

FAMILY ACTION PACK

Volume 8—REJOICE: A SAVIOR IS BORN



First Baptist Church Owasso

Student's Name _____

Total Points Earned in this Book: _____



A Christmas Wish

Reader's Digest reported in April of 2002 that a survey had been conducted among children where kids were asked to name the very best gift they could get for Christmas. The overwhelming choice was: "More time with mom and dad."



This Family Action Pack coordinates with the "The Choice to Rejoice, part 2" Sunday School lessons.

Earning Points

Each week's activities and challenges are marked for a certain amount of points. Put your initials next to the activities that your student or family completes. Whenever the book is finished or the series is over, simply add up the total amount of points that your student has earned and write the correct total on the front of the booklet with their name. Then turn in your book in the drop-box located at the main children's registration area.



Family Challenge

The Lord's Prayer

*You can again gain 20 points for saying the Lord's Prayer...But this will be the last time!
January will bring a brand new family challenge.*

MEMORIZE THE LORD'S PRAYER

20 points

Our Father who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

SUGGESTION—*Say this prayer with your child each night at bedtime. The repetition s will help them learn it.*

HELPS

-Kindergarteners get THREE helps total.

-1st-3rd graders are allowed TWO helps

-4th-6th grade students are allowed no helps at all.

Parent's Initial _____
20 points earned in this activity



Bible Memory

Week 1

These verses are for the whole family!

HELPS

-Kindergarteners get two helps per verse. (*Some challenges may contain more than one verse.*)

-1st-3rd graders are allowed one help per verse. (*Some challenges may contain more than one verse.*)

-4th-6th grade students are allowed no helps at all.

After your child says each verse, ask him what it means. We want our kids not only to memorize Scripture but to understand it as well.

4 points each

_____ 1 John 4:14—And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

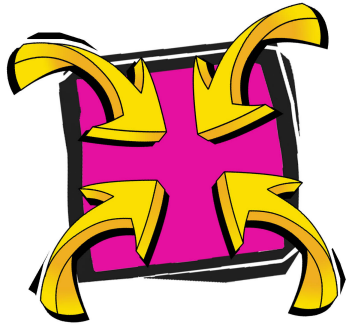
_____ 1 Corinthians 10:31—So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

6 points

_____ John 5:24—Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Need more challenges? Want to earn more points?
Try the **Extra Bible Memory** challenges at the end of this book.

Points earned on this Page - _____



Family Time with God Week 1—Taste Testers

YOU WILL NEED: A blindfold, two drinks or food items that you know your child likes, one drink or food item that you figure your child will dislike and your Bible marked at Philippians 4:4.

GET STARTED

Send your children to another room while you find three drinks or food items, two that you know they like and at least one that you figure they won't like. For example, you might use chocolate milk, Pepsi, and prune or pickle juice. Then blindfold your children and bring them in one at a time to be a "Taste Tester." Give them the item they won't like last.

ASK: *Did you get what you expected?*

SAY: Sometimes in life we get what we expect, sometimes we don't. Bad things can even happen to good people, but listen to what the Bible says about what we should do when bad things happen.

Read Philippians 4:4 from your Bible.

ASK: *When "bad" things happen, what can you do?* (Make the choice to rejoice.)

ASK: *Why do you think you can always rejoice?* (Because God is faithful. He'll never let you down. He'll always keep His Word. You can trust Him, etc.)

ASK: *What are some things our family can rejoice about?* (Don't just list good things. Also list things that they might consider to be "bad." For example, we can rejoice even though daddy lost his job. Why? Because we trust God and we know He won't let us down.)

Take prayer requests and list them on the next page...



Family Prayer Requests

PRAY—And thank God that no matter what happens in our lives, because of who He is, we can make the choice to rejoice.

NOTE: If your children want a further answer about why they can rejoice in the middle of difficult times, explain that sometimes we do wrong things and these bad choices bring “bad” things into our lives. But sometimes we do everything right and someone else does something wrong and we get hurt because of it. Even so, there’s nothing your children will ever do that is so bad that God can’t forgive them and there’s nothing so bad that can happen to them that God can’t turn it around to their good if they love Him and are walking with Him. (See Romans 8:28 for a great promise.)

Parent’s Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



Food for Thought Week 1

YOU WILL NEED: Egg Nog, cups for each family member, a small object that you can throw (like a ball), and a Bible marked at 1 John 4:14

GET STARTED

Have each member of your family try a sip of Holiday Egg Nog. Some will like it. Others will probably hate it.

