

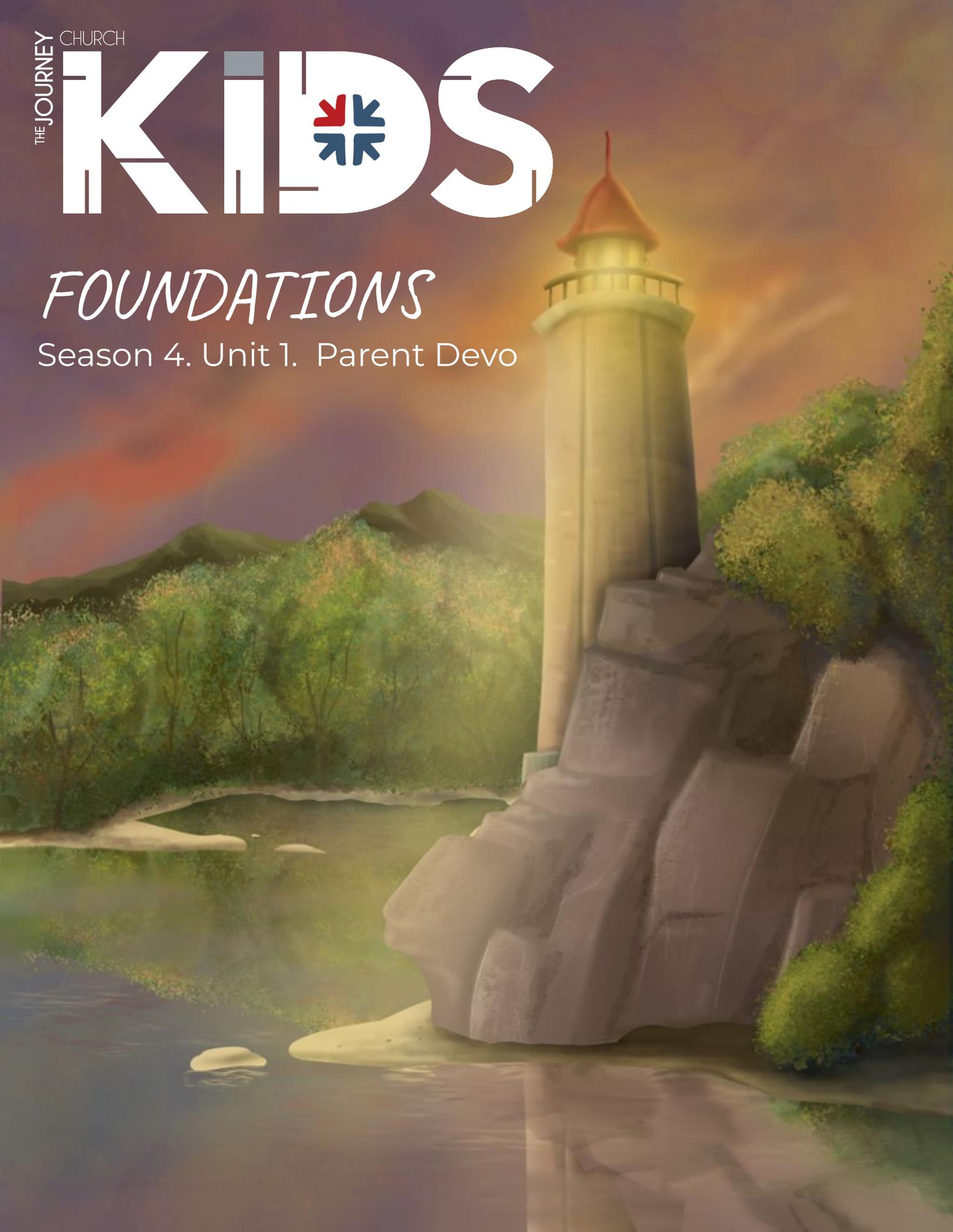
THE JOURNEY CHURCH

# KIDS



## FOUNDATIONS

Season 4. Unit 1. 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!***

# SALVATION

Week of April 24th



Season 4  
Week 1  
Parent Devo

Passages  
Joshua 2 & 6:1-25  
Matthew 1:5 & 7:13-14  
Isaiah 43:11 & Acts 4:12

## **The Gospel is the Good News of what God has done, in Christ, to save us.**

We just spent 6 weeks diving into the Good News. The result of believing the Good News is salvation. God saves those who put their faith in His Son's atoning death and resurrection. Our passage today will help illustrate salvation in a very real way, as you'll see below.

