

WEEK ONE

What is your favorite meal of the day? Is there a food you could eat every day and never get tired of it? What food makes you grumble and complain? Who does the cooking for you? Do you help?



It is important for us to be thankful for the food we eat. After all, God created the whole world and everything that is in it, including hamburgers, shrimp, salads, and everything it takes to make pizzas, chocolate cakes, and ice cream
...as well as spinach and liver.



ACTIVITY: Can you think of a mealtime prayer thanking God for providing His hungry children (that's you) with food to eat? Here is a traditional rhyming prayer:

God is great! God is good!

Let us thank Him for our food.

By His blessings we are fed.

Give us, Lord, our daily bread. Amen.

Now you create one of your own. It does not have to rhyme. Say it aloud or to yourself before every meal. It makes Jesus smile every time you thank Him.

Bible Connection: There were some people in the Bible who complained about being slaves in Egypt until God set them free with many miracles. Then they had the nerve to complain to God that they were hungry and wished they were fed slaves again! Can you imagine?!? But God did not get angry and he kept His promise to them. He miraculously provided them with plenty of food to eat as they traveled through the desert. Want to hear more? Read **Exodus 16: 1-35** or have someone read it to you to find out about a food called **manna that rained down from the sky**.

APPLICATION – WHAT CAN YOU DO?

It's important to be thankful. There are a lot of people who do not get enough to eat. How might God feed them through your act of kindness? An extra item from your lunch bag to share with a student? A granola bar for a person on a street corner? Ask your tutor, parent, or church how you might help feed God's hungry children through a Food Bank drop-off, or a church's mission, or a donation collection to an organization like City Gospel Mission.

WEEK TWO

Friends come and go, but a real friend...a best friend...is always there for you and you for them. You have to be a friend to have a friend.

Do you have a best friend? What do you like about them? Have you ever had a disagreement? How did you resolve it?

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Can you solve this rebus puzzle to find out how Jesus feels about you.

Did you know that Jesus is your best friend of all?





Bible Connection: Have you ever heard of a shepherd boy in the Bible named David? When the King's army of warriors was afraid to fight against a giant enemy named Goliath, David stepped up and was able to slay him with just his slingshot. David gained a best friend named Jonathan who was the king's son. As David grew famous and older, Jonathan's father, King Saul, became jealous of David and hated him. Jealousy makes people do dumb things like that. Jonathan remained David's best friend and protected him from his father's jealous anger. Jonathan had David's back when he learned that King Saul was plotting to have David killed. The two best friends came up with a secret code for Jonathan to warn David and save him. This is a very exciting story with a lot of twists and turns that you can read more about it in the Bible in **1 Samuel, chapter 20**.

Jesus had 3 close friends in His group of 12 disciples with whom He taught and traveled, Peter, James, and John. They were not always easy to get long with. Peter was stubborn, hot-headed, and reckless. Brothers James and John were nick-named "sons of thunder" because they had stormy personalities, easily angered and quick to judge. But Jesus never stopped loving them. Jesus explained God's most important written law - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind."^[a] ³⁸ This is the first and most important command. ³⁹ And the second command is like the first: "Love your neighbor (*and your friends*) as you love yourself."

Activity: There is also a saying – "You have to be a friend to have a friend." How can you build a good friendship? Create a "recipe" to "cook up" a friendship. Instead of foods, use words like "a cup of forgiveness" or "a large dollop of fun." Think about adding some of the "9 Fruits of the Spirit": Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.


Application: Have you ever had an argument with your friend? What happened? Did you end up keeping or losing that friend. God's #1 rule is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind."^[a] ³⁸ **This is the first and most important command.** ³⁹ **And the second command is like the first: 'Love your neighbor (*and your friends*) as you love yourself.'** Best friends help each other do what is right. Do you help your friend choose good over bad? Do you listen to your friend do the same for you?

Week 3:

  What makes you angry? What makes you sad? What makes you
  happy? How do you react when you feel each of these emotions?
Tell about a time when you felt really mad, really sad, or really happy?

Activity: Use an emoji chart or draw an emoji that shows how you are feeling right now. Why do you feel that way?

How do you think Jesus feels about you right now. Remember that Jesus loves you and wants you to be happy. He said, *“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”* (**John 15:11**)

Find the music “Rejoice” by Sinach on YouTube. Play it loud – sing out – dance to it – REJOICE! 

Bible Connection: It’s okay to feel our God-given emotions as long as we control them and do not let our feelings control us. When you are sad, it is okay to cry. Jesus cried sometimes. Can you find why “Jesus wept” in the Bible story in **John 11: 35-36**. He was happy at a friend’s wedding party where He performed His first miracle.

Ephesians 4:26 explains, “In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry...” There is also a story in the Bible of a man who got so angry that he attacked people, turned over tables and chairs. Guess who he was? It was Jesus! That’s right, even Jesus got angry sometimes. You can find out what upset Jesus so much in **Matthew 21:12**.

Application: Bad things happen to all of us at some time; what is important is how we choose to control our reactions. In **James 1: 19-20**, we are told to be “quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry because anger does not produce the good in us that God desires.” God gave us two ears and one mouth so that we listen more than we speak. It gives us time to think first before we make matters worse with words and actions. When we get angry, we often feel justified to hurt others because they hurt us. The problem is that it causes anger and hurt to grow instead of the good that God desires. Ask yourself, “Why is it so hard to solve problems peacefully?” Do you want your anger to control you and make you feel even worse? Can you think of something you can do or say to make things better? Pray – Count to 10 – Pray – Calmly and gently explain why you feel this way.

How Are You Feeling Right Now? Why?
How Do You Think God Feels About You Right Now?



Week 4

Do you attend church? If so, with whom do you attend church? What is your favorite part about church? If not, is there something about church that you think you would not like? What?

Activity: Put both hands together, weaving your fingers together so they are underneath facing downward. Say, “Here is the church...” Next, lift both baby fingers straight up and touch the tops, Say, “Here is the steeple...” Then spread your two thumbs apart and say, “Open the door...” Finally, turn your hands over while keeping your fingers interwoven and wiggle them. Then say “and out come the people!”



Attending church is more than a place to learn about God. It is a place where you can find new friends who are trying to live in a better, happier way...God's way.

Bible Connection: (Luke 2: 41-52) Every year Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When Jesus was 12-years-old,, his parents, took him to the festival. Afterwards, they traveled back home with their relatives and friends. After traveling a day, they noticed that Jesus was not with their group. Young Jesus was lost! They were so afraid for him and went back looking for him.



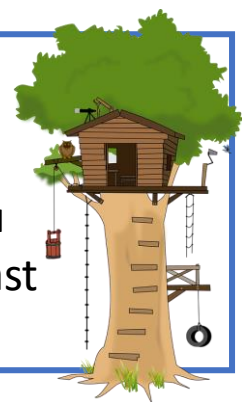
After three days, they found him in Jerusalem in a temple, or church, listening with amazing questions and answers. Mary said, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.” Jesus answered that she should have known that he was in God's, his father's, house. They did not understand what he was saying to them. But Jesus went with them and was obedient to them. From then on Jesus matured and was blessed by both God and people.

Jesus knew how important church was to grow in both body and spirit.

Application: Invite a friend to go to church with you. If you do not attend a church, ask a friend if you can go to church with his/her family. Afterwards, talk about what both of you thought about or learned from the experience of going to church. Ask any questions you and your friend may have.



