

# FOUNDATIONS

Elementary



Foundational Christian Doctrines for Kids

This Parent Guide contains a modified version of the teacher's "At a Glance" page and "Resource" page for each lesson in the unit. The purpose of the Parent Guide is to equip you with the scriptures, key points, and other elements of the lessons so that you can have intentional discipleship conversations with your kids. The material is taken primarily from the Elementary lessons, but the Toddler and PK lessons follow the same sequence at an age-appropriate depth, so the guide should be helpful for T/PK parents as well.

# LESSON 1 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit: **Saved**

February 15, 2026

### Objective

Teach the kids that Jesus saves us from the just judgment that we all deserve, specifically by saving us from the power and penalty of sin. Use the story of Rahab as a narrative illustration and link it to Matthew 7.

### Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

**Question:** What does Jesus save us from?

**Answer:** Jesus saves us from the power and penalty of sin.

### Scripture

**Teach from:** Joshua 2 & 6:1-25, Matthew 7:13-14, Matthew 1:5, Isaiah 43:11 & Acts 4:12

**Unit Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:15

### 3 Keys

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. **We all need to be saved.**
2. **We are saved by grace alone.**
3. **Only God can save us.**



Our passage in Joshua takes place after God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and before they settled in the Promised Land.

**Response:** Just like God saved Rahab by grace (undeserved favor) through her faith in Him, He saves us by grace through faith.



**God is the only Savior.** Rahab had no hope outside of the salvation of God and neither do we. We can't save ourselves, others can't save us, and false gods can't save us.

**Salvation:** Being saved by God from the **power** that sin has over us, and the **penalty** we deserve for those sins.



## Application

As we learned in the last unit, our response to this message of salvation is simply to turn away from our sin and to Jesus. Jesus' death on the cross is counted as our punishment when we trust in Him. We can be saved from the penalty of our sins because Jesus already paid that penalty. How do we apply this today? We trust in Jesus.

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Saved

February 15, 2026

## Extra Teaching Tip

### FOUNDATIONS

We are beginning a new season that we entitled, “Foundations.” In this season, we will be focusing on core doctrines of the Christian faith. We need to teach kids to know what they believe and believe what they know. Be mindful of the point that the lesson is focusing on (in the title). Use the selected passages to really drive home that point. The lessons will build on one another as we progress through the unit. Here is how the first unit is broken down:

Salvation – God saves us from the power and penalty of sin.

Adoption – When God saves us, He adopts us as His own children.

Justification – When God saves us, He declares us “not guilty.”

Redemption – When God saves us, He buys us out of our slavery to sin with Jesus’ own blood.

Saving Faith – Saving faith is placing all of our trust in Jesus.

Regeneration – God doesn’t just forgive us and then leave us as we are. He makes us new!

## Tough Questions

### **IF ALL WE HAVE TO DO TO BE SAVED IS TURN TO JESUS AND TRUST HIM (IF WE’RE SAVED BY GRACE ALONE), DOES THAT MEAN WE CAN THEN LIVE HOWEVER WE WANT?**

Yes and no. The Apostle Paul actually addressed this question several times in scripture. Let’s look at a couple of those instances.

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:1-4)

Here, Paul says that it’s not a matter of “Can we go on living in sin?” but “Will we go on living in sin?” And his answer is, “By no means!” Why is that? Because when we come to Christ by faith, He changes us. We are no longer the same people we were before, which leads to the “Yes” part of the answer.

“For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13)

Notice what he said that God does in us: “both to will and to work.” When we come to Jesus in faith, God not only makes us new creations right then and there, but He continues to change our very desires. The true believer wants to do what is pleasing to God because God is changing what we want from sin to godliness. In this sense, yes the believer does live how they want, but now their wants are aligned with God’s commands.

That doesn’t mean that believers never want sin. No, we will live in this tension, this battle between our new desires and our old desires until Jesus returns or we go to be with Him. (See Galatians 5)

# LESSON 2 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit: **Adopted**

February 22, 2026

### Objective

Teach the kids the doctrine of adoption. Use the story of Mephibosheth to show how when God saves us, He calls us into His family forever.

### Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

**Question:** What do we become when we put our faith in Jesus?

**Answer:** We become adopted children of God.

### Scripture

**Teach from: Romans 8:15, 2 Samuel 9:1-13, 1 Chronicles 17:11-14, 1 John 3:1**

**Unit Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:15

### 3 Keys

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. **When God saves us, He adopts us as His own children.**
2. **God doesn't need us; He adopts us because He wants us.**
3. **God is our Father.**



Our passage today takes place during the time of the kings in Israel. At this time God gave them the greatest king that they would ever have, David. David was a sinner just like us but he loved God with all his heart. David was a type (a foreshadow) of Christ, the perfect King.

Just as Mephibosheth was incapable of helping himself or making himself acceptable to sit at the king's table, so it is with us. We need God, in His own amazing grace to save us and adopt us into His family.



**God is our Father.** God is referred to as a Father over 100 times in the Bible. Some of His fatherly qualities are: His love and care for us, His providing for us, and His defending and protecting us.

