

Living His Way: Summer Family Discipleship

Will you join us on a journey through God's Word?

OBJECTIVE:

Complete the 31 activities during the month of July with your family or "adopt" another family and dig into the Word together. Three prizes will be awarded based on the criteria listed below.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:

We've planned activities designed to keep families in His Word and centered on our greatest treasure, Jesus. Families will have **affordable** in the home and outside of the home activities in a devotional style format. **Activities may be completed in any order**.

DIRECTIONS AND PRIZE CRITERIA:

For families to obtain credit for each activity, a photo must be taken and uploaded to <u>The Light Factory at The Chapel</u> (click link) public group Facebook page. **Each photo needs to be labeled with its activity number and hashtagged #livinghisway**. The photos provide proof of completion toward winning one of three prizes.

MEMORY VERSE:

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." **3 John 1:4**

READY. SET. GO!

ACTIVITY 1: PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

Read: Ephesians 6:11-18

Discuss: Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. Our true opponent is sin—our sin nature. As believers, we must put on the full armor of God to stand against evil. Did you notice that the only offensive weapon in the armor of God is the sword of the Spirit? Everything else is used for protection.

Our weapon is the sword of the Spirit—the Word of God. "For the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intention of the heart." Heb. 4:12

<u>Task</u>: Nerf war! Go all out! Put on your ARMOR! - Put on the full armor of God. Take a photo of your family's Nerf war. <u>Post photo here!</u>

Reflection and Prayer Time: This passage tells us how we can stand against the schemes of the devil. In verse 18, we are told to pray at all times in the Spirit and to stay alert. Use this time to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you stay alert and stand against evil.

ACTIVITY 2: WE ALL FALL SHORT

Read: Romans 3:23

Discuss: We ALL fall short of the glory of God, meaning that no matter how hard we try, we will never be good enough to get into heaven based on our deeds or behavior. Even though we try our best to obey God's law, we sometimes make mistakes/sin. But thankfully, God made a way for us through His Son, Jesus. God gave us the gift of salvation through the death and resurrection of His Son. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

<u>Task</u>: Do you ever feel pulled in two different directions? You know what is right, but you would rather do what is wrong? Using a rope, a blanket, or something similar, play a game of tug-of-war with your family. Be sure the area is safe first! The temptation to sin is like a game of tug-o-war. As you play tug-o-war, think about the decision-making process and how your mind may go back and forth on an issue. Take a photo of your family playing tug-o-war. <u>Post photo here!</u>

Reflection and Prayer Time: Although Jesus' took the punishment we should have received for our sins, we are not free of the consequences of sin. Read 1 Cor. 10:13. Ask God to strengthen your desire to do what's right and the wisdom to seek Him first when the right thing may not be clear.

ACTIVITY 3: GOD HOLDS ALL THE PIECES

<u>Read</u>: Jeremiah 29:11-13

Discuss: God has a plan we can trust! God had the Prophet Jeremiah write these verses to His people after they wandered away from Him and began serving other gods. The consequence of their sin was being taken into captivity by Babylon for 70 years. Even though times would be tough, God reminded His people that He still had good plans for them. If they sought Him with their whole heart, He would be found.

<u>Task</u>: As a family, put together a jigsaw puzzle. Take a photo of your completed puzzle. Post photo here!

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: God holds all the pieces of our lives. Our lives can be likened to a jigsaw puzzle that's not fully put together. We only see a few pieces at a time, and many times, we are unsure of what God is doing in our lives. But rest assured that God knows and sees the whole picture of our lives, and He has a plan we can trust. Like a puzzle, the pieces of our lives will come together in His way and in His timing to complete the whole picture.

ACTIVITY 4: REMAIN AND GROW IN HIM

Read: John 15:1-17

Discuss: God is the gardener, and Jesus is the vine. We are the offshoots (or branches) from the vine. Once a branch is separated from the vine, it no longer receives sustenance nor bears fruit. The branch withers away, and as the gardener clears out his vegetation, the dead branches are tossed to the side and eventually thrown into the fire. Are you connecting the dots? Hang onto the vine; Jesus is our lifeline!