SAY—Whether or not you like Egg Nog is a matter of taste. There's no right or wrong answer, but in life, right will always be right and wrong will always be wrong.

ASK—**Would you believe me if I said I can throw [the object] in the air and it won't fall back down?**

Throw the object in the air.

ASK—**Why did it come back?** (A law called gravity that says what goes up must come down.)

ASK—**A thousand years ago, if someone had thrown this up, what would have happened?** (It would have fallen back down.)

ASK—**A thousand years from now, if someone threw this up, what would happen?** (It would fall back down.)

SAY—God's law of gravity will never change. In the same way, what is right today was right when God made the world and will be right until the end of time. What's wrong today has always been wrong and will always be wrong. Right and wrong will NEVER change.

ASK—**What is something else that will never change?** (God will never change. That there is only one way to heaven will never change, etc. These aren't matters of opinion. They have always been true and they will always be true.)

KEY—So if anyone ever tells you that right and wrong are a matter of opinion—like whether or not you like Egg Nog—just realize that they're wrong. Then take the opportunity to tell them about the Savior of the world.

Read 1 John 4:14 from your Bible.

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



My Time with God

Week 1

Read in your Bible: *(Younger students can have their parents read this to them and can answer the questions aloud.)*
2 Kings 4:8-36

Respond

What part of this Bible story sticks out to you the most?

Who were the main characters in the story?

Why do you think they chose to act in the ways that they did?

What lessons can you learn from this story that will help you to follow God?

Pray

What would you like to tell Jesus about this story or how it fits with your life? Is there anything you would like to praise the Lord for or ask Him to do in your life?

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



Bible Bedtime Readings

The following readings are great for bedtime or any mealtime. Just take a few moments to read the Bible with your family. You don't have to ask any questions or even have a discussion about it—there is power in the reading and hearing of God's Word.

Week 1

2 points per reading

_____ Read John 16:1-15

_____ Read John 16:16-33

_____ Read John 17:1-26

_____ Read John 18:1-24

_____ Read John 18:25-40

Points earned on this Page - _____



Character-Building Bedtime Stories Week 1

My Own Stockings

There's no Christmas tree,
But a real tree for me,
Straight out of the ground,
Is how it's got to be.

And no fake stockings,
Do I use.
I use my own socks,
That's what I choose.

They come right off my feet,
Right out of my shoe,
One for me,
And one for you.

So I hung them up,
And went to bed,
But when I woke up,
I saw instead,
That my socks smelled bad,
I shook my head,
Because I had,
A tree that was dead.



Thinking Things Through

Like in the story, sometimes we do things without considering the results of our actions. But a godly person will not only consider whether what he is doing is right or wrong, but also how it will affect others. Will it help and encourage them in their walk with Jesus or could it trip them up? Will it bring glory to God? Listen to what the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:31, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Parent's Initial _____
4 points earned in this activity



Bible Memory Week 2

These verses are for the whole family!

HELPS

-Kindergarteners get two helps per verse. (*Some challenges may contain more than one verse.*)

-1st-3rd graders are allowed one help per verse. (*Some challenges may contain more than one verse.*)

-4th-6th grade students are allowed no helps at all.

After your child says each verse, ask him what it means. We want our kids not only to memorize Scripture but to understand it as well.

4 points each

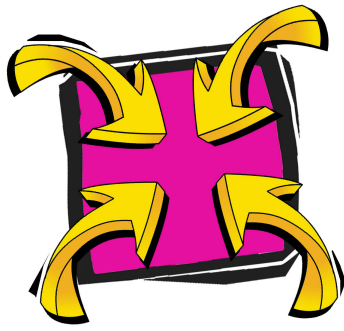
_____ Matthew 1:21—She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

_____ Isaiah 9:6—For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us...And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

_____ John 3:16—For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

*Need more challenges? Want to earn more points?
Try memorizing the Challenge page at the end of this book.*

Points earned on this Page - _____



Family Time with God Week 2—Toothpaste Squeeze

YOU WILL NEED: 1 tube of toothpaste, 1 plate, and a Bible marked at Isaiah 9:6

GET STARTED

Gather your family around. Then squeeze out a good amount of toothpaste on a plate.

ASK: Do you think you can get it all back inside the tube?

Give each family member a chance to try.

