

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD

KNOW JESUS

FAMILY EDITION

A NEXT STEP DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE

NEXT STEP DISCIPLESHIP KNOW JESUS

FAMILY EDITION

For the Adult: The idea of being a disciple-maker can be intimidating; but it doesn't have to be. Next Step Discipleship tools are resources designed to help you navigate the path towards helping both yourself and others become like Jesus.

This Know Jesus: Family Edition resource is designed to help you have a conversation with your child about what it means to become a follower of Jesus. In this packet, you'll find essential tools and talk sheets that will guide you through this critical conversation. Here's a quick break-down on what you'll find on each talk sheet:

Read It: Read this section out loud with your child. It will introduce the topic of the Talk Sheet.

Talk About It: In this section, you'll find some Scripture to read and questions to talk about. There are additional questions for older children (9+) on each Talk Sheet.

Memorize It: Memorize this verse with your child to get God's Word in your head and heart.

CONVERSATION SIX REPENTANCE

When we choose to trust Jesus, we desire to live like Him. A lot of times, the life that we live does not make Jesus happy; we do wrong things and still have sin in our lives. Remember: sin is the reason for our separation from God and if Jesus is Lord, He doesn't want us to choose sin.

The Bible tells us that we need to 'repent'. Repentance is turning away from sin and learning to live like Jesus. We stop doing things our way and choose to do them God's way instead. Repentance is a decision that we need to make every single day as we continue to follow Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT

- When is a time when you've said 'sorry' for something, but then went out and did the same thing again?
- What would we do if we were truly sorry for something?
- What are some sins in your own life that you need to repent of?

For Older Kids:

- Read **2 Corinthians 7:10**. What is the product of 'Godly grief'?
- Why should we be sorry about our sin?

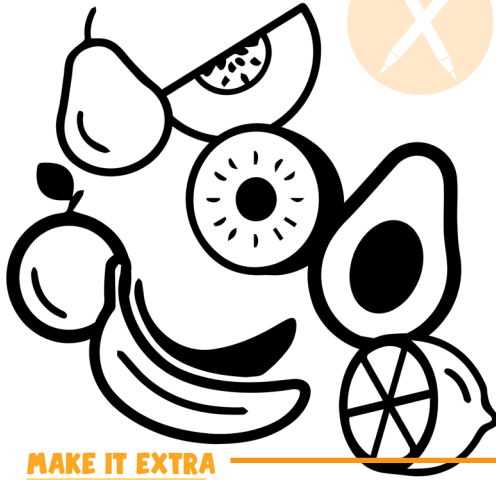
MEMORIZE IT

ACTS 3:19

Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.

CONNECT IT

Read Matthew 3:8. Jesus tells us that our repentance will bear 'fruit'. What do you think that the fruit of repentance looks like? Write down these ideas in the fruit below:



MAKE IT EXTRA

Repentance is often described as doing a 180 degree turn - turning away from wrong things and turning towards Jesus. Illustrate this by brainstorming a list of sin and writing it down. Hang this list on a wall. On the opposite wall, hang a paper with 'Jesus' written on it. Take turns looking away from sin and focusing on Jesus.

18 Know Jesus FAMILY EDITION

Connect It. Each sheet includes an activity that will help you connect the truth you just talked about to your child's life. Grab a pen and have fun!

Make It Extra. If you want more ideas, the Make it Extra section includes ways to dig further into the Biblical topic.

PARENT TIPS

As you start this conversation, here are some things to keep in mind:

1. **Start, continue, and end in prayer.** Authentic life-change is the result of the Spirit of Truth working in us and through us. Before you begin these conversations, take time to turn it all over to God.
2. **Salvation isn't a series of steps; it's the product of a right relationship with God that only comes through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the transformative presence of the Holy Spirit.** Recognition of this Truth should lead to an allegiance to Jesus (what we commonly call 'faith'), which manifests itself in confession, repentance and baptism. Arguing the 'when' of salvation isn't fruitful. Rather, recognize the Biblical emphasis placed on the full response of faith.