Week 5



Do you have a favorite place to go to feel safe? What do you like most about where you live? What do you like least about where you live?



Activity Let's do a Mind Movie. Close your eyes. Now think of a time and place where you can feel safe, warm, and loved. Picture yourself there in your mind. Maybe you are alone wrapped up warm in a blanket. Maybe you are with someone special: Grandma, friends, a teacher, or a coach in school or in church. What and who do you see around you in your safe place? What can you hear? Do you smell something special? How do things feel around you? Do you feel loved? Picture Jesus wrapping His protective arms around you. Just relax there for a moment before opening your eyes. Then tell Jesus "Thank you" for always being with you in a prayer.

Bible Connection: When crowds of people wanted Jesus's attention and it became overwhelming for Him and His disciples, He would sometimes retreat to a safer place alone with God in the wilderness (**Luke 5: 15-16**), across a lake where he and His disciples could not be followed (**Mark 3: 7**), or off-shore in a boat (**Matthew 13: 1-3**). We all sometimes need to get away. Jesus understands that, and He wants you to have a safe place to feel calm and loved. If you ask Jesus into your life, there will always be a safe place in His care. He is always just a prayer away. The Lord said in **Psalm 91; 14, 15**, "If you love me and truly know who I am, I will rescue you and keep you safe. 15When you are in trouble, call out to me. I will answer and be there to protect and honor you."

God wants you to live in a world that is good and safe, and He wants to start with you. You cannot control what others do or say, but you can decide how you will act. First, He asks you to love Him. That's easy because He is SO good. But then He adds that He wants you to love others. That's often not easy when things do not go your way. You will have to stay mindful. It means being kind even when family or friends mess up. It means doing chores or letting someone else choose if it helps make them feel better. Loving someone means wanting for them the kinds of things you want for yourself.

Application-What can you do? If you have not asked Jesus into your life, now would be a good time. Say a prayer asking God into your heart. Once you welcome God in, you will start feeling the Holy Spirit guide you to think of ways to be kinder to others that make them feel happier. Try it out for a week. Then tell someone how it went.

Week 6

Would your friends say you are a rule breaker or a rule follower? Have you ever felt bullied at school or at home? Have you ever felt the urge to bully someone? What would you most likely do if you saw your friend bully someone else?

Activity: Ask 10 very different people (classmates, family, teacher, neighbor, etc.) if you are a rule breaker or rule follower, and why they think that. Do you find their answers interesting? Do you agree or disagree with them?

Bible Connection: Have you ever had an irritating younger brother, cousin, or classmate? In **Genesis 39**, you can read about Joseph who often angered his older brothers. When Joseph was 17, he reported to his father that the brothers were doing a bad job of shepherding the sheep. He was his father's favorite and so was given a beautiful coat of many colors. The brothers never said a kind word to Joseph. They bullied him. Joseph made things worse when he told his brothers of dreams he had in which they all bowed down to him. *"His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind."* (**Genesis 39:11**) Still his father again sent Joseph to go see how the brothers were doing away in the fields. When the brothers saw him coming, they plotted awful revenge. ²¹ *When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said.* ²² *"Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him."* ²³ *So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—* ²⁴ *and they took him and threw him into the deep cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it."* The brothers finally decided to sell Joseph into slavery. They told their father that he was killed by a ferocious animal.

Joseph's story gets worse and worse. You can read more of this story of twists and turns in **Genesis 50** to see how God wove together a happy ending years later. But for now, think about the Bullying Triangle: BULLY or BULLIES

WITNESS  VICTIM

The "Witness" has a crucial role in stopping bullying behavior. Think about how God would have wanted Joseph, his brothers, and Reuben (the witness) to act differently. Bullying is never okay. There is no room for belittling or abusing someone. Every person, regardless of what he or she looks or acts like, is created in the image of God (**Gen. 1:26-27; James 3:9-10**) and is worthy of the dignity that God gives to every person. The Bible commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31).

Application-What can you do? [Tutor – See 3 related resources.]

If you see something, say something. It's not tattling if it protects someone. Do not believe the lies bullies tell. We are all treasured children of our Creator God. God did not make junk. Do not take revenge; do not become the bully. Befriend victims of bullying.

How does God call us to respond if we are being bullied or we see someone else being bullied?

Bullying is wrong, period. As Christians, we are called to act in love and kindness toward everyone, including those who wrong us. And we are called to stand up for the vulnerable and weak. We should do good in the face of being mistreated, and when we see others being mistreated. Above all, we should not try to handle these situations alone. Adults should be involved when needed. Our family, friends, and church love and care about us and are there to support us.

1. If you see something, say something. It isn't tattling if it protects people.

Reporting bullying to the proper authorities is one of the most important strategies we can use to prevent further bullying. Don't be afraid to tell others what's going on, whether you are the one being bullied or are merely the observer. Ask Jesus to help you be strong and brave.

2. Victims of bullying need to understand who they are in Christ.

Psalm 139:13-18 tells us that you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Do not let the lies that bullies tell you influence what you think about yourself, because what God says about you is the truth. He loves you and cherishes you.

3. Even if you are wronged, respond in a Christ-like manner.

Our first impulse is often to hurt those who hurt us, to get even. That just starts a chain of more and more hurtful, painful events. God asks us to let him deal with the one who hurt us. Scripture calls us to do is to love our enemies and pray for them (Matt. 5:44). Do not try and overcome the evil being done to you by doing evil in return. Rather, overwhelm your opponents with the goodness and love of God (Rom. 12:21). You never know how your kindness may change their heart.

Wow that is hard!

It is okay to stick up for yourself if you are bullied. However, do this only in situations where you are alone, being physically assaulted, and have no other choice. Use the amount of force necessary to escape, never to take revenge.

4. Reach out to victims of bullying.

One of the best ways we can do this is to befriend them and invite them to hang out with us. Not only will this make them feel loved, accepted, and less alone, it also acts as a deterrent to bullying. Bullies are much less likely to pick on someone if they are in a group of friends. Another helpful thing we can do is comfort and encourage them. Remind them of their worth and value, combatting the lies that bullies speak.

What Students Can Do about Bullying

DON'T:

- Spread rumors.
- Exclude students from activities.
- Join in.
- Laugh at other students being hurt.
- Cheer on the student who is bullying.
- Bully the student who is bullying.
It is NEVER okay to use bullying behavior.

DO:

- Tell the person who is bullying to stop.
- Tell a trusted adult what is happening.
- Be a supportive friend to the student who is being bullied.
- Tell the student who was bullied that it was NOT his or her fault.
- Pray for the person who is bullying.
He or she is not happy and does not know Jesus.

I PROMISE

TO STOP BULLYING

pledge to **not** bully!

I will not bully others. I will not leave anyone out.

I will help others being bullied.

If I cannot stop a bully, I will tell an adult.

I care, I can help, I can make a change!

I will stand up for what is right.

The end of bullying will begin with me!

School:

Date:

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School:

Date:

Week 7

How are you doing in school? What is your favorite subject?