**Adoption** is when God makes us His children with all the rights and privileges of being His.



## Application

Ephesians 5:1 says, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children." What Paul the Apostle is saying in that verse is this: Since God has adopted us and counts us as His children, we should count Him as our Father. And just like parents are supposed to be role models for their children to imitate, so we are to grow to become more like our Heavenly Father. He chose us. He wants us. And He wants us to become more like Him.

## PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Adopted

February 22, 2026

### Extra Teaching Tip

#### **THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD:**

When teaching on the fatherhood of God, be mindful that our kids come from all walks of life. Some have great fathers who love them very much, some have fathers who have not been very good fathers to them at all, and everything in between. We need to be intentional to remind the kids that God is the **perfect** Father, better than the best human father who has ever lived. Don't assume that this goes without saying. To a child who is haunted by painful thoughts at the mention of the word, "father" the idea of calling God a Father can be very difficult. Point them to the One who will never wrong them, never leave them and never forsake them.

### Tough Questions

#### **AREN'T ALL PEOPLE GOD'S CHILDREN?**

In one sense you could say that all people are God's children. If what we mean is that God is the source of all people, then yes, He is the Father of all.

However, in the Bible, we learn that there is a different, more specific type of Fatherhood of God for those who have trusted in His Son, Jesus. Before we trust Jesus, God is the source of our existence, but the Bible says we are actually His enemies (Rom. 5:10) and children not of God, but of the devil (1 John 3:8-10).

When we turn to Jesus in faith, we are adopted into God's family. All people are made in the image of God and are worthy of dignity and respect, but not all people are adopted into the family of God. This is one more reason we should be eager to share the Gospel with others, so that they too can be changed from being an enemy of God, into a dearly loved child of God.

# LESSON 3 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit: **Justified**

March 1, 2026

### Objective

Teach the kids the meaning of justification by faith.

### Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

**Question:** How can God justify us (count us not guilty)?

**Answer:** Because the just punishment we deserve was placed on Jesus.

### Scripture

**Teach from:** **Exodus 12:1-13, 23, Luke 23:39-43, Matthew 26:17-30, & Romans 3:26**

**Unit Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:15

### 3 Keys

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. **Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away our sin.**
2. **Being justified means being counted “not guilty” for our sins.**
3. **God is just and the justifier.**



One of our main texts (Exodus 12) was written long before the birth of Jesus, when the Israelites were still slaves in Egypt. The second one (Luke 23) took place during Jesus' earthly ministry.

Use the passages to show that the passover lamb took the place of sinners and died so that they could live. Teach the kids that this was a picture of what Jesus does for us. We are justified because He took our place and gave us His righteousness.



**God is just and the justifier.** Because God is just, all sin must be punished. Because God loves us, He is also the justifier of all who trust in Jesus.

**Justification:** The act of God counting us as righteous because we trust in Jesus.



### Application

We obey God and try to live lives that honor Him because we have been freely justified (declared not guilty.) God does not love us because we obey Him but we should obey Him because He loves us.

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Justified

March 1, 2026

## Extra Teaching Tip

### **SACRIFICES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:**

There is a common misconception that says that God's people were saved by obeying the Law in the Old Testament and by grace in the New Testament. Paul tells us repeatedly that no one can be saved by the Law, if they could then Christ died for nothing. The book of Hebrews teaches us that God's people have always been saved by grace through faith in the Word of God. In the Old Testament, the sacrifices did not save God's people; their trust in His Word is what mattered. The sacrifices were pictures of the coming Messiah. By performing them, they were demonstrating their trust in God to save them from the guilt of their sin. God is not a God who delights in "sacrifices and burnt offerings" but in the self-sacrificial act of Christ on the cross to take away the guilt of His people once and for all. Those who were saved in the Old Testament were saved by faith in the Messiah that they looked forward to coming. We are saved by faith in the same Messiah who has come.

## Tough Questions

### **WHY WOULD A LOVING GOD SENTENCE HIS OWN SON TO DEATH?**

It's perfectly natural to ask this question. However, in an attempt to discredit Christianity, some skeptics have crudely called the crucifixion "Cosmic child abuse."

The charge that they are laying against God is that He wrongfully murdered His own Son, which they say is evil even if it is for the sake of others.

One thing that they miss is that God did not wrongfully murder anyone. Yes, Jesus was bearing the wrath of God in our place on the cross. And yes, this was the plan all along. But Jesus voluntarily laid down His life for us. In the Trinity, the Father, Son, and Spirit act in complete agreement.

# LESSON 4 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit: **Redeemed**

March 15, 2026

### Objective

Teach the kids that God is our Redeemer. He has purchased us for Himself at a very high price - the blood of His Son.

### Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

**Question:** What does it mean that Jesus redeems us?

**Answer:** It means that He buys us back from our slavery to sin with His own blood.

### Scripture

**Teach from:** from: **Exodus 14**,  
Micah 6:4, 1 Peter 1:18- 19, Revelation 5:9

**Unit Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:15

### 3 Keys

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. **Apart from Christ, we are all slaves to sin.**
2. **Jesus has purchased us with His own blood.**
3. **God is our redeemer.**



Our main text (Exodus 14) takes place during the Israelites slavery in Egypt about 1500 years before Jesus was born.

Use the account of God redeeming His people from slavery to Egypt to show the kids the good news that God redeems us from slavery to sin.



**God is our Redeemer** and not only ours, but He will redeem people from every tribe tongue and nation.

**Redeemed:** Being rescued and bought back by God, even when we didn't deserve it, so we can belong to His family again.



### Application

Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:18-19, that because Christ has bought us we are to live in a way that shows that we are His. We are to honor God and seek to obey Him in all things. Not **so that** He will redeem us, but **because** He has redeemed us.

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Redeemed

March 15, 2025

## Extra Teaching Tip

### **BLOOD IS THE COST OF REDEMPTION.**

When we say that Jesus redeemed us or purchased us with His own blood we might wonder, “but why is blood the cost required?” Do you remember back in Genesis when God told Adam and Eve that if they ate of the fruit they would “surely die”? That death was more than just the physical death that we all experience. It was also a spiritual death, a spiritual separation from God. God later tells us that the “wages of sin is death.” Sin cannot be forgiven apart from the shedding of blood because that is what God’s Law demands. So God instituted the sacrifices of the Old Testament to be a picture of the only blood that could ever truly atone for sin. The blood of His perfect Son. Jesus’ blood is not some magical substance. His blood is synonymous with His death. Remember, the debt we owe is eternal death for our sins. We can either pay that ourselves by being eternally separated from God or Christ can pay that for us by His perfect sacrifice. When Christ died on the cross he was paying the bill for our sins. His payment frees us from all that Adam’s sin enslaved us to – the penalty and power of sin.

## Tough Questions

### **HOW DID GOD HARDEN PHARAOH’S HEART? DOES THAT MEAN HE DIDN’T HAVE A CHOICE BUT TO BE EVIL?**

This question often leads to, or comes out of, a bigger debate that has caused no shortage of conflict down through the years. Between this passage and Romans 9, a full scale theological war can be waged regarding God’s sovereignty over the human heart and salvation. One side accuses the other of reducing people to robots or puppets without any volition while the other accuses the opposite party of making man more sovereign than God.

Both of these caricatures are unfair and inaccurate. For the purpose of this lesson, it is sufficient to stick to the things that both sides should agree on.

1. God is sovereign over the human heart (Proverbs 21:1).
2. People make choices and are responsible for those choices (Ezekiel 18:21-24).
3. People are slaves to sin, and thus choose according to that nature until God frees them (Romans 8:7-8, John 8:34).

Applying this to Pharaoh, I would say that God sovereignly hardened Pharaoh’s heart to not let the Israelites go initially and then to pursue the Israelites. However, that does not mean that God made Pharaoh do anything that he didn’t want to do. Pharaoh still acted according to the desires of his evil heart and was responsible for doing so.

# LESSON 5 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit: **Faith**

March 22, 2026

### Objective

Teach the kids the nature of saving faith. Help them understand that true faith is placing all of our hope and trust in Jesus to save us from the power and penalty of our sins.

### Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

**Question:** What does true faith always lead to?

**Answer:** True faith always leads to action.

### Scripture

**Teach from:** Genesis 12:1-9, Hebrews 11:1, Galatians 3:16, 29, & Psalm 33:4

**Unit Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:15

### 3 Keys

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. **To have faith in God is to place all of your trust in Him.**
2. **True faith always leads to action.**
3. **God is Faithful.**



Our main text (Luke 15) takes place during Jesus' earthly ministry before He died and rose again as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. This is a continuation of last week's passage.

Use Jeremiah 31:31-34 to show the kids that even our response to the Good News comes from God. He works in our hearts to call us to Himself and grant us repentance.



**God is our Father.** God is referred to as a Father over 100 times in the Bible. Some of His fatherly qualities are: His love and care for us, His providing for us, and His defending and protecting us.

**Faith** in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, by which we receive and rest on Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospel.



## Application

When we talk about believing in Jesus, it is important that we explain what that means. The kids need to understand that believing in Jesus is not simply believing that He exists or even that He did what the Bible says He did. As we see in the lesson today, Biblically to believe in Jesus is to put all our trust in Him.

## PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Faith

March 22, 2026

### Extra Teaching Tip

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL

While we definitely want to steer clear of anything like an altar call or an emotional plea to convince kids to repeat a prayer, we still want to make sure that we always give our students the opportunity to respond to the Gospel. It can be as simple as regularly reminding them that you are here if they have any questions or want to discuss salvation or baptism further. We know that conversion is the Holy Spirit's job, not ours. However, we also want to be willing participants in the work He is doing in these kids' hearts. Find ways to give them opportunities to respond to the Word that you are teaching them.