3. **Be present.** As a parent, you've been tasked with the primary responsibility of discipling your child. Be intentional in your efforts to introduce your child to Jesus Christ, God's Word and the Church.
4. **Be Prepared.** There are two things you need to be prepared with: (1) Know what you're teaching. Read through this booklet ahead of time and make sure you understand the content. (2) Be prepared by having the necessary materials. Make sure you have some writing materials and a Bible handy.
5. **Minimize Distractions.** Find a nice, quiet place where you and your child can focus on what's being talked about.
6. **Be Real.** Sure, there are some things your child may not be ready to hear about your past just yet, but in all of your encounters try to be authentically genuine. Let them know that you have messed up and continue to mess up—it's the only way that they'll be able to understand grace!
7. **Participation is Key.** As you sit beside your child in this study, allow them to read whatever verses and material they can. Let them answer questions and ask any questions they have. Some of their questions may seem a little silly, but it's what is on their heart.
8. **Talk on the way.** These talk-sheets can be used anywhere. Use them at your house, in the drop-off line at school, or at the park. Just grab the next sheet and have an intentional conversation along the way.
9. **Take your time...or don't!** Each of these conversation sheets can be used individually or if you really want to get into it - do it all at once! Go at a pace your child can handle.
10. **Sometimes the conversation will take more time.** Never pressure your child to make a decision to follow Jesus. Don't guilt-trip them into making a choice they don't want to. If doing this study ends in your child not making a choice, just keep praying and being a positive model of what Jesus looks like. All decisions to follow Jesus revolve around three individuals: the one sharing, the one being shared with, and the Holy Spirit. You can only control your response, so let your child make the choice on their own with the Spirit's guidance.
11. **This is not the end - it's a new beginning.** While we want every child to make the decision to follow Jesus, getting them 'converted' isn't the end-game. Following Jesus is a lifelong commitment and new Christ-followers need a 'guide on the side' that will help them to navigate and grow. We call this discipleship. As the parent, God uniquely gave you the opportunity to help grow and disciple your child. So don't stop now - this is just the beginning!

WHEN IS MY CHILD READY?

That's a tough question. The truth is that there's not a one-size-fits-all approach to knowing when your child is ready to choose Jesus, but here are some factors that you can look for that may clue you in on if now is the right time:

This describes my child:

Your child may begin **asking questions about spiritual things** (e.g. Who is Jesus? What is heaven like?).

Your child may experience a **change of behavior** indicating the Holy Spirit is at work in their life. If they are suddenly striving for moral improvement, it may be a result of truly sensing Spirit nudges.

Your child may begin to go through **prolonged periods of spiritual interest**. If you see that they are authentically worshipping God or spending more time in His Word, then these may be clues that your child is ready to make a decision to follow Jesus.

You child may **begin to put pieces of their understanding together as it relates to their personal relationship to God**. If they start relating that they need a relationship with Jesus to enter Heaven or that they have sin in their life, then it's time for this conversation.

Darrin Ronde, in his document 'Joining God's Family', writes that it is important to evaluate your child in each of these areas:

- 1. Knowledge:** Does he understand that he has sinned and that sin harms his relationship with God? Does he believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He died on the cross to forgive sin? Does he understand what it means to trust God?
- 2. Emotions:** Do those facts have an impact on him? Is there a certain degree of sorrow over sin? Does he feel a need to be forgiven and become part of God's family?

3. **Will:** Does he indicate a change of heart or a spirit of repentance? Is he willing to demonstrate his faith and allow Jesus to be his Lord, or leader? Is he already making an effort to know God better?



Remember, all of these factors are simply signs that your child may be ready to commit their life to Jesus. You will have to use your discernment, as their parent, to determine whether they are truly ready to make this commitment.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Once you've finished this packet, your child may be ready to make a decision to follow Jesus. As the primary disciple-maker in your child's life, you get to help them take that next step - but we'd love to help you! If you have any questions about next steps, contact us at Christian Church in the Wildwood: (352) 596 - 1388.



CONVERSATION ONE

A BROKEN WORLD

God created a perfect world. God populated His world with plants, animals, and people. Here's what He said after He put the finishing touches on His Creation: 'It is very good (Gen. 1:31)'. God intended to spend all of time walking, talking, and loving on the people that He had created, but something went wrong. The first human beings chose disobedience and failed to listen to God. As a result, sin entered this world.

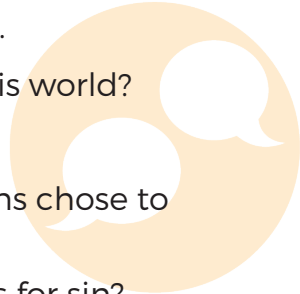
Sin is anytime that we fail to obey God. The product of sin is brokenness, pain, and death. Worst of all, sin means that we can't have a relationship with God.

TALK ABOUT IT

- What do you think that God's perfect world looked like?
- In your own words, tell me what sin is.
- What does sin do to people and to this world?

For Older Kids:

- Why do you think that the first humans chose to disobey God?
- Why are there such big consequences for sin?



