

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 1
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 1:1-4 *EYEWITNESS TO JESUS*

INTRODUCTION

From Jesus birth to what he taught, his miracles, his suffering and death for our sins, his resurrection from the dead, his going back up into heaven, and his coming again one day—everything the Bible says about Jesus is true. That's what Luke, a doctor, historian, and friend of the apostle Paul wanted his friend Theophilus to know and believe. That's why he so carefully put together his Gospel. Luke wasn't there to see all the things Jesus did and said, but he talked to people who did, and he studied what they wrote—people who followed Jesus, who believed in him, and who taught others about him.

DISCUSSION

What do we believe about Jesus, and how do we know it's true?

EXPLANATION

- What does the word “gospel” mean?
- What is the gospel?
- What is an eyewitness?
- Who was Luke?
- For whom did Luke write his gospel?
- What was Luke's purpose in writing his gospel?
- How should you respond after reading Luke's gospel?

APPLICATION

Talk about some of the things you know about Jesus. Make a list. Pick a couple of those things each day this week and see if you can find verses in the Bible that talk about them. Have your kids look up the verses and read them if they can. Just like Luke's friend, Theophilus, we can believe that what we've been taught about Jesus is true, because it's in the Gospels—books written by eyewitnesses—people who followed Jesus, who believed in him, and who taught others about him. And because it's true, we can have faith in Jesus too! “But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:31 (ESV)

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 1:4 - “I want you to know that the things you have been taught are true.” (NirV)

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Week 2
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 1:5-25 JOHN THE BAPTIZER'S BIRTH PROPHESED

INTRODUCTION

When Luke wrote his gospel, it had been more than 400 years since God last spoke to his people Israel in Malachi chapter four. God promised to send someone who would get people ready for him to do something big—send his son Jesus. That person would be John the baptizer. Like the prophets in the Old Testament, he would tell people to stop sinning, and turn back to following God's ways. The plans and promises God made going all the way back to Genesis, and even before, were about to come true.

DISCUSSION

How do you get ready for someone very special to come and visit you?

EXPLANATION

- Who was Zechariah, and what was his job? *He served as a priest before God. He was advanced in years.*
- Who was Zechariah's wife? *Elizabeth.*
- Who talked to Zechariah in the temple? *Gabriel, a very important angel who stands in the presence of God.*
- What did Gabriel promise God would do for them? *Give them a son to be named John.*
- What did Gabriel say John would do? *He will prepare the way for the Lord by teaching parents to love their children and teaching people to obey God. He will bring many of Israel's people back to God.*
- Did Zechariah believe Gabriel? *No. Why or why not? He thought that he and his wife were too old to have a baby.*
- What happened to Zechariah next? *Gabriel made it so Zechariah couldn't talk or hear until John was born.*
- What happened to Elizabeth? *She got pregnant, just like Gabriel promised she would.*

APPLICATION

Talk about how your family gets ready for someone very special to visit, like grandparents from out of town or a friend you haven't seen in a long time. Now talk about what you would do to get ready if Jesus was coming to your house. What would you clean? What would you put away? What would you put out? How would you treat one another? Would you fight with your brother/sister, or would you try to get along? Have parents and older kids who are Christians share how they got ready for Jesus to come to their "spiritual" house (into their life)—share how God led you to him, how you turned away from your sins, and how you first believed in Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 1:17b - "He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord." (NLT)

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Week 3
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 1:26-38 *JESUS' BIRTH PROPHESED*

INTRODUCTION

Five months after his announcement to Zechariah, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, just an ordinary teenage girl, engaged to an ordinary man, from a town no one's heard of. By a special miracle of God the angel said, a baby would grow inside her, and she would give birth to God's one and only Son. They were to name him Jesus, and through him God would keep the promises he made to his people Israel long, long ago. Mary wasn't sure how it would happen, but she knew God had the power to work through a simple girl like her to do great things. She was ready to be God's humble servant.

DISCUSSION

What would you say if God asked you to do something really important?

EXPLANATION

- What was the name of the town where Mary lived? *Nazareth in Galilee.*
- Who was going to be Mary's husband? *Joseph.*
- Who came and talked to Mary? *The angel, Gabriel.*
- What did Gabriel say would happen to Mary? *God would make a baby grow inside her and she would give birth.*
- What name were Mary and Joseph to give the baby? *Jesus.*
- Who did Gabriel say Jesus would be? *He will be great, holy, the Son of God.*
- Since she wasn't married yet, how did Gabriel say Mary would get pregnant? *The Holy Spirit would make the baby grow inside her.*
- How did Mary respond to the news? *She said she would do whatever God wanted her to.*

APPLICATION

Through a simple girl named Mary, God would send his only Son into the world to save people his people from their sins. Talk about the great things God wants to do through you (telling people about Jesus, praying for others, showing Jesus' love by helping others, etc). Write them down, and commit to doing something each day this week. Talk about how Mary humbly obeyed and served God, and how we can have the same attitude when we do what God asks us to. Remember too that God gives us his Holy Spirit to help us do what he asks.

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 1:37 - "Nothing is impossible with God." (NirT)

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Week 4
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 1:39-45 *MARY AND ELIZABETH*

INTRODUCTION

The angel told Mary she would give birth to God's Son, and she believed it. He said that her elderly and childless cousin Elizabeth would have a baby too, and she believed it, and hurried off to see her. Mary was very special. She was special not because she was smarter or prettier or better than anyone else. Mary was special because God chose her to carry and give birth to the Savior of the world. Mary believed God would do what he promised, because she knew God was always trustworthy. Elizabeth also trusted God and her unborn baby John leaped with joy when Mary arrived.

DISCUSSION

Does God *always* keep his promises? Why or why not?