We must remain in a relationship with Jesus and let Him supply our nourishment; apart from Him, we will not grow. Also, we need to prune away the weeds and dead branches in our lives to be healthy and grow in Jesus.

<u>Task</u>: What can you grow? Using a clear cup, place some dirt and a seed of your choice (bean, fruit seed, etc.) and watch it grow. Don't forget to water it. Just like plants need water and sun to grow, we need the Son and the Word (our water) to remain and grow in him. Don't forget to take a photo! <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Like a branch in the wind, we can sway back and forth through life's struggles. We need to be rooted in Him. Ask God to help you remain secure in Jesus and to produce fruit for His kingdom.

ACTIVITY 5: MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

Read: Acts 20:35

Discuss: It is more blessed to give than receive. Is the giver happier than the getter? What do you think? As representatives of Christ, we are called to reflect God's character. In James 1:17, it says every good and perfect gift comes from above. God is the ultimate giver. He gave His only Son so that we would have salvation through Him. When we give to others, especially when we give sacrificially, we reflect God's heart, and He is glorified.

Task: Write a letter or card for a friend or family member. Give them a compliment and let them know how special they are to you. Be creative. Don't forget to take a picture. Post photo <u>here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Pray this: Dear God, please help us remember that we are more blessed to give than to receive and to align our heart with Yours. Amen.

ACTIVITY 6: MEDITATE ON HIS WORD

Read: Psalm 1:1-2

Discuss: Do we, as believers have a manual that shows us how to live our lives? We do—it's called the Bible, and it shows us how to live a life pleasing to God. God loves when we make good choices, but did you know that He also desires to spend time with you? When we read our Bible, we are reading the very words of God. You know when you spend time with your friends, you begin to learn their likes and dislikes. When you spend time with others, you develop a relationship with them. We need to spend time with God, too. How do we do that? When we read our Bible and pray, we are spending time with God and developing a relationship.

<u>Task</u>: Spend some quiet time in God's Word and in prayer each day for the rest of the month - or as many days as possible! Make a place just for this time in a little corner somewhere in your house...maybe your closet? And again – take a picture, or it didn't happen! <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Dear God, thank You for loving me. Please help me to keep your Word so that I can live a life honoring to You. In Your Name, Amen.

ACTIVITY 7: HONOR YOUR PARENTS

Read: Exodus 20:12

Discuss: Have you recently disagreed with your parents? How do you react when you don't get your way? In Exodus 20:12, the Bible tells us to honor our father and our mother. To honor our

parents means to obey and show respect. We are all sinners, and our parents are not exempt either. Sometimes honoring our parents means giving them grace.

This verse is one of the Ten Commandments and the only commandment that has a blessing attached to it. The blessing is "so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."

<u>Task</u>: Look around your house. What chores need to be done? Do the chore, and then take a photo! <u>Post photo here!</u>

Reflection and Prayer Time: Have you recently disrespected your parents and owe them an apology? Are you currently holding onto a hurt or have unresolved issues you need to discuss? Take this time to reflect on your relationship with your parents and ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind any issues or areas you may need to work through.

ACTIVITY 8: GOD'S CREATION

Read: Genesis 1:1-31

Discuss:

Day 1: God created day and night, separating the light from the darkness.

Day 2: God separated the sky from the ocean.

Day 3: God created dry land and filled it with plants.

Day 4: God spoke the sun, moon, and stars into existence.

Day 5: God created the birds of the air and the fish of the sea.

Day 6: God created the land animals and made man in His image.

<u>Task</u>: Can you imagine being able to create something out of nothing? To be able to speak anything we want into existence? Wow! God is powerful. Using play dough, Legos, sand, craft sticks, or anything else, create something amazing—just like God did when He created the universe. Don't forget to take a picture of your creation. <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Did you notice from the scriptures that we are created in God's image? We may not be able to speak things into existence, but God has given us the ability to create, make, and build. Take this time now to reflect on the power of God and the beauty of His creations.

ACTIVITY 9: EYES ON HIM

<u>Read</u>: Matthew 14:22-33

Discuss: After days of preaching in the surrounding areas of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus loaded the disciples onto the boat. He set them on a course to the other side of the sea so that He could

pray in solitude. Later that night, during a storm, the disciples saw what they believed was a figure walking on water toward their boat.

