

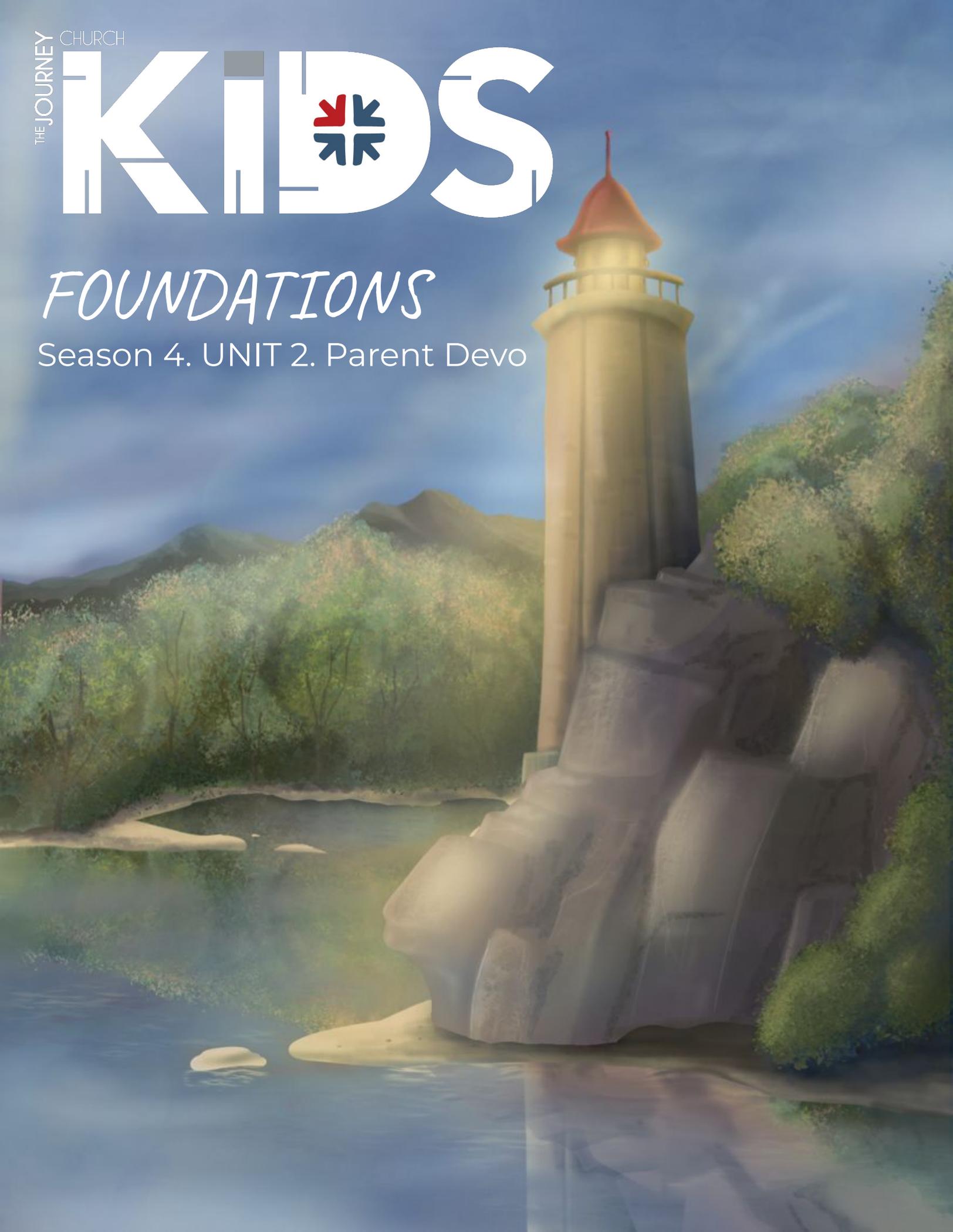
THE JOURNEY CHURCH

KIDS



FOUNDATIONS

Season 4. UNIT 2. Parent Devo



How to use this Devotional

Introduction

As I think about how to share the importance of discipleship in the home with you, I am reminded of the moment when that first became a conviction of my own. I was in a season of growth and I had been binge listening to sermons on all of the deepest doctrines that I could get a hold of. I thought that I was beyond the simple, everyday life stuff. I didn't want to listen to something as "trivial" as how to honor God in your marriage or finances or anything like that. I remember scrolling through John MacArthur sermons and seeing one with a thought provoking title. I don't remember that particular title, but what I do remember is how the Lord pulled a bait and switch on me. Five minutes into it I realized that it was a sermon about discipling your family. As many years ago as that was, I still think back to two particular quotes from that sermon that humbled me out of some pride and changed my view on this forever. First, he said something to the effect of, "the most important disciples the Lord will ever give you are living under your roof." And second, "The Christian home should look like an outpost of the Kingdom of God." Now, I have not mastered this by any means. But as we all know, change starts with conviction.

It is my prayer that you will grow in this conviction as well. The very first command given in scripture is to "be fruitful and multiply." From the rest of scripture, in places like Deuteronomy 6, Psalm 127 and Ephesians 6:4, we see that this command means more than just "have babies." God expects believers who are blessed with children to be a part of that mission to fill the earth with godly offspring. This is where those MacArthur quotes come in. Just because each person has to make their own decision to follow Christ, and kids can't ride to Heaven on the faith of their parents, that does not absolve us of the responsibility to plant them in the soil of the Gospel. That's where we, the church, come in. Parents are given this massive task, but they are not given it to walk alone. We often treat child discipleship like it is the job of the teachers in the classroom at church. This could not be more backward. Child discipleship is primarily the job of parents. The church is to come alongside those parents to equip, educate and encourage. This is the purpose of the booklet. We hope to use this booklet as the first of many resources providing families the teaching they need to fulfill the Great Commission in their homes.

How this works

