

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

Luke 10:25-37

BIBLE VERSE:

Luke 10:27

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus said to love others.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

We should love others. (YK)

We should love others through our words, thoughts, and actions. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Numbers 9:15-23

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Numbers 9:23

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Numbers 1:1-18*

MONDAY: *Numbers 1:19-46*

TUESDAY: *Numbers 1:47–2:34*

WEDNESDAY: *Numbers 3:1-39*

THURSDAY: *Numbers 3:40-51*

FRIDAY: *Numbers 4:1-20*

SATURDAY: *Numbers 4:21-49*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Luke and Numbers together as a family:



- **Testing Jesus.** A scribe, or expert in the law, approached Jesus, and as these men often did, the expert asked a question that challenged both Jesus' authority and knowledge of Scripture. Jesus turned the question around, however, and asked the scribe—the interpreter of the law—what the law taught. The scribe answered correctly that the law said to love God most of all and to love your neighbor as much as you love yourself. Trying to justify himself before Jesus, the scribe asked Jesus to identify for him who would be considered a neighbor.
- **Want to be a neighbor?** The scribe may have had a preconceived idea of who his neighbor was, so he was likely not ready for Jesus' response. Jesus told a parable about a man who traveled along a well-known route between Jerusalem and Jericho. The man was robbed, beaten, and left for dead. While lying on the side of the road he was encountered by three men. The first man, a priest, responsible for temple worship, passed by on the other side. The second man, a Levite, responsible for assisting in worship, passed by on the other side as well. The third man, a Samaritan, people who lived in the former capital of the Northern Kingdom and were considered outcasts by the Jews, offered assistance and help. When the scribe heard of the man's actions, he agreed that the Samaritan had been the neighbor.
- **Go and do the same.** Jesus told the scribe to go be a neighbor as he had learned. Jesus was highlighting obedience to God's Word as a way to receive direction from God—not a new concept. God has always directed His people and, Moses, in Numbers 9, shared that God directed His people by leading them with a cloud. As Jesus showed in His parable, God still offers direction to His people through His Word, and God will be honored when people are obedient to His direction.

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

BIBLE VERSE:

1 John 4:10

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

God loves everyone. (BT)

Every person is important to God. (PS)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God is our loving Father. (YK)

God is our loving Father who eagerly welcomes us home when we repent of our sin. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Numbers 14:5-19

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Numbers 14:18

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Numbers 5:1-31*

MONDAY: *Numbers 6:1-27*

TUESDAY: *Numbers 7:1-29*

WEDNESDAY: *Numbers 7:30-59*

THURSDAY: *Numbers 7:60-89*

FRIDAY: *Numbers 8:1-26*

SATURDAY: *Numbers 9:1-23*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Luke and Numbers together as a family:



- **A tale of two sons.** Jesus continued teaching through parables. In the parable of the lost son, Jesus is showing God's nature as a loving father. In Jesus' parable a father had two sons. The younger son requested, and received, his portion of the family estate. The son squandered his riches and ended up working for a farmer who raised pigs. When Jesus told this portion of His parable, most of the Jews would have been outraged that a man would stoop this low. Jesus' story pointed out the deplorable condition which the son in His story had sunk. The younger son came to his senses and returned to his father who restored him to his previous position. The older son was upset but was assured by his father that celebration for finding what had been lost was in order.
- **Everyone is important to God.** Jesus told this parable as part of a threefold parable. All three stories highlight that when salvation comes, celebration is important. The younger son in this story was lost, without direction, and living according to his own desires. The son had forgotten God's laws and instead was living how he wanted. When he spent all of his money and returned home the prodigal son was graciously accepted by his father. Jesus helped the people see that God is like that father, accepting those who had chosen to live their own way, instead of following God's way.
- **Faithfully follow God.** The Book of Numbers also highlights the grace of God to those who turn from their rebellion and trust Him. In Numbers 14, Joshua and Caleb had given Israel the good news that the promised land was plentiful and ready to be taken. The people, however, had not been swayed and wanted to return to Egypt. God planned to kill the people who rebelled, but Moses and Aaron prayed for the people and God relented from killing the people. God showed His grace to those who trusted in and faithfully followed Him.