Then Peter insisted that if this vision was indeed Jesus, he should join Him out on the water. Jesus summoned Peter, and on foot, Peter walked on water. While standing on the water, Peter was overcome with fear as his attention shifted from Jesus to the storm. He lost sight of Jesus, and the waters of the sea started swallowing his body. In his distress, Peter lifted up one of the shortest prayers recorded in the Bible. He cried out, "Lord, save me." The Lord instantly reached out and grabbed Peter's hand.

Although we should all strive to be mighty prayer warriors, Jesus is not judging us on our vocabulary. Instead, He looks at our motive and heart. Peter's prayer was not fancy, but it was powerful, timely, and genuine. As stressful situations arise, we need to remember to fix our eyes on Jesus, and He will keep our heads above the rising waters.

<u>Task</u>: Beach trip - Jesus walked on water. Can you? (You may substitute a pool or bathtub for this activity.) Don't forget to take a pic! <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Dear Jesus, we cry out to You like Peter, "Lord, save me." Rather than focusing on the storms of our lives, please help us to hold Your gaze across the water and place our complete trust in You. Amen.

ACTIVITY 10: THE WORD OF GOD

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Discuss: Did you know that 40 different authors wrote the Bible over a period of 1,500 years? These Bible writers wrote as the Holy Spirit inspired them. The Bible is "God-breathed," meaning these are the words of God. Did you know that God speaks to us from the Bible? The Bible reveals to us who God is (Jn. 5:39); it has life-changing power (Isaiah 55:10-11); and it is God's standard of measurement used for teaching, rebuking, correction, and training in righteousness.

Task: As a family, come up with your own language. It can be by using pictures, letters, etc., and then write messages to each other. Keep the language/secret code as a special way to communicate with just your family. Post photo here!

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: There is no substitute for the Bible (Word of God) in the life of the believer who desires to grow in Christ. During this time, challenge your family to incorporate Bible reading into your daily lives.

ACTIVITY 11: WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US

Read: 1 John 4:15-21

Discuss: God is love. God created love. We love because God loved us first. He loved us before we were capable of loving Him. Because of what God has done in our lives, we are able to love Him and others.

Love is an action—rather than an emotion or feeling. Have you heard the saying, "Talk is cheap"? It means your actions better back up your words. We are to reflect the love of Christ to others. So, if anyone says I love God and hates his brother or sister, he is a liar. God commands us to love others. People should recognize that we are Christians by the love we show to others.

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

<u>Task</u>: How can you show love to someone you love? Hug them? Spend time with a sibling/friend? Help out a parent with a need? Give someone an encouraging word? Make someone a card or buy something small/special for them? There are many ways to show love to others. Choose a way you can show love to someone and do it. Don't forget your photo. Post photo here!

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Take some time to think about how you can love others better. How can you show the love of Christ to others? Remember, love is not just a feeling but an action.

ACTIVITY 12: TREASURE GOD'S WORD

Read: Psalm 119:9-11

Discuss: Psalm 119:9 asks how can a young man (or woman) keep his way pure. And the answer that follows is "by keeping your word." Did you know that the Bible was written for us by God? Sometimes the Bible is called the Word of God. God uses the Bible to tell us how we can live a life that is honoring to Him. We are to treasure His Word. We are to put great value on what He asks us to do rather than following our sinful desires.

<u>Task</u>: To be able to treasure God's Word, we need to know God's Word. That means we need to read the Bible. God uses many words and phrases to describe the Bible. Look up these verses

and write down the word or phrase God used to describe it. Take a photo of your answers. <u>Post</u> <u>photo here!</u>

 Heb. 4:12
 Rom. 1:16
 Ps. 119:105
 Phil. 2:16
 Matt. 15:6

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: The Word of God is powerful, and it helps us live a godly life. Set your heart on seeking God and treasuring how He wants you to live. Ask God to show you how to make more time to read and better understand His Word.

ACTIVITY 13: SHINE FOR JESUS

Read: Matthew 5:14-16 and John 8:12

Discuss: Light is essential for all life. God's creation of light causes the plants to grow, providing us with food to eat. You see, light is needed for ALL life to exist—without light, there is no life.

