders in your congregation, this Planning Guide is designed for you. It contains all the information and resources you need to be an effective leader for your Christian education program.

## UNIT SUMMARY

This unit gets everything started! The first week begins with creation, and the last lesson falls during the reign of King David. Together, your church family will learn key Bible accounts and give foundational learning of how God's plan of salvation all began.

1. A Mighty Wonder—Creation
2. The Fall and a Promise—Fall into Sin
3. A New Beginning—Noah
4. A Call to Action—Abram
5. A Promising Dream—Jacob
6. Hope in Hardship—Joseph
7. Fiery Directions—Moses
8. The Egypt Exit—Exodus
9. A Loving Law—Ten Commandments
10. The Land at Last—Joshua
11. A Judge Leads—Gideon
12. A Prophet Serves—Samuel
13. A King Forever—David
14. The King's Table—Mephibosheth (Seasonal)

## SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Enduring Faith offers flexibility on a number of levels. The flexible, undated scope and sequence allows you to plan lessons as they fit your congregation's schedule. Each unit of Enduring Faith contains fourteen lessons, arranged in biblical chronological order, with one exception. One lesson in the unit is labeled "seasonal." This lesson is designed to permit you to observe church holidays at the appropriate time. Sometimes this means moving the seasonal lesson out of the sequence in which it appears. The first unit contains a seasonal lesson to celebrate either Thanksgiving or Reformation (depending on the curriculum year). The second unit seasonal lesson celebrates the nativity of Jesus, while the third unit lesson celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

The complete three-year scope and sequence for Enduring Faith includes the following:

- ▶ Bible Survey—a one-year walk-through of both the Old and New Testaments, from the Creation to Christ's triumphant return on the Last Day.
- ▶ Old Testament Exploration—a yearlong study of the Old Testament with a focus on the promise and prophecy of the Messiah.
- ▶ New Testament Exploration—this one-year study of the New Testament follows the life of Christ and the Early Church.

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- ☐ Including Everyone
- ☐ Connecting to Christ across Cultures
- ☐ Lesson Overview Chart
- ☐ Growing in Faith for Life Chart
- ☐ Map

## PLANNING RESOURCES

(Digital Resource Center)

- ☐ Pastor Guide
- ☐ Lesson Openings
- ☐ Leader Devotions
- ☐ Lesson Summaries
- ☐ Enduring Faith Pages
- ☐ Unit Planner
- ☐ Attendance Chart
- ☐ Timeline
- ☐ Music

## UNIT SCOPE

Each unit of Enduring Faith contains fourteen lessons arranged in biblical chronological order.

- ▶ **Flexibility**—The undated lessons allow your congregation to begin and end the unit on dates that fit your congregation’s schedule. You can schedule lessons as needed for holidays, special events, or program practices.
- ▶ **Seasonal Lesson**—One lesson in the unit is labeled “seasonal.” This lesson is designed to permit you to observe church holidays at the appropriate time. Sometimes this means moving the seasonal lesson out of the sequence in which it appears. The first unit contains a seasonal lesson to celebrate either Thanksgiving or Reformation. The second unit seasonal lesson celebrates the nativity of Jesus, while the third unit lesson celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.
- ▶ **Scheduling**—To assist with planning and scheduling, make use of the Unit Plan available with the other planning resources.

## AGE-APPROPRIATE LEARNING

The four levels in Enduring Faith offer flexibility for congregations with just a few or a large number of students. Each level can be adjusted to accommodate the needs of your congregation.

- ▶ **Early Childhood**—Know: Discover the Account  
*For students who do not yet read. Typically ages 3–5 or preschool through kindergarten.*
- ▶ **Elementary**—Grow: Explore the Context  
*For students in elementary grades, independent through advanced readers.*
- ▶ **Youth**—Go: Defend the Faith  
*For students in middle school through high school.*
- ▶ **Adult**—Show: Equipped to Teach  
*For post-high school students through adults.*

## LEVEL MATERIALS

The Leader Guides and student materials for Enduring Faith are designed for ease of use and flexibility.

- ▶ **Leader Guides**—Each lesson is self-contained in a four-page leaflet. The Leader Guides may be pulled apart for distribution to multiple teachers.
- ▶ **Student/Participant Materials**—The student materials vary slightly from level to level to provide age-appropriate resources for those students.

## LESSON STEPS

Each lesson in Enduring Faith contains the same basic lesson steps:

1. **Launch**—The opening activity helps introduce students to the lesson for the week.
2. **Learn**—Students dig in to the Bible account for the week.
3. **Live**—Students learn to apply the Bible account to their lives today.
4. **Leave**—This closing step prepares students to go out into the world.