Bible Connection: We are all born with God-given gifts. Some things we are good at doing and other things, hmm, not so much. In **1 Corinthians 12** in the Bible we are told *"I want you to understand about spiritual gifts. ² You remember the lives you lived before you were believers. You let yourselves be influenced and led away to ...things that have no life.... ⁴ There are different kinds of gifts; but they are all from the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different ways to serve; but all these ways are from the same Lord. ⁶ And there are different ways that God works in people; but all these ways are from the same God."*

Although we are all different, we are all made to share in the same Spirit. ²⁷ *All of you together are the body of Christ.*

Think of it as one body having different parts. Isn't it wonderful that we don't have to be great at everything!? If we learn to work and serve together, beautiful things happen. The Bible says, *"¹⁶ The ear might say, "I am not an eye. So I am not part of the body." But saying this would not make the ear stop being a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, the body would not be able to hear.*

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the foot, "I don't need you!" ²² No! Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are really very important.

²⁵ God did this so that our body would not be divided. God wanted the different parts to care the same for each other. ²⁶ If one part of the body suffers, then all the other parts suffer with it. Or if one part of our body is honored, then all the other parts share its honor.

Think about school mates, groups of friends, teams, or family. Recognize and be thankful for both your own gifts and those of others. Know how each of you are important in the body of Christ. Work hard to let your gifts shine and serve others.

Activity: Consider what you are good at. What are your God-given strengths and gifts. Use the "One Body Parts Cards" to discuss with someone what you can do well without having to try hard. [*TUTORS: Find cut-out cards on the WK Resource Page.*]

Application-What can you do? What is your goal in school this year? What is most difficult for you? In what ways do you wish you could do better? Making friends? Becoming a better reader? Doing better in kickball? Staying out of fights? These are not flaws in you. You were perfectly made by God. These are just things you have to work harder to do. Do you know who could help you grow in that area? Don't be afraid to ask for help. Be willing to also share your gifts with others.

Remember--- One body – same God – each is important – when one part suffers, all suffer – when one is honored, everyone is honored.

God-Given Gifts – Different Parts/same Body



The gift of speaking; being a good encourager and comforter; good communicator



The gift of loving, caring and compassion; wanting to help others in need.



The gift of humor and making people happy.



The gift of knowledge, wisdom, and problem-solving.



The gift of adventure, daring, working behind the scenes, and opening new doors of opportunity



The gift of taking people places, running errands, being quick on your feet.



The gift of imagination and coming up with good ideas.



The gift of prayer and giving spiritual guidance and comfort to others.



The gift of helpful hands; reaching out to those in need



The gift of seeing things that others miss; noticing when someone needs comforting; seeing potential in others



The gift of nurturing and lifting others up; being supportive



The gift of being a good listener; hearing more than what is actually said

Week 8

What do you know about God? What do you know about Jesus? Do you read the Bible? Do you believe Jesus died for your sins?

Activity: What do you think God looks like? What do you think Jesus looks like? [NOTE to TUTORS: Images can be found on the Whiz Kids Resource page.] What does the mental picture in your head tell you about God, about Jesus? Use words to describe your idea of the character of Jesus. Explain what you think Jesus would do in a given situation.

Jesus often spoke in parables. Read His parable about “planting seeds and soil” (Matthew 13: 3-8) and discuss what you think Jesus meant. Compare the 4 types of soil to receiving God’s word and path. What kind of soil are you right now? Are you a planter of God’s seeds?

Bible Connection: Do you know what a parable is? A parable is a short story used to illustrate a spiritual lesson. Jesus often used parables to help crowds better understand His teachings. You can find parables told by Jesus in the first 4 books of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These are called The Gospels told by these four disciples who learned directly from Jesus. The Bible is the living word of God. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, there is overwhelming evidence of God’s vast, unconditional love for His creation – us! One key example of Jesus’s love for us is His sacrifice of suffering a terrible death on the cross in order to save all of God’s believers forever. In order to better understand the immensity of this sacrifice, read the short story, “The Drawbridge Keeper” by Dennis E. Hensley. [*TUTORS: this story can be found online on our Whiz Kids Resource Page.*] This story is like a parable.

Application-What can you do? Get to know Jesus better. Begin hearing the New Testament, 2-3 chapters at a time. Read in your Bible or listen to the 4 Gospels by downloading the “You Version Bible App” on your smart phone or computer. After each session, journal about your new insights into knowing Jesus better.



Images of Jesus



“THE DRAWBRIDGE KEEPER” by Dennis E. Hensley, 1967

There was once a bridge that spanned a large river. During most of the day the bridge sat with its length running up and down the river paralleled with the banks, allowing ships to pass through freely on both sides of the bridge. But at certain times each day, a train would come along and the bridge would be turned sideways across the river, allowing the train to cross it.

A switchman sat in a shack on one side of the river where he operated the controls to turn the bridge and lock it into place as the train crossed.

One evening as the switchman was waiting for the last train of the day to come, he looked off into the distance through the dimming twilight and caught sight of the train lights. He stepped onto the control and waited until the train was within a prescribed distance. Then he was to turn the bridge. He turned the bridge into position, but, to his horror, he found the locking control did not work. If the bridge was not securely in position, it would cause the train to jump the track and go crashing into the river. This would be a passenger train with MANY people aboard.

He left the bridge turned across the river and hurried across the bridge to the other side of the river, where there was a lever switch he could hold to operate the lock manually.

He would have to hold the lever back firmly as the train crossed. He could hear the rumble of the train now, and he took hold of the lever and leaned backward to apply his weight to it, locking the bridge. He kept applying the pressure to keep the mechanism locked. Many lives depended on this man's strength.

Then, coming across the bridge from the direction of his control shack, he heard a sound that made his blood run cold.

“Daddy, where are you?” His four-year-old son was crossing the bridge to look for him. His first impulse was to cry out to the child, “Run! Run!” But the train was too close; the tiny legs would never make it across the bridge in time..

The man almost left his lever to snatch up his son and carry him to safety. But he realized that he could not get back to the lever in time if he saved his son.

Either many people on the train or his own son – must die.

He took but a moment to make his decision. The train sped safely and swiftly on its way, and no one aboard was even aware of the tiny broken body thrown mercilessly into the river by the on rushing train. Nor were they aware of the pitiful figure of the sobbing man, still clinging to the locking lever long after the train had passed. They did not see him walking home more slowly than he had ever walked; to tell his wife how their son had brutally died.

Now, if you comprehend the emotions that went through this man's heart, you can begin to understand the feelings of Our Father in Heaven when He sacrificed His Son to rescue everyone from sin, then and forever...to bridge the gap between us and eternal life.

Week 9

When was the last time you did something kind for someone else without expecting any reward? Explain. Have you seen someone else do something kind for someone lately? Who? What?

Activity: Do you know the book, How Full Is Your Bucket? by Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer? You can hear it read on YouTube. What were the effects of a kind act. How does it help the receiver of the act? How does it help the person who did the kind act? What is keeping you from being kind to someone?

Bible Connection:

Jesus stories he told to help teach an important lesson, called parables. In the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John retold parables they heard Jesus tell. In **Luke 10: 25-37**, Luke tells how Jesus explained in the parable of “The Good Samaritan” what it means to love your neighbor as you love yourself. This is the second most important thing God wants us to do. You should love yourself because you are the treasured creation of God. So loving your neighbor and putting them first can be difficult. A religious leader asked Jesus who his “neighbor” is. **Who do you think God meant by “neighbor?”** Jesus’s parable explains...