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

Luke 19:1-10

BIBLE VERSE:

Luke 19:10

BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

People wanted to see and hear Jesus.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

When we trust in Jesus, He changes what is important to us. (YK)

Knowing and loving Jesus transforms our hearts. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Numbers 20:1-13

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Numbers 20:12

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Numbers 10:1-36*

MONDAY: *Numbers 11:1-35*

TUESDAY: *Numbers 12:1-16*

WEDNESDAY: *Numbers 13:1-25*

THURSDAY: *Numbers 13:26-33*

FRIDAY: *Numbers 14:1-25*

SATURDAY: *Numbers 14:26-45*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Luke and Numbers together as a family:



- **Tax collectors and sinners.** Jesus was accused on more than one occasion of spending too much time with sinners. Several times, the disciples were even questioned as to why Jesus spent time with people the Jews considered to be undesirable and unsuitable for salvation. Jesus knew God sent Him for such people. The story of Zacchaeus highlights God's desire for all to come to repentance and shows that no one is beyond God's grace. Zacchaeus was known as a chief tax collector, which would have meant he was a supervisor. Tax collectors gained significant wealth by defrauding people, and we know that Zacchaeus was very wealthy.
- **Half of his possessions.** Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was in Jericho and Zacchaeus desired to see Jesus. Zacchaeus had a significant problem—he was short and could not see over the gathered crowd. Many people wanted to see and hear Jesus. Undeterred, Zacchaeus climbed a nearby sycamore tree and waited for Jesus to come by. When Jesus arrived, He looked up into the tree and spoke to Zacchaeus telling him to come down. Jesus told Zacchaeus that He wanted to have dinner with Zacchaeus that day. The people questioned why Jesus would want to eat with a sinner. Overcome, Zacchaeus pledged half of his wealth to the poor, and promised to not only repay, but to give back four times what he took. Jesus announced salvation had come to Zacchaeus. Jesus declared this to be the reason He came—to seek and the save the lost.
- **Actions speak louder than words.** God expects His people to honor Him with obedience. Jesus transformed Zacchaeus' life and Zacchaeus became obedient to God's Word. Moses, however, struggled to lead the nation of Israel. In Numbers 20, the people were grumbling and asking for water. God instructed Moses to speak to a rock, but Moses, out of frustration hit the rock. Moses' failure to obey God meant he would not enter the promised land. Obedience to God honors Him.

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

Luke 2:1-20

BIBLE VERSE:

Luke 2:11

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus, our Savior, was born in Bethlehem. (YK)

Jesus is the Messiah, our Lord, and our Savior. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Matthew 1:18-25; Numbers 21:6-9

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 1:21

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Numbers 15:1-21*

MONDAY: *Numbers 15:22-41*

TUESDAY: *Numbers 16:1-21*

WEDNESDAY: *Numbers 16:22-35*

THURSDAY: *Numbers 16:36-50*

FRIDAY: *Numbers 17:1-13*

SATURDAY: *Numbers 18:1-18*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Luke, Matthew, and Numbers together as a family:



- **The birth of Jesus.** Jesus was born in Bethlehem just as the prophets had said. God's Word is true and, more than 400 years before Jesus' birth, the prophet, Micah, announced that Bethlehem would be the place where this event would take place. Joseph, Mary's husband, was from the family of David and Joseph had been ordered to go to Bethlehem in order to be counted under a census. Joseph took Mary, his wife, and went to Bethlehem, where Baby Jesus was born.
- **Shepherds and angels.** At the time Jesus was born, the profession of shepherd was not a glamorous position. A shepherd would have been considered as one of the lowest of society. God took special interest in the shepherds, however, and sent a group of angels to shepherds to announce the birth of His Son. The shepherds heard the message and rushed to Bethlehem to see the baby the angels had told about. The shepherds worshiped God and left, announcing the news to any whom they encountered.
- **Faith in God brings obedience to His commands.** The shepherds heard the message and, as instructed, went to the manger. When confronted with God's message, believing in faith will result in obedience to God's commands. Like the shepherds, God commands that His people follow His instructions.
- **Salvation is available only by turning to Jesus in faith.** In Numbers 21, the Bible records a story of belief. As the Israelite people continued to grumble, God sent snakes into the midst of the people. Many people were bitten, but God instructed Moses to fashion a snake from bronze and hang it from the end of a pole. When those who were bitten looked at the snake, God made them well again. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, people who turn to God through faith in Jesus—whom God sent as a baby in Bethlehem—will experience salvation.