Following this Introduction is an overview of the layout and vision for the curriculum that we will be using in the classrooms. This devotional book follows that same layout and vision. We hope that you will spend a few minutes each week reading the devotion for that particular week. In doing so, you will be learning the same things, at an adult level that your kids are learning in class. We want to give you this resource to help equip you to be the primary disciple-maker in your home. The idea is that what you learn here and what they learn in class will work together to foster organic conversations about the Scriptures in your home. But of course this will work just as well as anything ever does. The more you put into it, the more you will get out of it. We are here for you. We are praying for you.

Curriculum

We believe that our kids need to be taught:

- 1) That the Bible stories they've heard so many times before are all part of one big story that centers on Jesus and that we need to show them Jesus in all of these stories. (Luke 24:27)
- 2) That "*what comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.*" - A.W. Tozer. And as such, we believe that kids need more than teachings about what God has done, but also who God is. (John 17:3)
- 3) That the good news of the Gospel is far deeper and richer than a tack- on to the end of a lesson, and that this depth and richness is not just accessible to kids, but is designed by God for kids. (Matthew 11:25)
- 4) That our brothers and sisters in Christ, throughout the ages have wrestled with and answered tough questions about the faith. Those answers have become the core doctrines of Christianity and they need to be passed on to our children to help them know and defend their faith. (Jude 3)

Using these core convictions, we have developed a curriculum that is structured around four topics that will be taught as four "seasons" of the year.

HIStory - We will take the kids through key milestones in the biblical narrative chronologically. We will show them how each story relates to all the others and how, ultimately, they all point to Jesus.

God - We will take them on a journey through the attributes of God, showing them what it means to say that He is holy or that He is love, etc. We will teach them how to see the God that they can know in the pages of scripture.

Good News - This season will dive deep into the core elements of the Gospel message. They will learn about man, his condition and what God has done for them in Christ.

Foundations - In this season we will give them an overview of core Christian doctrines such as, the Bible, the Trinity, Baptism, etc. We will teach them to know what they believe and to believe what they know.