## LEADER RESOURCES

- ▶ **Attendance Chart**—A printable attendance chart for younger students and a customizable electronic attendance sheet are available with the planning resources (digital resource center).
- ▶ **Enduring Faith Pages**—These pages contain the Bible Verse for each week with decorative elements to color as well as suggestions for at-home discussions and activities (digital resource center).
- ▶ **Unit Planner**—Coordinate your lesson planning with these pages to list the dates for each lesson as well as who is teaching that specific lesson (digital resource center).
- ▶ **Leader Devotions**—Prepare for the lesson each week as you spend time with these brief teacher devotions (Planning Pages).
- ▶ **Timeline**—A timeline highlighting the lessons for the unit and other significant world events is available with the other planning resources.

## PLANNING RESOURCES

The digital resource center provides a variety of additional planning resources. Find these downloads where you found this Planning Guide.

- ▶ **Lesson Summaries**—Use these brief summaries of each week's lesson for your congregational bulletin or newsletter (digital resource center).
- ▶ **Lesson Openings**—An opening is included for congregations who begin as one large group.
- ▶ **Unit Planner**—Use this page to coordinate your lesson planning. List the dates and who is teaching each lesson. It can be used as a fillable form or as a simple PDF.
- ▶ **Leader Devotions**—Offer these brief devotions for each lesson for adults and leaders alike.
- ▶ **Pastor Guide**—Help your pastor connect with your Christian education program. These pages provide important information and special ideas for how your pastor can help, encourage, and support your program.

## FEATURES AND RESOURCES

- ☐ **Connecting Identity & Calling**—Each lesson connects who we are in Christ and how we live in that identity to serve others. Find this on the last page of each lesson in the Leader Guides
- ☐ **Growing in Faith for Life Chart**—Discover the powerful framework that connects congregations and their people to faith-based resources in developmentally appropriate ways. The Learner Goal for each lesson is adapted according to level. Find this on the last page of each lesson in the Leader Guides.
- ☐ **Faith Focus**—The suggested catechism selections found on the Lesson Overview Chart may be used to connect the Bible account with the Small Catechism.
- ☐ **Media/Music**—Visit the digital resource center for music, level downloads, and articles for support.

# INCLUDING EVERYONE

## TEACHING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Anywhere from 10–20 percent of any school-aged group of children will have some type of special need that affects their learning. In the Day School setting, those children often receive some type of special services to support their learning. This support will vary widely depending on what the child needs to be successful in school.

Christian education is full of school-aged children. One can safely estimate that approximately 10–20 percent of the children who attend your church will likely have some type of special need that may be affecting their ability to learn and participate in a traditional classroom in a traditional way. Our own basic math skills tell us that if we have thirty kids in Christian education, three to six of them will have some kind of special need. The good news is, this is *not* a traditional school nor does the learning need to be accomplished in traditional ways.

Christian education is an excellent place for children with all manner of special needs to learn about Jesus and also be with their peers. For many children, the demands of language, reading, and writing make school a difficult environment, even with the most understanding of teachers. Christian education does not typically present those same academic demands. Teachers also don't have the same demands of assessments and report cards, thus releasing them to focus solely on the message of the Gospel.

This does not mean that we should ignore the special needs of our students just because we don't teach reading, writing, or math. It does mean that you may be able to be more flexible in how you approach those needs.

### WHAT IS A SPECIAL NEED ANYWAY?

A student with strong cognitive skills but who is not learning reading, writing, listening, speaking, spelling, or math skills (or any combination of these skills) the way we would expect is considered to have a learning disability.

You may not even realize that a student has a learning

disability. As with many special needs, a learning disability is considered a “hidden disability” because you can't tell by looking that a child struggles in any of these areas. What you might notice is a child who is hesitant to read aloud or who reads very slowly and awkwardly aloud in class. This student may also exhibit disruptive behaviors rather than read aloud in class. A student with a learning disability may also struggle with writing and spelling. Thus writing sentences or even copying from the board may be a struggle.

Being part of a group of children in an organized, or unorganized, setting also requires students to utilize what are referred to as executive function skills. These skills include the ability to control one's emotions, get started on a task, shift away from a task, sustain attention, inhibit

impulses, remember short term directions, plan or manage time, and make decisions. Sometimes students who struggle with executive function skills are identified as having Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), and sometimes they might also be dealing with autism. It's not for you to diagnose.