MEMORIZE IT

ROMANS 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



CONNECT IT

Look up each of the verses on the left and read them. Connect each verse to the consequence that it tells us that sin has.

ROMANS 6:23

NO HEAVEN

JOHN 3:3

GOD WON'T HEAR US

ISAIAH 59:2

DEATH

As a family, make a list of the ways that you see brokenness around you. This list could include things wrong with people (cancer, death), between people (fighting, violence), and with this world (pollution).

OUR LIST:

MAKE IT EXTRA

Read the story of the first sin and its consequences in **Genesis 3:1 - 19**. List the consequences that are in the curse that God gave.

CONVERSATION TWO

A BROKEN PERSON

Read **Romans 3:23**.

Every single person has sinned. That means you, me, and every other person in this world. We all mess up and bring brokenness into our relationship with God and other people. And that sin hurts God and hurts others.

Think of a time when someone did something that was mean or wrong to you. How did that make you feel? Now imagine that you could feel every wrong that has ever been done throughout all time and history. That's what God experiences. If we're going to have a right relationship with God, it starts by recognizing that we've messed up bigtime.

TALK ABOUT IT

- How have you sinned before?
- How have your sins wounded God?
- How have your sins wounded others?

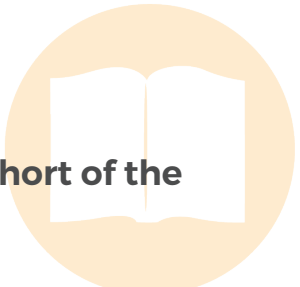
For Older Kids:

- Read **1 John 1:8 - 10**. According to these verses, why is it important to recognize that we have sinned?
- What are some of the consequences for the sin that you have in your life?

MEMORIZE IT

ROMANS 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.



CONNECT IT

Circle the actions that do not show love for God or for others:

LYING

BEING JEALOUS

CHEATING

SWEARING

CALLING NAMES

STEALING

PRAYING

LOVING OTHERS

HATING

TEASING

HELPING OTHERS

FIGHTING

TALKING BACK

SAYING KIND WORDS

BULLYING

HITTING YOUR SIBLING

READING THE BIBLE

SINGING

MAKE IT EXTRA

Jesus was really serious about sin.

Read Mark 9:43 - 47. Jesus doesn't want us to actually hurt ourselves, He just wants us to understand how serious sin is.

What do you need to give up to avoid choosing sin?

CONVERSATION THREE

GOD LOVES YOU

In spite of how messed up this world has become as a result of our sin, God loves us and desperately wants to be with us. But remember the problem: our sin separates us from God and we have no way to fix that. No matter how good we are, how hard we try, or how many good things we do for others, we cannot save ourselves.

Thankfully, God's master plan included sending Jesus to this earth. Jesus is the Son of God. He lived, died and rose again so that our sins might be erased and we could have a forever relationship with God!

TALK ABOUT IT

- **Read John 3:16.** How did God show His great love for us?
- **Read Matthew 4:19.** What does it mean to 'follow Jesus'?
- Who do you believe that Jesus is?

For Older Kids:

- **Read John 14:6.** What are the three names that Jesus gives Himself in this passage and what do they mean?
- What do you think it would look like to be a disciple (or follower) of Jesus?

MEMORIZE IT

JOHN 3:16

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

CONNECT IT

Review this story using the God's Story Images (found in the **Extra Resource, p.23**). Have everybody take a turn telling God's Story using these four images.



For the Adult: Let's face it, God's story becomes much more real to us when we see it played out in someone else's life. When we share the story of how God has changed our life. Remember that you're sharing your story with a child—so it's probably best to generalize some of the sin that was in your life before you entered a relationship with Jesus. To find out how to do this, check out **Sharing Your Story** in the Extra Resources.

MAKE IT EXTRA

For much older children, you may consider watching **The Passion** movie. Please preview this movie before watching it with your family (Rated R for graphic violence).

CONVERSATION FOUR

FAITH

Believing is about having the faith to TRUST Jesus. Trusting that He is who He says He is. Trusting that He loves us and is there for us. Trusting all of who we are to Him. You trust me because you know that I love you. God loves each of us more than any other person in the world does, so we need to trust in Him!

But faith and trust are more than just about believing - they're about ACTION. What we believe should shape how we live our lives. So when we have faith in Jesus, it means that we'll do what He says.

TALK ABOUT IT

- Brainstorm some things that you believe as a family. How do the things you believe shape what you do?
- **Read Hebrews 11:6.** What does the Bible say Faith is?
- **Read Ephesians 2:8 - 9.** Why can't we just get to God by working really hard and being a good person?