When you walk into a dark room, what's the first thing you do? I bet you turn on a light. Why? Because it's hard to walk safely in a dark room. Jesus is the LIGHT OF THE WORLD! If we have our eyes on Him, we won't stumble around in the darkness. He provides all the light that we need. Once we follow Jesus, He lights the way through the darkness, and when we reflect His light, we show others the way to Jesus.

Task: Flashlight Hide & Seek (inside or outside) – Be sure to take a picture! Post photo here!

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Dear Lord, help us reflect Your light in everything we do. Please give us opportunities to shine Your light in this dark world and bring glory to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTIVITY 14: LIVING WATER

Read: John 4:7-14

Discuss: In John 4, Jesus meets a woman at the water well near the edge of her town. Her life choices have left her feeling empty, lonely, and thirsty. She keeps looking for things to fill that thirsty feeling in her heart. The woman at the well just didn't know what she needed. She didn't know what she was missing.

Jesus sees her and asks her for water. She is shocked that He would ask her for anything. Jesus tells her that He can give her a different kind of water. He explains to her that HE is Living Water. His love fills (satisfies) that thirsty feeling. She will never be alone again because He will always be with her. Just like a thirsty person needs water, her life needed Jesus.

Task: Have a water war! (Water guns &/or water balloons) Pics, or it didn't happen. Post photo here!

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Do you remember a time when you were super thirsty? What did you do? Did you try to eat food to quench your thirst? No, you probably grabbed a drink of water. Jesus is the Living Water. Without Jesus, we try to fill our lives with other things to satisfy the emptiness we feel. So next time you grab a drink of water, remember Jesus is our Living Water, and He will fulfill your every need.

ACTIVITY 15: RAISE A HALLELUJAH!

Read: Psalm 150:1-6

Discuss: We often praise or thank God after a prayer has been answered. But do you ever just praise Him for who He is? A great way to praise God is to sing! Did you know that there is an entire book of songs in the Bible? The Book of Psalms is a collection of ancient praise songs, hymns, and prayers used both in private and public worship. The majority of the Psalms were written by King David, who was also known for praising God in spontaneous dance. God is worthy of our worship, praise, and obedience.

<u>Task</u>: Plan and execute a family worship service. Each family member has their own role. Be creative, especially with younger children. Remember to have fun. Invite family and neighbors to come over to join in. <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Praise is the proper response to who God is and what He has done. Take this time to thank God for all the blessings in your life.

ACTIVITY 16: COUNT IT AS PURE JOY

Read: James 1:2-4

Discuss: In these above verses, we are told to count our trials or obstacles as pure joy. Verse two also says, "when you go through trials," not "if you go through trials." As a believer in Christ, you will go through trials or hardships. Think of a trial or something you found difficult that you endured. Did you find joy as you were going through it? Probably not. God tells us to count trials as joy because they strengthen our faith. So next time you are faced with something difficult, remember to trust God to get you through it.

<u>Task</u>: Using things around your house or outside, create an obstacle course. Then have each family member go through the course. <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Trials or obstacles build and strengthen our faith. It shows us our dependence on God. If we seek to find our joy in Christ, even during trials or hardship, He will continue to show His faithfulness to us. Our hope is not in the things of this world but in Jesus Christ alone.

ACTIVITY 17: OUR FOUNDATION IN CHRIST

Read: Matthew 7:24-27

Discuss: Jesus often taught through the telling of parables—short stories with a lesson. Jesus told the story of about two men building a house. One man built his house on a rock and the other on sand. The moral of the story is proper foundations are necessary. What happened to the house built on the sand when the rain came?

We need to build our lives on a firm foundation, and that foundation is Jesus. Living the way He taught us to live will ensure our paths are straight and that we can weather the storms of life.

<u>Task</u>: Fort Night! And NO, we're not talking about Fortnite, the video game! Who can build the strongest fort? Remember, your fort won't stand without a strong foundation! When you're done, try to knock it down by throwing rolled-up socks at it. <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Have you ever played the game Jenga? What happens when the base of the tower is not stable? The same can happen in our lives when our foundation is unstable. By following Jesus, we have that strong foundation in our lives.