### Tough Questions

#### IF ALL WE HAVE TO DO TO BE SAVED IS TURN TO JESUS AND TRUST HIM, DOES THAT MEAN WE CAN THEN LIVE HOWEVER WE WANT?

Yes and no. The Apostle Paul actually addressed this question several times in scripture. Let's look at a couple of those instances.

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:1-4)

Here, Paul says that it's not a matter of “Can we go on living in sin?” but “Will we go on living in sin?” And his answer is, “By no means!” Why is that? Because when we come to Christ by faith, He changes us. We are no longer the same people we were before, which leads to the “Yes” part of the answer.

“For it is God who works in you, both to **will** and to **work** for his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13)

Notice what he said that God does in us: “both to will and to work.” When we come to Jesus in faith, God not only makes us new creations right then and there, but He continues to change our very desires. The true believer **wants** to do what is pleasing to God because God is changing what we want from sin to godliness. In this sense, yes the believer does live how they want, but now their wants are aligned with God's commands.

That doesn't mean that believers never want sin. No, we will live in this tension, this battle between our new desires and our old desires until Jesus returns or we go to be with Him. (See Galatians 5.)

# LESSON 6 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit: **Rebirth**

March 29, 2026

### Objective

Teach the kids that when Jesus saves us, He gives us a new heart that desires to trust and obey Him.

### Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

**Question:** How does God change us?  
**Answer:** He changes us by making us new through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Scripture

**Teach from:** John 3:1-21, Ezekiel 36:26, & 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Unit Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:15

### 3 Keys

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. **We must be born again to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.**
2. **Being born again is being changed by God's Spirit.**
3. **God is our Creator.**



Our main text (John 3) takes place during Jesus' earthly ministry before He was crucified.

The Gospel is about more than just being forgiven for our sins. In the Gospel, we are also made into new creations. This is how God frees us from the **power** of sin.



God is our Creator. He created us when we were conceived and He creates new life in us when we turn to Christ. He will also recreate us when He returns to make all things new. If we have been born again, it is because God has made us a new creation.

**Regeneration:** the act of God, whereby He puts His Spirit in us and makes us new.



## Application

The best thing we can ask God for is Himself. If we are unsure as to whether God has made us new, then we should ask God to send his Spirit to us to do just that. And if we know that God has already made us new by sending us His Spirit, we should still pray and ask him to continually fill us with His Spirit. In Luke 11:11- 13, Jesus said that this is a prayer that God will say yes to!

## PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Rebirth

March 29, 2025

### Extra Teaching Tip

#### **CHANGED, CHANGING, TO BE CHANGED:**

When God regenerates us and creates a new heart within us, we are changed. We begin to have new desires. Where we once desired to please ourselves, now we desire to please God. Where we once sought to justify our sins, now we long to be rid of them. We can know that we have been born again by our attitude towards God, fellow believers and towards sin. If we have a genuine love for God and fellow believers and a genuine hatred for the sin in our lives, that is a good sign that we have been regenerated by the Spirit of God. However, that doesn't mean that we will never sin after being born again. We will battle sin until we die or Christ comes back. The believer has been changed, is changed, and will be changed finally on that glorious day.

### Tough Questions

#### **Does being born of water (John 3:5) mean baptism?**

Below is a quotation from GotQuestions.org that I think answers this question clearly and accurately.

The interpretation that I think is correct, "sees the phrase "born of water and the Spirit" as both describing different aspects of the same spiritual birth, or of what it means to be "born again" or "born from above." So, when Jesus told Nicodemus that he must "be born of water and the Spirit,"

He was not referring to literal water (i.e. baptism or the amniotic fluid in the womb), but was referring to the need for spiritual cleansing or renewal. Throughout the Old Testament (Psalm 51:2,7; Ezekiel 36:25) and the New Testament (John 13:10; 15:3; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 10:22), water is often used figuratively of spiritual cleansing or regeneration that is brought forth by the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God, at the moment of salvation (Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5)."

The article goes on to say:

"Therefore, the "water" mentioned in this verse is not literal physical water but rather the "living water" Jesus promised the woman at the well in John 4:10 and the people in Jerusalem in John 7:37-39. It is the inward purification and renewal produced by the Holy Spirit that brings forth spiritual life to a dead sinner (Ezekiel 36:25-27; Titus 3:5). Jesus reinforces this truth in John 3:7 when He restates that one must be born again and that this newness of life can only be produced by the Holy Spirit (John 3:8)."

Source:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/baptism-John-3-5.html>

# LESSON 7 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit: **Baptism**

April 12, 2026

### Objective

Teach the kids the Biblical meaning of Baptism.

### Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

**Question:** What is baptism?

**Answer:** Baptism is a sign for the believer of what God has done for them in the Gospel.

### Scripture

**Teach from:** Acts 8:26-40, 16:11-15, Colossians 2:11-12, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 6:3-8, Romans 8:11, Matthew 24:14, & Proverbs 21:1

**Unit Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:15

### 3 Keys

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. **Baptism is a sign for the believer of what God has done for them in the Gospel.**
2. **Baptism is a picture of our old life dying and our new life beginning.**
3. **Only those who have been born again should be baptized.**



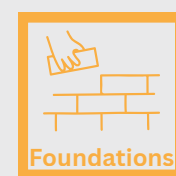
Our main texts (Acts 8 & 16) take place shortly after Jesus ascended back to Heaven and the Gospel began to spread.