## **Rahab was saved from the just judgment of God.**

When we talk about God saving us, it is important to know what God saves us from. When God saves us, He saves us from the just judgment that we deserve. It is right to say that Jesus saves us from our sins, but sometimes that's too vague. Jesus saves us from the **penalty** and **power** of our sins. Meaning, the penalty that should be ours for rebelling against God, He takes upon Himself and the power that sin has over us, He breaks by giving us new life. We'll talk more about this in coming weeks. Today, let's focus on being saved from judgment.

## **Rahab was saved because she believed in the one true God.**

Rahab was a sinful person, just like all of us. She was not saved from God's judgment because she was better than the rest of the people of Jericho, but because she had faith in the one true God. We can see that in Joshua 2:8-11. Read this section. Think about what her statement reveals about her beliefs in the God of the Israelites.

## **Rahab's actions (helping the spies) showed that she believed in God.**

The rest of the city is utterly destroyed but Rahab and her family are spared because Rahab believed in the one true God. We just looked at what she said about her beliefs, but she also did something to prove those beliefs. Just as James discusses in his letter in the New Testament, Rahab's faith was demonstrated by her deeds. Martin Luther once said, "we are saved by faith alone, but faith that saves is never alone." If you are in Christ, rejoice today that you have been saved from the power and penalty of sin through faith in Christ!

*God delights far more in His mercy than in His wrath. So in order to show the priority of His mercy, He must place it against the backdrop of His wrath. How could God's mercy appear fully as His great mercy unless it was extended to people who were under His wrath and therefore could only ask for mercy? It would be impossible for them to share with God the delight He has in His mercy unless they saw clearly the awfulness of the almighty wrath from which His mercy delivers them.*

*- Daniel Fuller*



## Where are we in Redemptive History?

When God's people were slaves in Israel, He sent Moses to deliver them. After they left Egypt, they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. At the end of that time, Moses passed the responsibility of leading God's people on to Joshua. Joshua led Israel into the promised land but along the way they had many battles. These battles were with wicked cities that God was judging for their sins. God used Joshua and his army to judge them. Jericho was one of these cities. Even though Rahab was a sinner and part of this wicked city, she put her faith in the one true God and was saved from that judgment. In fact, because of her faith, Rahab is included into God's people and is even in the lineage (family tree) of Jesus.

**Read Matthew 1:5**



## Who does God show Himself to be?

God is the only Savior. One of the repeating themes in the Bible is that no one can save us but God alone. We cannot save ourselves. We cannot make ourselves right with God. We cannot be good enough to get out of the judgement we deserve. No other false gods can save us. The church can't even save us. We need God to save us and He has promised that He will if we trust in His Son.

**Read Isaiah 43:11 & Acts 4:12**



## Catechizing our hearts and minds

**Q.** How are we saved from the just judgment of God?

**A.** *We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.*

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

## Weekly Key Verse:

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

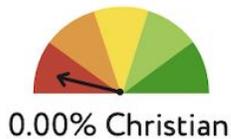
## Keys for the kids

- We all need to be saved from the just judgment we deserve.
- We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
- Only God can save us.

## Pray for the nations

### PRAYER ITEMS:

- ◆ Pray that the Almighty God will lead faithful workers to take the message of salvation to the Arain people in Pakistan.
- ◆ Pray that the Arain people in Pakistan will soon be disciplined in the ways of Jesus.
- ◆ Pray for a spiritual dissatisfaction with Islam and a willingness to investigate the claims of Jesus Christ.



Prayercast



# ADOPTION

Week of May 1st



Season 4  
Week 2  
Parent Devo

Passages  
2 Samuel 9:1-13  
1 Chronicles 17:11-14  
1 John 3:1 & Romans 8:15

## **When God saves us, He adopts us as His own children.**

Different people have all kinds of different ideas about what God is like. But not all ideas about God are true. We can know which ones are true by knowing what the Bible says. And, one thing that the Bible says many times is that God is our Father. When we respond to the Good News and turn from our sin and to Jesus, God adopts us into His own family. Our passage today gives us an illustration from the lives of David and Mephibosheth.