Structure

The material will be broken down as follows. There will be four seasons: HIStory, God, Good News, and Foundations. Those four seasons will be broken down into units and the units into individual lessons. During each season, the lesson will be focused on that particular element of the curriculum. However, the other three elements will still be present in every lesson. Once the "HIStory" season is finished, we will move into the "God" season. The structure will remain the same, but now the particular attribute of God being studied will be the focus of the lesson and an element of HIStory will be secondary. What we love about this is that much of the content will be repeated and layered. They'll get a big focus on creation in the HIStory season, but they'll also get a short reinforcement of that same lesson in another season.

We are here for you

We appreciate your labor in the Lord. As many have said, "whoever wants this generation the most will have them." Let's continue striving to show Jesus as incomparably glorious to this generation!

Special Thanks to Ashley Page for the artwork in this devo!

BAPTISM

Week of JUNE 5th



Season 4

Unit 2

Week 1

Passages

Acts 8:26-10, 16:11-15

Matthew 24:14

Proverbs 21:1

Colossians 2:11-12

Acts 2:38-39

Romans 6:3-8, 8:11

Baptism is a public act of obedience that symbolizes an inward reality of our having been united to Christ.

Baptism is a command that Jesus gave to His followers. All who have put their faith in Jesus are united to Him forever. Being united to Christ means that we belong to Him and He lives in us by His Spirit. Baptism is not something that saves us. It is a sign pointing to the fact that Christ has already saved us. Just like a sign and the thing it points to are not the same, so Baptism is not the same as being saved or being born again, but a sign pointing to those realities.

Baptism is a picture of our old life dying, the new life we have in Christ, and our being cleansed of sin.

When we are saved, we are made new - we learned about this last week. The old life of sin and living for ourselves is pictured to be put to death with Jesus as we go down into the water. Our new life in Christ is pictured to be raised from the dead with Jesus when we come up out of the water. At the same time, Baptism also pictures our cleansing from sin. Those who trust in Jesus have had their sins washed away.

Baptism shows *the world* that we have been united to Christ.

Believers all over the world, for thousands of years have followed Jesus' command to be baptized. In some countries, where Christianity is illegal, believers can be hurt or even put to death for being baptized. They still take that risk, however, to show the world that they have been united to Christ.

Baptism reminds *our own hearts* that God has made promises to us.

When God makes promises to a certain group of people, sometimes that's called a covenant. A covenant is a relationship between two people where promises are made and kept. God's covenant people have always had certain things that they did to remind them of the promises that God has made to them. Israel had feasts and celebrations to remind them of God's promises. We have been given Baptism as a sign to point us back to the promises that God has made us. What are some of those promises? Check out the below scriptures to find out!

Colossians 2:11-12, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 6:3-8, & Romans 8:11

"First, then, I want you to think of our representative union with Christ as it is set forth in baptism as a truth to be believed. Our Lord Jesus is the substitute for his people, and when he died it was on their behalf and in their stead. The great doctrine of our justification lies in this, that Christ took our sins, stood in our place, and as our surety suffered, and bled, and died, thus presenting on our behalf a sacrifice for sin. We are to regard him, not as a private person, but as our representative. We are buried with him in baptism unto death to show that we accept him as being for us dead and buried." – Charles Spurgeon



Where are we in Redemptive History?

Our passages took place about 2000 years ago. After Jesus died and rose again, He spent time instructing His disciples on the mission that they were to accomplish. He then ascended back to Heaven. The book of Acts is the account of the beginning of that mission. The time period in which the Ethiopian and Lydia were baptized is the same time period, in God's story, that we are in today. We are still in the age of the church and we are still fulfilling that same mission. In a very real way, we are in this same story!

Matthew 24:14



Who does God show Himself to be?

God is sovereign. How did the message of the Gospel get to the Ethiopian? What happened to Lydia to cause her to believe the Gospel? In both instances, we see God's sovereignty at work. With the Ethiopian, He called Philip away to the exact location where the Ethiopian just happened to be reading a prophecy about the death of Jesus. With Lydia, God opened her heart to accept and believe the Gospel that was shared with her. Both were then baptized as a result of the work that God did in bringing them to faith in Christ.