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 29, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

Luke 2:40-52

BIBLE VERSE:

Luke 2:52

BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus grew and learned.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus came to obey God's plan. (YK)

Jesus came to do God's will. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Numbers 22:22-35

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Numbers 22:38

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Numbers 18:19-32*

MONDAY: *Numbers 19:1-22*

TUESDAY: *Numbers 20:1-29*

WEDNESDAY: *Numbers 21:1-35*

THURSDAY: *Numbers 22:1-21*

FRIDAY: *Numbers 22:22-41*

SATURDAY: *Numbers 23:1-30*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Luke and Numbers together as a family:



- **Time at the Passover.** Jesus' family participated each year in the Passover festival. This was one of the major Jewish celebrations and required Jews to travel to Jerusalem for the festival. On the occasion in Luke 2, Jesus was 12 years old. The passover celebration lasted for seven days, and when it was over, Mary, Joseph, and their family left to return to Nazareth.
- **Jesus was nowhere to be found.** Likely Joseph would have walked with the men and Mary would have walked with the women. Possibly, Mary and Joseph could have expected Jesus to have been traveling with the other parent. Until they had stopped for the evening, no one noticed Jesus was not in the traveling party. Jesus had not stayed in Jerusalem to be disrespectful to His earthly parents; He had a mission and was being obedient to God's plan for Him.
- **Didn't you know it was necessary for Me to be in My Father's house?** Jesus was found in the temple talking with the priests. The priests were impressed by the questions Jesus asked and they, in turn, asked Jesus questions of their own. When Mary and Joseph questioned Jesus' decision to remain behind, He simply answered, "Didn't you know it was necessary for Me to be in My Father's house?" Jesus knew why He had come, even at the age of 12. Jesus honored His earthly parents and remained obedient to them.
- **Represent.** God calls His followers to represent Him and His purposes in this world. Jesus represented God's purposes, because, as the Son of God, Jesus understood what His purpose was. Numbers 22 gives an example of a well-known magician, named Balaam, who made it his purpose to curse other nations for profit. God however, had another purpose in mind for Balaam. Confronted by his sin, Balaam was used by God to share a great message of hope for Israel as he looked forward to Christ's eventual appearance.

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5, 2020



BIBLE STORY:

Philippians 1-4

BIBLE VERSE:

Philippians 2:5

BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Live like Jesus and tell about Him.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus showed us how to live in peace with others. (YK)

When we follow Jesus' example of humility, we live in harmony with others. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Numbers 27:12-23

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Numbers 27:17

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Numbers 24:1-25*

MONDAY: *Numbers 25:1-18*

TUESDAY: *Numbers 26:1-27*

WEDNESDAY: *Numbers 26:28-65*

THURSDAY: *Numbers 27:1-23*

FRIDAY: *Numbers 28:1-31*

SATURDAY: *Numbers 29:1-40*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *Philippians* and *Numbers* together as a family:



- **Philippi, a city of Macedonia.** Paul traveled quite a bit telling people everywhere about Jesus. On Paul's second missionary journey, he came upon the region of Macedonia. When Paul crossed into Macedonia, he went to the city of Philippi. This city was a Roman colony, and when Paul sought to preach on the Sabbath, he could not find a synagogue. Paul visited a riverbank and found a group of women meeting together. One woman, Lydia, became a believer. Paul interacted with many in the city of Philippi and later wrote a letter to the church that had started through his ministry in Philippi.
- **Reflections of Jesus.** Paul's letter to the church in Philippi highlights for believers what a life that reflects Jesus looks like. One of those characteristics of Jesus was to be a seeker of God. Jesus' life was solely focused on living according to God's ways and will. Using Jesus as an example, Paul also told the Philippians they should live in right ways and think of others long before they thought of their own selfish needs and desires. Paul had grounds for making these suggestions, as Paul himself was writing this letter to the church from his prison cell. Paul had been arrested for being a reflection of Jesus, yet, even in prison, he wrote a letter of encouragement to a church he helped start telling them to continue in their faithful teaching.
- **Invest in the next generation.** One of Paul's aims in writing his letters was to encourage, but he also planned for others to benefit from his writings. Paul likely did not write these letters thinking that one day they would be collected, but by encouraging his contemporary churches, Paul knew future generations would benefit too. Paul exemplified Moses' teaching of preparing a future generation to experience God. *Numbers 27* records how Moses was taken up a mountain by God and told that he would soon die. Knowing how important it was for future generations to not forget God, Moses pleaded with God to appoint a new leader. God chose Joshua.