On the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, a Jewish man was attacked, robbed, beaten, and left for dead. People passed him in the road but did not help him. A Jewish priest and a businessman saw him but hurried past on the other side of the road, either not wanting to get involved or in too much of a hurry to stop. A Samaritan came upon him. You should understand that the Samaritan was not Jewish and would probably have been shunned by the beaten man, the priest, and the businessman. However, the Samaritan immediately tended to the hurt man, bandaging his wounds and putting him on his donkey to take him to the next inn. The Samaritan cared for the man the whole day and night at the inn. He had to leave the next day but paid the innkeeper well to care for the injured man until he was well enough to travel, promising to pay any extra expenses upon returning.

Then Jesus asked the religious leader, “Which one of the 3 men who came upon the injured man on the road was a “neighbor?” The religious leader knew it was the merciful Samaritan whom he would have normally shunned.

Now who do you think God means by “neighbor?” Who should we love as we love ourselves? Do the person have to look like you, think like you...do you even have to know that person? What does this have to do with this week’s question?

Application-What can you do? Have you heard of “random acts of kindness?” That’s when you secretly do something nice for someone that you know or even maybe for a stranger. Consider creating a stack of notes the say “God loves you.” with a smile sticker. Then secretly leave your notes where others who seem sad or frustrated might find it. You will be brightening their day.



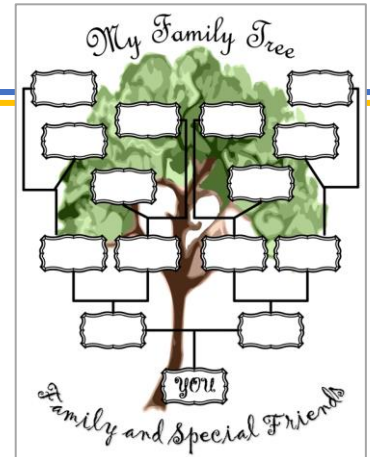
Week 10

Do you have any brothers or sisters...or pets?
Who is a special person in your life?

Activity: Draw a tree with a lot of branches. On each branch write the name of a family member – parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. Include special people you treat or think of as family. Even include beloved pets.

Who on the tree do you think you take after?

In what ways? Who do you want to be like?



Bible Connection: Read about two sisters, Martha and Mary, in **Luke 10: 38-42**. They lived in the same household and invited all their friends, including Jesus, for dinner.

What would your family do if Jesus and friends were coming to your home? There has to be preparations – shopping for food, cleaning, decorating, and cooking...trying to make everything just right. As guests arrive, finishing touches have to be made while someone welcomes the guests in.

That's what happened at Martha's and Mary's home. Mary sat in one room listening to Jesus. Meanwhile, Martha kept working in the kitchen. When Martha saw Mary sitting with Jesus, she was furious. She marched up to Jesus and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" Jesus answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one." Jesus wasn't angry. After all, making dinner was a nice thing to do. But Martha didn't realize how special it was to spend time with Jesus. She was too focused on making dinner. Mary wasn't being lazy. She just thought being with Jesus was more important.

Wouldn't it be sad if you threw a party for friends and then got so busy that you were not able to have any fun with them?!

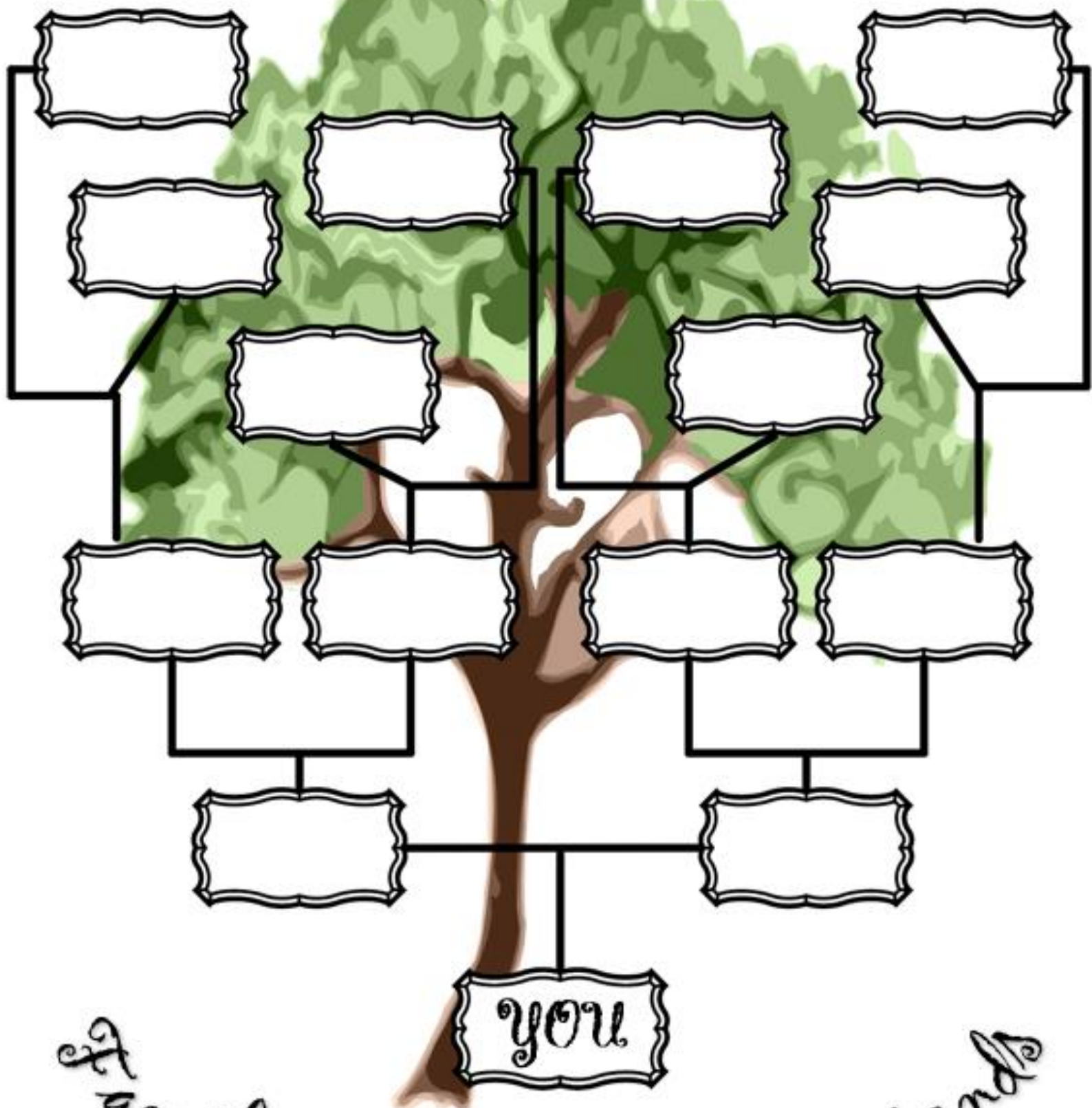
Yes, it's important to help others in your family. But in this case, Martha wasn't loving Jesus or her sister. Jesus encouraged Mary to sit with Him and not worry.

Family members are very different from each other. Each has a gift to share. It is good to love them for who they are and learn from them.

Application-What can you do? Spend time with a special person in your life. This may or may not be a family member. Do more listening than talking or doing.