Proverbs 21:1



Catechizing our hearts and minds

Q. What does baptism have to do with the Gospel?

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

* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.

Pray for the nation



LOCATION
India

LANGUAGE
Urdu

RELIGION
Islam (Sunni)

POPULATION
10,700,000

PRAYER ITEMS:

- ◆ Pray that God would send Indian followers of Jesus to their Ansari neighbors to share with them the good news.
- ◆ Pray for a disciple-making movement among them this decade.
- ◆ Pray for good schools so that Ansari children can get an education that helps to lift them out of poverty.



Prayercast

Keys for the kids

- 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.

Weekly Key Verse:

Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. – Colossians 2:12

SANCTIFICATION

Week of JUNE 12th



Season 4

Unit 2

Week 2

Passages

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

2 Peter 1:16-18
Hebrews 12:2
Philippians 1:6, 2:13

Sanctification means to sanctify. Sanctify means to “set apart” or “to make holy.”

In our passages about Peter, we can see the changes happening in his heart and life. He went from being short tempered, stubborn and earthly minded to one of the greatest Christians to ever live, willing to sacrifice everything to honor Jesus.

Once God makes us new, He begins making us more and more like Jesus everyday.

When we are born again or “regenerated”, God sets us on a path of change that will continue until He returns. Just like Peter wasn’t made perfect all at once, so we will see ups and downs in our relationship to Jesus. But He has made a promise to us that He will complete the work that He began in us. Day by day, He’s making us more like Jesus.

Part of sanctification is spending time with God in prayer and in His Word. The more we get to know Him, the more we become like Him.

Some of the ways that God sanctifies us, or makes us holy, are through prayer, reading the Bible, hearing the Bible taught, being around other believers and obeying Him the best we can. Particularly, the more we spend time with God, the more we become like Him. God meets us in prayer and in the our Bible reading and He will change us there too.

Obeying God and becoming more like Jesus isn’t what saves us, but if we are saved, we *will* obey God and become more like Jesus.

We know from our “Good News” season that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. But, we also know that faith that doesn’t produce obedience to God is not true faith. We can’t ever be good enough or obey God enough for Him to accept us because the standard is perfection. He accepts us freely because of the righteousness that Jesus gives us when we trust in Him. However, a good way to tell if we have truly trusted in Him is whether or not we obey Him. Once we are born again, our hearts want to obey God, not **so that** He will accept us, but **because** He has accepted us.

“We must hide our unholiness in the wounds of Christ as Moses hid himself in the cleft of the rock while the glory of God passed by. We must take refuge from God in God. Above all we must believe that God sees us perfect in His Son while He disciplines and chastens and purges us that we may be partakers of His holiness”

A. W. Tozer



Where are we in Redemptive History?

The passages in our lesson today take place during Jesus' earthly ministry and then shortly after His resurrection and ascension. Peter walked with Jesus for 3 years while Jesus preached the Gospel, healed the sick and performed many other miracles. Even though Peter spent all of this time with Jesus, it still took time for Him to become more like Him. This is a good reminder that sanctification is a lifelong process. God will be working on us until we are finally perfected at the resurrection.

Read 2 Peter 1:16-18



Who does God show Himself to be?

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!

Read Hebrews 12:2, Philippians 1:6 & 2:13



Catechizing our hearts and minds

Q: What does sanctification have to do with the Gospel?

A: *Sanctification is part of the promise of God, that He will make all things new.*

* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.

Pray for the nations




LOCATION
Russia

|

LANGUAGE
Chechen

|

RELIGION
Islam

|

POPULATION
1,454,000

PRAYER ITEMS:

- ◆ Pray for the endurance and protection of the few known Chechen believers.
- ◆ Pray for political stability in the area where the Chechens and Ingush live.
- ◆ Ask the Lord to tear down barriers to the gospel so that Christian workers who live and work among the Chechens will see fruit.