(Some may try scooping it back in; Some may ask for scissors to cut it open and put it back. Just tell them no if you don't want them to ruin the toothpaste tube; still others may want to lick all the toothpaste off the plate and use their mouth to put it back in. This is actually quite funny although if they push too hard, toothpaste will begin to come out of their nose—This really happened once!)

ASK: Is it possible to get all the toothpaste back inside? (No.)

SAY: The toothpaste is kind of like your words. Once something comes out of your mouth you can't take it back. So if you don't mean it, or you don't plan to follow through with it, don't say it. Every word you say should be as trustworthy as a promise.

ASK: Did God ever make promises? (Yes, the Bible is full of promises for you.)

ASK: Can you name a promise that God made? (Nothing can separate you from His love; He will never leave you; That you're going to heaven once you've given your life to Jesus; etc.)

SAY: God also promised that a Savior would be born.

Read Isaiah 9:6 from your Bible.

SAY: This is a promise God made about 700 years before Jesus was born. God always does what He says, and we should do the same.

Take prayer requests and list them on the next page...



Family Prayer Requests

PRAY—Thank God for Jesus and how wonderful He is. Thank God for always keeping His promises.

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



Food for Thought Week 2

YOU WILL NEED: 1 small fruit cake and a Bible marked at John 3:16

GET STARTED

Provide a bite of fruit cake to each member of your family.

SAY: Just like the Egg Nog, fruit cake is a matter of taste. Some people love it, but some people think it tastes disgusting.

ASK: What else can you think of that is disgusting? (Toilet water, Sumo wrestler sweat, body odor, etc.)

ASK: Do you think lying is disgusting?

ASK: What about cheating? Or stealing? Or saying bad words?

SAY: Sin is anything wrong you do and all sin is disgusting to God. Everything sin has and gives is the opposite of God.

ASK: How would you describe God?

SAY: Sin is the opposite of God. God is love—Sin creates hate; God gives peace—Sin destroys peace; God leads you to do right—Sin makes you a slave to doing wrong; God takes care of you—Sin will always hurt you. But God loves you so much, that even though we've all done wrong things, He sent Jesus to die to make a way to take your sins away. That's what Christmas is all about.

Read John 3:16 from your Bible.

See if your child can say this verse. If not, begin saying it with them every night. This is an important verse for every student to know and understand.

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



My Time with God Week 2

Read in your Bible: *(Younger students can have their parents read this to them and can answer the questions aloud.)*

2 Kings 4:1-7

Respond

What part of this Bible story sticks out to you the most?

Who were the main characters in the story?

Why do you think they chose to act in the ways that they did?

What lessons can you learn from this story that will help you to follow God?

Pray

What would you like to tell Jesus about this story or how it fits with your life? Is there anything you would like to praise the Lord for or ask Him to do in your life?

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



Bible Bedtime Readings

The following readings are great for bedtime or any mealtime. Just take a few moments to read the Bible with your family. You don't have to ask any questions or even have a discussion about it—there is power in the reading and hearing of God's Word.

Week 2

2 points per reading

_____ Read John 19:1-15

_____ Read John 19:16-30

_____ Read John 19:31-42

_____ Read John 20:1-10

_____ Read John 20:11-31

Points earned on this Page - _____



Character-Building Bedtime Stories Week 2

Little Jack Spree

Little Jack Spree,
Lived on a Christmas tree,
And late at night,
He'd turn on the lights,
So that he could see.

Then he'd hide,
And he'd slide,
Down the trim,
From limb to limb,
That's Little Jack Spree, you see.

But late one day,
While Jack did play,
He heard a sudden knocking,
And fell into a stocking,
And couldn't get free, you see.

He did pull and tug,
But he was stuck so snug,
And though he wiggled about,
He couldn't get out,
Poor Jack Spree, I see.

Then he did something very unwise,
He shouted and screamed and gave loud cries,
And in panic he lost his wits,
And threw twelve different kinds of fits.
Little Jack Spree lost control, you see.

In terror, he just couldn't say no,
And the more he struggled the deeper he'd go,
Finally he sank in candy to his chin.
And he thought at last that this was the end.
Poor Jack Spree no more would be, you see.
Then he recalled what to do,
When something happens that really scares you.
On God you can cast all your care,
Because the Lord is always standing right there.
Then he said, "I will not fear,
Though I think the end is finally here,
Because I know the Lord is near."