What is it you like about that person? What has he or she done for you that makes your life better? Tell that person or write card expressing how thankful you are that he/she is in your life.

My Family Tree



Family and Special Friends

Week 11

Has there been a time you when you were asked or tempted to do something that you knew was wrong? How did that make you feel?

Bible Connection: As God's human creations, we are sadly weak and easily tempted. Jesus understands because after He was baptized, He was also tempted. In fact, the Bible explains how Satan - the liar, trickster, and destroyer – slyly tempted Him three times when Jesus was most vulnerable. (**Matthew 4:1-11**)

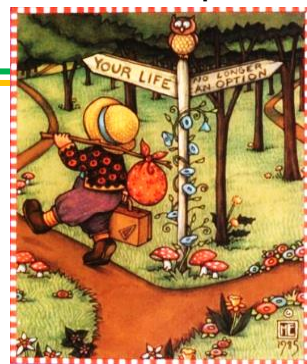
Jesus had gone to the desert alone for 40 without eating! He could do that because He was both God but also human...and unbearably hungry. That was when Satan showed up. He tempted Jesus saying, "If you are the son of God, turn these rocks into bread." Can you imagine how tempting that must have been? But Jesus said, "It is written in the Scriptures, 'A person does not live only by eating bread. But a person lives by everything the Lord says.'"

Satan wasn't going to give up, so He took Jesus to the top of a very high tower. He tried to get Jesus to doubt His Father God. He told Jesus that if God was truly His Father, then his Father would protect Him. So he dared Jesus by saying, "If You are the Son of God, then jump off." But Jesus replied, "'It says in the Scriptures, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'"

As a final try, the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and all the great things that are in those kingdoms. ⁹ The devil tempted Jesus with worldly power by offering, "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all these things." But Jesus was not tempted and said, "Go away from me, Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only him!'"

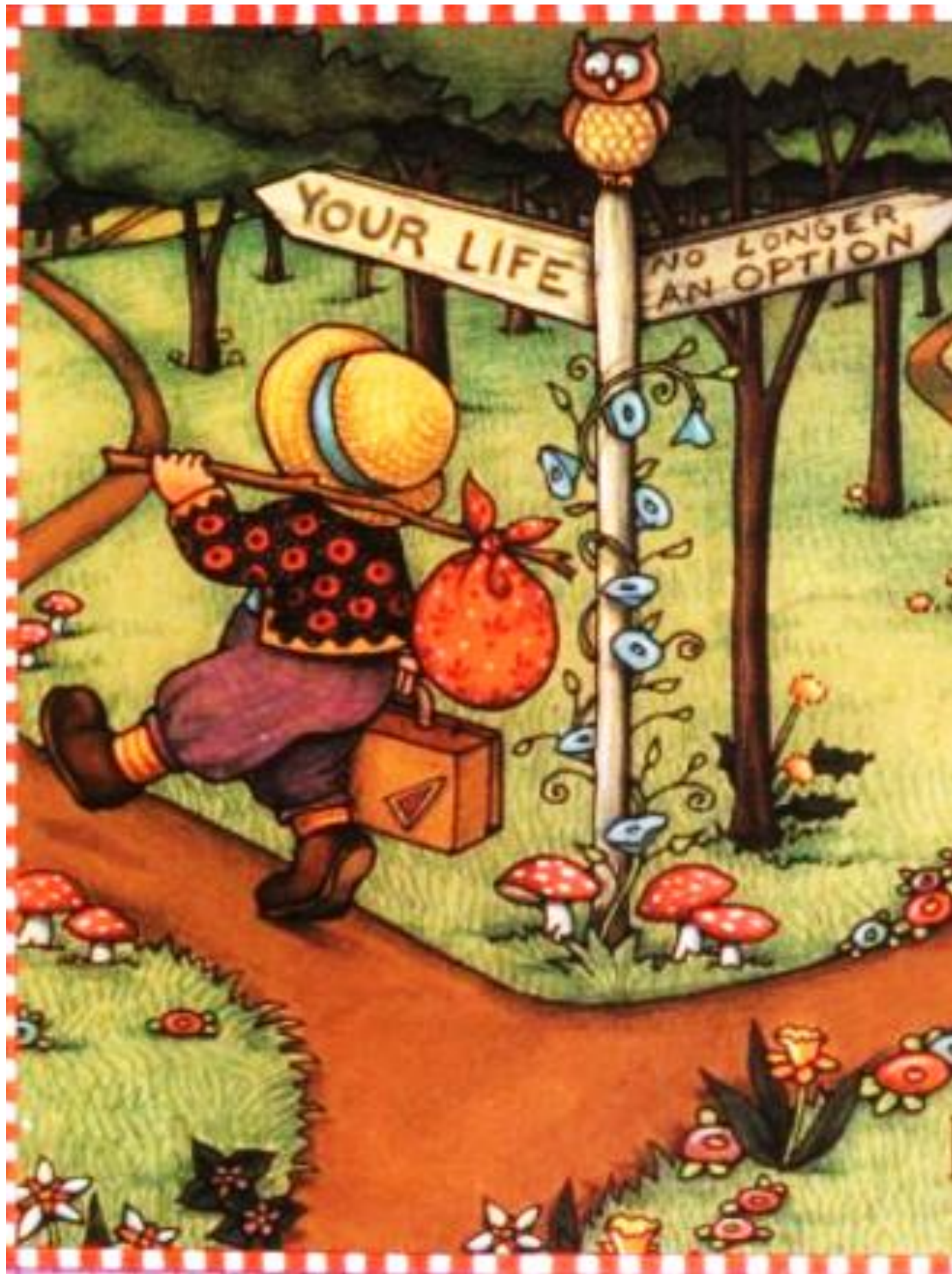
At that point, Satan gave up and left. Then some angels came and helped Jesus. So if...no, when you are tempted by your desires, or a "double dare," or with success, money and power, remember to tell Satan to go away and ask Jesus for help. He hears you and is with you.

Activity: Everyone has hard decisions to make. Each choice may change our future as it develops inner character. Think of a snowball and how each layer makes it bigger and easier to push. Each time you say "No" to temptation, it gets easier the next time; and unfortunately that's true each time you make a bad decision, too. Discuss what you think this picture by Mary Engelbriet means.



Can be found on the
WK Resource Page

Application-What can you do? **Proverbs 3:6** says, "Seek God's will in all you do, and He will show you the path to take." Think of ways to train yourself to stop hasty action and reactions in decision-making. You always have a choice. Stop – take time to ask God what to do and ask for His help to do it. You may not always like His answer at first, but try it. You will be surprised at how much better everything turns out.



Week 12

Do you talk to God? Do you pray? What are some of the things you pray/ask God for? Do you think God ever answers your prayers? Do you have a favorite Bible story? Why is that your favorite?

Activity: Did you know that you can talk with Jesus at any time, and He will hear you. You can P.R.A.Y. = P - praise Him; R - repent for anything you feel bad about doing, saying, or thinking; A - ask for what you want or need; Y - yield to God, who knows best.