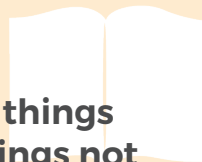
For Older Kids:

- Read **James 2:14 - 26.** Faith requires action! How does the book of James link faith and works together?

MEMORIZE IT

HEBREWS 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.



CONNECT IT

To explain belief and trust, have your child do a trust fall exercise.

In a trust fall, the child stands facing away from you with their arms crossed over their chest. They lean back, without bending their knees, and fall into your arms.

That takes a lot of trust!



MAKE IT EXTRA

There are a ton of amazing faith stories in the Bible. Take some time to read through Hebrews 11 this week to discover some faith heroes of the Bible. After each story ask, 'How did this person show faith?'

CONVERSATION FIVE

CONFESSION

Jesus didn't just live on this earth, die, and rise again. We're told that He returned back to God and was crowned king over all things. Get that? Jesus is Lord! The problem is that there are plenty of other things in this world that would love to steal Jesus' crown and become the king of our life. So we have a choice to make: recognize the rightful king (that would be Jesus) or choose to listen to a false king.

The Bible has a word for this: confession. To confess means that we recognize Jesus as King and that we say that He is Lord of all things, including our life. A forever relationship with Jesus comes only with our recognizing this fact.

TALK ABOUT IT

- What are some of the things that become 'false kings' for people in this world?
- Read **Romans 10:9 - 10**. Why does the Bible say that confession is so important?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord?

For Older Kids:

- Read **Philippians 2:5 - 11**. What happened to Jesus after He returned to God?

MEMORIZE IT

MATTHEW 16:16

Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.'



CONNECT IT

Play a game of 'Simon Says', but switch in the name 'Jesus'.

Afterwards, say this: ' "Simon Says" is a game about being obedient to whoever is in charge. If we know that Jesus is in charge of all things, how do you think that we should live our lives?'

Write down three ways that you can show that Jesus is King of your life:



1

2

3

MAKE IT EXTRA

At Baptism, we are often asked to repeat Peter's confession (our Memory Verse in this session), but we can write our own! Take some time to write down your own confession about who Jesus is.

CONVERSATION SIX

REPENTANCE

When we choose to trust Jesus, we desire to live like Him. A lot of times, the life that we live does not make Jesus happy; we do wrong things and still have sin in our lives. Remember: sin is the reason for our separation from God. Jesus is Lord and He doesn't want us to choose sin.

The Bible tells us that we need to 'repent'. Repentance is turning away from sin and learning to live like Jesus. We stop doing things our way and choose to do them God's way instead. Repentance is a decision that we need to make every single day as we continue to follow Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT

- When is a time when you've said 'sorry' for something, but then went out and did the same thing again?
- What would we do if we were truly sorry for something?
- What are some sins in your own life that you need to repent of? What might that change look like?

For Older Kids:

- Read **2 Corinthians 7:10**. What is the product of 'Godly grief'?
- Why should we be sorry about our sin?