He kept saying this as he would think.
Then a thought hit him: This sock doesn't stink.
It's bad enough to be stuck in there,
Without a nasty smell filling the air.
And though he wasn't free,
He became thankful, you see.
Even in the bad you can still thank the Lord,
Because that's what it says in His Holy Word.

Then something changed in Little Jack Spree,
The thankfulness stole the fear from he,
And slowly he did struggle and slowly he did climb,
Because he now felt a peace on his mind.

At last he came out,
And he declared with a shout,
"Even in bad you can still find the good!"
Little Jack Spree understood, you see.

Then he climbed up real far,
As high as the shining star,
And he said a thankful prayer,
That God is always there,
And we need not ever fear,
Because He's always near.



Calmness

Someone can be calm and have peace in the middle of hard or frightening situations when their trust is fixed on Christ. The Bible says in Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious (worry) about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Parent's Initial _____
4 points earned in this activity



Bible Memory Week 3

These verses are for the whole family!

HELPS

-Kindergarteners get two helps per verse. (*Some challenges may contain more than one verse.*)

-1st-3rd graders are allowed one help per verse. (*Some challenges may contain more than one verse.*)

-4th-6th grade students are allowed no helps at all.

After your child says each verse, ask him what it means. We want our kids not only to memorize Scripture but to understand it as well.

4 points each

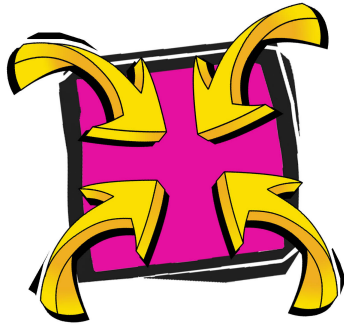
_____ Luke 2:11—Today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

_____ Acts 20:35— It is more blessed to give than to receive.

_____ Philippians 4:6-7— Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Need more challenges? Want to earn more points?
Try the Extra Bible Memory challenges at the end of this book.*

Points earned on this Page - _____



Family Time with God Week 3—Gift Wrapped

YOU WILL NEED: 1 roll of toilet paper and a Bible marked at Luke 2:11-12

GET STARTED

Wrap your children from head to toe in toilet paper (Or you can use wrapping paper.) (NOTE: Be careful that they don't fall over and are unable to catch themselves.) Keep them wrapped while you continue with the following.

ASK: How does it feel to be wrapped up like a gift?

SAY: Since you're wrapped up like a toilet-papered, Christmas gift, I want you to know that you are a special gift from God to us and we love you and are proud of you.

On the count of three, have them break free as fast as they can. Put the toilet paper aside.

ASK: Do you know how the greatest gift in the world was wrapped?

SAY: Listen to what the Bible says and let's find out.

Read Luke 2:11-12 from your Bible.

ANSWER—The greatest gift in the world was wrapped in cloths and laid in a manger. Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

ASK: Do you know what the name Jesus means?

SAY: "Jesus" means "He saves," and that's why Jesus came, to become the Savior of the world by taking the punishment for all the wrong things we would ever do so that we could be forgiven and have a way to go to heaven.

List your prayer requests on the following page...



Family Prayer Requests

PRAY—Thank Jesus for being our Savior.

After you're done, feel free to have a toilet paper fight or time your family to see who can pick up the most squares of toilet paper the fastest. Always have fun and even enjoy the clean-up!

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



Food for Thought Week 3

YOU WILL NEED: A special treat that everyone will enjoy and a Bible marked at James 4:13-14

GET STARTED

Let your family eat a special treat. For example, you could cook a batch of cookies or go to Braum's for Hot Fudge Sundaes. Then without telling anyone, time how long it takes them to eat the treat.

ASK: Who can guess how long it took us to eat? (Tell them who is the closest to the correct time.)

SAY: That was a good treat, but there's no way it could last forever.

ASK: Can you tell me something that lasts forever?

SAY: Listen to what the Bible says in James 4:13-14 about something that DOESN'T last forever.

Read James 4:13-14 from your Bible.

ASK: What did the Bible say doesn't last forever? (Your life.)

ASK: What did it compare your life to? (A vapor.)

If it is cold, take your family outside and point out the vapors as they breathe.

SAY: In the same way that the vapor is here one second and gone the next, our lives are like that too. Life here on earth is short and we all need a Savior. That's the reason Jesus came, to make a way to forgive our sins so that we can have a new life—one that would go beyond this world to heaven to be with God forever.