EXPLANATION

- Where did Mary go? *She went to a town in Judah to see her cousin Elizabeth.*
- Why did she go to see her? *To see the special thing God had done for Elizabeth & Zechariah.*
- What would Elizabeth's pregnancy mean for Mary? *It was a sign that nothing is impossible with God. If God could make it possible for Elizabeth to have a baby, he could certainly do what he promised for Mary too.*
- What happened when Elizabeth heard Mary's voice? *Elizabeth's baby leaped for joy in her womb.*
- What happened to Elizabeth next? *She was filled with the Holy Spirit, and said that Mary was blessed.*
- What does it mean that Mary is "blessed"? *To be blessed is to receive special favor from God.*
- Why, according to Elizabeth, was Mary blessed. *Mary was blessed because she would give birth to God's son, and because she believed that God would do what he promised.*

APPLICATION

God is faithful. That means that he always keeps His promises. Because God loves us and keeps his promises, we can trust him and be joyful. Trusting is simply believing that God keeps his promises. Mary shows us what it looks like to trust God, and Elizabeth shows us the joy we can have when we think about how God has saved us from our sins, and made us his children. A big part of trusting God comes from remembering what he has already done. It helps us to believe that he will keep his promises in the future. Parents, talk with your children about all the times God has been faithful to you in the past. Like the memorial stones in Joshua 4, help your kids write some of them down on rocks to keep and look at. Or keep a scrapbook of God's fulfilled

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promises to you. Add new ones when they happen, and go through them periodically in your times of worship, to remember that God always keeps his promises.

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 1:45b - "You have believed that what the Lord has said to you will be done!" (NirT)

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Week 5
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 1:46-56 *MARY'S SONG*

INTRODUCTION

Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth and found her pregnant, just as God had promised. That God would have Mary, the mother of Jesus her Savior visit her, made Elizabeth feel so joyful and special. Elizabeth praised God for that special blessing. Mary believed all that God had told her, and was so joyful, that she sang him a song. She sang about all the wonderful things he was doing for her, and all the great and wonderful things he would do for everyone who humbly loves and fears him. God is mighty, and holy, and merciful, and he keeps his promises. He is worthy of our praise!

DISCUSSION

What can we thank and praise God for?

EXPLANATION

- How does Mary thank and praise God in these verses? *She sings him a song.*
- What does Mary praise God for? *Mary praises God for letting a simple girl like her give birth to Jesus, for being kind to everyone who loves and fears him, and for keeping his promises.*
- What does it mean to magnify the Lord? *Magnifying the Lord means praising him for his greatness.*
- What does it mean to fear God? *To fear God means to believe, trust, and respect him because he is so big and mighty and good.*
- What is mercy? *Mercy is being kind and loving to someone who didn't earn or deserve it.*
- How does God treat people who love and respect him? *He helps them, feeds them, and is kind to them.*
- How does God treat people who think they don't need him and don't respect him? *God will punish those people, and take away what they have.*
- How long did Mary stay with Elizabeth before going home? *Three months.*

APPLICATION

Think about all the things God does for those who love and respect him. He gives us families to love us and for us to love, food to eat, homes to live in, his beautiful creation to enjoy, meaningful work, neighbors to love and care for and share the Gospel with, and most importantly, his Son Jesus. As a family, make your own list, and then individually or together write a song or a poem to use as you worship together this week. Include some of the words Mary used like magnify, fear, mercy, mighty, and holy. Praise God this week for what he has done for you, and what he will do in the future, remembering that God keeps his promises.

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 1:46b - "My soul magnifies the Lord." (ESV)

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Week 6
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 1:57-66 *THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER*

INTRODUCTION

God was at work doing something very special, and all Elizabeth and Zechariah's neighbors knew it. They thought their neighbor Elizabeth was too old to have a baby, and yet God blessed her so she could. Zechariah couldn't talk or hear for 9 months after he saw the angel in the temple. But after the baby was born, and he wrote down his name, right away he could talk again, and he praised God. Everyone knew God was with the baby in a special way. Elizabeth and Mary praised God and now it was Zechariah's turn. God would be kind and loving toward his people and keep his promises, even though they didn't deserve it. That's called "mercy". Zechariah sang about the promises God made long ago to Abraham—promises to save his people from their enemies so they could worship and serve him with their whole lives and not be afraid. He sang about his special baby, John, who will get God's people ready for their savior to come.

DISCUSSION

Why was John so important? What does it mean that God saves or redeems us? Why does he save us?

EXPLANATION

- What did Elizabeth's neighbors and relatives do when her baby was born? *They rejoiced with her.*
- What did Zechariah say when they asked him what the baby's name would be? *"His name is John."*
- Why did Elizabeth and Zechariah name their baby, John? *God told them to.*
- What does the word "prophesied" mean? *It means to tell God's message of what will happen in the future.*
- What's the first thing Zechariah does in his song? *He praises God.*
- What are some of the things Zechariah said God would do? *Visit and redeem his people, save them from their enemies, show them mercy, keep the promises he made long ago.*
- How were the people supposed to serve God? *With all their hearts, for all their lives.*
- Why does God save his people? *Because of his tender mercy.*
- What did he say John would do? *Go before the Lord to prepare his ways, teach people about salvation and forgiveness.*
- Where would John live until he did those things? *He would live in the wilderness.*

APPLICATION

Once again, what God has promised, he will do. Zechariah was reminded of that the hard way. Sometimes God lets us go through difficult circumstances to remind us that he is good, and loving, and faithful, and that he keeps his promises to us. What John's birth shows more than anything is that the salvation God promised

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long ago was getting close. God can and will do what he promises in Jesus. But God doesn't just save us from our enemies and our sin; he saves us to serve and worship him with all our hearts, for all our lives. Talk with your children about some of the hard things God has allowed you to go through as an individual or as a family. How have those circumstances helped you trust God more? What idols were exposed and repented of? What are some of the other good things God has taught you in the hard places to make you more like Jesus? Spend some time talking about what God has saved you to—to glorify him in service and worship, and to display his mercy and grace. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 for more on this subject.

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 1:68 - "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people." (ESV)

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Week 7
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 2:1-7 JESUS' BIRTH

INTRODUCTION

King Jesus is born not in the palace of an important city, but in a room where animals stay, and placed in a feeding trough—humble beginnings for the Savior of the world. Joseph and Mary had to travel from their hometown of Nazareth to Bethlehem, because the emperor decided he wanted to count all the people in his land, and that's where Joseph's family was from. But those of us who know the story know that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. God uses a “chance” event to fulfill his promise of a Savior for his people.