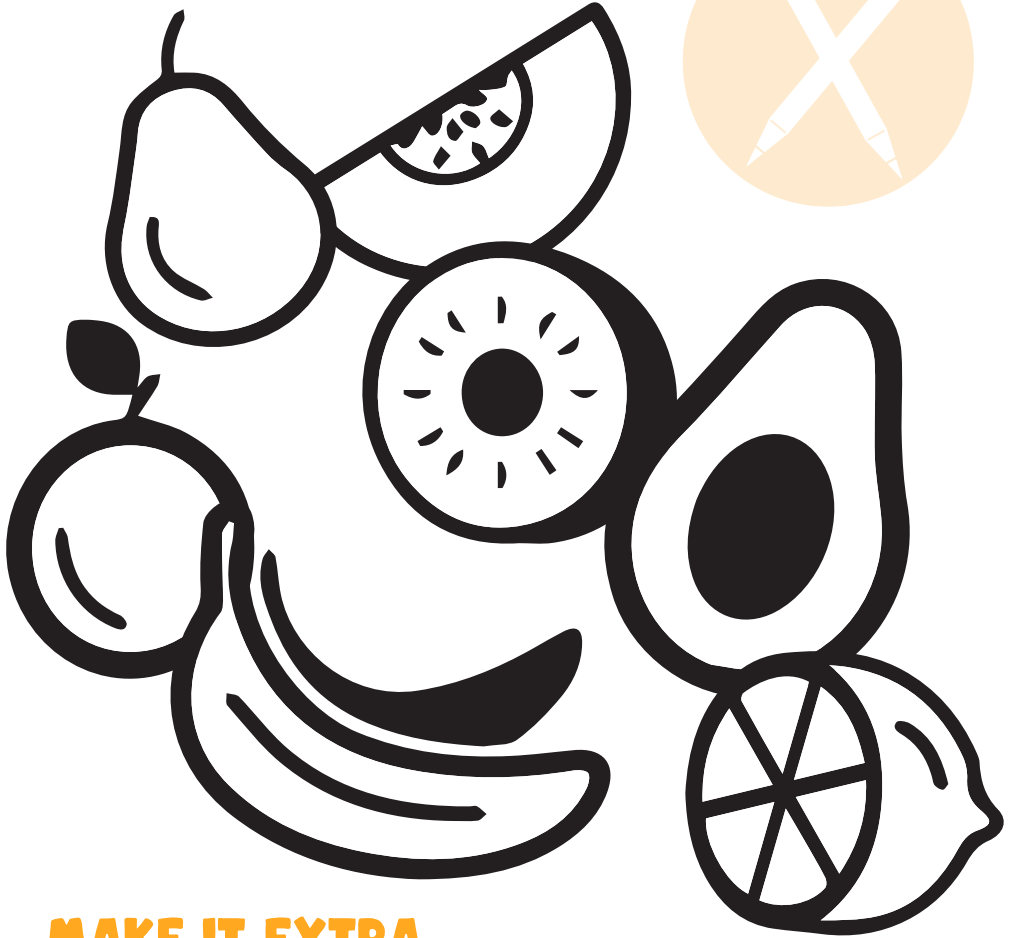
MEMORIZE IT

ACTS 3:19

**Repent then, and turn to God, so that
your sins may be wiped out.**

CONNECT IT

Read Matthew 3:8. Jesus tells us that our repentance will bear 'fruit'. What do you think that the fruit of repentance looks like? Write down these ideas in the fruit below:



MAKE IT EXTRA

Repentance is often described as doing a 180 degree turn - turning away from wrong things and turning towards Jesus. Illustrate this by brainstorming a list of sin and writing it down. Hang this list on a wall. On the opposite wall, hang a paper with 'Jesus' written on it. Take turns looking away from sin and focusing on Jesus.

CONVERSATION SEVEN

BAPTISM

In the book of Acts, Peter - one of Jesus' first followers - tells a group of people that the right response to believing in Jesus is to be baptized. Baptism is the act of being dipped fully under water in the name of Jesus - but it's not about getting wet! In the Bible, we're told that baptism is the start of a new life in Jesus (Rom. 6) and that this new life makes us part of the Family of God (Gal. 3:26 - 27). Most importantly, baptism is linked to God's Spirit coming to live inside of us. This means that God is always with us to guide, comfort, and give us the boldness to do the right thing!

TALK ABOUT IT

- Read **Luke 3:21 - 22**. Jesus modeled baptism for us. What happened during His baptism?
- Read **Galatians 3:26 - 27**. What do you think it means to be a 'child of God'?
- Why should someone be baptized?

For Older Kids:

- Read **Romans 6:1 - 4**. What does it mean to have a 'new life' in Jesus?
- What do you think a new life would look like for you?

MEMORIZE IT

ACTS 2:38

Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

CONNECT IT

Write a letter to God telling Him how you have sinned against Him and against other people. In this letter:

- (1) Share why you are sorry
- (2) Ask for forgiveness
- (3) Tell Him how you will change
- (4) Explain why you would like to have a forever relationship with Him



MAKE IT EXTRA

Read through the different salvation accounts in the book of Acts. In each, write how people respond to the news of Jesus.

Acts 2:37-41

Acts 8:9-13

Acts 8:34-39

Acts 9:17-19

Acts 10:39-48

Acts 16:27-34

Acts 19:1-5

CONVERSATION EIGHT

LIVING LIKE JESUS

We've talked about faith, confession, repentance, and baptism, but once we've made those commitments there's still something left: Jesus wants us to follow Him and become like Him. Every day that we get up, we're given another opportunity to show the world who Jesus is by loving God and loving others.

In fact, Jesus gave us a very important mission. He said that we're to go and make disciples of everybody in this world. Our job is to make Jesus famous by helping others to get to know Him. For that to work, we need to make sure that we're living like Jesus, so that others can see Jesus in us.

TALK ABOUT IT

- Who do you know that needs to know Jesus? How can you show them the love of Jesus?
- Read **Galatians 5:22 - 25**. Living like Jesus only happens when we follow His Spirit. What kind of things does the Spirit grow in our life?