The same child who struggles with reading comprehension may also struggle to read facial expressions or tone of voice. It is

not uncommon for students who are dealing with ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, or cognitive impairments to be emotionally immature as well. Naturally, none of this means they can't learn about Jesus. It just means that you will need to put some supports in place to ensure the child's success.

### WHAT IS A TEACHER TO DO?

If possible, start by talking with parents. Approach parents with a positive attitude and reassure them that you want their child to participate in Christian education to the fullest extent possible. Parents may be nervous that you won't accept their child if they tell you everything or that you'll require the parent to stay with their child. Assure them that Jesus loves their child and so do you. Make sure they know that you will do all that you can to make Christian education a successful experience for their child. Listen to their insights about what their child needs as well as their fears of potential problems.

As with many special needs, a learning disability is considered a “hidden disability” because you can't tell by looking that a child struggles in any of these areas.

Ask the parent if there are supports, people, equipment, assistive technology, or adaptations that are put in place for their child in school that you could replicate in your congregation.

Some children with special needs will need little to no extra support. You're not asking them to read at grade level or take tests. Making sure that your lessons are full of active learning experiences and creating a welcoming atmosphere is enough. Other students may need an extra adult to be their personal helper. It's amazing what an extra adult can do to make things go better.

The next step is to do more research. This short article is not nearly enough information to understand all the complex issues related to learning disabilities, ADD, autism, cognitive impairments, hearing impairments, or any other issue that causes a stumbling block to learning. Ask parents or teacher friends to guide you to the best places for accurate information and suggestions. Always keep in mind your goal is to share the Good News of Jesus.

## PREPARE AND PRAY

Being prepared goes a long way toward alleviating all kinds of problems. When you are well prepared, you are more comfortable, and students respond more positively to teachers who seem to know what they're doing. When you know what's coming next or when you have materials ready, behavior issues are reduced.

Preparation time is also when a teacher can make decisions about adapting activities to meet the specific needs of students. It's much harder to make adaptations on the fly.

Finally, keep all of your students in your regular prayers. But also pray that the Lord will guide your teaching so that you reach all your students with the important message of the Gospel. Pray for the specific needs of individual students. Pray for your own understanding, creativity,

and patience. Pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen your faith and the faith of your students as you learn about God's love in Jesus together.

Pray for the specific needs  
of individual students.  
Pray for your own  
understanding, creativity,  
and patience.



# CONNECTING TO CHRIST ACROSS CULTURES

## THE LORD GOD MADE THEM ALL

No doubt, you give a lot of thought as to how to make each student in your class feel welcome when they walk through the door. Maybe you've decorated your space. Perhaps you play some background music. You care about those you teach, and it shows. Think about your students one by one. Are they the same? Of course not. This means that your classroom is blessed with diversity.

## THE BLESSINGS OF A DIVERSE CLASSROOM

The term *diversity* may be used in many different ways, but in our context, it addresses the reality that God has created each person as a unique individual whom Jesus died and rose to save.

As you prepare lessons for your class, one factor you have the opportunity to consider is diversity. Whether your class is filled with students from a variety of cultural backgrounds who speak multiple languages or students whose backgrounds seem identical, your students still have a wide range of learning needs and preferences.

## REACHING YOUR STUDENTS

That is why, especially in areas of cultural diversity, knowing your students and their families is vital. It helps you understand their previous knowledge and how they might share it to help the rest of the class learn something new.

With that in mind, here are a few tips to help you celebrate the diversity of each of the uniquely created students in your class.

- ▶ Make an effort to connect with families and involve them in your Christian education program. Set up a meeting with the child and his or her family to learn more about the family's culture and the child's needs. If the family is comfortable sharing, talk about previous faith education and experiences. If you come

across a parent whose knowledge or talents would be helpful in teaching a lesson, invite him or her to speak to the class. Consider organizing an event where parents and guardians can hear about what their children are learning. Families could bring foods they make at home and everyone could worship together and learn songs from a variety of languages and cultures.

Whether your class is filled with students from a variety of cultural backgrounds who speak multiple languages or students whose backgrounds seem identical, your students still have a wide range of learning needs and preferences.

▶ Learn to pronounce every student's name correctly. If a student's name seems difficult to pronounce, it might be tempting to give him or her a nickname and move on. Unless the student prefers to be called something other than his or her given name, you should learn how to say it, even if it takes a few tries. Something as simple as this can make a big difference in helping you to form relationships with your students and teach them more effectively.

▶ Think about what your students can teach you. Don't be afraid to ask students questions

about their culture or native language. Chances are, they will be excited that you showed an interest and will be glad to share their knowledge with you. This can help you learn about new ideas and ways of thinking you might never have considered before.