PRAY—Thank Jesus for making a way to heaven so that those who give their lives to Him can live with Him forever.

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



My Time with God

Week 3

Read in your Bible: *(Younger students can have their parents read this to them and can answer the questions aloud.)*
Luke 1: 26-38 & Matthew 1:18-25

Respond

What part of this Bible story sticks out to you the most?

Who were the main characters in the story?

Why do you think they chose to act in the ways that they did?

What lessons can you learn from this story that will help you to follow God?

Pray

What would you like to tell Jesus about this story or how it fits with your life? Is there anything you would like to praise the Lord for or ask Him to do in your life?

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



Bible Bedtime Readings

The following readings are great for bedtime or any mealtime. Just take a few moments to read the Bible with your family. You don't have to ask any questions or even have a discussion about it—there is power in the reading and hearing of God's Word.

Week 3

2 points per reading

_____ Read John 21:1-14

_____ Read John 21:15-25

_____ Read Psalm 24

_____ Read Colossians 1:1-12

_____ Read Colossians 1:13-23

Points earned on this Page - _____



Character-Building Bedtime Stories Week 3

Little Jack Spree and a Gift for Me

Let me tell you the tale,
Of Little Jack Spree,
Who lived on top,
Of a Christmas tree.

He'd wait all year,
For Christmas, you know,
And watch as the gifts,
Appeared below.

Then he'd climb down,
Every night,
And spy out the tags,
Beneath the tree light.

Then he'd come back up,
Feeling real low,
'Cause he looked but didn't,
Find his name below.

"It's just not right.
It's just not fair,
That my name,
Is not there."

"There are gifts,
For Betty, Bailey, and Bo.
Presents for Jimmy,
And Uncle Joe."

"But none for me!
None for me!
It's just not fair,
Don't you see?"

"So I'll take them all,
All there be,
Both big and small,
Just for me."

So on Christmas Eve,
He climbed down,
And on his face,
Was an evil frown.

And into the presents,
He did tear,
Without any thought,
Of love or care.

“They’re all for me!
All for me!
Can’t you see?
Can’t you see?”

He unwrapped balls and bats,
And fuzzy, pink slippers.
He opened cards and candies,
And chocolate milk sippers.

Then he found clothing,
And doolies for their hair.
He even unwrapped,
Some polka dot underwear.

He found combs and brushes,
And a new pair of boots,
Toys and trinkets,
And all sorts of fruits.

But when all was done,
And all was through,
He looked at the gifts,
And suddenly felt blue.

Gifts are not fun,
If no one’s there,
To laugh and smile,
And really care

That’s when he realized,
That’s when he knew,
There was only one thing,
That he could do.

Re-wrap each gift,
And put it in place,
Then wait to see,
The smile on each face.

So that’s what he did,
It took him all night,
But the last one was finished,
Before the first light.

Then Jack Spree watched,
From far up above,
And saw the family share,
The gifts of their love.

Then he knew that Christmas,
Was about more than a gift,
What are presents without love,
To share it with?

Christmas is about love,
The love of one Man,
Who was God in a body,
Who came with a plan.

To die on a cross,
To save you and me,
That's why Christmas without Jesus,
Is empty, you see.

He's the reason we share,
He's the reason we love,
Because God sent His Son,
From heaven above.



Greed

Sometimes when gifts are involved, we are more concerned about ourselves than anyone else, but listen to what Jesus said in the Bible in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." This Christmas, don't just think about yourself, but remember that Christmas is about Jesus and how He became the greatest gift of all. Then share His love with others.

Parent's Initial _____
4 points earned in this activity



Bible Memory Week 4

These verses are for the whole family!

HELPS

-Kindergarteners get two helps per verse. (*Some challenges may contain more than one verse.*)

-1st-3rd graders are allowed one help per verse. (*Some challenges may contain more than one verse.*)

-4th-6th grade students are allowed no helps at all.

After your child says each verse, ask him what it means. We want our kids not only to memorize Scripture but to understand it as well.

4 points each

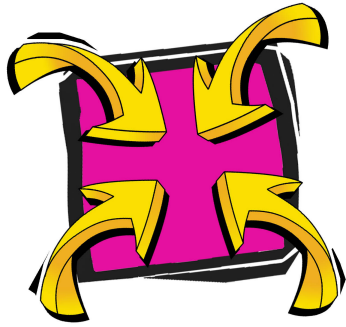
_____ Romans 8:28—And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

_____ James 1:17—Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights

_____ Romans 5:8— But God showed His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

*Need more challenges? Want to earn more points?
Try the Extra Bible Memory challenges at the end of this book.*

Points earned on this Page - _____



Family Time with God

Week 4—Ice Cube Melt

YOU WILL NEED: An ice cube or a small ice sickle for each child and a Bible marked at Luke 22:39-44

GET STARTED

Give each family member an ice cube and race to see who can melt theirs the fastest by holding it in their hand.