Bible Connection: Some of Jesus' best friends asked Jesus how they should pray. Jesus taught them what we call The Lord's Prayer (**Luke 11: 1-4**):

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts or sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
Forever and ever. Amen

This prayer really means something special because it is the sacred prayer that Jesus gave us. You might already know it by heart, but do you actually connect to God when you say it? The Lord's Prayer is more than just a memory verse. The Bible teaches us the correct way to pray these words:

1. Pray for meaning, not for show. (Matthew 6: 6) "*...go to a room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*"
2. Pray with sincerity. (Matthew 6:7-8) "*And when you pray, do not keep on babbling...for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.*"
3. Praise God for who He is – "hallowed" which mean Holy.
4. Pray for more godliness on all of earth's land and seas.. ("*Your kingdom come...on earth.*")
5. Pray for God's way in your life (*Thy will be done*"), not what you want, because He knows better than any of us.
6. Trust God to provide what you need – food, shelter, clothing, etc.
7. We are human and we all mess up. Admit your sins to God and ask for His forgiveness.
8. God forgives us showing us mercy every day, so we must do the same to others.
9. Pray for God's protection from evil and temptation.
10. Pray on behalf of others who also need God's help.

Application-What can you do? Start a prayer journal. Write what you want to ask or say to God. Every month or two, read over all your prayers and see how God has answered them. Did He answer "Yes," "No," or "Later?"

Week 13

Do you and your family have a special day where you come together and eat? Do you have Family Dinners? When? Why?

Activity: Who would you want sitting around your table at a special occasion? Draw a rectangle and write the names of people you want there. Place each person where they would sit and write that person's favorite food on the table in front of each. [A table drawing is available.]

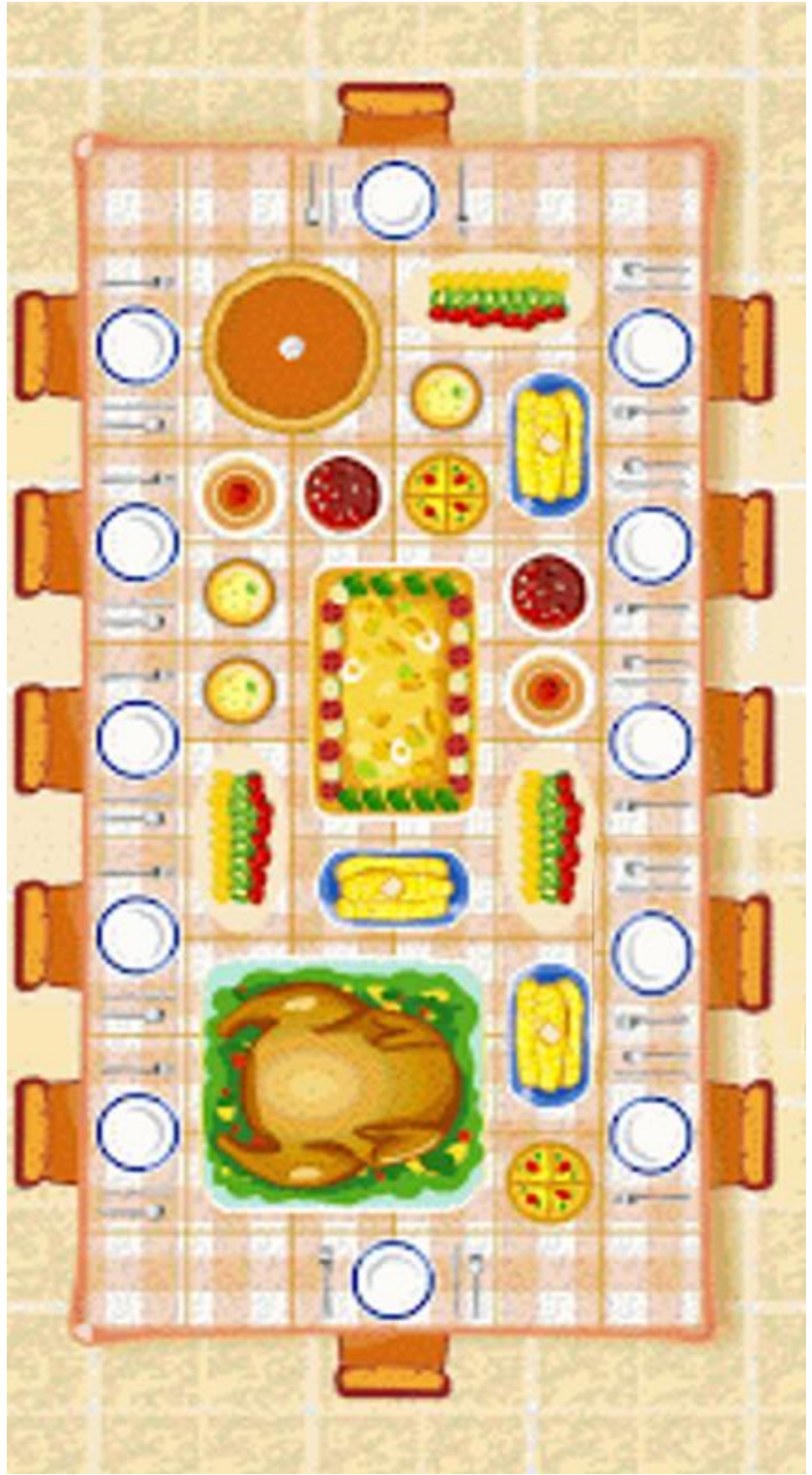
Bible Connection: Two thousand years ago, most people either wore open sandals or went barefoot. Since roads were made of dirt, feet got very dusty and sometimes muddy. It was the custom for people to always wash their feet when walking into someone's home. That way, the floors kept from getting too dirty. Near the end of Jesus' earthly life, Jesus wanted to be with his best friends. He got together with His disciples and washed the feet of them all. That was unusual because people usually washed their own feet. Simon Peter objected saying that it was he who should wash the feet of Jesus, not the other way around. But in **John 13: 12**, Jesus explained, "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. Jesus set an example of humility for His disciples. He wanted to show them that He loved them and that no one is better than another.

When you have a big dinner or event – Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays – and your family invites people you all love, what do you do to show them you love them? You don't have to wash their feet. In fact they might think that's kind of yucky. But there are a lot of ways to show them your love when they walk in your door. Can you think of any?

Have you ever helped serve Thanksgiving dinner to people in need at a church or organization and tried to make them feel welcome? It is a great way to show that everyone is loved by Jesus and deserves to be treated with kindness and respect.

Application-What can you do? Ask your parents if you can create personal invitations to a special dinner. Include where it will be held (someone's home; a park) and when (date and time). Also, you can ask someone to bring a favorite dish for which they are "famous." Create decorative table place mats or name cards for the table that day. If a family member cannot attend, let them know how much you appreciate and love them, and that their name card will be at the table to remember them.

Who would you want to invite to eat with you at your table?



Write their names on the lines by their seat.

Week 14

Do you think God loves you or is He disappointed in you?
What makes you feel that way?

Activity: Jesus often taught lessons by using parables. A parable is a made-up story that helps others understand His teachings better. Jesus explained God's tremendous love for us in a parable called "The Prodigal Son" (Luke 15: 11-32). Watch "God's Story: Two Sons and a Father" on YouTube and see if this helps you better understand how much God loves you.



Bible Connection: In **Matthew 15:10-14**, the Bible tells us a story about a shepherd who watched over 100 sheep. Ninety-nine of the sheep were fine, but one sheep wandered away. The good shepherd left his flock to look for the lost sheep. And when the shepherd finds the sheep and returns it safely to the flock, that one sheep has an extra special place in his heart.