## **Being in a family comes with privileges and blessings. Being in God's family comes with very special privileges and blessings.**

We are called to love everyone but we are not called to love everyone in the same way. I love the people of my church, but I don't love them in the same way that I love my wife and kids. My kids receive a special kind of love from me. They also have everything else that I have. If I have a warm home, then they have a warm home. If I have plenty of food, then they have plenty of food. What I have and what they have will always be linked in some way even after they grow up. It is the same way when God adopts us as His children. In fact, the Bible says that we will even share an inheritance with Jesus! (Rom. 8:17, Lk. 15:31)

## **Mephibosheth was brought into David's family not because of anything great about Mephibosheth but because of David's kindness.**

The way that David brings Mephibosheth into his home is a picture of the way that God brings us in. Mephibosheth is broken. We are broken. Mephibosheth can't fix himself or save himself. We can't fix or save ourselves. Mephibosheth doesn't deserve to be treated like royalty. We don't deserve to be treated like royalty. But just as David, in his kindness, does all of these for Mephibosheth, so God does for us.

## **Mephibosheth was not just saved from death, he was given a new life.**

It would have been kind enough for David not to kill Mephibosheth when he was battling the rest of Mephibosheth's people. But David not only saved him from death, he gave him a whole new home in the palace and a whole new life in his own family. This is exactly what God does for us.

*Adoption is a greater mercy than Adam had in paradise. – Thomas Watson*



## Where are we in Redemptive History?

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. In fact, Jesus is descended from David's lineage and He is the fulfillment of the promise that God made to David in what we call the Davidic Covenant.

**Read 1 Chronicles 17:11-14**



## Who does God show Himself to be?

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. It is important to remember that He is a perfect Father. Our earthly fathers make mistakes but He does not. One of the reasons you can trust Him is that He is your perfect Father. He will always do what is best for you.

**Read 1 John 3:1 & Romans 8:15**



## Catechizing our hearts and minds

**Q.** What is adoption?

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

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

## Weekly Key Verse:

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8:15

## Keys for the kids

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

## Pray for the nations

### PRAYER ITEMS:

- ♦ Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of Moroccan Arabs toward Christians so that they will be receptive to the gospel.
- ♦ Pray that God will call forth teams of intercessors who will faithfully stand in the gap for Moroccan Arabs.
- ♦ Ask God to give Moroccan Arab believers boldness to share the love of Christ with their friends and families.



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# JUSTIFICATION

Week of May 8th



Season 4  
Week 3  
Parent Devo

Passages  
Exodus 12:1-13  
Luke 23:39-43  
Matthew 26:17-30  
Romans 3:26

## **God is holy, we are sinners. God is a good judge, we are guilty.**

Of the many aspects of salvation that we have been exploring this unit, justification is the one that is often the most familiar. Justification could be thought of as the “legal” side of salvation. As we will see in our passage about the Passover today, justification has to do with the guilt of sin. In the Passover, the lambs died symbolically for the guilt of the people.

## **God’s Law states that the “wages of sin is death.”**

Because the wages of sin is death, sin cannot be forgiven unless the Law is satisfied. God is just and will, therefore, satisfy His Law. The blood of the Lamb on the doorposts was a picture of Jesus’ blood which would be shed for the forgiveness of sins. There was not anything magic or special about the blood of that particular animal. When the Israelites obeyed God and applied the blood, they were showing that they trusted His word when He said that He would save them because the Lamb who died in their place.

## **Jesus is the Lamb of God.**

Have you ever wondered why we call Jesus the “Lamb of God?” This is why. The sacrifices in the Old Testament, especially the Passover lambs, were pictures of Jesus. The lambs were the substitute for the people. They died so that the people could go free. Their guilt was placed on the lamb and they were counted as “not guilty.” This is exactly what Jesus came to do. To be the perfect substitute who takes away our sin. Through faith in Him, our sins are placed on Him and we are counted as “not guilty.” That is what justification means. When we say that we are justified, we mean that our sins are no longer held against us in God’s court. We will stand before Him one day and there will be no charges for us to answer to if we have trusted in the perfect Lamb of God, Jesus.