DISCUSSION

Why did Jesus have to be born in Bethlehem? Micah 5:1-5

EXPLANATION

- What was the emperor's name? *Caesar Augustus.*
- What did he order the people to do? *He ordered them to go to their hometowns to be counted.*
- What town were Joseph and Mary from? *Nazareth in Galilee.*
- What town did they travel to? *Bethlehem (the city of David), where Joseph's family was from.*
- What happened while they were there? *Jesus was born.*
- In what kind of room was Jesus born? *He was born in a stable—a place for animals.*
- What is a manger? *A feeding trough for animals.*
- Why do you think Jesus was born in a place like that? *There was no room for them to stay in the inn?*

APPLICATION

Lots of people were in Bethlehem when Joseph and Mary got there. In fact, it was so busy and so crowded, that the only place left for Mary to have her baby, was a stable for the animals. Our lives can become so busy and crowded, even with good things, that we don't leave any room for Jesus. But Jesus wants all of our lives, not just what's left over. Especially as you prepare for the holidays, look at your calendar and make a list of everything you have scheduled. Talk with your family about the importance of having the worship of Jesus at the center of all you do—“when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deuteronomy 6:7). Also be intentional about calendaring special times of family worship. Decide together what things to add and take off the list.

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 2:7 - “And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” (ESV)

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Week 8
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 2:8-21 *CHRIST THE LORD*

INTRODUCTION

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King.” Jesus—Savior, Christ, and Lord is born to humble parents, in a humble town, with a lowly manger for a bed, and announced first to humble shepherds. Heaven and earth rejoice together as God’s word comes to pass, just as he said it would. Jesus, the focus of all God’s promises and of all human hopes is born.

DISCUSSION

Who would you have told the news of Jesus’ birth to first? Why?

EXPLANATION

- Who was out in the nearby fields when Jesus was born? *Shepherds.*
- Who appeared to them? *An angel of the Lord.*
- How did they respond at first? *They were filled with fear.*
- What did the angel tell them had happened? *That a Savior who is Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem.*
- What happened next? *A bunch of angels showed up and praised God.*
- What did the shepherds do next? *They went right away to see what the angels told them about.*
- What did the shepherds do after finding Jesus? *They told everyone what they had seen and heard, and they worshiped and praised God.*
- What would you have done if you were one of the shepherds?

APPLICATION

When the angel reported the news of Jesus’ birth to the shepherds, they believed it, and went right away to see Mary and Joseph and Jesus. They found things just as they were told, and went away glorifying and praising God, telling everyone all they had seen and heard. Others weren’t sure what to make of the news. The account of Jesus’ birth may be old news to you. How did you respond when you first heard it? What’s your response now? Like the shepherds, do you respond with joy? Are you moved to share what you’ve seen and heard? Help your family to see the story through fresh eyes. Talk about ways you can joyfully share this wonderful news as a family with friends and neighbors. Have a Christmas party and creatively tell the story of Jesus birth.

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 2:11 - “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (ESV)

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Week 9
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 2:22-40 *JESUS AND THE TEMPLE*

INTRODUCTION

As faithful followers of God, Jesus' parents took him to the temple to be dedicated to the Lord. Simeon had been waiting for God to come and rescue and comfort his people. Anna too had been waiting, and when they saw Jesus in the temple that day, they both worshiped God. With the birth of Jesus, they knew salvation had come, not only to God's people Israel, but also to anyone who accepted Jesus. But Simeon also warned that not everyone would accept Jesus, and some would even be against him. Mary and Joseph were amazed at what was said about their son, and Jesus grew strong and wise.

DISCUSSION

Who did Jesus come for and why?

EXPLANATION

- Why did Jesus' parents take him to Jerusalem after he was born? *To present him to the Lord.*
- Why did they do that? *They loved God and obeyed his Law.*
- Who was the man they met in the temple? *Simeon.*
- What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus? *He held Jesus, praised God, and sang a song.*
- What did Simeon say he saw when he looked at Jesus? *God's salvation shown to Gentiles and Jews.*
- Who else did they see in the temple? *A prophetess named Anna.*
- What did Anna do? *She worshipped God in the temple day and night.*
- How did Jesus grow up? *He grew strong and wise, and God's favor was on him.*

APPLICATION

God's offer of salvation that comes in Jesus is for everyone. But as Simeon told Mary, not everyone will believe in Jesus. What we believe about Jesus shows what we really believe about God in our hearts. When did you first hear about Jesus? What did you think? Does believing in Jesus make you want to worship him? Why? How? How does your life reflect the "light" of Jesus' salvation to those around you.

MEMORY VERSE

John 1:12 – "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (ESV)

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Week 10
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 2:41-52 *JESUS THE BOY*

INTRODUCTION

As faithful followers of God, Jesus' parents took him to the temple to be dedicated to the Lord. Simeon had been waiting for God to come and rescue and comfort his people. Anna, too, had been waiting. When they saw Jesus in the temple that day, both worshiped God. With the birth of Jesus, they knew salvation had come, not only to God's people Israel, but also to anyone who accepted him. But Simeon also warned that not everyone would accept Jesus, and some would even be against him. Mary and Joseph were amazed at what was said about their son, and Jesus grew strong and wise.

DISCUSSION

Who did Jesus come for, and why?

EXPLANATION

- Why did Jesus' parents take him to Jerusalem after he was born? *To present him to the Lord.*
- Why did they do that? *They loved God and obeyed his law.*
- Who was the man they met in the temple? *Simeon.*
- What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus? *He held Jesus, praised God, and sang a song.*
- What did Simeon say he saw when he looked at Jesus? *God's salvation shown to Gentiles and Jews.*
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MEMORY VERSE

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Week 11
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 3:1-14 *REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM*

INTRODUCTION

After 460 years of silence, God was once again speaking to his people. The ministry that John was born for had begun. Like the prophets in the Old Testament, he was calling people to repentance—to turn away from doing wrong things and relying on themselves, and turn to God, following and trusting him. Just as God promised in Isaiah 40, John was getting people ready to “see the salvation of God” in the person of Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

What does “repentance” mean? *Repentance means to turn away from thinking, saying, and doing wrong things and relying on oneself, and turning to God and trusting him.*

EXPLANATION

- Why does Luke mention all those different people in verses 1 and 2? *To show that what he was saying about John and Jesus really happened—that it wasn't a made up story.*
- What does it mean that God's word came to John in the wilderness? *It means that God spoke directly to John to tell him to start his ministry.*
- What did John tell people to do? *He told them to repent.*
- What did John mean when he told them to “bear fruits in keeping with repentance” (v. 8)? *The people are to be truly sorry for their sins, as opposed to just pretending. Their sincerity is demonstrated by getting baptized, both of which showed that they were ready to believe in Jesus and turn from sin.*
- Who are the “trees” that don't grow good fruit (v. 9)? *People who aren't really sorry for their sins and who won't believe in Jesus.*
- What question did people keep on asking John? *“What shall we do?”*

APPLICATION

John the Baptizer's ministry was to get people ready for Jesus, who would come and die on a cross to save people from God's punishment for their sins. But Jesus only comes for those who know they have sinned—thought and said and done wrong things—are truly sorry. Talk about the difference between being truly sorry for sins, and just being sad for getting caught doing something wrong. What does the “fruit of repentance” look like for each family member? Are you modeling repentance for your spouse? Your children?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 3:3 – “And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” (ESV)

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Week 12
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 3:15-22 *JESUS IS GOD*

INTRODUCTION

God's promised salvation—the salvation John had been preaching about—had finally arrived in the person of Jesus. People wondered if John himself was the Promised One, the Messiah. But John didn't even feel worthy to be Jesus' slave. John was only the messenger. Jesus is the Message.