ACTIVITY 18: FINISH THE RACE

Read: 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Discuss: Running a race—the race the Bible is talking about is the "race of life." As we run this race called life, we want to finish and finish it well. When athletes train for racing or sporting events, they need to prepare for it. Most people don't start off running five miles but have to work up to it by running daily and adding a little more distance over time.

Just like preparing for a running race or sport, we need to do the same in our spiritual life. We should be reading the Bible, looking for opportunities to love others like Jesus, and sharing the good news. Like athletes being rewarded medals for winning races and sporting games, the Bible says we are rewarded in heaven for "running" the race of life well. So even when life gets us down, we are to trust and keep our faith in Him. After all, not every athlete wins every race or game.

Task: Hold marble races. Use an old pool noodle as the track. Cut it into half, making two tracks of equal length. Then, race the marbles down the tracks to see who has the fastest one. Post photo here!

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Pray this: Dear God, You are an awesome God. We love You. Help us as we run the race of life and to stay on your straight and narrow path. Please give us the strength and endurance to keep the faith and finish the race well. In Your Name, Amen.

ACTIVITY 19: WORDS HAVE MEANING

Read: Proverbs 16:24 and Ephesians 4:29

Discuss: As Christians, the things we say should be kind and build up others. The proverb says pleasant words are a honeycomb: sweet to the taste and health to the body. Words can build up or tear down a person. As believers, we represent Jesus Christ. What we say matters and affects others.

<u>Task</u>: Make a dessert together as a family. Take a photo of you and your family enjoying your sweet treat. <u>Post photo here!</u>

Reflection and Prayer Time: Think about the sweet treat you just enjoyed. How did it make you feel? Imagine that same treat covered with pepper. Would you still enjoy it with the added pepper? How would words help people "taste" if they are "flavored" with unkindness, rudeness, or harshness?

ACTIVITY 20: SOARING LIKE AN EAGLE

Read: Isaiah 40:28-31

Discuss: Our strength comes from the Lord. There are difficulties in life that can overwhelm even the strongest of people. When we rely on our own strength or are impatient, we often struggle or stumble and fall. We need to put our trust in God, whose timing is perfect and ways are good. Our dependence on God renews us and sustains us. He wants us to rely on Him, but that takes trust. What does it mean to trust God? When we trust God, He can do much through us, and the sky is the limit.

Task: Fly a kite and see how it soars. Post photo here!

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Pray this: Dear Lord, we often think we know better than You when it comes to our lives. Help us to surrender to Your will and trust You. Please make Your will known to us and give us the courage to follow through. Amen.

ACTIVITY 21: WHAT DO YOU TREASURE?

Read: Matthew 6:19-21

Discuss: What we value is reflected in the way we live. Do you treasure the approval of others over the approval of Jesus? Are you consumed with earning money to buy more earthly treasures, or is your focus on living and loving like Jesus? Money and worldly possessions are not bad in themselves, but what Jesus is talking about is your heart and how you use those possessions and money.

How do we store up treasures in heaven? We need to live with an eternal perspective—not here on earth, which is temporary. Every time you tell someone about Jesus, read your Bible, honor your parents, you're storing up treasure in heaven. God put us here on earth, and He saved us for a purpose. We are created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us.

<u>Task</u>: Do a treasure hunt with your family. Find the following items in or around your house: Things that are: round, fuzzy, spotted, sparkly, pointy, hard, scratchy, and cold. Collect them and take a picture with your finds. <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be. What kind of treasure are you storing up? How are you doing it? Are you asking God to help show you how to do it well?

ACTIVITY 22: GET ALONG WITH OTHERS

Read: 1 Peter 3:8

Discuss: Have you ever played a game with somebody willing to do anything to win—to include cheating, being unfair, bullying, etc.? This verse instructs us to be like-minded, sympathetic, to love one another, and be compassionate and humble. This applies not only to playing games but to living everyday life. Jesus showed compassion toward all types of people, and we should do the same. We should be compassionate toward others even if it doesn't seem fair to us.