Baptism is a visible representation of the Good News of the Gospel.



God is Sovereign. As we teach Baptism from these texts, emphasize that God had to first sovereignly work in the hearts of those baptized in the passages.

**Baptism** is what God has commanded all believers to receive in order to show their identification with Jesus.



## Application

Communicate to the kids that baptism is for those who have trusted in Jesus and have been born again. You could say something like, “as we’ve already learned, being born again means that God has changed your heart and you now live to serve Jesus. If you’re not sure that you have been born again, then it would be good to talk to a pastor or parent about that. If you are sure that you have been born again and you trust in Jesus, then you should talk to someone about being baptized.”

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Baptism

April 12, 2026

## Extra Teaching Tip

### **BAPTISM, two ditches:**

When teaching about baptism, we need to avoid a couple ditches on either side. First, we want to make sure that the kids understand that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone and that the act of baptism does not save.

At the same time, we want to be careful not to minimize baptism to something that seems optional or unimportant. God cares about baptism. It is a big deal because 1. He commanded it and 2. It is a sign of the covenant that He has made with us. Baptism is not “merely” a public profession of faith. It is that, but also much more than that. For the believer, baptism is not optional because it is a sign of the covenant and an ordinance instituted by Christ.

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL:**

While we definitely want to steer clear of anything like an altar call or an emotional plea to convince kids to repeat a prayer, we still want to make sure that we always give our students the opportunity to respond to the Gospel. It can be as simple as regularly reminding them that you are here if they have any questions or want to discuss salvation or baptism further. We know that conversion is the Holy Spirit’s job, not ours. However, we also want to be willing participants in the work He is doing in these kids’ hearts. Find ways to give them opportunities to respond to the Word that you are teaching them.

## Tough Questions

### **DO WE HAVE TO BE BAPTIZED TO BE SAVED?**

Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, not by works or rituals, including baptism. Key verses like Ephesians 2:8-9 state, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." Additionally, in Luke 23:42-43, the thief on the cross was promised paradise by Jesus despite never being baptized, demonstrating that faith, not baptism, is the requirement for salvation. While baptism is an important act of obedience, it is a public declaration of faith rather than a means of salvation.

# LESSON 8 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit: **Sanctification**

April 19, 2026

### Objective

Teach the kids the meaning of sanctification and how the Holy Spirit works in their lives to bring it about.

### Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

**Question:** What is sanctification?

**Answer:** Sanctification is becoming more like Jesus.

### Scripture

**Teach from: Matt. 4:18-20, Mark 9:33-34, Matt. 16:21-23, Matt. 26:35-36, John 18:10-11, Luke 22:54-62, & John 21:15-17**  
(compiled for you on the Teaching Tips page).  
Unit Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

### 3 Keys

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. **Sanctification is becoming more like Jesus.**
2. **The more we spend time with God, the more we will become like Him.**
3. **God is working in us to change us little by little.**



Our passages today take place during the earthly ministry of Jesus. We will be following the Apostle Peter's journey of sanctification.

The end of the Gospel (God, Man, Sin, Christ, Response, Restoration) is "Restoration" -- the restoring of all things to the way God intended before the fall. As the Holy Spirit sanctifies us, we get closer and closer to that full restoration.



**God the Son**, Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, is the Author and Perfecter or Finisher of our faith. He is so good to us that He doesn't just give us commands to obey, but He actually works in us by His Holy Spirit to cause us to walk in His ways. He has promised to carry this work on to completion!

**Sanctification** (becoming more like Jesus) is not just a part of the Christian life, but the main goal of it (Rom. 8:29).



## Application

One way that we show people that we really love them is by respecting and honoring them. We show our parents that we love them by obeying them because they are responsible for us. Jesus said the same thing. He said that if we love Him, we will obey Him. True Christians – Christians who have really been born again and trust Jesus, will obey Him because our new hearts love Him. It's important to remember that just because God saves us by His grace, that doesn't mean that He doesn't care whether or not we obey Him. He saves us, to change us so that we will obey Him. He does this because our becoming more like Jesus (by obeying Him) is for our good and His glory.

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Sanctification

April 19, 2026

## Extra Teaching Tip

### PETER'S SANCTIFICATION JOURNEY:

Jesus calls Peter the fisherman to follow Him.

**Matt. 4:18-20** “18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him.”

Peter is prideful and wants to be the most important.

**Mark 9:33-34** “33 And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” 34 But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.”

Peter doesn't see Jesus' plan of salvation because he's thinking about his own plans.

**Matt. 16:21-23** “21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” 23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

Peter is quick to say he'll die for Jesus but can't even stay awake to pray with Him.