DISCUSSION

How are John and Jesus alike? How are they different?

EXPLANATION

- Who did the people think that John might be? *The Christ.*
- What did John baptize people with? What did Jesus baptize with? *Water. The Holy Spirit and fire.*
- What did John say he wasn't worthy to do for Jesus? *Untie his sandals.*
- Who did John get in trouble with? Why? *Herod. John pointed out Herod's sin.*
- What's the first thing that happened at Jesus' baptism? *The heavens were opened.*
- Who came down to Jesus from heaven? *The Holy Spirit, who looked like a dove.*
- Who spoke, and what was said? *God the Father said, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*
- What is important about God the Father and the Holy Spirit being at Jesus' baptism? *It shows the Trinity—one God in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that, therefore, Jesus is God.*

APPLICATION

John's job was to get people ready and point them to Jesus. Now, at Jesus' baptism, John's job was done. God has spoken, and declared that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ—the one who would save people from their sins. Like John, are you happy to humbly point people to Jesus? How does your life show others that Jesus is God? Discuss what "humble" means and what it looks like. How does being humble point others to Jesus?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 3:22b – "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

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Week 13
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 3:23-38 *JESUS IS MAN*

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, doctor Luke traces Jesus' relatives all the way back to Adam showing that, even though Jesus is God, he is also a human being like you and me. It also shows that Jesus is the one God promised long, long ago to save people from their sins. Salvation was God's idea from the very beginning, and the genealogy in Luke is evidence that God keeps his promises.

DISCUSSION

Where did you come from? What's your family history?

EXPLANATION

- Read through the list of names. Which names sound familiar to you? *Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David.*
- What do you know about some of these men? *God made promises to all of them that he would send a Savior.*
- Why does Luke go all the way back to the first man, Adam? *To show that Jesus represents all people.*
- What does it mean that Jesus was "the son (as was supposed) of Joseph"? *Joseph was Jesus' legal, but not natural father. It shows that Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus.*
- How old was Jesus when he started his ministry? *30 years old.*

APPLICATION

From Adam to Abraham, Issac to Jacob, David to Jesus, and all those in between, God carefully unfolded his plan of salvation. The man Jesus is the very center of human history, and represents all human beings. The hope of salvation for all mankind is found in Jesus. How did you learn about Jesus? Who told the person who told you? How far back can you go? How is God using you to share the hope of Jesus with others? How far forward do you think that will continue in the future? Your children? Your grandchildren, your great-grandchildren? Where have you seen God at work in your family as you learn about Jesus together?

MEMORY VERSE

1 Timothy 2:5 – "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

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Week 14
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 4:1-13 *JESUS WITHOUT SIN*

INTRODUCTION

John the Baptizer prepared and pointed people to Jesus—the one greater than him, who would bring God’s Spirit. God introduced people to his son at Jesus’ baptism. And going through Jesus’ family tree all the way back to Adam, we saw that he is also a human like one of us. Now, tempted by the devil in the wilderness, Jesus resists, and shows that he is ready for the ministry the Father has called him to.

DISCUSSION

What things tempt you to doubt God’s provision, power, and protection for your family?

EXPLANATION

- Where did Jesus go in this passage, and who went with him? *The wilderness. The Holy Spirit.*
- How long was he there? *40 days.*
- What happened to Jesus? *He was tempted by the devil.*
- What did he eat while he was there? *Nothing.*
- What three things was Jesus asked to do? *Turn stones into bread. Worship the devil, not God. Throw himself down from the temple.*
- How did Jesus respond to each temptation? *He quoted God’s words in the Bible.*
- What happened when the temptations were over? *The devil left him.*

APPLICATION

Tired, hungry, and alone in the wilderness Jesus resisted the temptations of our biggest enemy, the devil. He didn’t use his powers as God to do it either. Jesus used what every Christian has—God’s Word - the Bible, and the Holy Spirit. What kinds of things are you tempted by? How does the Holy Spirit help you when you are tempted? How can knowing what the Bible says better help you resist temptation? Does knowing that Jesus was able to resist temptation with the Bible and the Holy Spirit help you? Why or why not?

MEMORY VERSE

James 4:7b – “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (ESV)

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Week 15
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 4:14-21 *JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus came into the world through his mother Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. He was there at Jesus' baptism. He led Jesus into the wilderness, and helped him resist the devil. Then in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned to his hometown, and began the ministry God had for him.

DISCUSSION

Why do we need the Holy Spirit to talk with others about Jesus?

EXPLANATION

- Where did Jesus go in this passage, and who went with him? *Galilee. The Holy Spirit.*
- What did he do there? *He taught in their synagogues (a Jewish church building).*
- What were people saying about him? *He was glorified by all, meaning, they really liked his teaching.*
- Where was Jesus brought up? *Nazareth.*
- What did he do when he got there? *He went into the synagogue on the day of worship like he always did, and stood up and read from the Bible.*
- What part of the Bible did he read? *He read from the book of Isaiah.*
- What did Jesus mean in verse 21? *That the scripture he read was talking about him.*

APPLICATION

In the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned to his hometown. Like he did every week, he went to where the church met and read from the Bible. But this time he said, "that stuff I just read about God's son, the Messiah you've been waiting for, who will tell people good news about God, heal the blind, and set prisoners free—that's about me." What would you think if someone you've known for a long time came and told you they were God? What did you think when you first heard about Jesus? Did you believe it? Do the people who know you well believe what you have to say about Jesus? Why or why not? Like healing the blind, what has Jesus done in your life that others can see?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 4:18 - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor." (ESV)

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 16
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 4:22-30 *JESUS THE PROPHET*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus had just told the people who saw him grow up from a little boy, that he was the Messiah. Some people liked what he said. Others wanted him to prove it with miracles, while others didn't believe him and were so angry that they wanted to kill Jesus.