Prayercast

Keys for the kids

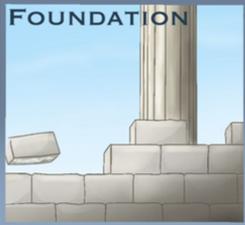
- Sanctification is becoming more like Jesus.
- The more we spend time with God, the more we will become like Him.
- God is working in us to change us little by little.

Weekly Key Verse:

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. – 2 Corinthians 3:18

COMMUNION

Week of JUNE 19th



Season 4

Unit 2

Week 3

Passages

Matthew 26:17-30

1 Corinthians 5:7b

2 Timothy 2:11-13

Communion, also called “the Lord’s Supper”, is something that believers do to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Jesus said that when believers take communion they are to remember Him. They are to remember His body that was broken for them and His blood spilled for them on the cross. The bread represents His body and the juice or wine represents His blood.

The word communion means to share in something together. When believers take communion they are sharing in a meal with each other and with the Lord.

Like baptism, communion is very special. When we meet together as the church and take communion together, Jesus is present with us by His Holy Spirit. Communion means to share in something. When we take communion we are not only sharing the Lord’s Supper with one another but also with Jesus. Just as His disciples sat around the table with Him, He is with us when we take communion as well.

Communion, like baptism is a sign of the promises that He has made to us.

Jesus said that communion is a sign of the covenant that He has made with us. Remember that a covenant is a relationship in which promises are made. He has promised to forgive us and cleanse us of our sins because of the blood He shed – because He took our punishment. He has also promised that we will be with Him forever and that there will be a great feast that we will eat with Him when He returns. When we take communion, it is a sign and a reminder of these promises that He has made to us.

Communion, like baptism, is to be taken by those who have been born again and have been baptized.

Because communion is a sign of the covenant that Jesus has made, it should only be taken by those who are in that covenant. Who is in that covenant? Those who are born again and trust in Jesus. You should also be baptized before taking communion because Baptism is the sign that shows you have entered into that covenant with Jesus.

Nowhere is God so near to man as in Jesus Christ; and nowhere is Christ so familiarly represented to us, as in this holy sacrament. – Richard Baxter



Where are we in Redemptive History?

Our passage today takes place just before Jesus goes to the cross. He and the disciples are together celebrating the Passover meal. Passover was the feast that the Jewish people celebrated to remember how God passed over the houses with the lamb's blood on them when He sent judgement on the Egyptians. Just like a lamb had to be slaughtered and its blood shed for the Jews to escape judgment, so Jesus became the Lamb of God and shed His blood just after this meal.

Read 1 Corinthians 5:7b



Who does God show Himself to be?

Communion reminds us that God is faithful. For centuries, He promised that One would come who would take the punishment for our sins and bring us back to Him. Those promises were fulfilled when Jesus came and died on the cross. Because He has been faithful to fulfill those promises, we can trust that He will be faithful to fulfill all of His promises.

Read 2 Timothy 2:11-13



Catechizing our hearts and minds

Q: What does communion have to do with the Gospel?

A: *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.*

* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.

Pray for the nations



LOCATION
China

LANGUAGE
Kazakh

RELIGION
Islam

POPULATION
1,887,000

PRAYER ITEMS:

- ◆ Ask the Lord to send long-term laborers to live among Kazakhs and share the love of Christ with them.
- ◆ Ask the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of the Kazakhs towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the gospel.
- ◆ Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among Kazakhs.



Prayercast

Keys for the kids

- 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.
- Communion is to be taken by those who have been born again and have been baptized.

Weekly Key Verse:

This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 26:28

THE MISSION

Week of JUNE 26th



Season 4

Unit 2

Week 4

Passages

Matthew 28

Acts 1:1-10

Luke 24:50-51

John 18:36

Revelation 7:9-10

Isaiah 42:6

Romans 3:30

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God. The mission of the Church is to take the Gospel to the Nations.