- ▶ Implement activities that fit students' needs but benefit everyone. Let's say you have students who come from cultures with a more collectivist mind-set (placing the needs of the community above the needs of the individual). Often, these groups tend to favor activities that encourage collaboration and harmony rather than competition. In this situation, you might choose a collaborative activity like working together to arrange a puzzle rather than a competitive relay. This type of activity would benefit all students, as it could still serve as a connection to a lesson while teaching all your students about the importance of working together.

- ▶ Acknowledge the culture and diversity found in God's Word. Throughout the Bible, we learn how God's Word was shared with the Jews, a people with a rich cultural history. The Word then spread to people around the world. Place Bible stories in their appropriate cultural contexts, and give students an opportunity to share how God's Word is present in their own communities.
- ▶ Pray for guidance and wisdom as you seek to meet the diverse needs of your students. Find joy as you explore God's Word together and learn about the hope we have in Christ's death and resurrection on the cross, purchased and won for "all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

More than anything, teach each and every student as a child dearly loved by Jesus who needs to hear of His love for him or her. The way you embrace each one as God's beloved child will be contagious. You'll begin to notice the same care and respect among students as they learn together.

## LESSON OVERVIEW CHART

LESSON	LESSON TITLE/ TEXT	LAW/GOSPEL	BIBLE TRUTH	BIBLE VERSE
1	A Mighty Wonder <i>Creation</i> Genesis 1:1–2:3	We forget or even refuse to believe that God is our Creator and the giver of all good things. <b>God gives us faith to believe that He created the heavens and the earth and that He continues to provide us with all good things, especially life and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.</b>	God created the heavens and the earth.	In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
2	The Fall and a Promise <i>Fall into Sin</i> Genesis 3	We are self-centered and blame others; for these and many other sins, we deserve temporal and eternal death. <b>God sent His Son, Jesus, to crush sin, death, and the devil, and through Him, God forgives our sins and gives us eternal life.</b>	God promises to help sinners.	The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. 1 John 4:14
3	A New Beginning <i>Noah</i> Genesis 6:11–22; 7:1–24; 8:13–22	We are sinful and rebellious from birth and deserve God's wrath and judgment. <b>God has mercy on us and gives us new life, washing away our sins through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior.</b>	God saves His people.	God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid. Isaiah 12:2
4	A Call to Action <i>Abram</i> Genesis 12:1–9	In our sinful fear and doubt, we do not trust God to lead us and do what He promises. <b>God is faithful and carries out His promises, giving us faith in and through Jesus to trust and follow Him.</b>	God calls us to follow Him.	I trust in You, O LORD. Psalm 31:14
5	A Promising Dream <i>Jacob</i> Genesis 28:10–22	We think God does not care or has left us alone. <b>God promises in His Word never to leave us. His gracious love for us, revealed through His Son, Jesus, moves our hearts to worship and praise Him.</b>	God is with us.	I am with you and will keep you wherever you go. Genesis 28:15
6	Hope in Hardship <i>Joseph</i> Genesis 37; 45:1–10; 50:20	We question God's will for us and are tempted to doubt His love for us when we experience troubles. <b>God assures us of His love for us through Jesus, our Savior, and helps us in our troubles, enabling us to serve our neighbors in the vocations He has given us.</b>	God works for the good of His people.	You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good. Genesis 50:20
7	Fiery Directions <i>Moses</i> Exodus 2:23–3:22	We turn away from God and see no need for Him in our lives. <b>God reveals Himself and His great love for us in His plan of salvation, fulfilled through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.</b>	God shows who He is.	Fear not, for I am with you. . . . I am your God; I will strengthen you. Isaiah 41:10
8	The Egypt Exit <i>Exodus</i> Exodus 14	Surrounded by the evil of this world, we lose hope and begin to doubt that God is with us. <b>Jesus takes our sin and doubt to the cross, delivering us from death and giving us the hope of eternal life with Him in heaven.</b>	God delivers His people.	Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you. Psalm 50:15