DISCUSSION

Is it difficult for you to talk with your non-Christian friends and family about Jesus? Why or why not?

EXPLANATION

- What did people mean when they said, "Isn't this Joseph's Son? *How can someone just like us be the Messiah?*"
- What did he do there? *He taught in their synagogues (a Jewish church building).*
- What do the people want him to do? *They wanted him to do miracles and prove who he was.*
- Who are the two Old Testament prophets Jesus talks about here? *Elijah and Elisha.*
- What did the people do when they got angry? *They drove Jesus out of town and were going to throw him off a cliff.*
- What did Jesus do? *He walked right through them and went away.*

APPLICATION

The people liked what Jesus said at first, but for many it was hard to believe because they knew him as a little boy. "Can a little boy grow up to be the Messiah," they thought? Everyone who hears about Jesus has a choice to make. They can believe in him and have eternal life, or they can reject him and be condemned (John 3:18). What do you believe about Jesus? Is there anything that's hard for you to believe about him? Do your family and friends believe you when you tell them about Jesus? Why or why not? Is there anyone in particular you think God wants you to talk with about Jesus?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 4:24 - "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown." (ESV)

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 17
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 4:31–41 JESUS AND DEMONS

INTRODUCTION

Jesus announced to the people of his hometown God's mission for him: to preach the Good News, to set people free, and to make the blind see. Now, in the town of Capernaum, he starts doing those things. He preaches Good News, he casts out demons, and he heals people of all kinds of sickness. Unlike other teachers of that time who just talked a lot, Jesus' words had power and authority, and people were amazed.

DISCUSSION

What would you think if you were one of those who saw Jesus cast out a demon or heal a sick person?

EXPLANATION

- Where did Jesus go in this passage? *To the town of Capernaum in Galilee.*
- What did people think of Jesus' teaching? Why? *They were astonished. His word possessed authority.*
- What is the first miracle Jesus performed there? *He cast out a demon.*
- Who did the demons say Jesus was? *The Holy One of God; the Son of God; the Christ.*
- Whose house did Jesus go to and what did he do there? *He went to Simon's (Peter) house and healed his mother-in-law of a fever.*
- What did Jesus do that night? *He healed sick people and cast out demons.*
- What did Jesus do when he healed people in this passage? *He laid his hands on every one of them.*

APPLICATION

Jesus didn't just preach sermons that people thought were great or sounded nice. His word and message had power. He spoke and demons and sickness and disease left people. He wasn't just another Bible teacher. He was God's Son, and his miracles showed that. Because he was God's Son, he could have healed everyone at once. But he touched each and every person he healed that night. Jesus is powerful, and he cares about each and every person. Do you think God still does miracles today? Why or Why not? What would you have thought if you were there that night? If Jesus cares about each and every person, should we? Why or Why not? How can we show sick and hurting people the love of Jesus?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 4:32 – “and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.”

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 18
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 4:42-5:11 *JESUS CALLS PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN*

INTRODUCTION

Unlike the people in Jesus' hometown, the people of Capernaum wanted him to stay. But Jesus had a lot more people to share the Good News with. That's why God sent him. Jesus would also call people to follow him and help share the Good News, and they would give up everything to follow him.

DISCUSSION

What do you think it was like for Peter to leave everything to follow Jesus?

EXPLANATION

- Why did Jesus say he couldn't stay? *He had to preach the Good News of the kingdom to other towns too.*
- What did Jesus do to get away from the crowd at the lake? *He got into Simon the fisherman's boat.*
- What did Jesus ask the fishermen to do? *Put out their nets to catch fish.*
- What happened next? *They caught so much fish that their nets were breaking and their boats started sinking.*
- What did Peter do when he saw all the fish? *He said he was a sinful man and that Jesus shouldn't be around him.*
- What did Jesus tell Peter? *"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."*
- What did Peter and his friends do next? *They left their boats—and everything—and followed Jesus.*
- What is a disciple? *Someone who follows Jesus.*

APPLICATION

Peter told Jesus that he and his friends had fished hard all night long and caught nothing. They were exhausted. But when Jesus asked him to try again, Peter willingly obeyed. And when he did, they caught so much fish that their nets started breaking and their boats started to sink. That's when Peter knew that Jesus was God's special man, and he and his friends left everything and followed Jesus. How is Jesus calling you to follow him? What are some things you are leaving behind to follow him? Peter probably thought they wouldn't catch any fish, but they did. What did Peter learn from that? What can we learn from that? Who are the people in your life Jesus is calling you to catch?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 5:10b - "And Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.'"

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 19
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 5:12-26 JESUS HEALS A LEPER

INTRODUCTION

Jesus, with his new disciples, continued from town to town, preaching the Good News and healing people. He touched a man with leprosy—a terrible skin disease—and healed him. A paralyzed man's friends tore open the roof where Jesus was teaching and lowered him down to be healed. But this time Jesus did something different. He told the man, "Your sins are forgiven." Many believed Jesus could heal people. But forgive their sins? Only God could do that.

DISCUSSION

Why do you think Jesus healed people?

EXPLANATION

- Jesus didn't have to touch the man with leprosy to heal him. Why do you think he did?
- What did Jesus tell the man to do? *Don't tell anyone, and go show yourself to the priest.*
- Why do you think Jesus went off by himself to pray?
- How did the paralyzed man's friends bring him to Jesus? *They broke through the roof and lowered him down.*
- What did Jesus do in response to their faith? *He forgave the man's sins.*
- Why were the Pharisees angry that Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven? *Only God can forgive sins.*
- What did Jesus do in response to what the Pharisees were thinking? *He healed the man.*
- What did Jesus say was the reason for doing what he did next? *To show he had authority to forgive people's sins.*

APPLICATION

The man with leprosy believed Jesus could heal him. And even with a terrible disease that other people might catch, he came to Jesus and asked to be healed. The paralyzed man's friends knew Jesus could heal their friend, and they did whatever they could to get him to Jesus. We all have a terrible disease that paralyzes us. It's called sin. Do you believe that Jesus wants to forgive your sins? Why or why not? Do you know anyone like the leper—someone people don't want to be around? How can you show them love like Jesus did?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 5:24 - "But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home."