ASK: Did you ever feel like giving up?

SAY: I'm going to read a story to you out of the Bible about a time when Jesus didn't give up.

Read Luke 22:39-44 from your Bible.

ASK: When Jesus said "cup" what do you think He was talking about?

SAY: He was referring to all the pain and suffering He would have to endure to pay the price for our sins. Even though He was born to be the Savior of the world and even though He was perfect, it still didn't make it easy for Him to take the punishment for everybody's wrongdoings. But this is how much He loves you—That he suffered and died to make a way to forgive your sins and to make a way for you to go to heaven.



Family Prayer Requests

PRAY—Thank Jesus for being the Savior of the world.

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



Food for Thought Week 4

YOU WILL NEED: Instant hot chocolate, cups, small marshmallows, hot water (but not too hot) and a Bible marked at John 3:16

GET STARTED

Help each member of your family make a cup of hot chocolate. Then, once it's mixed, ask them if they can separate out the chocolate from the water.

SAY: Just like the chocolate and the water can't be separated because they have been joined together, when you give your life to Jesus, you are joined to Him and nothing can separate you from His love.

Read Romans 8:38-39 from your Bible.

ASK: What can separate you from the love of Christ? (Nothing—not even you. After all, you are a “created thing”)

SAY: Once you've given your life to Christ, nothing can separate you from Him.

Read John 10:28-29 from your Bible.

Put a small marshmallow in your hand and make a fist. Ask if anyone thinks they can pull it out. Let them take turns trying. Even let them use two hands or join in together. The only way for them to get it out is to be stronger than you.

ASK: Is anyone stronger than God? (No.)

SAY: Then no one is able to pull you out of His hands and He will never let go of you. He loves you and will always keep you in His hands.

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



My Time with God Week 4

Read in your Bible: *(Younger students can have their parents read this to them and can answer the questions aloud.)*
Luke 2:1-20

Respond

What part of this Bible story sticks out to you the most?

Who were the main characters in the story?

Why do you think they chose to act in the ways that they did?

What lessons can you learn from this story that will help you to follow God?

Pray

What would you like to tell Jesus about this story or how it fits with your life? Is there anything you would like to praise the Lord for or ask Him to do in your life?

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



Bible Bedtime Readings

The following readings are great for bedtime or any mealtime. Just take a few moments to read the Bible with your family. You don't have to ask any questions or even have a discussion about it—there is power in the reading and hearing of God's Word.

Week 4

2 points per reading

_____ Read Colossians 2:1-7

_____ Read Colossians 2:8-15

_____ Read Colossians 2:16-23

_____ Read Colossians 2:24-29

_____ Read Colossians 3:1-11

Points earned on this Page - _____



Character-Building Bedtime Stories Week 4

T'was the Night Before Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas,
And all through the home,
We could hear the loud snoring,
Of Uncle Jerome.

The family had come,
From real far and real near,
To share with us,
Their Christmas cheer.

I laid awake,
On top of my bed,
Thinking of presents,
Stacked as high as my head.

When to where,
Should my weary mind go,
But to toys and treats,
And Christmas snow.

When what should my wandering thoughts,
Finally see,
But lots of presents,
And all for me.

Above the loud snoring,
That kept pace with the time,
Came one word—
Mine! Mine! Mine!

Then my dreams drifted,
Back to a time long ago,
When a Savior was born,
Who loved me so.

Then above the noise,
Of the loud snores,
One word came to me—
Yours! Yours! Yours!

That's when it struck me,

And I knew it was true,
That Christmas isn't about gifts,
But it's all about YOU—
And whether you know,
The God of love,
Who sent His Son,
From heaven above.

With these thoughts,
I fell asleep until light,
Wishing that everyone,
Knew my Jesus tonight.



Sharing Christ

The best gift you can share with a friend is the Good News of Jesus, and sharing Christ begins by realizing that not everyone knows Him. Who do you know who might not know the Lord?