**Matt. 26:35-36** “Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same. 36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”

Peter still doesn't understand what Jesus has been telling him all this time.

**John 18:10-11** “10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) 11 So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

Peter said he would die for Jesus, but then gets scared and denies Him.

**Luke 24:54-62** “54 Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. 55 And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. 56 Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” 57 But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” 58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” 59 And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” 60 But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.”

Jesus forgives and restores Peter.

**John 21:15-17** “15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

### What happens next?

Peter ends up becoming one of the main leaders of the church. Much of the book of Acts tells about Peter's obedience to Christ, his fearlessness in preaching the Gospel, and his commitment to “feeding Christ's sheep.” God even used him to write scripture! Slowly but surely Peter was changed because of the work of the Holy Spirit in his life. This change is called sanctification.

# LESSON 9 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit: **Communion**

April 26, 2026

### Objective

Teach the kids the meaning of communion.

### Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

**Question:** What is communion?

**Answer:** Communion is a sign to the believer of what God has done for them in the Gospel, that He has given Christ's body and blood for our forgiveness.

### Scripture

**Teach from: Matthew 26:17-30**, 1 Corinthians 5:7b, & 2 Timothy 2:11-13

**Unit Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:15

### 3 Keys

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. **Communion represents the body and blood of Jesus**
2. **Communion is a sign to the believer of what God has done for them in the Gospel.**
3. **Communion is to be taken by those who have been born again and baptized.**



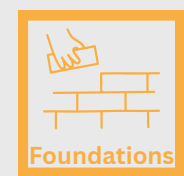
Our main text (Matthew 26) takes place right before Jesus went to the cross.

Communion, like Baptism is a visible representation of the Good News of the Gospel.



God is faithful. Communion reminds us that God has taken away our sins through the body and blood of Jesus, just as He promised.

**Communion** is one of the two ordinances that Jesus gave to the church as signs of the Covenant that He has made with us, the other being Baptism.



## Application

It is best for baptized believers to take communion together with the church. The Bible does not tell us how often to take communion. Some churches take communion weekly, monthly, or yearly.

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Communion

April 26, 2026

## Extra Teaching Tip

### MEANS OF GRACE:

There are different ways to talk about God's grace. We can speak of His saving grace – His unmerited favor by which He decides to save sinners through no work of their own. We can speak of common grace – the kindness that He shows to all of His creatures simply because He is a gracious God. Or we can speak of empowering, enabling or strengthening grace.

This is the type of grace we mean when we say that communion is a “means of grace.” It is not something that saves us or something that shows God's general kindness. Rather, communion strengthens us to keep following Christ; it encourages our hearts and increases our faith. Not because there is anything magical about the bread and wine, but because God blesses our act of obedience to this covenant ordinance that He has given us. He gives us real grace in a very real way when we partake of the Lord's Supper. In this way, it is a means of grace to us, from God.

## Tough Questions

### WHY DO WE SAY THAT ONLY BAPTIZED BELIEVERS SHOULD TAKE COMMUNION IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE BAPTIZED TO BE SAVED?

Pastor Brandon Sutton has a great article that goes into this question in depth at [kjmin.org](http://kjmin.org) titled “Should I Take Communion If I've Never Been Baptized?” Below is a summary of that article.

The article argues that only baptized Christians should take the Lord's Supper. It presents a logical sequence to support this view:

1. Communion is an ordinance to remember the gospel and the sacrifice of Jesus.
2. Therefore, Communion is intended only for Christians who have accepted this salvation.
3. Baptism is the initial sign of becoming a Christian, marking one's entry into the faith.
4. Thus, only baptized Christians should participate in Communion.

Brandon acknowledges that there is no explicit biblical prohibition against non-baptized individuals taking Communion, but emphasizes that the logic is consistent with biblical teaching. Baptism, as practiced in the New Testament, immediately followed conversion and was a public declaration of faith. To partake in Communion without first being baptized contradicts the biblical concept of discipleship. Historically, churches have maintained this stance, and many denominations require baptism before Communion.

The article encourages unbaptized individuals, whether non-Christians or uninformed believers, to be baptized before participating in Communion, as taking it unworthily invites judgment. Ultimately, it asserts that only baptized followers of Jesus should partake in this ordinance.

# LESSON 10 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit: **Mission**

May 3, 2026

### Objective

Teach the kids that the church has a very specific mission - to spread the Good News of Jesus to all people - and show them that they have a role in this mission!

### Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

**Question:** What is the mission of the church?  
**Answer:** The mission of the church is to spread the Good News of Jesus to all people.

### Scripture

**Teach from: Matthew 28**, Acts 1:1-10, Luke 24:50-51, John 18:36, Revelation 7:9-10, Isaiah 42:6 & Romans 3:30

**Unit Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:15

### 3 Keys

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. **The mission of the church is to spread the Good News of Jesus to all people.**
2. **Every believer is an ambassador of Christ.**
3. **God is God of the nations.**



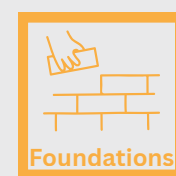
Our main texts (Matt. 28 & Acts 1) take place after Jesus raised from the dead and just before He ascended back to Heaven.