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 20
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 5:27-32 *JESUS LOVES SINNERS*

INTRODUCTION

Tax collectors were not nice people. They were Jewish men who worked for the Roman government to collect taxes from their own people, the Jews. They often collected much more money than they were supposed to in order to make themselves rich. They cheated their own people, and they were hated for it. Jesus calls Levi, a tax collector, to follow him, and the Jewish religious leaders are not happy about it.

DISCUSSION

Who are the “tax collectors and sinners” in our society?

EXPLANATION

- Did people like tax collectors? Why or why not? *People hated them because they worked for the Roman government and stole money from their own people, the Jews.*
- What did Jesus ask Levi to do, and how did Levi respond? *Jesus asked Levi to follow him, and Levi left everything behind and followed Jesus.*
- What did Levi do for Jesus? *He made a great feast/party for Jesus.*
- Who was at the party? *A large company of tax collectors and sinners was at the party.*
- What did the Pharisees say about the party? *They didn't like it, and they asked Jesus' disciples why he would eat and drink with such people.*
- Why do you think the Pharisees felt that way?
- What do you think Jesus meant in verses 31–32.

APPLICATION

Jesus went from forgiving sins, to being the friend of sinners. The Pharisees didn't hang around with such “sinners and tax collectors.” But Jesus knew that they needed healing and forgiveness. He didn't wait for them to come to him; he went to them. He didn't just preach at them; he cared for them and helped to show them their need for forgiveness. He couldn't help the Pharisees because they didn't think they were sick. Are you are a sinner who needs forgiveness, or do you think you are a good person who doesn't need forgiveness? Why or why not? Who are the people you know who need to know Jesus? How can you become a friend of “tax collectors and sinners”?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 5:32 - “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 21
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 5:33–39 JESUS AND FASTING

INTRODUCTION

Weddings are a lot of fun. They're happy times of flowers, and food, and friends, and celebrating the marriage of a bride and groom. God was doing something new and exciting through his Son Jesus. It was not a time to be sad and somber, as the Pharisees and other religious leaders were suggesting. God had come to earth in Jesus Christ, and it was time to celebrate.

DISCUSSION

What do you like best about weddings?

EXPLANATION

- What is fasting, and why did people do it? *Fasting was not eating for a set period of time in order to spend focused time with God.*
- Why do you think the Pharisees questioned Jesus about why his disciples weren't fasting?
- Who is the bridegroom in v 34, and who are the wedding guests? *Jesus is the groom; his disciples are the guests.*
- What did Jesus mean in v 34? *As people should be happy at a wedding, so should they be happy and celebrate while Jesus was with them.*
- What does Jesus mean when he talks about old and new cloth and old and new wineskins? *God was reaching people in a new way through Jesus. People couldn't come to God the old way anymore. They would have to give up the old way and accept the new.*

APPLICATION

The Pharisees and religious leaders liked the old way of doing things. In fact, they made their way of doing things—with all its man-made rules and regulations—more important than following God. They forgot that the purpose of things like fasting and prayer was to spend time with God, not to make other people think they were holy. Jesus, God's Son, was right in front of them, but they couldn't see that he was God's new way for people to come to him. What things do you do sometimes to make other people think you are religious or close to God? Do you sometimes do things to try and get God to love you more? (you can't)

MEMORY VERSE

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

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 22
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 6:1-11 *JESUS THE SABBATH LORD*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus and his disciples run into the Pharisees again, and are questioned about what they are doing. The Pharisees thought Jesus was breaking God's rules about the Sabbath by picking grain and healing people. They considered that work, and they said people shouldn't work on the Sabbath.

DISCUSSION

Is it ever okay to *not* help someone in need?

EXPLANATION

- What is the Sabbath? *A day of rest dedicated to God.*
- What was Jesus doing that made the Pharisees angry? *He was picking and eating grain with his disciples.*
- Why do you think Jesus and his disciples were picking grain? *Because they were probably hungry.*
- What did Jesus say was the reason he could do that (in verse 5)? *"The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."*
- What were the Pharisees watching for Jesus to do in verse 7? *To see if he would heal on the Sabbath.*
- Why did they think Jesus shouldn't do those things on the Sabbath? *The Sabbath was a day of rest dedicated to God, and according to the Pharisees, picking grain and healing people was considered work and therefore not permitted.*
- What did Jesus mean in verse 9? *What's more important: following the rules exactly or helping someone in need?*
- How did the Pharisees respond? *They were furious with Jesus and started talking about what they might do to him.*

APPLICATION

"And Jesus said to them, 'I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?'" (Luke 6:9). The Pharisees accused Jesus and his disciples of breaking God's rules about the Sabbath, but it was really just their made-up rules he wasn't following. If someone were hurt, would you go and help them even if you saw a sign read "No Trespassing" or "Keep Off The Grass"? Which is more important: to always follow the rules or always do what's right? What are some rules you've made up that are more important to you than loving God and loving other people?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 6:5 – "And he said to them, 'The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.'"

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 23
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 6:12-19 JESUS CALLS THE TWELVE

INTRODUCTION

After a long night of prayer, seeking guidance from his Father, Jesus chooses twelve men from among his many disciples to be apostles—men who would become the leaders of the church, writers of the New Testament, and even one who would betray him.

DISCUSSION

What is a disciple? *A disciple was anyone who believed in, and followed Jesus.*

What is an apostle? *The word “apostle” means, “messenger,” or “one who is sent out.” An apostle was a disciple, specially chosen by Jesus to go out and tell other people about him.*

EXPLANATION

- What did Jesus do before choosing the apostles? *He spent all night in prayer to God.*
- How many apostles did Jesus choose? *Twelve.*
- Which of the twelve were the first disciples Jesus chose back in Luke 5? *Peter, James, and John.*
- Why do you think Jesus chose someone he knew would betray him? *It was part of God's plan for Jesus to die on the cross to forgive our sins.*
- According to verse 18, why did people come to see Jesus? *They came to hear Jesus, be healed of their diseases, and cured from unclean spirits.*
- According to verse 19, what did people want to do to Jesus? Why? *They wanted to touch him because power came out of him to heal people.*

APPLICATION

Jesus chose all kinds of people to be apostles—people who would go out and tell other people about him, like fishermen and even tax collectors. There aren't any apostles today, but all Christians (disciples of Jesus) are to go out and tell others about Jesus. It doesn't matter who you are, where you've been, or what you've done. What has God chosen you to do (read Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 28:19-20)? Who can you go out and tell about Jesus? Following Jesus' example in verse 12, how can we get ready before going out and telling others about Jesus? Jesus helped and served people when he taught them. How can we show Jesus' love by helping and serving others before telling them about him?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 6:13—“And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles.” (ESV)

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 24
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 6:20-36 THE BEATITUDES, PART 1

INTRODUCTION

Following Jesus wasn't (and isn't) easy. Many of his disciples were poor and hungry. They were disliked and treated meanly for following and serving him. But Jesus comforts them with the hope that God will bless and reward those who trust him, and love others the way Jesus loves. He also warns against trusting in things like money, comfort, and what other people think of them rather than trusting God.