## **When we are justified, we are justified forever.**

How amazing is that God will never bring our sins back up. Have you ever thought that someone forgave you for doing something wrong only to find out later that they never really forgave you? Once God counts us as “not guilty” we are “not guilty” forever. There will never be a time when God says, “you remember that time that you...?” When we are justified, we are justified forever. Justification means that God looks at us **“just as if”** our sins were never committed.

*Indeed this is one of the greatest mysteries in the world – namely, that a righteousness that resides with a Person in heaven should justify me, a sinner on earth. – John Bunyan*



## Where are we in Redemptive History?

When God's people, Israel, came out of slavery in Egypt He commanded them to begin celebrating a feast every year. That feast was called the Passover Feast. Every year the people of Israel would get together to remember and celebrate how the Lord saved them from Egypt by sending the angel of death to Egypt and how the Lamb's caused the judgment to "pass over" the houses of the Israelites. The blood of the lamb was a symbol of the blood of the perfect Lamb who was to come - Jesus. Jesus blood, His death was the penalty for our sins. It is because of His death that we can be freely justified.

**Read Matthew 26:17-30**



## Who does God show Himself to be?

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. This truth is important because sometimes we see the Father as a God who is angry with us and we just happen to be saved because Jesus came and died for us. But it was the Father's "good pleasure" to send His Son to take our punishment because He wants to justify us. God is just in punishing our sins by sending Jesus to the cross and He is the justifier in freely forgiving us because that punishment has been taken.

**Read Romans 3:26**



## Catechizing our hearts and minds

**Q.**What is justification

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

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

## Weekly Key Verse:

[Jesus' crucifixion] was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:26

## Keys for the kids

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

## Pray for the nations

### PRAYER ITEMS:

- ◆ Ask the Lord to open the hearts of the Shaikhs so they will receive the good news of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Pray for a disciple-making movement that will bless the Shaikhs within this decade.
- ◆ Pray for the Lord to send faithful workers to the Shaikhs to tell them about Jesus.



Prayercast



MISSIONS

# REDEMPTION

Week of May 15th



Season 4  
Week 4  
Parent Devo

## Passages

\*Lesson based on the book of Ruth  
Ruth 4:13-17  
Revelation 5:9

**Redemption is a buying back of something to care for it as your own. Christ redeems us with His own blood and makes us His own.**

Prior to coming to Christ, the Bible teaches that we are slaves to sin (Rom. 6) and that we are powerless to get out of that slavery (Eph. 2:1-4). There is nothing that we can do to get away from the power of sin. It is in our nature. Of course, we know that this is the result of Adam and Eve's sin in the garden. They were our first parents and we have all inherited our sinful natures from them. You can see this in the fact that no one has to teach a child how to be bad. It comes natural to all of us. We all drift towards selfishness and pride. On the contrary, children have to be taught how to be good. Why is that? Because we all have a sinful nature. We are slaves to our sin. But the Gospel says that all who trust in Jesus have been redeemed from that slavery to sin. Sin is no longer their master. They have been bought with the blood of Jesus to serve Him now. Because He has redeemed them (purchased them) they now belong to Him. He is their new Master and He is the best Master.

**Ruth could not care for herself or Naomi. She needed someone to redeem her, love her, and care for her.**

When Boaz redeems Ruth, he is doing more than just taking on the responsibility to care for her. He had already been doing that by letting her glean in his fields. In redeeming her, he is committing himself to love her as his own family. In fact, he takes Ruth to be his wife – the ultimate sign of love and care. In the same way, Christ, when He redeems us, takes us as His own to love and care for. He even calls the church (all of God's people) His bride.

**Redemption is not free.**

In the type of redemption in the Old Testament, as we read about in Ruth, a widow's land would be sold to a qualified relative. When the relative bought the land he was also agreeing to take on any family and responsibilities of the land owner who passed away. Redemption cost Boaz something. Our redemption also cost something. It cost Jesus His life. It is free to us, but it cost Him dearly. The Bible says that He was willing to pay such a high price for us because He loves us.