This Good News of what Jesus has done for us is Good News for all who believe from every tribe, tongue, and nation!



God is God of the Nations. He made all the people in the world and He offers salvation to anyone who will place their trust in Jesus no matter how near or far they may be.

**The Great Commission** is for every believer. Spreading the Gospel is not just for pastors and full time missionaries.



## Application

We are all called to be part of the Great Commission, some in different ways than others. Here are some of those ways:

**Go** - Go on a short term mission and share the Gospel.

**Send** - Help support the missionaries that are going.

**Pray** - Pray for the missionaries around the world.

**Give** - Collect money to help missionaries stay on mission.

**Welcome** - Be a missionary to the people in our own community that have come here from other Nations.

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Mission

May 3, 2025

## Extra Teaching Tip

### **IT'S ALL CONNECTED.**

Why is the mission of the church to take the Gospel to the nations? Because God is faithful. He keeps His promises. In fact, the entire story of the Bible is filled with God making and keeping promises. As soon as sin entered the world, God made a promise that a deliverer would come and make things right again. He is doing this through the Gospel by making all things new. He later promised Abraham that He would have descendants as numerous as the sand on the shore and the stars in the sky. He is doing this through the Gospel by making every believer a child of Abraham. He also promised that through Abraham all the nations of the world would be blessed. He is doing this by saving people from all the nations of the world. He promised that a descendent of David would be an eternal king over all. He is doing this through the Gospel, building a kingdom as people place their faith in Jesus, the King. It's all connected. The mission of the church is important because people need to know how they can be saved, but it is even more important because it is the means by which God has chosen to fulfill countless promises.

## Tough Questions

### **WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE WHO NEVER HEAR THE GOSPEL?**

The question of those who never hear the Gospel is challenging, but we must trust God's character and Scripture. The Bible teaches that God is both just and loving. It also states that everyone is accountable because God's existence is evident in creation (Romans 1:19-20), meaning people are without excuse for not acknowledging Him.

Salvation is through faith in Christ alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). This emphasizes the urgency of sharing the Gospel, as Jesus is the only way to salvation.

Our role is to trust His justice and be committed to the Great Commission, sharing the Gospel with all people. God has chosen us to be His messengers, and we must reach out to those who haven't heard, knowing that His ways are always just and loving (Isaiah 55:8-9).

# LESSON 11 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit: Church

May 10, 2026

### Objective

Teach the kids that the church is not a building but the people of God. Last week, we learned about the church's mission. This week, we'll learn about the church's purpose: to glorify God.

### Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

**Question:** What is the church?

**Answer:** The church is the body of Christ, made up of all believers at all times in all places.

### Scripture

**Teach from:** Acts 2, Ephesians 4:16, 1 Corinthians 12:12-21, Deuteronomy 16:9-14, & Colossians 1:18

**Unit Memory Verse:** Psalm 78:1-2

### 3 Keys

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. **The church is the body of Christ, made up of all believers everywhere.**
2. **The church's purpose is to glorify God.**
3. **Christ is the Head of the church.**



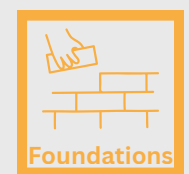
Our main text (Acts 2) takes place after Jesus ascended to Heaven and sent His Spirit to His people, creating the beginning of the church.

Salvation is individual and personal. God saves people like you and me. But, God is also saving **a people**. We are saved **into** the church, the body of Christ. He is saving you, but He is also saving **us**.



Christ is the Head of the Church. The Bible says that the church belongs to Jesus.

The church is the body of Christ, made up of all believers at all times in all places. When God saves us, he saves us into a family - His church.



## Application

Challenge the kids: If you have put your faith in Jesus, you are called to serve the Body of Christ. Serving one another is one of the primary ways that we serve Him. Even as an elementary student you can find ways to serve the church. Remember, the church is the people, not the building. We will provide some examples in the lesson.

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Church

May 10, 2025

## Extra Teaching Tip

### THE IMPORTANCE OF MEETING TOGETHER AS THE CHURCH:

Encourage the kids to prioritize coming to church as often as they can. While meeting together is not what makes us Christians, it is commanded by God (Heb. 10:25), modeled for us in the New Testament (Acts 2:42), and one of the only ways that we can fulfill the “one another” commands in scripture. Meeting together as the church, the family of God should be one of the best parts of our week.