## LESSON OVERVIEW CHART

BIBLE TIMELINE	FAITH FOCUS	SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT
Beginning of time	The First Article, Part 1	"In the beginning, God created . . ." (1:1). The One who exists outside ordinary time designates the beginning of His created order. In six days—through His spoken Word alone—the heavenly Father creates a universe so vast and complex it defies our limited human understanding. Humankind, the crown of His creation, made in His own image, comes to be through the intimate work of His hands and with His own breath.
Sometime after creation	The Third Petition	The slithery serpent causes Eve to doubt God's Word with one simple question, "Did God actually say . . .?" (Genesis 3:1). Seeking to gain wisdom, both Eve and Adam rebel against their Creator. Suddenly aware of their condition before God, they vainly attempt to hide their sinful exposure. With sin comes just punishment, yet our heavenly Father does not leave humankind without hope. Instead, He promises One who will come to rescue His people from the jaws of death and Satan.
About 1,600 years after creation	The Power of Baptism	Widespread sin and corruption filled the earth, but "Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD" (Genesis 6:8). Following God's command, Noah and his family begin constructing a massive ark, with provisions for an extended journey. At the Lord's direction, each animal kind boards the ark, along with Noah and his family. The fountains of the deep open as rain falls for forty days, swallowing up every living thing. God keeps Noah's family safe through the flood and lands them on a mountain. He gives the rainbow as a sign of His promise to never again flood the whole earth.
2091 BC	The Third Article, Part 1	Abram responds to God's calling as he leaves his idolatry and homeland to follow the true God. Abram takes his wife, Sarai, and nephew Lot as they journey to the land of Canaan. The Lord's appearance prompts Abram to build an altar, celebrating God's promise to give this land to his descendants.
1930 BC	Introduction to the Lord's Prayer	Jacob undeservedly receives his father's blessing—he and his offspring will dwell in the land of Canaan. As the days of Isaac's life approach their end, Jacob rightly fears for his life. Following the urging of Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob sets out for the house of his uncle Laban. Along the way, Jacob dreams of a staircase reaching to heaven, with the Lord Himself standing at the top. The preincarnate Christ repeats God's promise to give this land to Jacob and his descendants.
1899–1876 BC	The First Article, Part 2	The account of Jacob's favorite son, Joseph, is a turning point in the history of God's people. The unusual timeline of Joseph's life includes him being despised by his brothers, sold into slavery, attaining success and then losing it all to false accusations, being imprisoned, and serving the court of Pharaoh. Joseph summarizes his life in one sentence addressed to his brothers: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20).
1526–1486 BC	The First Petition	Miraculously rescued through the waters of the Nile by Pharaoh's daughter, Moses escapes the condemnation pronounced on the other Hebrew boys. Leaving behind his life of privilege, Moses flees to Midian, where he encounters the living God in a burning bush. Through this encounter, God directs and equips Moses to rescue His chosen people from their slavery in Egypt.
1446 BC	The Nature of the Sacrament of the Altar	Following ten terrible plagues, Pharaoh relents and releases the Israelites to worship in the wilderness. Realizing the Israelites have no intention of returning, Pharaoh's army pursues the runaways. Caught between Pharaoh's charioteers and the waters of the Red Sea, the people cry out to God. Moses stretches his hand over the sea as God parts the waters, enabling the people to pass through the sea on dry ground. As Egypt's army attempts to follow, the sea closes in over them, so not one survives.

## LESSON OVERVIEW CHART

LESSON	LESSON TITLE/ TEXT	LAW/GOSPEL	BIBLE TRUTH	BIBLE VERSE
9	A Loving Law <i>Ten Commandments</i> Exodus 20:1–21	We reject God's Law as we go our own way, failing to love God and to love others before ourselves. <b>Jesus Christ kept the Law perfectly on our behalf, and He guides us to love Him and our neighbor.</b>	God guides and protects us.	Love the LORD your God, and . . . serve Him with all your heart. Deuteronomy 11:13
10	The Land at Last <i>Joshua</i> Joshua 3:1–4:18	We are hesitant to trust in God's promises, preferring to remain in the desert of our sins. <b>God keeps His promise to save us through His Son, Jesus, and leads us to our heavenly home.</b>	God keeps His promises.	The LORD will do the thing that He has promised. 2 Kings 20:9
11	A Judge Leads <i>Gideon</i> Judges 7:1–23	Though God promises to be with us, we doubt His Word. <b>God is faithful in our doubt and persistent in His love for us. He refuses to let us die in our sin, but instead sends us a Savior, Jesus Christ.</b>	God rescues us from our enemies.	The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. Hebrews 13:6
12	A Prophet Serves <i>Samuel</i> 1 Samuel 3	God calls us to follow Him and do His will, but we turn deaf ears to Him and refuse to listen. <b>God opens our ears to His saving Word in Jesus and empowers us to follow Him and serve others.</b>	God calls us to serve Him.	Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears. 1 Samuel 3:9
13	A King Forever <i>David</i> 1 Samuel 16:1–13; 2 Samuel 5:1–5; 7:4–17	We judge by outward appearance and earthly standards, blind to the wisdom of God. <b>God sees and knows what we truly need—grace and mercy given to us through the unlikely gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.</b>	God chooses unlikely people.	Bless the LORD, . . . who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. Psalm 103:2, 4
14	The King's Table <i>Mephibosheth</i> 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1–13	We think we own and deserve everything we have in this life, forgetting that God is the giver of all good things. <b>God loves us with an unconditional love. He forgives our thanklessness for Jesus' sake and continues to provide us with all that we need for our body and life.</b>	God gives all good gifts.	Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! Psalm 107:1