The Bible says in John 1:12, "Yet to all who received him [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

Parent's Initial _____
4 points earned in this activity



Bible Memory Week 5

These verses are for the whole family!

HELPS

-Kindergarteners get two helps per verse. (*Some challenges may contain more than one verse.*)

-1st-3rd graders are allowed one help per verse. (*Some challenges may contain more than one verse.*)

-4th-6th grade students are allowed no helps at all.

After your child says each verse, ask him what it means. We want our kids not only to memorize Scripture but to understand it as well.

4 points each

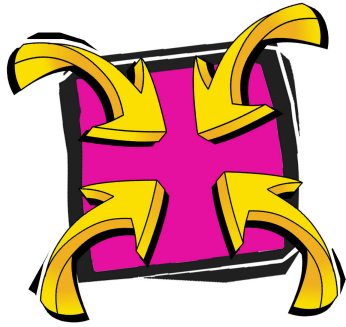
_____ 2 Corinthians 5:17— Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

8 points

_____ John 10:28-29— Jesus said, “And I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”

*Need more challenges? Want to earn more points?
Try the Extra Bible Memory challenges at the end of this book.*

Points earned on this Page - _____



Family Time with God Week 5—“Snowball Fight”

YOU WILL NEED: 1 Bag of Large Marshmallows and a Bible marked at 1 Corinthians 10:13

GET STARTED

Have an inside “snowball” fight using large marshmallow. You may want to outline certain boundaries, such as not going in bedrooms, etc. Or, if you desire, you can play all over the house. You can even play a hide-and-seek version. Have fun and don’t worry about marshmallows going everywhere. Messes last a little while; memories last a lifetime. After your game, gather your family around and continue with the following:

ASK: Did anybody get hit by a marshmallow they didn’t see coming?

SAY: In life sometimes you get hit by a temptation you didn’t see coming.

ASK: What is an example of temptation? (Being tempted to cheat on a test, etc.)

ASK: Is it wrong to be tempted? (No. Temptation is not wrong, but if you give into the temptation, that’s sin. Jesus was tempted, but He overcame it.)

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 from your Bible.

SAY: God always makes a way for you to escape from temptation. So the next time you’re being tempted, talk to Jesus and ask Him for the strength to do what’s right. Then let your love for Jesus overcome the temptation because those who love Jesus obey Him.



Family Prayer Requests

PRAY—Thank God for always making a way to escape from temptation.

Parent’s Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



Food for Thought Week 5

YOU WILL NEED: 1 bag of Large Marshmallows, a candle, and a Bible marked at 2 Corinthians 5:17

GET STARTED

Take turns roasting marshmallows over a candle. This can be safely done inside, but be sure to tell your children never to do this unless you are with them. Also, if you put the marshmallow on a fork to hold it over the flame, don't immediately stick it into your mouth. Instead, scrape it onto a plate and use a separate utensil with which to eat it.

ASK: **How did the marshmallow change when it was over the fire?** (It looked different. It even tasted different. It got hot, etc.)

SAY: Just like the flame brought a change to the marshmallows, Jesus can bring a change to anyone who is willing to give their lives to Him.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 from your Bible.

SAY: It doesn't matter how good or bad a person is or what they look like or what mistakes they've made, Jesus is willing to save anyone who comes to Him. Jesus can even change the heart of the meanest person in the world if that person is willing to accept Him as Lord and Savior.

PRAY—Pray for someone you know whom you think doesn't know Jesus.

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



My Time with God Week 5

Read in your Bible: *(Younger students can have their parents read this to them and can answer the questions aloud.)*
Matthew 2:1-15

Respond

What part of this Bible story sticks out to you the most?

Who were the main characters in the story?

Why do you think they chose to act in the ways that they did?

What lessons can you learn from this story that will help you to follow God?

Pray

What would you like to tell Jesus about this story or how it fits with your life? Is there anything you would like to praise the Lord for or ask Him to do in your life?

Parent's Initial _____
10 points earned in this activity



Bible Bedtime Readings

The following readings are great for bedtime or any mealtime. Just take a few moments to read the Bible with your family. You don't have to ask any questions or even have a discussion about it—there is power in the reading and hearing of God's Word.

Week 5

2 points per reading

_____ Read Colossians 3:12-25

_____ Read Colossians 4:1-6

_____ Read Colossians 4:7-18

_____ Read Psalm 1

_____ Read Psalm 23

Points earned on this Page - _____



Character-Building Bedtime Stories Week 5

A Skunk for Christmas

I want a skunk for Christmas,
In a bright, red box.
I don't want brand new underwear.
I don't brand new socks.