DISCUSSION

Would you rather be rich, full, and happy, or poor, hungry, and sad? Why?

EXPLANATION

- What does it mean to be “blessed”? *It's the joy of knowing that God is taking care of you, and will take care of you in the future, even when things seem bad.*
- What does “woe” mean? *It's a warning, and a call to repentance--to turn away from wrong things, and turn back to God.*
- Who is blessed? Who is warned? *Blessed: poor, hungry, those who weep, those hated for Jesus' name. Warned: rich, full, those who laugh now, those who care about being popular.*
- Who does Jesus mean by “you who laugh now” in verse 25? *He doesn't mean anyone who is happy, but people who don't care about God or people in need.*
- How are Christians supposed to treat people Jesus refers to as “enemies” in verses 27-31? *Verse 31: we're supposed to treat them the way we would like to be treated—we're supposed to love them like Jesus loves.*
- Why are we supposed to treat them that way according to verses 35-36? *God is kind to people who don't deserve it and are evil. By behaving like God does, we show that we belong to him.*

APPLICATION

When we humbly follow Jesus and trust God to meet our needs, he promises to take care of us now, and reward us in heaven. When we show the love of Jesus, especially to people who hate us and are mean to us because we're Christians, it shows that we belong to God. When are you tempted to trust in things like money, or what people think about you, rather than trusting God? Think about how you would like to be treated. Are you treating other people that way—especially people who don't deserve it? What are some ways you can show the love of Jesus to those people?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 6:36—“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” (ESV)

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

BEAR WITH US
FAMILY DISCUSSION

PLEASE BEAR WITH US AS WE CATCH UP IN POSTING THESE QUESTIONS. PLEASE FIND CURRENT QUESTIONS LISTED BELOW, WE WILL BACK FILL THE MISSING QUESTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 30
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 7:36 - 8:3 JESUS FORGIVES A SINFUL WOMAN

INTRODUCTION

In this passage we meet two kinds of people, a woman who knows she is a sinner (someone who has disobeyed God) and needs God's forgiveness, and a Pharisee (a Jewish religious leader) who doesn't see his own need for forgiveness. The forgiven woman responds to Jesus with great faith and love, while the Pharisee barely treats him as a guest. How we respond to Jesus reveals the true condition of our hearts.

DISCUSSION

Talk about a time when someone forgave you. What was it like? How did you feel?

EXPLANATION

- How does vs. 37 describe the woman who came to Jesus at the Pharisee's house? *She was a sinner.*
- What did she do for Jesus? *She kissed his feet, washed them with her tears, and put ointment on them.*
- What did the Simon the Pharisee think about that? *It was improper for her, a sinner, to do that, and if Jesus were really a prophet, he would have known that.*
- How did Jesus respond to Simon's thoughts in vv. 41-43? *He told a story about forgiveness.*
- What did Jesus say was the difference between Simon and this woman? *She knew she was a sinner, and responded to Jesus' forgiveness with great love and respect. Simon didn't think he was a sinner who needed Jesus' forgiveness and so didn't show Jesus the honor, love, and respect he deserved.*
- What did Jesus tell the woman in vs. 48? *"Your sins are forgiven."*
- How did the Pharisees respond? *They wondered who Jesus was by claiming to be able to forgive sins.*
- What do we learn from Luke 8:1-3? *There were many women who supported Jesus' ministry.*

APPLICATION

Who do you most identify with in this passage? Do you believe you are a sinner, or do you think you're basically a good person? The sinful woman believed that Jesus had forgiven her sins and so she responded by loving and serving Jesus with a thankful heart. Do you know that Jesus has forgiven your sins? If so, how can you be loving and serving Jesus, at home, at school, in your neighborhood?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 7:49b – "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" (ESV)

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 31
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 8:4-15 THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

INTRODUCTION

Jesus tells a story about a farmer scattering seed on different kinds of soil. The seed, he explains to his disciples, is God's Word, and the soil is the hearts of different people and how they receive it. What kind of soil is your heart? How do you respond to God's Word?

DISCUSSION

What kind of soil do plants grow best in?

EXPLANATION

- What happened to the seed that fell along the path and what does that mean? *It was stepped on and eaten by birds (the devil came and took the Word away from their hearts).*
- What happened to the seed that fell on the rock and what does that mean? *It grew but then died because it had no water (they believed for a while but then fell away when things got hard).*
- What happened to the seed that fell among thorns and what does that mean? *It grew but was choked by the thorns (the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life were more important to them than the Word, so they fell away).*
- What happened to the seed that fell in good soil and what does that mean? *It grew and was very fruitful (the Word took root in their hearts and produced fruit in their lives).*

APPLICATION

It is God's Word when it takes root in our hearts, which saves us and makes us faithful followers of Jesus. But there are many ways we can respond that keep it from taking root and growing—fearfulness, worry, or other things we see as more important. Talk about circumstances or things that tend to crowd out God's Word in your heart. What does your life look like when your heart is good soil?

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 1:16a – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” (ESV)

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 32
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 8:16-21 *JESUS' TRUE FAMILY*

INTRODUCTION

The sinful woman heard Jesus' offer of forgiveness and believed and received it with faith and responded with love and service. Others responded to Jesus' good news and healing by supporting his ministry. And in the parable of the sower, we learned about hearts that receive God's word and produce fruit. Those who hear and obey Jesus' message, are his true family, and do what he says.

DISCUSSION

Who do you consider family? Can people other than dad, mom, sisters, and brothers be family?