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love...” (Romans 12:10)

“...Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you...” (Romans 15:7)

“...Instruct one another.” (Romans 15:14)

“...Serve one another in love.” (Galatians 5:13)

“Carry each other’s burdens...” (Galatians 6:2)

“Be kind and compassionate to one another...” (Ephesians 4:32)

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.” (Ephesians 5:19)

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21)

“...Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)

“...Build each other up...” (I Thessalonians 5:11)

“...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10:24)

“...Encourage one another.” (Hebrews 10:25)

“Confess your sins to each other...” (James 5:16)

“...Love one another deeply, from the heart.” (I Peter 3:8)

“...Live in harmony with one another...” (I Peter 3:8)

“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” (I Peter 4:9)

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...” (I Peter 4:10)

“...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another...” (I Peter 5:5)

## Tough Questions

### DO WE HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH TO BE SAVED?

No, we don't have to go to church to be saved, as salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). However, being part of a local church is crucial for our spiritual growth, encouragement, and accountability (Hebrews 10:24-25). The gathering of believers is where we worship, study God's Word together, and serve one another, helping us mature in our faith and stay grounded in truth. While church attendance doesn't save us, it's an essential part of living out our salvation and growing in our relationship with Christ.

# LESSON 12 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit: **Bible**

May 17, 2026

### Objective

Teach the kids that the Bible is the Word of God, breathed out by Him and written by men. Show them that the Bible is trustworthy and reliable.

### Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

**Question:** Where did the Bible come from?

**Answer:** The Bible was breathed out by God and written by men.

### Scripture

**Teach from:** 2 Peter 1:16-21, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 1:1-2, & John 17:3-4, 10

**Unit Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 2:15

### 3 Keys

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

1. **The Bible was breathed out by God and written by men.**
2. **The Bible reveals God to us.**
3. **The Bible has authority over us.**



Our main texts (2 Peter & 2 Timothy) took place after Jesus' ascension to Heaven as the Apostles wrote scripture and spread the Gospel.

The power to save is in the Word of God (Rom. 1:16). As we hear the Gospel and believe it, the Holy Spirit works in us to change us and save us.



God speaks! God speaks to us through His Word so that we can know Him. He wants us to know Him so that we can enjoy and glorify Him!

The Bible is inspired by God and written by men. As it is the Word of God, it is the highest authority in everything!



## Application

God has spoken to us through His Word. If the Ruler of the universe made the effort to reveal Himself to us, if He told us that He wants us to know Him, and if His Word changes us and makes us more like Jesus, then we should want to read and hear His Word taught.

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Bible

May 17, 2026

## Extra Teaching Tip

### REVIEW THE UNIT:

**Saved:** God saves us from the power and penalty of sin through His Son, Jesus.

**Adopted:** When God saves us, He adopts us into His own family!

**Justified:** Because Jesus took our guilt, God declares us “not guilty” when we trust in Him.

**Redeemed:** When God saves us, He buys us back from the power of sin to be part of His family again.

**Faith:** Faith is placing our trust in Jesus alone to save us.

**Rebirth:** When God saves us, He gives us a new heart, and His Spirit comes to live in us to help us become more like Jesus.

**Baptism:** Baptism is a sign of what God has done to save us and of the promises He has made us. Baptism is a picture of our old life dying and our new life beginning. Only those who have been born again should be baptized.

**Sanctification:** Sanctification is becoming more like Jesus. The more we spend time with God, the more we will become like Him. God is working in us to change us little by little.

**Communion:** Communion represents the body and blood of Jesus. Communion is a sign of what God has done for us and of the promises that He has made to us.

**The Mission:** The mission of the church is to take the Gospel to the Nations. Every believer is an ambassador. God is God of the Nations.

**The Church:** God’s people are the church. The church’s purpose is to glorify God. Christ is the Head of the church.

## Tough Questions

### HOW DO WE KNOW THAT WE CAN TRUST THE BIBLE?

Yes, we can trust the Bible! There is overwhelming empirical, logical, and rational evidence to support that claim. It passes with flying colors- every test by which the veracity of all ancient documents are judged. The Bible is composed of 66 books by over 40 different authors, many of whom never met one another. It was written over the span of more than 1500 years on 3 continents, in 3 languages, telling one consistent story of God’s redemptive purposes for mankind. It tells of historical figures, events and places that are corroborated by other historical and archaeological sources. Much of it was written by eyewitnesses and during the lifetime of many other eyewitnesses who could have easily discredited its recorded events if they were untrue. It tells of supernatural events and prophecies which defy mathematical probability. We have over 5000 of the New Testament manuscripts in the original language, some of which date back to within 30 years of the original. We have over 18,000 other manuscripts. In light of this massive number of documents, we would naturally expect the presence of textual variants, yet less than 1% of all of those variants are viable and meaningful and there are no essential doctrines of the faith that rely on anything in that 1%. Most are spelling and punctuation. This itself is miraculous and unparalleled in all documents from antiquity. The Bible stands far above all other ancient documents in every sense.

When answering this question for kids, you can break it down into 3 reasons to trust the Bible:

- **Because of its supernatural or miraculous construction** (the numbers listed above) - For the Bible to all come together and tell the one seamless story of redemption that it tells is a miracle itself.
- **Because it is supported by history and archaeology** - There are people, places, dates, and events detailed in the Bible that we can find in other historical records outside of the Bible.
- **Because of what it says about itself** - The Bible claims to be the Word of God and shows itself to be the Word of God by the above evidences as well as the many fulfilled prophecies it contains.