I don't want fuzzy pajamas,
I don't want bunny slippers,
I don't want hats and mittens,
Or a jacket with lots of zippers.

"I want a skunk!"
I said with a yell.
"With a big, white stripe,
Down his black tail."

"Where would you keep him?"
My mama said,
"Surely not in the kitchen.
Surely not in your bed."

"I'll keep him in *your* bedroom."
I said very proudly.
"What about the smell?"
She responded rather loudly.

Her question made me think,
Then I thought that I might quit.
But still I responded strongly,
"The skunk will get used to it."



What Belongs

There's a reason none of your friends have pet skunks. They don't belong. There are other things that don't belong in your life too. Sin doesn't belong in your life. God didn't create you to do bad things. He made you to know Him and to love Him and to walk with Him all the days of your life. The Bible says in Micah 6:8, "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

The new year is a great time to think about how you've been living and to make any changes that you know God would want you to make.

Parent's Initial _____
4 points earned in this activity



Extra Bible Memory

This month we are continuing to memorize through the majority of Colossians 3, one verse at a time. For this one booklet only we have also increased each verse to 3 points.

3 points each
Colossians 3

_____ Colossians 3:1—Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

_____ Colossians 3:2—Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

_____ Colossians 3:3—For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

_____ Colossians 3:4—When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

_____ Colossians 3:5—Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

_____ Colossians 3:6—For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,

_____ Colossians 3:7—And in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

_____ Colossians 3:8—But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.

_____ Colossians 3:9—Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,

_____ Colossians 3:10—And have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him--

_____ Colossians 3:11—A renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

_____ - *Points on this Page*

Extra Bible Memory Continued...

3 points each

Colossians 3

_____ Colossians 3:12— So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

_____ Colossians 3:13— Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

_____ Colossians 3:14— Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

_____ Colossians 3:15— Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

_____ Colossians 3:16— Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

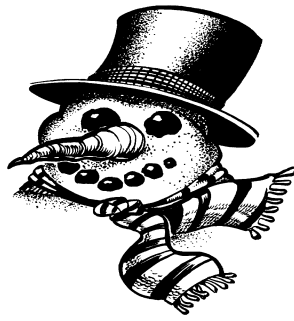
_____ Colossians 3:17— Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

_____ Colossians 4:2— Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.

_____ Colossians 4:5— Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

_____ Colossians 4:6— Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

_____ - *Points on this Page*



Special Edition

Let it Snow!

Use these five special activities as learning lessons any time it snows this winter.

Make a Snow Angel

Read Luke 2:26-35. Discuss how Mary must have felt when the angel appeared; How she must have felt carrying God's Son; How Joseph, to whom she was engaged, must have felt. You can also read about the angel appearing to him in Matthew 1:20-21. Why did the angel say the baby should be named Jesus?

Parent's Initial _____

6 points earned in this activity

Make a Snowman

Just like you made the snowman the size and shape, with the eyes and ears (of lack thereof) that you wanted, God made you the way He wanted. He built you the way you are for a reason and He has special plans for your life.

Read John 1:12 to find out part of God's special plan for you.

Parent's Initial _____

6 points earned in this activity

_____ - *Points on this Page*

Special Edition Continued...

Let it Snow!

Follow in the Footprints

Take turns making tracks through the snow and see if everyone else can follow in the leader's footprints. Then discuss what it means to follow Jesus. When you follow someone, you step where they step, do what they do—To follow Jesus means to be like Jesus. What does it mean to be like Jesus? What does the Bible say in Matthew 5:48 about being like God?

Parent's Initial _____
6 points earned in this activity

Dirty Snow (As it melts)

Get some dirty snow (or slush) from along the street or out of a parking lot. Take it home and see if your children can clean it up. Their challenge is to make it "white as snow" again. It's impossible. Then read Isaiah 1:18 to find out what can take a person's sins away and make them "whiter than snow." (The answer: This verse looks forward to the salvation Jesus would bring.)

Parent's Initial _____
6 points earned in this activity

Almost Gone (As it melts)

Going. Going. Almost gone. Look up James 4:13-14 to find out what else doesn't last forever. How can a person live forever? Will Jesus' love last forever? Find out in Romans 8:38-39.

Parent's Initial _____
6 points earned in this activity

_____ - *Points on this Page*