<u>Task</u>: Play a family board game together. Choose a game that no one has ever played. Ask friends to borrow/swap if you need to. <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Pray this: Lord, thank You for loving me despite all of my faults and failures. Please help me to be patient and loving towards others, just as You have been with me. Help all of us to be kind, friendly, and put others first in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Amen.

ACTIVITY 23: DANCE LIKE NO ONE'S WATCHING

Read: Psalm 149:3

Discuss: Let us praise His name with dancing! Did you know that you can worship and celebrate God through dancing? In fact, King David was so overjoyed when the Ark of the Covenant returned to Jerusalem that he danced in the street in his undergarments. The Ark of the Covenant was an important symbol of God's relationship with His people. David was so excited to be reconnected with God that he didn't care what he looked like or who saw him. 2 Samuel 6:1-23

<u>Task</u>: Put on some great Jesus Jams and have a family dance party! We definitely want to see these photos! <u>Post photo here!</u>

Reflection and Prayer Time: David's wife thought he looked foolish when he danced in the street. But David's response to his wife was, *"Yes, and I am willing to look even more foolish than this, even to be humiliated in my own eyes!"* (2 Samuel 6:22). Imagine what it would be like to be so lost in God's glory that you couldn't care less about what you looked like or who's looking at you.

ACTIVITY 24: WE ARE THE CHURCH

Read: Acts 2:42-47

Discuss: What is the church? Is it a building? No, the church is its people. These verses in Acts are a model for the Christian life. God calls us to live in community with other believers. Did you notice the verses talked about teaching, fellowship, eating together, and prayer? These are all wonderful ways to spend time with our church family. As a church family, we are also supposed to help each other out in our needs.

<u>Task</u>: As a family, gather with another family of believers and share a meal. It can be at your house, a restaurant or even a picnic. <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: As you gather with other believers, think about how the early church gathered. Use this time to pray for one another and see if you can meet any needs of the other family.

ACTIVITY 25: OVER 5,000 DINNER GUESTS

Read: Matthew 14:13-21

Discuss: Unlike today, Jesus and the disciples didn't have grocery stores to purchase enough food for 5,000 people. But Jesus took what little food was found in the crowd and multiplied it. John 6:9 tells us that a small boy had five loaves and two fish. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish and looked to heaven to give thanks to God. After everyone had eaten and was full, there were 12 baskets of left-over food. Jesus can take what little we have to offer and multiply for His good and glory.

<u>Task</u>: Go through a drive-thru or in a restaurant and pay for someone's meal. As you bless another person/family with a meal, take the time to pray for them. <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Pray this: Dear God, thank you for always providing for us. Even when things may seem impossible, help us to remember that YOU can do the impossible. Please give us the faith and courage we need to walk in Your will. Amen.

ACTIVITY 26: TELL OTHERS OF HIS GREAT LOVE

Read: Mark 16:15

Discuss: The Gospel of Mark tells us to go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all creation. What's the gospel? The word gospel literally means "good news." So what's the good news? Let's first start with the bad news. The bad news is that we have all sinned. We could never keep God's Law perfectly. The punishment is death and separation from God. The good news is that Jesus loved us so much that He died the death on the cross as a sin offering to fulfill the Law's righteous requirement. Jesus was the only perfect human ever to walk the earth. Because of Jesus' perfect sacrifice, we have the gift of salvation through His shed blood. If we believe Jesus died for our sin and conquered death by rising from the dead, we get to spend eternity with Him in heaven.

<u>Task</u>: Share the gospel (good news of Jesus Christ) with a stranger. As a family, practice sharing the gospel and pray for God for an opportunity to share the good news with a friend, family member, or neighbor. Don't forget a photo (you can take of photo of you practicing). <u>Post</u> <u>photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Romans 1:16, says "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..." The good news of Jesus Christ has the power to change lives. We are dead in our sin before we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord of our lives. We should be grateful for how Jesus saved us that we want to share that good news with everyone we meet.

ACTIVITY 27: THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION

Read: Psalm 18:2

Discuss: The Lord is our rock, our fortress, and our savior. He is a place of safety and protection. King David penned this psalm or song of praise after spending years hunted by Saul and his enemies. He credits God for keeping him safe. In Bible times, large rocks were carved out (like a cave) and provided shade from the sun, shelter from storms, and refuge from enemies.