For Older Kids:

- Read **Romans 12:1 - 2**. Following Jesus isn't just about doing the right thing. Sometimes it's about what we no longer do. What does it mean to 'not conform to the pattern of this world'? What are some things in this world that you need to give up to follow Jesus?

MEMORIZE IT

MATTHEW 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.



CONNECT IT

Read each of these passages and connect it to what the Spirit of God does in our life:

JOHN 14:26

**INTERCEDES BEFORE
GOD FOR US**

ROMANS 8:26

**HE GUIDES US INTO
TRUTH**

**GALATIANS
5:22 - 23**

**TEACHES US ALL
THINGS**

JOHN 16:13

**GIVES US POWER AND
LOVE**

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

**GROWS GOOD
QUALITIES IN US**

MAKE IT EXTRA

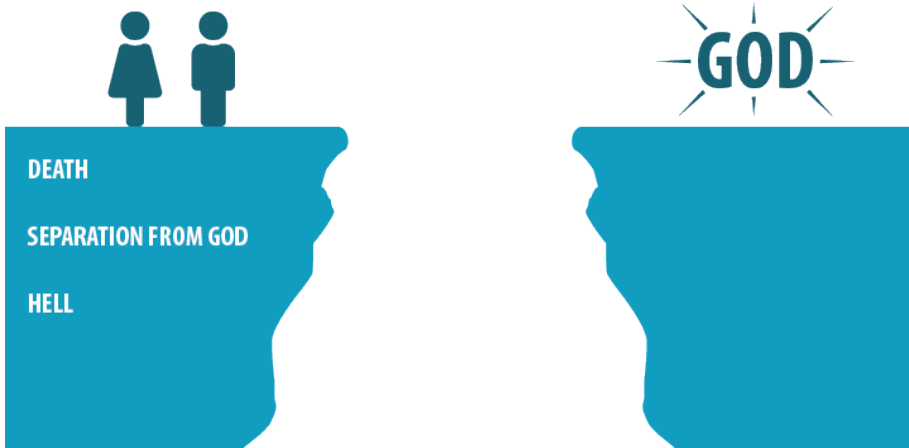
Learn more about the **Core Values** of Jesus by going to ccw.church/core-values/

As a family, brainstorm ways in which you can begin to live out each of these Values.

EXTRA GODS STORY IMAGES

One simple way to share God's Story is through a series of illustrations called 'The Bridge of Faith'. In each image, there is a verse to read, a basic truth that needs to be understood, and some key questions to make that truth more personal.

IMAGE 1: SIN



SIN

Our sin and rebellion separate us from God and the that He intended for us.

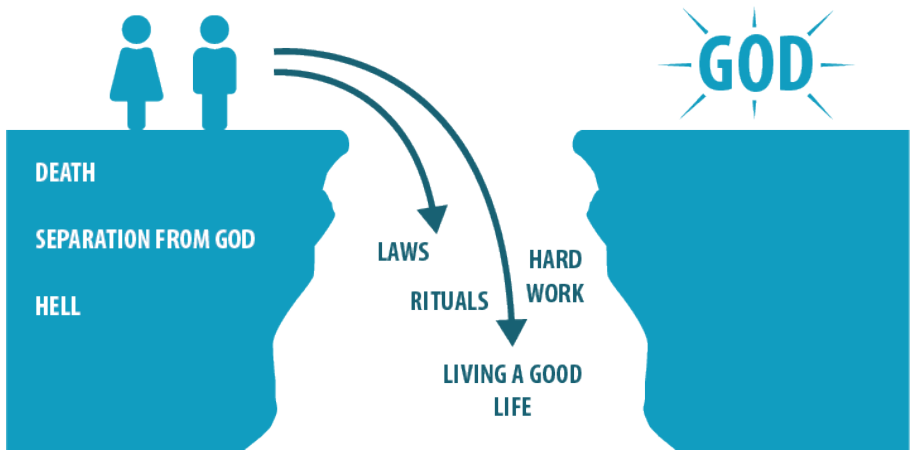
Read: Romans 6:23

What does this verse say about sin?

How has sin shown up in your life?

What are the consequences of having sin in our life?

IMAGE 2: FALL SHORT



FALL SHORT

Although humans have tried for all creation, there is nothing that we can do to bridge the gap between us and God.