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2020



BIBLE STORY:

Colossians 1–4

BIBLE VERSE:

Colossians 3:17

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Work together and do your best.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus is our Creator and Redeemer. (YK)

Jesus is our Creator, Redeemer, and Lord. He has reconciled us to God. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Numbers 32:20-32

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Numbers 32:23b

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Numbers 30:1-16*

MONDAY: *Numbers 31:1-30*

TUESDAY: *Numbers 31:31-54*

WEDNESDAY: *Numbers 32:1-42*

THURSDAY: *Numbers 33:1-27*

FRIDAY: *Numbers 33:28-56*

SATURDAY: *Numbers 34:1-29*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Colossians and Numbers together as a family:



- **Colossae, city of Asia Minor.** Colossae during Paul's day was a small city. Hundreds of years earlier, the city had been a booming metropolis but, once other cities in the area grew, Colossae was reduced to a small town. Residents of the city were known for dyeing wool and their prime export was a particular color of red wool that was very popular in the area. Paul had never visited the city of Colossae, but, while Paul was in prison he wrote this letter to the Colossian church. The church knew of Paul and had some questions they needed answers to, so they sought Paul's advice. Paul had friends in Colossae and intended to visit them as soon as he was released from prison.
- **Reconciled to God.** Even though Paul had never visited Colossae, it was evident he had heard many things about the church and their commitment to their faith. Paul began his letter by commending the church for their commitment to share the gospel with others and encouraged the church to be faithful in their mission of sharing the gospel. To exhort the church, Paul reminded them of Jesus' life and what His sacrifice and resurrection brought to people. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, people could experience new life in Him as Jesus reconciled sinners to God. In essence, Paul said that because Jesus died and was raised from the dead, sinners had a way to receive the salvation that came through Jesus' sacrifice.
- **Keep your promises.** Paul taught the Colossian church to stay committed to their calling so they could have hope that what God promised will always come true. Numbers 32 tells how Moses reminded two tribes of Israel of a commitment they made to fight with Israel when they finally crossed into the promised land. Because they trusted God's promise and followed through on their commitment to defend Israel, the two tribes were blessed and received the land God had promised them.

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 19, 2020



BIBLE STORY:

Philemon

BIBLE VERSE:

Matthew 7:12

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Be kind and loving. (BT)

Forgive others when they wrong you. (PS)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

We should love and forgive each other. (YK)

We should love and forgive each other because we are brothers and sisters in Christ. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Deuteronomy 5:17; 19:4-13

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 5:17

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Numbers 35:1-34*

MONDAY: *Numbers 36:1-13*

TUESDAY: *Deuteronomy 1:1-18*

WEDNESDAY: *Deuteronomy 1:19-46*

THURSDAY: *Deuteronomy 2:1-37*

FRIDAY: *Deuteronomy 3:1-29*

SATURDAY: *Deuteronomy 4:1-43*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Philemon and Deuteronomy together as a family:



- **Philemon, friend of Paul.** The Book of Philemon is a personal letter written by Paul to his close friend, Philemon who lived in Colossae. It is likely that Philemon was one of the leaders of the Colossian church and could have been the one to make Paul aware of the progress the church had made in their quest to share the gospel. This letter is a short, very personal letter, that dealt with a matter of particular importance to Paul.
- **Onesimus my servant.** Onesimus was one of Philemon's slaves. Paul was in prison and had met Onesimus after Onesimus had run away from Philemon. Paul discovered the connection and was compelled to write this letter to Philemon. Paul began by thanking God for Philemon and encouraged Philemon to continue sharing, in God's strength, the things he was known for sharing. Paul recognized Philemon's love for people and the gospel. On the basis of Philemon's love for people and the gospel, Paul invited Philemon to receive Onesimus back to his home, not as a slave, but as a brother in Christ. Paul told Philemon that as Onesimus may have not been useful to Philemon before, now he was a brother in Christ and useful to Paul.
- **All life is important.** Paul appealed to Philemon to value the life of Onesimus, not because he was useful to Philemon, but because his new life in Christ made him useful to both Paul and Philemon. The concept of valuing life is evident in the Ten Commandments God gave to Moses. The Book of Deuteronomy gives instructions for people to, among other things, not murder and show respect for God and for others. Like the Ten Commandments teach, Paul encouraged a respect for human life, telling Philemon that God values all people and wants believers to treat others with the same respect that God does.

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26, 2020



BIBLE STORY:

Obadiah

BIBLE VERSE:

Genesis 12:3

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

God will take care of His people.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God cares for His people. (YK)

God cares for His people and will deliver them from their enemies. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Deuteronomy 4:1-9

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 4:9

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Deuteronomy 4:44–5:21*

MONDAY: *Deuteronomy 5:22-33*

TUESDAY: *Deuteronomy 6:1-25*

WEDNESDAY: *Deuteronomy 7:1-26*

THURSDAY: *Deuteronomy 8:1-20*

FRIDAY: *Deuteronomy 9:1-29*

SATURDAY: *Deuteronomy 10:1-22*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *Obadiah* and *Deuteronomy* together as a family:



- **Obadiah, prophet to Edom.** The prophet who wrote *Obadiah*, is virtually anonymous. The name *Obadiah* means “servant of Yahweh” and was a very popular name during Old Testament times. It would be really hard to pin down the man named *Obadiah* who wrote this book. Regardless, God’s message through *Obadiah* was delivered to the people of Edom. The Edomites were descended from Jacob’s twin brother, Esau. Jacob’s descendants became the nation of Israel, while Esau’s descendants became the people of Edom. The Edomites were not friendly to the people of Israel and constantly harassed them.
- **Israel is taken away.** The nation of Israel, also known as the Northern Kingdom, had been conquered and the people taken away. The nation of Judah, also known as the Southern Kingdom, had also been captured by the Babylonians. With this news, Edom thought God was on their side since their enemies had all been captured. In arrogance, Edom began to believe they were invincible. *Obadiah*’s message made it clear to Edom that no matter how lofty they felt their position was, God was going to send someone to conquer them too. Being high up in the hills was no protection from God’s wrath. *Obadiah* warned Edom to not make fun of Israel’s plight since the same fate would soon befall them.
- **Honor God through obedience.** *Obadiah*’s message to Edom taught that disobedience to God would lead to their destruction. Moses taught the same message in *Deuteronomy*, his final sermon to Israel. Moses reminded Israel how God had blessed them through their history. Moses told the people to honor God through their obedience to the commands God had passed down years before. God told the people that honoring Him would lead to blessing, and part of their obedience was to be an example of God’s grace to other nations. Unlike Edom, Israel’s history showed they did have grace for other nations though they did not always follow God.

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2, 2020



BIBLE STORY:

Ezekiel

BIBLE VERSE:

Ezekiel 37:27

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Ezekiel told people what God said.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*God can heal what our sin has broken. (YK)
God can turn death into life and restore what was broken. (OK)*

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Deuteronomy 6:1-13

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 6:5

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Deuteronomy 11:1-32*

MONDAY: *Deuteronomy 12:1-32*

TUESDAY: *Deuteronomy 13:1-18*

WEDNESDAY: *Deuteronomy 14:1-29*

THURSDAY: *Deuteronomy 15:1-23*

FRIDAY: *Deuteronomy 16:1-22*

SATURDAY: *Deuteronomy 17:1-20*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Ezekiel and Deuteronomy together as a family:



- **Ezekiel, prophet to the exiles.** Ezekiel had been taken as a captive to Babylon in 597 BC when Nebuchadnezzar attacked Judah and took 10,000 captives back to Babylon. After five years, Ezekiel was called by God as a prophet to the people who were now living in exile in Babylon. Ezekiel's message was a message of hope for the people because he knew that God would one day allow the exiles to return to Jerusalem. Those in Jerusalem who had not been taken captive also benefited from Ezekiel's message of hope.
- **A message of warning.** Ezekiel prophesied to the captives for 23 years, and as did most prophets, Ezekiel gave a message of hope with a bit of warning thrown in. Those who still lived in Jerusalem had time to repent before being taken into captivity. Ezekiel prayed that God would encourage the people of Judah to fully repent so God would not send the disaster. Once Judah failed to repent, God eventually sent Babylon to finish what they had started. In 586 BC Jerusalem was destroyed and the remaining inhabitants were taken away as captives.
- **A message of hope.** Once Jerusalem was captured and burned, Ezekiel's message became one of hope. Ezekiel's prophetic ministry was different from other prophets because God asked Ezekiel to perform symbolic tasks that portrayed the final disaster of Judah. God gave Ezekiel a vision of a valley of dried bones. God asked Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones. The bones regained their flesh and God breathed life back into the soldiers. God's message through this vision was a message of hope that one day God would revive the nation of Israel and allow them to return to Jerusalem.
- **Love God most of all.** Years earlier, Moses reminded the Israelites that God's greatest command was to love God most of all. God had continually given Israel instruction to love Him. As Moses had warned the people, not being faithful to God's commands is ultimately what led to their eventual exile.

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9, 2020



BIBLE STORY:

Daniel 1

BIBLE VERSE:

Deuteronomy 30:16a

BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Daniel loved God. (BT)

Daniel loved God and was true to Him. (PS)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

We should always obey God—even when it is hard. (YK)

We should always obey God—even when others do not. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Deuteronomy 18:15-22

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 18:19

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Deuteronomy 18:1-22*

MONDAY: *Deuteronomy 19:1-21*

TUESDAY: *Deuteronomy 20:1-20*

WEDNESDAY: *Deuteronomy 21:1-23*

THURSDAY: *Deuteronomy 22:1-30*

FRIDAY: *Deuteronomy 23:1-25*

SATURDAY: *Deuteronomy 24:1-22*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Daniel and Deuteronomy together as a family:



- **Daniel, prophet of the exile.** Like Ezekiel, Daniel was also an exile in Babylon. Daniel had been captured in 605 BC the first time Nebuchadnezzar attacked Judah. Nebuchadnezzar took captives and also many of the items from the temple to Babylon to set up in his shrines dedicated to his false god. Daniel is identified as someone from the royal household. Whether Daniel was a child of the Judean king is unknown, but he obviously had royal blood. Daniel was young when he was captured, but Daniel, even as a young man, had a great respect for God and knew God's Word.
- **Committed to God.** The Book of Daniel shows Daniel's and his three friends' commitment to God's ways and rules. As part of Daniel's training to serve King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel and the other captives had been ordered to do many things, one of which included eating food from the king's own table. Daniel and his three friends knew that the king's food would violate God's law, so they declined. When confronted by Ashpenaz, the royal servant, and asked why they were not eating the food, Daniel and his friends asked to be allowed to only eat vegetables and drink water for 10 days. Given permission, Daniel and his friends looked better than other captives after their test and were allowed to continue their unique diet. Finally the king decided these four men were better suited to serve than the other captives.
- **Moses, prophet to Israel.** Moses was the first prophet to the nation of Israel. As Israel's first leader, God put prophetic words into Moses' mouth to warn the people of God's judgment for disobedience. In Deuteronomy 18, Moses told the people that God would faithfully raise up from the people prophets to whom the people needed to listen. God's words would be delivered through the prophets, and faithful obedience to God would lead to blessing. Daniel continued the prophetic office and, like Moses, always encouraged obedience to God.