EXPLANATION

- What is light for, like a flashlight for example? *It helps us see our way in the dark, and reveals things that are hidden in the dark.*
- Who came looking for Jesus in vs. 19? *His mother and brothers.*
- Read Mark 3:20-21 & 31-35. Why might they have been looking for Jesus? *Because they were probably concerned about him, or even thought he wasn't in his right mind.*
- How did Jesus respond? *"My mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."*
- What do you think Jesus meant by that? *Jesus loved and cared about his mother and brothers, but even more important to him are those who hear God's word and obey it.*

APPLICATION

Jesus' real family are those who respond to him not just by hearing, but by doing God's word. In this passage Jesus is calling us to obey. Have you heard that call? Have you responded by receiving and believing Jesus' message? Do you just believe with your head but not your heart? What does it look like in your life to "do" God's word? How does your life show that you don't just hear, but obey?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 8:21b – "My mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." (ESV)

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 33
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 8:22-25 *JESUS CALMS THE STORM*

INTRODUCTION

The disciples had seen Jesus heal people, cast out demons, and even somehow direct fish to fill their nets. But like the crowds who followed him, even the disciples didn't yet fully understand who Jesus was. As they get in a boat to cross the lake, Jesus gives his disciples another opportunity to see who he really is, and that he is worthy of their faith.

DISCUSSION

When have you been really afraid? What did you do?

EXPLANATION

- What are Jesus and the disciples doing in this story? *They were sailing across a lake in a boat.*
- What was Jesus doing that others were not? *He was sleeping in the boat.*
- What happened that made the disciples afraid? *A storm came and the boat was filling with water.*
- What did they do? *They woke Jesus and told him they were about to die.*
- What did Jesus do? *He woke up and rebuked (stopped) the wind and the waves.*
- What did Jesus mean when he told them, "Where is your faith?" *Jesus was telling the disciples that they needed to be more trusting of him.*
- How did the disciples respond? *They were afraid and wondered who Jesus really was that he had power even over nature.*

APPLICATION

Jesus is the God who created all things and controls all things. Nothing, even the scariest things we face in life, are too big for him to handle. That doesn't mean that Jesus promises to rescue us from all of life's storms, but we can have faith and confidence that whether he rescues us from them, or helps us through them, nothing is beyond his control. What are some of the scariest things you've faced in life? Where have you been tempted to doubt God's goodness and control in those situations? What are some ways you can grow in your faith that God is good and in control? Talk about times where God has helped your family through life's difficulties. Look up other passages of Scripture that talk about God's help in times of trouble.

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 8:25b – "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?" (ESV)

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 34
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 8:26-39 *JESUS CASTS OUT DEMONS*

INTRODUCTION

After crossing the lake, Jesus meets a man and confronts another kind of power—the power of the Enemy. Some respond to Jesus with joy and a changed life and want to tell everyone they meet, while others are afraid of him and want him to go away. How have you responded to Jesus?

DISCUSSION

Tell the story of a time when something so exciting happened to you that you wanted to tell everyone.

EXPLANATION

- Who does Jesus meet in this story? *He meets a crazy demon-possessed man.*
- Who did the man say that Jesus was? *He said he was “Jesus, Son of the Most High God.”*
- How do you think the man knew who Jesus was? *The demons inside him knew who he was.*
- What was the man’s name, and why? *His name was Legion, because many demons had entered him.*
- What did Jesus do with the demons, and what happened? *He sent them into a herd of pigs who ran into the lake and drowned.*
- What was the man like after the demons left him? *He had clothes on and wasn’t crazy anymore.*
- What did the people who knew him before think when they saw him now? *They were very afraid, and asked Jesus to leave their region.*
- What did the man want to do now? *He begged to go with Jesus.*
- What did Jesus tell him to do? *He told him to go home and “declare how much God has done for you.”*

APPLICATION

Like the wind and waves in verses 22-25, Jesus demonstrates his control over any force, no matter how powerful, that would seek to oppose him or overwhelm us—even thousands of demons. Once again we can be safe and secure knowing that Jesus is indeed bigger than the “boogie man.” We can also believe that Jesus has the power to forgive our sins and change our lives like the demon-possessed man. If Jesus has saved you from sin, and changed your life, you have a story to tell. Can you tell the story of how Jesus has saved you? Who does God want you to share that story with? Does knowing that not everyone will want to listen to your story and follow Jesus keep you from telling it? Why or why not?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 8:39a – “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” (ESV)

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 35
FAMILY DISCUSSION

LUKE 8:40-56 JESUS HEALS A WOMAN AND A GIRL

INTRODUCTION

Jesus not only has control over nature and demons but, as we learn in this story, even disease and death. Whether one is male or female, adult or child, clean or unclean makes no difference to Jesus. God wants us to have the faith that he can take care of us, no matter who we are, or what we are facing.

DISCUSSION

Have you ever been sick and thought you'd never get better?

EXPLANATION

- Who approached Jesus in verses 41-42, and why? *Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue who had a twelve-year-old daughter who was dying. He wanted Jesus to come to his house.*
- What touched Jesus on the way? *A woman who was sick with bleeding for twelve years.*
- What did the woman do, and what happened to her? *She touched Jesus' clothes and was healed!*
- What did Jesus say to her after she identified herself? *"Your faith has made you well; go in peace."*
- What did Jesus learn about the little girl on the way? *The ruler's daughter had died.*
- How did Jesus respond? *He said, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well."*
- How did people at the house respond when Jesus told them she wasn't dead, but only sleeping? *They laughed at him and didn't believe he could do anything to help her now.*
- What did Jesus do next? *He raised the little girl from the dead.*

APPLICATION

The woman who was sick with bleeding for twelve years was timid and fearful, but she also had faith that Jesus could heal her, so she approached him in spite of her fears. On hearing his daughter had died, Jairus may have been tempted to doubt that Jesus could do anything now. But Jesus asked him to believe that she would be well, and he believed. Sometimes we don't understand the difficult things that happen in our lives. Sometimes it looks like all hope is gone—that it's too late for God to act now, but Jesus asks us to have faith that he will do all that he promises to do. What do you need to believe Jesus for right now? Where is he asking you to patiently trust him and not fear?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 8:50 – "But Jesus on hearing this answered him, 'Do not fear, only believe, and she will be well.'" (ESV)

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

MORE TO COME
FAMILY DISCUSSION

PLEASE CHECK ONLINE AT MARSHILLCHURCH.ORG/LUKE FOR UPDATED
FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AS THE SERIES CONTINUES.