We'll learn more about the purpose of church next week. Today we're focusing on the mission of the church. The church has been given one mission. Before Jesus ascended back to His throne in Heaven He gave us that mission. Sometimes we call it the "Great Commission."

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

Notice the different parts of His statement:

All authority is His - so we should obey and should not be afraid.

Make disciples - a disciple is someone who learns from and follows Jesus.

All nations - the whole world is His and He wants disciples from the whole world.

Baptizing them - because Baptism is the outward sign that shows they belong to Jesus.

Teaching them to observe all I have commanded - because, as we learned in our sanctification lesson, true disciples seek to obey Jesus and become more like Him.

I am with you always - we can have courage to obey the mission He's given us because He has promised to be with us.

The mission is the Gospel because hearing and believing the Gospel is how God saves people.

We know that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. But we can't have faith in what we have never heard. That is why the Gospel is the mission. For others to be saved, they have to believe the Gospel. For them to believe the Gospel, they have to hear the Gospel. (Romans 10:14-15)

Every believer is an ambassador.

This mission was given to all of us. If you are a believer in Jesus then you are a disciple of Jesus. And if you are a disciple of Jesus then you are an ambassador for this mission. An ambassador is someone who represents and speaks on behalf of someone else. We are all ambassadors of Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

We have the same mission as the disciples.

The mission that the disciples in our passage were given is not yet complete. It is still in progress. If you are a Christian, then you became part of that mission when you believed. You are called to do the same work as the disciples! (Matt. 24:14)

"If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?" - David Livingstone



Where are we in Redemptive History?

All of our lessons in this unit so far have taken place around the same time, either during Jesus' earthly ministry or directly after. Today is no different. The Great Commission was given to the church just after Jesus rose from the grave but before He ascended back to Heaven. It's worth noting that during this time in history, Israel was still under the rule of the Romans. Many of the Israelites thought that the Savior would free them from the Romans when He came. Although Jesus made it clear that He came to build a spiritual kingdom, His disciples often made this same mistake. Even after His resurrection they were still asking if He was going to "restore the kingdom to Israel."

Read Luke 24:50-51 & John 18:36



Who does God show Himself to be?

God is the God of the Nations. All throughout Israel's history, they made the mistake of thinking that God was only their God. They failed to see that God made everyone in the world and their job was to be a light to the Nations – to show God to the world. Sometimes, we as Christians get this way too. We sometimes think that our faith is only a personal thing. We get scared to share the Gospel because we think to ourselves, "not everyone believes in God." But that doesn't matter because whether they believe in Him or not the same God that gave us this message is the God that created those people. And this is true of all people in all nations of all religions. We should be bold about taking His Gospel to the nations because the nations are His!

Read Revelation 7:9-10, Isaiah 42:6 & Romans 3:30



Catechizing our hearts and minds

Q. What is the mission of the church?

A. *The mission of the church is to spread the Good News of Jesus to all people.*

* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.

Pray for the nations



LOCATION
Pakistan

LANGUAGE
Pashto,
Northern

RELIGION
Islam

POPULATION
26,061,000

PRAYER ITEMS:

- ♦ The greatest barriers to faith are social and cultural barriers. Pashtuns in Pakistan have been called the largest Muslim tribal society in the world. Pray for Pashtuns to find true hope and salvation through Jesus Christ.
- ♦ No one knows how many Pashtuns are following Jesus. Seeds of the gospel have been sown widely. Pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen and protect new believers against any persecution so their lives can be a witness for God.
- ♦ Pray for the Bible translations in progress.



Prayercast

Keys for the kids

- The mission of the church is to take the Gospel to the nations.
- Every believer is an ambassador of God.
- God is God of the nations.

Weekly Key Verse:

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

THE CHURCH

Week of JULY 3rd



Season 4

Unit 2

Week 5

Passages

Acts 2

Deuteronomy 16:9-14

Colossians 1:18

The church is a people, not a building.