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16, 2020



BIBLE STORY:

Daniel 3

BIBLE VERSE:

Psalm 34:4

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Daniel's friends trusted God to help them.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God is the one true God. (YK)

God is the one true God. He can rescue His people from anything or anyone. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Deuteronomy 30:1-10,19-20

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 30:19

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Deuteronomy 25:1-19*

MONDAY: *Deuteronomy 26:1-19*

TUESDAY: *Deuteronomy 27:1-26*

WEDNESDAY: *Deuteronomy 28:1-14*

THURSDAY: *Deuteronomy 28:15-44*

FRIDAY: *Deuteronomy 28:45-68*

SATURDAY: *Deuteronomy 29:1-29*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Daniel and Deuteronomy together as a family:



- **Faithful followers.** For three years, Daniel and his friends had been through the king's training program. At the end of those three years, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were identified as the best among the captives and began to serve the king immediately. Unlike the other leaders, these four Hebrew men followed Yahweh. King Nebuchadnezzar built a statue to honor himself and commanded all of his leaders to bow down to the statue when the musicians played music. Those who chose not to bow in worship of the statue would be thrown into a blazing furnace.
- **Faithful until the end.** When the musicians played, all of Nebuchadnezzar's leaders bowed in worship except for three of them, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Other leaders noticed the indiscretion and went to inform the king that the three Hebrews had not bowed as commanded. Nebuchadnezzar immediately called for the three men to come and see him. When they arrived, Nebuchadnezzar asked if the men had not bowed. The men confirmed and the king gave them one last chance to bow before he would throw them in a blazing fire. Undeterred, and convinced that God had the ability to rescue them, the men did not bow. Nebuchadnezzar threw the men in the fire. A fourth man appeared in the fire. Rescued by God, the men came out unharmed.
- **Blessed by God.** Moses shared a message of hope for the people of Israel when he told them that obedience to God would delight God and God would restore the people once again. Moses shared this message with Israel as he was about to die and the nation was going to soon cross over into the land God had promised. The restoration to which Moses referred was still a future restoration for the exiles in Babylon. God's promise to always be with His people was an everlasting promise, so when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace, God's presence with them was a fulfillment of His promise to never leave His people.

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23, 2020



BIBLE STORY:

Daniel 6

BIBLE VERSE:

Psalm 56:3

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Daniel trusted in God.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

We can trust God. (YK)

We can obey God and trust His plan for our lives. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Deuteronomy 32:48-52; 34:4-7

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 32:4

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Deuteronomy 30:1-20*

MONDAY: *Deuteronomy 31:1-30*

TUESDAY: *Deuteronomy 32:1-27*

WEDNESDAY: *Deuteronomy 32:28-52*

THURSDAY: *Deuteronomy 33:1-29*

FRIDAY: *Deuteronomy 34:1-12*

SATURDAY: *Romans 1:1-7*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Daniel and Deuteronomy together as a family:



- **Pray without ceasing.** By the time the events recorded in Daniel 6 took place, Daniel was an old man likely in his 80's. The Bible tells us that God had been with Daniel and Daniel had faithfully served God as evidenced by his continual daily prayers. Daniel was observed praying three times each day. The new king, Darius, was pleased with Daniel and was set to make Daniel the chief administrator. The other administrators were not happy about this and tried to find a way to rid themselves of Daniel. There was nothing Daniel was doing that violated any of the laws of the region, so the men decided to change the law so Daniel's faith would become illegal.
- **Camping with the lions.** King Darius had passed a law making it illegal for anyone in his kingdom to pray to any god or thing except for Darius himself. Daniel knew of the law, but, Daniel stayed true to God and kept praying like he usually did. The administrators were glad to see Daniel praying and ran straight to the king to turn Daniel over for execution. The king tried everything he knew to save Daniel, but, the king was not exempt from the law either. Daniel was thrown into a den with lions. The next morning, the den was opened and Daniel was still alive, saved by God. Daniel trusted God to keep him safe and God was faithful.
- **Hope in God's promises.** Daniel knew what the consequences for his actions were. Daniel still faithfully believed in God's promises and knew that even if he died in the den of lions, He would then be in God's presence. Moses similarly trusted in God's promises when facing death. Moses knew God would not allow Moses to enter the promised land because of his previous disobedience. When the time came for Moses to die, God allowed Moses to see the promised land and Moses rejoiced knowing that Israel soon would receive God's promise.