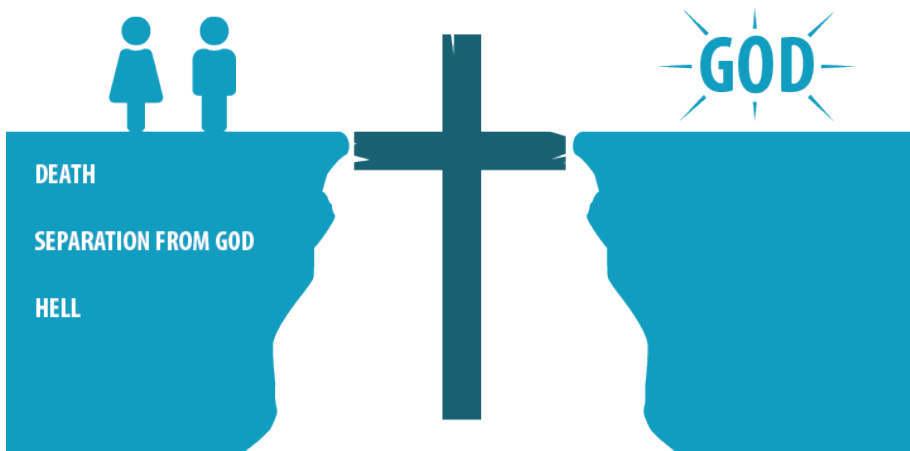
Read: Romans 3:23

According to God's Word, who has sinned?

What attempts have you made to 'save' yourself?

How have those attempts fallen short of providing hope and life?

IMAGE 3: THE CROSS



THE CROSS

Jesus came to earth and died on a cross so that we could escape the consequence of sin and have a right relationship with God. Jesus did what we had no power to do.

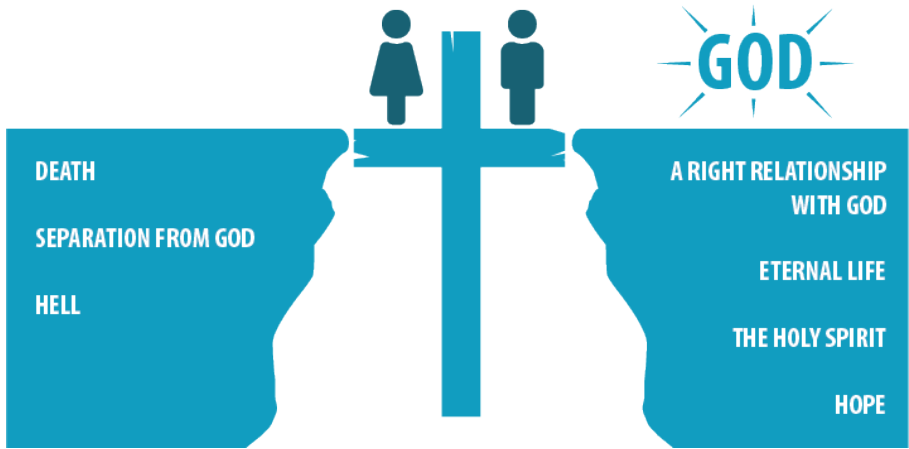
Read: John 3:16

What does this verse have to say about being saved?

What is our only path towards a right relationship with God?

How have you tried to have a right life without trusting in Jesus?

IMAGE 4: HOPE



HOPE IN JESUS

When we choose to follow Jesus, make Him Lord of our life, and choose obedience, we have the hope of eternal life and a right relationship with God.

Read: Acts 2:38

What are the promises made to those who choose to follow Jesus?

How does the grace and forgiveness that God offers make you feel?

EXTRA SHARING YOUR STORY

God's story is often revealed through the lives of those who have experienced the hope and salvation that flow from Him. Sharing your story is an important part of sharing God's story with others. We believe that the core of your story can be found by answering these three questions:

- Who was I before I encountered Jesus?
- What circumstances surrounded my choice to believe in and follow Jesus?
- How has God transformed my life since I began following Jesus?

TIPS FOR SHARING YOUR STORY

- **Be Real and Transparent:** God's grace, love and forgiveness shine through in the darkest of stories. Be real and open up your life. Our sincere transparency allows the listener to be honest with the brokenness in their own life.
- **Make Jesus the Center of the Story:** Remember that this is the story of what God is doing in and through our lives. We aren't the hero! Keep Jesus at the center of Your Story by making Him the hero.
- **Keep it Short:** There will be future opportunities when you have time for the long story, but in this exercise we're focused on making your story concise. Aim for 10 minutes by focusing on the key questions.

The following is an example Timeline from the life of Joshua McGrew. On the following page, begin to reflect on your own story.