*Just as the diamonds on a jeweler's counter shine more brilliantly when set upon a dark velvet pad, so Christ's redemptive work shines more brilliantly when contrasted with our sin and the consequent curse that was upon us. – Jerry Bridges*



## Where are we in Redemptive History?

Our passage today takes place after God's people had been saved from Egypt but before the time of the kings. The people had drifted away from honoring and serving God and a famine struck the land. Naomi was an Israelite and she ended up in a foreign country because she and her family fled Israel in search of food. This story is about Boaz redeeming Ruth and how that serves as a picture of the way that Christ redeems us but it also has another message. A message of Naomi learning to trust God again even through all of the pain that she endured. Ruth was blessed by following Naomi to Israel and Naomi was blessed by returning, in faith, to the land that God had given her. And guess who will later be born from her family line...Jesus the perfect Redeemer!

**Read Ruth 4:13-17**



## Who does God show Himself to be?

God is our Redeemer. And not only ours, but He will redeem people from every tribe tongue and nation. When God made His promise to Abraham, that through Abraham all the nations of the earth would be blessed and that his descendants would be innumerable, this is what God meant. Through the redemptive work of God in Christ, God is fulfilling His promise to Abraham.

**Read Revelation 5:9**



## Catechizing our hearts and minds

**Q.** How does Jesus redeem you?

**A.** *Jesus redeems me from my slavery to sin with His own precious blood.*

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

## Weekly Key Verse:

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

Revelation 5:9

## Keys for the kids

- Apart from Christ, we are all slaves to sin.
- Jesus purchased us with His own blood.
- God is our Redeemer.

## Pray for the nations

### PRAYER ITEMS:

- ◆ Pray that the few Christian believers among the Fulani people would be sent teachers to help them become well established in their faith.
- ◆ Pray they would find each other in order to fellowship together, and that they would learn to live in the power of Christ's Spirit, experiencing His fruit consistently.
- ◆ Pray that the Fulani will be able to care adequately for their families and that they will be better prepared for the rapidly changing conditions of the 21st century.



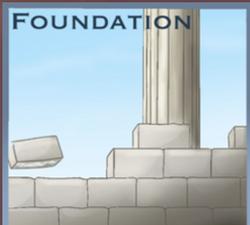
Prayercast



MISSIONS

# SAVING FAITH

Week of May 22nd



Season 4  
Week 5  
Parent Devo

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

## **To have faith in God is to place all of your trust in Him.**

There are a lot of different words that we use for “faith.” We might say that, “we believe in God” or that “we trust God.” But what do these statements really mean? Well, to truly have faith in God does not mean that you agree with an idea. I might say that I just bought a new car and you could believe me; you could agree with the idea that I bought a new car. You could say that you believe that the moon exists or that the earth is round or even that God is real but that is not what the Bible means by faith. When the Bible talks about having faith, it is more like the idea of holding tight to a lifeguard when they’re pulling you out of the water to save you from drowning. You have faith in that lifeguard to save you. You trust them. In fact you’ve placed all of your trust in them in that moment.

## **Abraham had faith in God because He knew God.**

In our passage today, we see that Abraham had faith in God. He believed that what God said was true and He believed that God was worthy of his trust. God made Abraham many promises and Abraham trusted God because He knew God. The more we know God, through prayer and His word, the more we will trust Him.

## **Abraham’s faith was demonstrated by his actions.**

When God told Abraham to go, he went. If Abraham said that he believed God but then didn’t do what God said, we would have reason to think that Abraham didn’t really believe God.

## **Saving faith is always demonstrated by our actions.**

James 2:18b says, “I will show you my faith by my works.” We’ll talk more about this next week when we discuss regeneration, but note that our obedience is the *result* of our faith. To quote Martin Luther again, “we are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.”