## LESSON OVERVIEW CHART

BIBLE TIMELINE	FAITH FOCUS	SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT
1446 BC	The Close of the Commandments	Months into their wilderness wanderings, the Israelites arrive in the wilderness of Sinai. God comes to the mountain in clouds and thunder—fire and smoke—as He establishes His covenant with His people through Moses, His chosen intermediary. There on the mountain, God gives Moses His Ten Commandments.
1406 BC	The Second Petition	For forty years, the Israelites wandered on sandals that didn't wear out and daily doses of manna. Following Moses' death, Joshua prepares to lead a new generation into the Promised Land. This time, the floodwaters of the Jordan River stand in the way, but hearkening back to the Red Sea crossing, the people pass through on dry land and gather twelve stones as a memorial to God's faithful care for His people.
1172–1133 BC	The Seventh Petition	God calls Gideon to lead His chosen people against their Midianite enemies. God leads Gideon to reduce his army from 32,000 men to a mere 300 strong. Reassured by the Lord, Gideon moves forward with God's improbable plan. Armed with just torches and trumpets, Gideon's mini army defeats the mighty Midianite force without lifting a sword.
1060–1049 BC	The Fourth Commandment	Having been raised in the tabernacle from the time he was a young child, Samuel continues to serve Eli the priest. One night, Samuel runs to Eli, thinking Eli is calling his name. Eli sends Samuel back to bed, assuring him he had not called. As the pattern repeats, Eli tells Samuel to lie down once again but then next time respond, "Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:9). When the Lord calls once again, He gives Samuel a vision of how Samuel will succeed Eli, rather than Eli's "worthless" sons.
1019 BC	The First Petition, Part 3	God sends Samuel to anoint the next king of Israel, with the reminder, "The LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). God rejects each of Jesse's sons, so Samuel sends for the youngest, David, whom God has chosen to become the greatest king of Israel. Surviving Saul's insane jealousy, David becomes king and establishes Jerusalem as his stronghold.
1009 BC	How to Receive This Sacrament Worthily	Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, suffered crippling injuries at age 5 while escaping Saul's enemies with his nurse. Once David established his kingdom, his thoughts turned to any possible survivors from Saul and Jonathan's line. Discovering Mephibosheth, David bestows on him Saul's land and fortune. Mephibosheth's family moves to Jerusalem, where he always eats at the king's table.

## GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE CHART

LESSON	LESSON TITLE/ TEXT	IDENTITY	CALLING
1	A Mighty Wonder <i>Creation</i> Genesis 1:1–2:3	God has made me His human creature: created, loved, and chosen by Him to be His own.	I can love God and my neighbor. I do this by worshiping and praising God and taking care of His creation.
2	The Fall and a Promise <i>Fall into Sin</i> Genesis 3	God has redeemed me, a sinful human, through the Promised One, Jesus Christ.	I can forgive others their sins against me because in Christ, God has forgiven me.
3	A New Beginning <i>Noah</i> Genesis 6:11–22; 7:11–24; 8:13–22	God makes me a new creation in the waters of Baptism and rescues me from death. All my sin is washed away.	I am invited to gather around His Word and Sacraments in the ark of His Church, rejoicing with fellow believers in our salvation through Christ.
4	A Call to Action <i>Abram</i> Genesis 12:1–9	God has called me into His family through Christ, who made me a fellow heir with Him in the kingdom of heaven.	I can live each day as God's called child, loving Him and serving my neighbor.
5	A Promising Dream <i>Jacob</i> Genesis 28:10–22	God calls me His precious possession; He is near to me even when I feel that He is far away.	I worship God and always remember that He is with me and cares for me.
6	Hope in Hardship <i>Joseph</i> Genesis 37; 45:1–10; 50:20	God claims me as His redeemed child through Christ, regardless of any circumstances or trials in life.	I am to love God and serve my neighbor, even when times are difficult. As I do so, I remember that, in the end, God works good for His people.
7	Fiery Directions <i>Moses</i> Exodus 2:23–3:22	God has revealed Himself to me in His Word and Sacraments and has called me His own.	I listen to God through His Word and thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.
8	The Egypt Exit <i>Exodus</i> Exodus 14	God has chosen me through His Word and Sacraments and promised a deliverance from death by the blood of Christ.	I am to follow God all my days because He leads me from death to the promised land of the new creation.
9	A Loving Law <i>Ten Commandments</i> Exodus 20:1–21	God has made me His creature, created to love Him and serve my neighbor.	I have been created to follow God's will: to love Him and serve my neighbor.
10	The Land at Last <i>Joshua</i> Joshua 3:1–4:18	Christ has found me and leads me from sin and death to new life.	I trust God's promises and daily remember and thank Him for His faithfulness to me.

## GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE CHART

BIBLE TRUTH	EARLY CHILDHOOD	ELEMENTARY	YOUTH	ADULT
God created the heavens and the earth.	I know God created everything.	I understand that God made the universe and everything in it, including me.	I can identify examples of God's work in creation.	I can share what God designed me for as His human creature.
God promises to help sinners.	I know God sent Jesus to save me from sin.	I understand that I am a child of God but also a sinner in need of a Savior.	I can explain that humans are God's special creation, born into sin and in need of a Savior.	I can summarize the story of mankind's fall into sin and God's initial plan to restore creation.
God saves His people.	I know God saves me through Jesus and gives me a new start.	I understand how Noah was a part of God's plan to save me and His people through Jesus.	I can express that though I am sinful, God is faithful and saves me, just as He saved Noah and his family.	I can connect the different ways God saved Noah and his family to how God saves me and all His children.
God calls us to follow Him.	I know God calls me to be His child and promises to bless me.	I understand that I am God's child and He calls me to follow Him.	I can share that I am God's forgiven and beloved child, called to follow Him.	I can draw connections between how Abraham was called by God and how we're called into God's story of salvation through Christ.
God is with us.	I know God is with me.	I understand that God is with me all the time.	I can express confidence that God is with me.	I can identify multiple ways God is with us, His human creatures and redeemed children.
God works for the good of His people.	I know God helps me with my troubles.	I understand that God works for the good of His people.	I can express that God is with me in hardships and He gives me hope.	I can explain how God is faithful to fulfilling His plan of salvation in the midst of treachery and great adversity.
God shows who He is.	I know God talks to me in His Word, the Bible.	I understand that God is who He says He is—the one true God.	I can understand that our Savior God reveals who He is through His Word.	I can express, from the text, who God is and how He desires that we approach Him.
God delivers His people.	I know God rescues me through Jesus.	I understand that God delivers me from sin and is always with me.	I can express that God is always with me and delivers me in times of trouble.	I can compare and contrast God's deliverance of His people in the Old Testament to how He delivers us in Christ.
God guides and protects us.	I know God's rules are good.	I understand that God knows all that I need and that He guides and protects me.	I can cite examples of how God guides and protects us.	I can paraphrase God's intent for how His human creatures should love Him and love one another.
God keeps His promises.	I know God keeps all His promises.	I understand that God is faithful and keeps His promises to His people.	I can share how God is faithful and always keeps His promises.	I can relate the narrative to how God will one day fulfill His promise to bring His redeemed people into the promised land of the new creation.