Who was I before I encountered Jesus?	What circumstances surrounded by choice to believe in and follow Jesus?	How has God transformed my life since I began following Jesus?
<p>I grew up in a Christian home.</p> <p>I originally decided to follow Jesus when I was ten years old. This decision was largely based off of my friends.</p> <p>As I grew older, I found myself growing progressively more legalistic (it was more about following rules than having a relationship with Jesus).</p> <p>I went off to a Christian college and became a Youth Minister. I believed that by working hard I could earn God's love. Church became more about 'doing' than 'being'.</p>	<p>When I was 25, I fell head-over-heels for a young lady who was going through some troubled times in her marriage.</p> <p>We ended up having an affair.</p> <p>In May 2010, I stood on stage at the Church and was real with my brokenness. In the midst of me sharing, a man in the audience stood up and yelled, 'I forgive you!' Those words helped me to understand the love and grace of God for the first time in my life.</p> <p>I recommitted my life to doing things God's way, but recognized that it was going to be about love for God and not works this time around.</p>	<p>It took time, but God has healed many broken relationships in my life.</p> <p>I have a beautiful family that started in a rough place but is now seeking God together.</p> <p>For years, I worked multiple jobs to meet my family's needs. God looked out for us during this time and we were never in need.</p> <p>Three years later I was hired at the same church community that I had resigned from. God's grace is overwhelming!</p> <p>I don't have it all together, but thankfully I have a God who loves me in spite of my brokenness.</p>

Who was I before I encountered Jesus?

What circumstances surrounded by choice to believe in and follow Jesus?

How has God transformed my life since I began following Jesus?

EXTRA COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS

This is a non-comprehensive list of common false beliefs about salvation. Each includes a common misunderstanding as well as key scripture that can be used to reveal some truth.

‘Pray Jesus into your heart.’

- This phrase is never found or used in the Bible.
- This phrase is never linked to salvation in the Bible.
- This belief is commonly defended using Revelation 3:20. This verse was not written to non-Christians on how to be saved. Rather, it is written to Christians and is about how to repent.

‘Accept Jesus into your heart.’

- This phrase is never found or used in the Bible.
- This belief is commonly defended using Romans 10:9. Romans 10:9 is an incomplete statement on salvation and also excludes the need for repentance. When aligned with other key scripture on salvation, this verse holds true in that confessing our need for Jesus is ONE PART of our response.
- In other places, calling on Jesus’ name is linked with baptism (e.g. Acts 22:16).

Infant Baptism

- A baby cannot have faith, and faith is essential to baptism (Col. 2:12).
- A baby cannot, and has no need to repent.
- This belief is based on the doctrine of ‘original sin’, but Ezekiel 18:20 teaches that there is no such thing as original sin.

‘Baptism does not save you.’

- Baptism is the act of obedience that is commanded us for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).
- Baptism is our participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus (1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:1 - 6).

‘Baptism is a work. We are saved by faith alone.’

- Ephesians 2:8 is commonly used to defend this belief. The truth is, we cannot be saved through our own actions. Every act that is centered on our own efforts or will is futile. God, on the other hand, can require whatever action He wishes us to take.
- We are saved by faith in the working of God at baptism (Col. 2:12).

‘Baptism is an outward sign of an inner grace.’

- This phrase is never found or used in the Bible.
- In Acts, there are multiple examples of individuals getting baptized without any additional witnesses: the Ethiopian Eunuch and Paul.
- Baptism is an actual participation in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (Rom. 6:1- 4).

‘Baptism is not important. Even Paul said it wasn’t in 1 Corinthians 1:10 - 17.’

- Paul himself was baptized (Acts 22:16).
- In 1 Corinthians, Paul is rebuking the division that is being created as a result of the ‘importance’ of the person doing the Baptism. He expresses his relief that his name isn’t part of the divisiveness since he baptized only a handful of them.

‘What about the thief on the cross? He wasn’t baptized but Jesus said that they would see each other in paradise.’

- Baptism wasn’t a necessity until after the resurrection of Christ. The thief could not take part in something that had not yet happened (Rom. 6:2 - 4).
- As the Son of God, Jesus had the right to forgive anyone He chose to during His ministry on earth (see Matthew 9:2 - 6 as an example).
- Jesus was talking to the thief, not us.

Believer’s Baptism

- In the Bible, the concept of ‘believer’s baptism’ is reflected in John’s (the Baptist) baptism. This baptism was superseded by baptism into Jesus. This is reflected in Acts 19:1-6 where a group of Ephesians needed to be baptized because they had only received the baptism of John, which did not include the promise of the Holy Spirit and was not linked to the resurrection of Jesus.
- Any dunk into the water does not constitute baptism. Baptism should always be done in a Biblical way and for Biblical reasons.

NEXT STEP

DISCIPLESHIP

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