So why tell you about this story? Let's make some substitutions and see what we can understand.

Instead of the "shepherd," put in God.

Instead of the "100 sheep," put in all people that God created.

Instead of "ninety-nine sheep," put in those people who love God and feel His love for them.

Instead of the "one lost sheep," put in you, or someone you dislike for doing wrong.

First know that you can't disappoint God because He knows you and what you will do before you even do it. And He still loves you unconditionally. His love is incredible! You can't change it, you can't earn it and you can't do anything to lose it. If you or someone you know wanders away from the path our good Lord has for us...gives in to temptation, does something wrong or says no to what God asks of us all...you need to understand that God never stops running after us. He is always ready forgive us if we tell Him we are truly sorry...no matter how many times. In fact, He will be so happy to have you back in His flock again.

And, God does not want you to dislike other people that also wrongfully wander away from Him. Instead, hope and pray that they also find God's love.

Application-What can you do? Look up these verses in the Bible and write one verse each on a piece of paper. Put all 12 in an envelope or box. Pick one each day. Read it and believe that God loves you unconditionally and forever.

1John 3:1 --- 1 John 4:10 --- 1 John 4:16 --- 1 John 4:19 --- Romans 5:5 --- Romans 8:38 --- 2 Thessalonians 3:5 --- Psalm 36:7 --- Psalm 136:2 --- Galatians 2:20 --- Zephaniah 3:17 --- Ephesians 2:4

[Tutors: These passages can be found written out online on the WK Resource Page.]

READ ONE A DAY TO KNOW GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU

The Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are his children. But the people in the world do not understand that we are God's children, because they have not known him. (1 John 3:1, ICB)

True love is God's love for us, not our love for God. God sent his Son to die in our place to take away our sins.

(1 John 4:10, ICB)

And so we know the love that God has for us, and we trust that love.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him. (1 John 4:16, ICB)

We love because God first loved us. (1 John 4:19, ICB)

And this hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts. God gave us his love through the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to us.

(Romans 5:5, ICB)

Yes, I am sure that nothing can separate us from the love God has for us. Not death, not life, not angels, not ruling spirits, nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers, nothing above us, nothing below us, or anything else in the whole world will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:38, ICB)

We pray that the Lord will lead your hearts into God's love and Christ's patience.

(2 Thessalonians 3:5, ICB)

God, your love is so precious! You protect people as a bird protects her young under her wings. (Psalm 36:7, ICB)

Give thanks to the God over all gods.

His love continues forever. (Psalm 136:2, ICB)

I do not live anymore—it is Christ living in me. I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God. He loved me and gave himself to save me. (Galatians 2:20, ICB)

The Lord your God is with you.

The mighty One will save you.

The Lord will be happy with you.

You will rest in his love.

He will sing and be joyful about you." (Zephaniah 3:17, ICB)

But God's mercy is great, and he loved us very much.

(Ephesians 2:4, ICB)

Week 15

Do you have a favorite book that you read or was read to you? What was it about?

Bible Connection:

After the student shares, the tutor shares one of his/her favorite Bible stories.

Activity: Tutor and student share an interesting story from each of your lives – a special event; a vacation story; a winning play in sports; a funny family/friend story; a scary trip to the doctor/hospital; etc. Briefly write or draw a storyboard for the beginning, middle and end events. Share it with each other.

Application-What can you do?

Tutors, find Bible stories in children's version and pass it on. This can be a collection of children's Bible stories, an online video, or a hard copy document. Ask your student to pick one a week to read/watch. Periodically help the student do a "retell" and discuss what was learned about God or Jesus.

Week 16

Is God real? How do you know? If Jesus came and sat next to you, what would you want to tell Him or ask Him?

Activity: Tutors, have a small trinket or treat in a paper bag or small box before your student arrives. Then ask your student what they think might be in the bag. A puppy? Nope. A piano? No way! Shake it as the student guesses. Then tell the student what is really in the bag without showing it. Ask the student if he/she believes you. If no, why not? Are you trustworthy? Have you lied before? If yes, why? You cannot see, touch or smell what is inside. Why would you be believed? Finally, let the student see and enjoy whatever is inside.

Bible Connection: Today is about FAITH. If the student believed what the tutor said was in the bag/box even though the student couldn't see, touch, or smell it, the student had faith in the trustworthiness of the tutor. It is the same with God. You can not physically see God... but you can see all of the beautiful things God created and does. You cannot touch God...but you can feel Him inside of you. You might even hear His whispered nudge to do something good.

All through the Bible is firsthand experienced knowledge that God keeps His promises and never lies. Look for God's faithfulness in your own life and in the lives around you. How many times have your prayers been answered? How many times were you angry that God didn't fix things the way you wanted only to find later that He had a much better plan in store?

As you read **Hebrews 11:29 - 12:3** together, you will hear about people who had terrible trouble in their lives as they obeyed God. But they never lost trust in God, and God remained faithful to them. If that is hard to understand, remember that God promises you that He will always be with you in hardship. You and your loved ones will eventually be blessed with life everlasting with Jesus in Heaven.

Remember that Jesus suffered the worst way to die on the cross as forgiveness for our sins. He was able to do that because He trusted God's promise that He would rise from the grave in 3 days and live in Heaven forever.

So go ahead and talk to God, ask Him questions, even argue with Him. He is real. He loves you unconditionally. He will hear you. He will never abandon you.

Application-What can you do? Ask adults their stories of how God showed up in their life; how do they know God is faithful and worthy of our trust? AND/OR...Go someplace quiet and close your eyes. Get relaxed. Invite Jesus to come and sit with you. Visualize Him sitting with you. Tell Him or ask Him anything. Then listen for a few minutes in silence and see if you hear from Him.

Week 17

Do you know what it means to *Just Say No*? Have you ever heard about *Just Say No*? Do you know someone who uses drugs? How do you feel about that person?

Activity: Get an adult to help you do this experiment: You will need: a large glass bottle with a neck; a balloon partly filled with water; a coffee filter; a match; and a straw. Light the coffee filter and drop it into the bottle. Immediately place the balloon on top of the bottles opening and wait about 30 seconds. The balloon will be sucked into the bottle, just like you might be sucked into temptation. Now try the same experiment, but this time place a straw into the bottle before placing the balloon on top. The straw prevents the balloon from being sucked in, just like God will provide you a way out of temptation.



Saying NO to temptation can be a tough tug-of-war. Role play some situations in which you turn to God to help you find the confidence, courage, strength, and words to say NO.

Bible Connection: Peer pressure makes it difficult to say NO to so-called friends. The evil one makes it seem easier or better to say YES. But think about what happened to Adam and Eve in **Genesis 3:1-19**. They lived in a perfect place called the Garden of Eden. God gave them everything they could ever want – friendly animals, food, beautiful surroundings and peace. Along came Satan in the form of a snake who talked them into eating the one - only one – thing that God told them not to eat. They disobeyed God and immediately felt guilt and shame. They were thrown out of their beautiful paradise and lived a hard life.

There are consequences for disobedience. However, God will help you if you turn to Him when tempted. *“He (God) will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.”* (1 **Corinthians 10:13**)

You are wonderfully created by God and your body is His temple. Treat it with respect, nourishing it and exercising it correctly in God’s eyes.