*[Saving faith is] not just believing that Jesus lived and died. Faith that saves is the confident, continuous confession of total dependence on, and trust in Jesus Christ to meet the requirements on your behalf to give you entrance into God’s Eternal Kingdom. It’s the surrender of your life in complete trust to Him to do what you cannot do. – John MacArthur*



## Where are we in Redemptive History?

Abraham's story takes place before the Israelites became slaves in Egypt. In fact God told Abraham that many years later, his descendents would be enslaved in Egypt and He even told Abraham how long they would be there – 400 years! Abraham is given the promise that the Savior would be from his family but the path from promise to fulfillment would take many twists and turns.

**Read Galatians 3:16, 29**



## Who does God show Himself to be?

God is faithful. When we say that we are simply saying that He is trustworthy. God always keeps His promises. He always does what He says that He will do. As we mentioned before, the more we know God the easier it is to trust Him because in knowing Him, we see that He is entirely trustworthy. He is entirely faithful.

**Read Psalm 33:4**



## Catechizing our hearts and minds

**Q.** What is faith in Jesus Christ?

**A.** *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.*

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

## Weekly Key Verse:

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:29

## Keys for the kids

- To have faith in God is to place all of your trust in Him.
- True faith always leads to action.
- God is Faithful.

## Pray for the nations

### PRAYER ITEMS:

- ◆ Pray that the Rakhine people will be able to adequately use the Burmese Bible for written literature.
- ◆ Pray that evangelistic materials (such as audio-visual materials, songs, tracts, etc.) in the Rakhine language will be produced.
- ◆ Pray for a spiritual hunger in the Rakhine community that will lead them to Christ.



0.10% Christian



Prayercast



# REGENERATION

Week of May 29th



Season 4  
Week 6  
Parent Devo

## Passages

John 3:1-21  
Ezekiel 36:26  
2 Corinthians 5:17

### **All people are born with a sinful nature as a result of the fall.**

Our hearts are desperately wicked. We all naturally turn to selfishness and sin. We cannot be made right with God by obeying His commands because we cannot obey His commands with pure hearts. That doesn't mean that we never do anything good. We still do all sorts of good things. Even people who don't believe that God exists do good things. But it does mean that we can never do anything that is not, in some way, touched by sin because it is in our very nature. This is why we don't just need to be forgiven, we also need to be made new.

### **God sends His Spirit to open our eyes and show us our need for Jesus.**

When God sends His Spirit to show us that we need Jesus, He gives us new hearts. That means that we are no longer slaves to the old sinful nature that cannot please God. We will still have that old nature until we die or Jesus comes back. But now we also have a new nature. He gives us this new heart with new desires. Because of this new heart we want to please Him instead of ourselves. This is what it means to be born again. God has made us new!

### **Jesus told Nicodemus that he should have known this because it was promised long ago.**

In Ezekiel 36:25-27 and Jeremiah 31:31-34, God told His people that one day He would do something very special for us. That He would send His Spirit into our hearts and change us from the inside out. All those who trust in Jesus have been born again. We have been changed and now our hearts desire to obey Him.

*To be born again is, as it were, to enter upon a new existence, to have a new mind, a new heart, new views, new principles, new tastes, new affections, new likings, new dislikings, new fears, new joys, new sorrows, new love to things once hated, new hatred to things once loved, new thoughts of God, and ourselves, and the world, and the life to come, and salvation. – J.C. Ryle*



## Where are we in Redemptive History?

Jesus is God incarnate. He takes on flesh and becomes a man. While He is on earth teaching and fulfilling God's promises, Nicodemus, a religious leader comes to Him. Nicodemus would have known the scriptures well and should have understood Jesus' teaching about being born again based on the promises in the books of Ezekiel and Jeremiah. Jesus tells Nicodemus that he should already know these things.

**Read Ezekiel 36:26**



## Who does God show Himself to be?

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.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:17**



## Catechizing our hearts and minds

**Q.** What is regeneration?

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

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

## Weekly Key Verse:

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

2 Corinthians 5:17

## Keys for the kids

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

## Pray for the nations

### PRAYER ITEMS:

- ◆ Pray for the salvation of these people and that God may send several Christian workers among them and meet their spiritual and physical needs.
- ◆ Pray for developmental and literacy programs.
- ◆ Pray for a spiritual hunger in the Baniyan and Vanian community that will lead them to Christ.



Prayercast



MISSIONS

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”  
2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV



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