What is the church? Is it a building? Is it an event that we go to on Sundays? Does going to church make you a Christian? We say things like, "We're going to church" and "I left my Bible at the church." But really the church is made of people. The church is all of the people of God everywhere. If you have put your faith in Jesus, you are part of that giant group of people called the church! God's people (Abraham's family) used to be separated from all of the other nations, but now anyone who trusts in Jesus becomes part of that family. He unites us to Himself. Not only that, but He unites us to one another. In one of our passages today, we will see that we are all members of the same body.

Once we place our faith in Jesus, we become members of His body.

You may have heard someone say that we are the Body of Christ. What does that mean? It means that we are connected to Him because His Spirit lives in us and we are connected to other believers because the same Holy Spirit also lives in them. The Bible also says that Jesus is the Head of the Body. That means that He is in charge of the body.

Every member has a different role.

Read Ephesians 4:16 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-21. We are all made unique and special. God has given all of us individual talents, personalities, and spiritual gifts. A spiritual gift is a special ability that God gives to believers in order to fulfill the purpose and mission of the church. Do you remember what those were? The church's purpose is to glorify God and her mission is to spread the Good News of the Gospel. Here are some of the spiritual gifts listed in the Bible. How might each one of these gifts glorify God and spread the Good News?

Evangelism: a special gift of preaching the Gospel.

Administration: a gift of leading and organizing people and projects.

Teaching: a gift to teach God's Word or to teach in general.

Service: a gift of serving people.

Mercy: a gift of helping people who are in need or hurting.

The Bible lists many more and some of the gifts God gives aren't necessarily on the lists in the Bible. Some people have more than one. Some of these gifts are things that we're all commanded to do. You may not have the gift of evangelism or service but you are still commanded to do those things. People with those gifts, just have God given abilities and opportunities to perform them in special ways.

All of the church has the same purpose - to glorify God, and the same mission - to spread the Gospel.

The glory of the gospel is that when the church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it. - Martyn Lloyd Jones



Where are we in Redemptive History?

In our last lesson, just before Jesus ascended to Heaven He gave the disciples their mission – to take the Gospel to the nations. Today's lesson takes place right after that and is the beginning of that mission. In Jerusalem, there were people from all over the world to celebrate the Feast of Weeks. As the Spirit filled the disciples and enabled them to speak in other languages, they were preaching the Gospel to the nations.

Read Deuteronomy 16:9-14



Who does God show Himself to be?

Christ is the Head of the Church. The Bible says that the church belongs to Jesus. It is not something that we are in charge of or something that we thought up. That means that everything we do as the church has to be in line with whatever He commands. Christ has made rules for the church like: it is to be led by elders, also called pastors, pastors are to teach the church His Word, the church is to exist to glorify Him and spread the Gospel and the people of the church are to serve one another.

Read Colossians 1:18



Catechizing our hearts and minds

Q. What is the church?

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

* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.

Pray for the nations



PRAYER ITEMS:

- ◆ Pray that new Uzbek Christians would understand God's Word quickly and commit themselves to a local fellowship where they will find strength.
- ◆ Pray for God to raise up strong local churches in all these countries among the Uzbeks.
- ◆ Ask the Lord to send additional long-term laborers to live among the Uzbeks and share the love of Christ with them.



Prayercast

Keys for the kids

- God's people are the church.
- The church's purpose is to glorify God.
- Christ is the Head of the church.

Weekly Key Verse:

And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Colossians 1:18

THE BIBLE

Week of JULY 10th



Season 4

Unit 2

Week 6

Passages

2 Peter 1:16-21

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Hebrews 4:12

John 17:3-10

The Bible is the Word of God.

If I were to tell you a story about something that you had never seen or heard before and at the end of the story I said, "you'll have to take my word for it." What would that mean? "My word" in that scenario would be the information that I just shared with you. They are my "words" because they are the words coming out of my mouth, that's obvious. But it is also my "word" because it is my testimony of something. To take my word for it, or to believe my word, not only means that you believe that those are the words I'm speaking, but that you believe the message that those words are communicating to you. When we talk about the Bible being the Word of God, we mean both of these. The words in the Bible are the actual words that God is speaking to us and the message He is speaking through them is "His Word." The Bible is not a book *about* God, it is the Word of God. Because it is the Word of God, that also means that it is perfect and it is always true.