So when someone tries to talk you into doing what you know deep down inside is wrong, ask God for the wisdom, strength and bravery to say NO to them and YES to God.

Application-What can you do? 1) Take your bad thoughts captive and throw them away (2 Corinthians 10:5) – *“...we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ...”*; 2) run away from bad things...just leave; 3) focus on the good things that God wants for you; 4) tell somebody what tempts you – others knowing will help you be strong.

Role Play Ways to Say NO

Say no to drugs by giving an excuse, such as:

1. I can't stay; I've got to help my dad with something.
2. That stuff makes me sick.
3. I'm supposed to meet so and so in a few minutes.
4. No way. I think you just want me to get in trouble.

Teens can explain to their friends about the dangers of these substances:

5. That stuff is so bad for you.
6. Why would you use that junk?
7. Haven't you heard about the kid in the news who died from doing that?
8. Go ahead if you want to kill yourself – I don't want to.
9. You're crazy!

Teens can also just be honest with their friends:

10. I'm not into that.
11. My mom would kill me if she found out.
12. I don't have time for drugs.
13. I'd be suspended from the team.
14. Forget it. There's no way I'm going to do drugs.
15. I've got more to do with my life.

Week 18

What do you like to do on the weekends?
By yourself or with someone else?

Activity: Both tutor and student make 2 columns on a piece of paper. In one column write things you like to do with others. In the other column, make a list of when you prefer to be alone. Compare lists and see if you are more different or alike.

Bible Connection: Jesus was on a mission to spread God's word and make disciples. He also produced miracles which grew bigger and bigger crowds to Him. When a crowd got too big and demanding Jesus went away to be alone and pray. At other times He enjoyed being with just His close friends for fun and companionship. When do you enjoy being with people? Have you ever needed to get away from everyone and be alone for a while?

God commands us to set aside one day a week to rest in His goodness, worshipping and thanking Him as well as enjoying the day with family and friends. That day is called **Sabbath**. Sabbath is a day to stop work and get refreshed before next week's work starts. After all, even God rested on the seventh day after creating earth, sky, seas, plants, animals and humans. (**Exodus 31:17**) "...for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed." (**Genesis 2: 3**) "Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done."

Most people make Sunday their Sabbath day and include worship at church. Sometimes there might be a problem with having Sabbath on Sunday. But God knows we need to refresh our minds, body and soul on a regular basis, so pick a day and try to stick with it every week.

Application-What can you do? Consider Sunday to be your Sabbath. Make a plan for what you need to do before Sunday so you can simply worship God and enjoy the day with things you like to do; not homework, cleaning your room, or washing the dog. Plan fun activities with family and/or friends, family outings, or even nap time.

Week 19

Have you been in trouble with your mom, dad, family member, teacher? What was it for? Were you punished for it? What did you learn from it? Would you do it again?

Bible Connection: (**Jonah 1-4**) God had an important mission for Jonah to do. He was to warn the people of Nineveh that if they did not change their wicked ways, God was going to punish them. Now Jonah did not like how the people of Nineveh acted. He didn't think they should be warned and maybe forgiven by God, so Jonah decided not to obey God and to hide away on a ship instead. Ha, can you believe Jonah thought he could hide from God! Read Jonah's story to see the amazing things God did to Jonah to finally teach him that he should not judge the people of Nineveh, Afterall, He was being just as disobedient as they were. God eventually forgives and saves everyone, but there are storms, a sinking ship, giant fish, and scorching sun involved before lessons are learned.

Activity: What if your friend was told to take homemade soup to an ailing, elderly neighbor (who was mean), but your friend wanted to hide out in the park and play instead. How could you talk him or her out of it? Could you use a story from your own life to make a point about choosing to obey or not to obey? Role play together.

Application-What can you do? The next time you get into trouble, try using a "self-reflection" form to think about your actions. You may need to calm down first. Then think or talk about what you discovered about your action. You will be more respected for your ability to self-correct. Don't do it just to get out of trouble. In fact, you may get a natural consequence. Accept it as God's way of growing you into a better person. [NOTE: *The Self-Reflection form can be found of the Whiz Kids Resource Page.*]

Student Self-Reflection

1. Circle and explain which Whiz Kids expectation below that you did not meet?

Take care of myself

Take care of others

Take of my environment

2. What would have made Jesus happier instead?

3. Why did this mistake occur? What were you hoping would happen?

- I wanted attention from friends. I wanted attention from adults.
 I wanted to avoid my peers. I wanted to avoid adults.
 I wanted to avoid doing work. I wanted to feel in control of the situation.
 I wanted others to know that I was - unhappy / mad / ____? ____.
 Other reason: _____.

4. Did it turn out like you wanted it to? Did you get what you wanted from your behavior?

Explain: _____

5. In the future, what life skill below will you practice? What will you do differently?

I will practice _____ by _____

Life Skills

- Active-listening
- Caring
- Common Sense
- Cooperation
- Empathy

- Flexibility
- Friendship
- Integrity
- Initiative
- Organization

- Patience
- Perseverance
- My Personal Best
- Problem-Solving
- Respect

- Responsibility
- Self-Control
- Sense of Humor
- I Am Trustworthy
- Honesty/Truth

Week 20

Do you believe in God's miracles? Have you ever witnessed one?
Why do you think it was it a miracle?

Bible Connection:

A miracle is considered an event that occurs outside the bounds of natural law. In other words, it is not something nature or a person can create.

God created many miracles, like parting the Red Sea so Israelis could escape the Egyptian army. (**Exodus 14: 26-31**) also when Jesus lived on earth in human form, he performed miracles because of His love for people. He wanted to teach people how much God loved them and how they should love God.

In **Matthew: 14: 22-43**, Jesus walks on water over the sea to teach trust to peter and His disciples.

Mark 6: 30-43 tells how Jesus fed a crowd of 5,000 men and their families with only 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish. Everyone ate until they were satisfied.

In **John 11: 30-44**, you can read how Jesus brought His friend Lazarus back from the dead (No zombies!) because it saddened Him to see his sister weeping.

There are many more examples of miracles.

Although many saw these miracles and feared God's mighty power, they all soon forgot and again did not believe...even the disciples of Jesus. Today people continue to disbelieve although we are surrounded by God's miracles. We must keep our hearts and eyes open in faith to see miracles. Do you believe?

Activity: Imagine you are a toddler and go for a walk. While pretending to look through a toddler's eyes, marvel at all of God's miracles and creations that you normally take for granted: a colorful butterfly; a plane overhead that can actually fly; the taste of ice cream on a hot day; or delicate snowflakes you can catch on your tongue. These are only a couple of God's miracles. Look for more. Make a list of at least 10 miraculous things God created just for you because He loves you.

Application-What can you do? Search key words "miracle healings" to read about real, present-day miracles from God. God performs miracles now and thousands of years ago, but people soon forget and continue to doubt. If you want God to perform a miracle in your life, take these steps:

- ✓ Simply seek God with open eyes, hearts, and minds.
- ✓ Pray about what may be blocking miracles in your life.
- ✓ View miracles as expressions of how much God loves you.
- ✓ Ask God to guide you to His truth and help your unbelief.
- ✓ Praise God more through worship.
- ✓ When God gives you clear signs to follow, take the steps He shows you in trust.
- ✓ Keep praying and wait patiently for God's perfect timing.