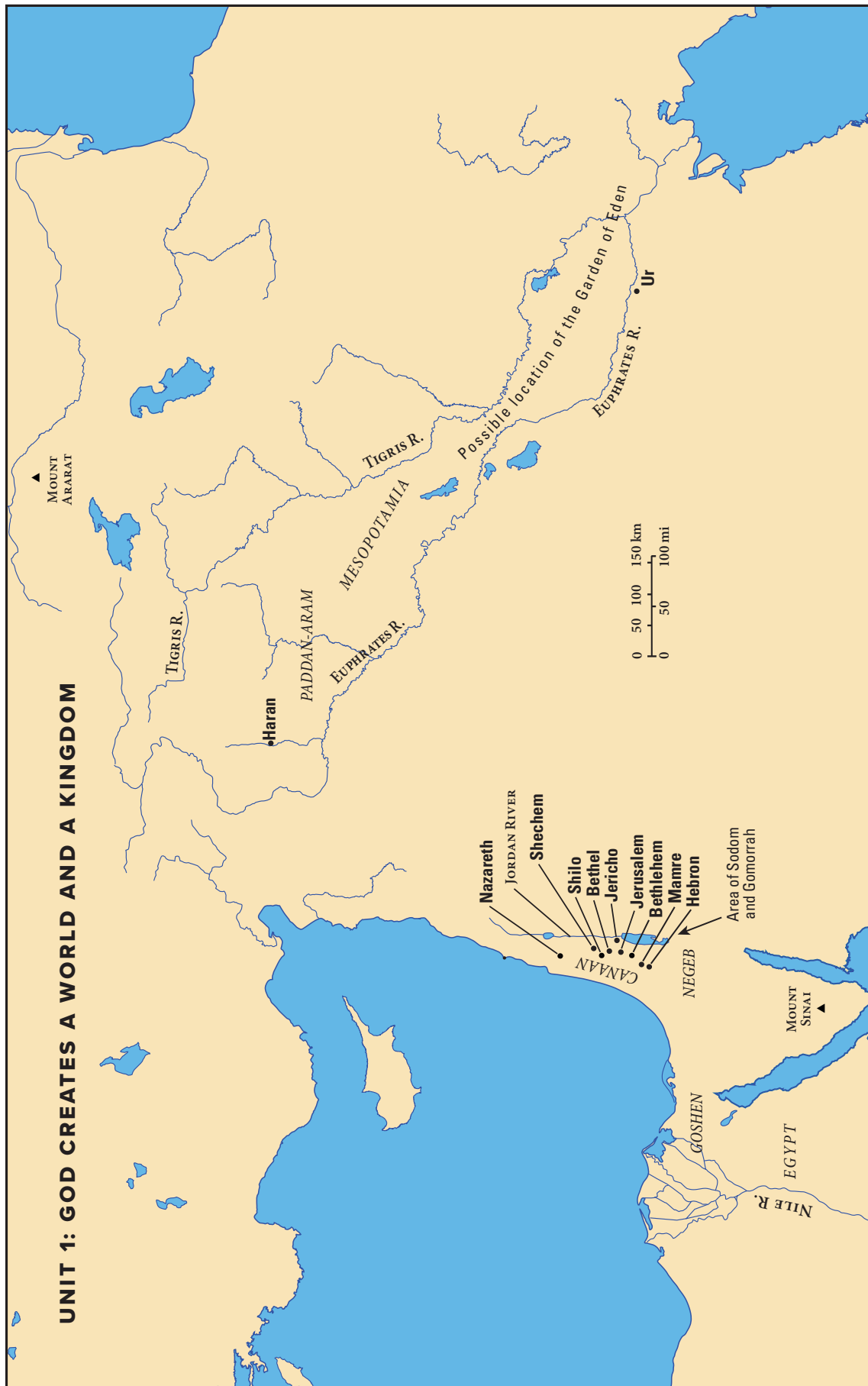
GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE CHART			
LESSON	LESSON TITLE/ TEXT	IDENTITY	CALLING
11	A Judge Leads <i>Gideon</i> Judges 7:1–23	Jesus, the great deliverer, has rescued me from sin, death, and hell.	I am here to continually thank God for His great faithfulness to me.
12	A Prophet Serves <i>Samuel</i> 1 Samuel 3	God has called me to be His own through Christ.	As God's child, I am here to listen to and obey God's voice
13	A King Forever <i>David</i> 1 Samuel 16:1–13; 2 Samuel 5:1–5; 7:4–17	God has chosen me, an undeserving sinner, to be His through Christ.	I am called as God's child to serve Him and my neighbor and obey His commands.
14	The King's Table <i>Mephibosheth</i> 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1–13	God has made me the recipient of His good gifts; I am called to be His through no worth of my own.	I can thank, praise, serve, and obey the One who has given me all good things.



## GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE CHART

BIBLE TRUTH	EARLY CHILDHOOD	ELEMENTARY	YOUTH	ADULT
God rescues us from our enemies.	I know God is my helper.	I understand that God rescues me from sin and my enemies.	I can identify times when God has rescued me from my enemies.	I can connect God's rescue through Gideon to how God rescues me in my own life.
God calls us to serve Him.	I know God wants me to be a helper.	I understand that God calls me to serve Him.	I can serve my God who called me to faith and empowers me to serve Him and others.	I can list different ways God has called me, His redeemed child, to serve my neighbor in my household and in the church.
God chooses unlikely people.	I know God loves me and chose me to be His child.	I understand that even though I am a sinner, God loves me and chose me to be His own.	I can share how God has chosen me to be His own and works through me to serve others.	I can explain why it is so important that God chooses unlikely people to be His own.
God gives all good gifts.	I know God gives me good gifts.	I understand that God gives all good gifts.	I can express that although I deserve nothing from God, He is pleased to give me all good gifts.	I can express my thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness to me and my neighbor by providing everything I need to support this body and life.

## UNIT 1: GOD CREATES A WORLD AND A KINGDOM





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