The Bible was breathed out by God and written by men.

But just where did the Bible come from? If these are His words and the message He is speaking through them is "His Word" then how did we get it? The Bible says that the Word of God is "inspired." That word inspired means "breathed out." God gave His words to men who recorded them for His people. Men like the prophets and apostles were moved along by the Holy Spirit as they wrote down God's words. Sometimes they heard God speak audibly, like He did to Moses, sometimes He caused them to remember things that Jesus said while He was on the earth (John 14:26) other times He gave men special visions like in the book of Revelation. Hebrews 1:1 says that God has used many different ways to communicate His Word to us. What we have in the Bible are the words that God breathed out and were recorded by men.

The Bible reveals God to us.

What better way is there to get to know someone than for them to tell you about themselves? In the Bible, God tells us what He is like. From His Word we learn that God is loving and merciful. We learn that He is holy and just. And, we learn that He has sent His Son to save us. How amazing is it to think that God doesn't have to reveal Himself to us at all, and yet He does and He even tells us that He wants us to know Him! (Hosea 6:6) As we hear and read God's Word, we get to know Him better. The Bible doesn't just teach us about God. Through His Word He speaks to us.

The Bible has authority over us.

Because the Bible is God's Word, it has authority over us. That simply means that we are required to obey it. God is sovereign. He is in charge, so His Word is our final authority in all things. When we want to know if something about God is true, or if something is right or wrong for us to do, we should ask, "what does the Bible say about it?"

"Knowledge of the Bible never comes by intuition. It can only be obtained by diligent, regular, daily, attentive reading." J.C. Ryle



Where are we in Redemptive History?

Our main two passages were written shortly after Jesus ascended to Heaven. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 was written by Paul the Apostle and 2 Peter 1:16-21 was written by the Apostle Peter. As these men were writing about scripture being inspired by God, God was inspiring the very things they were writing. In fact the rest of the New Testament was in the process of being written at the same time. In the past, God gave His Word in many different ways. When the writer of Heb. 1:1-2 says that He reveals Himself now through Jesus Christ, he means through Jesus' earthly ministry, His teachings, and His inspiration of the New Testament.

Read Hebrews 1:1-2



Who does God show Himself to be?

God speaks to us. You may remember from our season on the Good News, that we were created to know God and reflect Him to the rest of creation. We can only know Him because He reveals Himself to us. What an amazing thought that the Almighty Ruler and Creator of all wants to reveal Himself to us. God speaks to us through His Word so that we can know Him. He wants us to know Him so that we can glorify Him!

Read John 17:3-4, 10



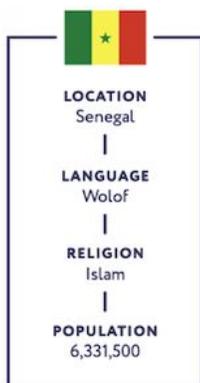
Catechizing our hearts and minds

Q. What is the Bible?

A. *The Bible is God's Word, written by men as they were directed by the Holy Spirit.*

* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.

Pray for the nations



PRAYER ITEMS:

- ♦ Pray for the small number of Wolof believers to have the courage to share the love of Christ with their own people and be strong through persecution.
- ♦ Ask the Lord to give the Wolof believers opportunities to share the love of Christ with their own people.
- ♦ Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Wolof.



Prayercast

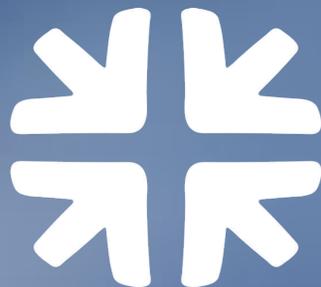
Keys for the kids

- The Bible was breathed out by God and written by men.
- The Bible reveals God to us.
- The Bible has authority over us.

Weekly Key Verse:

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.
Ephesians 2:19-20a



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