<u>Task</u>: Go outside and gather some rocks. Paint a rock with a verse or pictures, and then place it somewhere in your house where you can see it daily. Let the rock be a reminder that the Lord is our rock—He's our shield, strength, and a place of safety. Don't forget to take a pic of your rock. **Bonus:** You can paint more rocks with verses and place them around your neighborhood to help spread the love of Jesus. Post photo here!

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Pray this: Dear God, we thank YOU for keeping us safe. Like a rock, God, you are strong and stable and the only One we can depend on for everything. We love You, Lord. Amen.

ACTIVITY 28: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Read: Mark 12:28-31

Discuss: There are an awful lot of rules in life. But when someone asked Jesus what the most important rule was, He answered to love God and love your neighbor as yourself. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? If you were hungry, would you feed yourself? If you were cold, would you give yourself a blanket? If your answer is yes, then you should do these things for your neighbor when they need help, just like you would for yourself.

<u>Task</u>: Bake cookies or some other sweet treat and deliver them to your neighbors with a kind note. Take a pic of your yummy treat! <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Can you imagine a world where everyone loved their neighbor as themselves? Think of five other ways you can love your neighbor.

ACTIVITY 29: 40 YEARS OF "CAMPING"

<u>Read</u>: Exodus 16:1-11

Discuss: After Moses led the Israelites (God's chosen people) out of Egypt, they spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness. Due to their lack of faith and disobedience, God didn't allow the Israelites to enter the Promised Land until 40 years later. But God was always there for them. He led the Israelites through the wilderness during the day as a cloud pillar and at night as a pillar of fire. God also provided manna (bread) in the morning, quail (meat) in the evenings, and water from a rock. Even after all those years, their shoes and clothing didn't wear out either. Our God is an incredible provider.

<u>Task</u>: Do a family slumber party. You don't have to camp outside (unless you want to) but find a location in your home and "camp" for the night. <u>Post photo here!</u>

<u>Reflection and Prayer Time</u>: Can you imagine camping for 40 years? God's original plan was for the Israelites to take the Promised Land in days, not decades. God had promised them victory over the people inhabiting it, but they were too afraid to enter the land—even after seeing all the miraculous signs God had performed. Ask God to help you to trust Him in all things.

ACTIVITY 30: FOLLOW ME

Read: Matthew 4:18-22

Discuss: Brothers Peter and Andrew were commercial fishermen in the town of Galilee. After an unsuccessful night of fishing, Jesus told Peter to cast his net again. This time, the net was so full

of fish it was breaking! Jesus said to them that instead of catching fish, they would become fishers of men—meaning they would "cast their nets to catch men" so that they could tell them about Jesus. Brothers James and John were also fishermen from Galilee who saw this miracle. Jesus asked them to follow Him too. These four men joined Jesus and were part of the 12 Apostles, who became fishers of men.

<u>Task</u>: Go fishing with the family. If you don't own a fishing pole or net, don't worry. Go for a walk near a pond, lake, or ocean. <u>Post photo here!</u>

Reflection and Prayer Time: We all come to Jesus in different ways. Jesus used their occupation as fishermen to communicate what He was asking of them. Did you notice the verse that said they left their nets and followed him? Jesus commands us to tell others of His great love. What would you be willing to give up to follow Him?

ACTIVITY 31: ONE BODY BUT MANY PARTS

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Discuss: The body of Christ is also called the church, and in the above passage, it is illustrated as a human body. God has given each one of us special talents and strengths. No one is more important than anyone else. The church is not the only way to serve God, but it allows us to be part of a group that serves Him. God wants us all to work together to build His kingdom.

<u>Task</u>: Play a sports game of choice with your family (basketball, football, soccer, kickball, baseball, etc.). Or you can watch a sporting event together. <u>Post photo here!</u>

Reflection and Prayer Time: The body of Christ can also be likened to a sports team. With sports teams, every position is essential, and it takes everyone working as a team to be successful. And just like Jesus is the head of the church/body of Christ, Jesus is the captain of our sports team.