

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 2, 2018



BIBLE STORY:

Mark 2:1-12

BIBLE VERSE:

Mark 2:10a

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

People went to Jesus for help.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus has power over sin. (YK)

Jesus is all-powerful. He rules over sin. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Genesis 27:18-29

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 25:23

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 25:27-34*

MONDAY: *Genesis 26:1-11*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 26:12-22*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 26:23-35*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 27:1-13*

FRIDAY: *Genesis 27:14-29*

SATURDAY: *Genesis 27:30-40*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Mark and Genesis together as a family:



- **Sin destroys.** Once Eve and Adam ate the forbidden fruit, sin entered the world. Sin began an unchangeable path of destruction which affected not only plants and animals, but also people. The Bible teaches that the wages of sin is death, and because of sin, all things die. But in addition to death, sin infiltrates all aspects of our lives and it makes our bodies sick and fragile breaks our relationship with God.
- **Jesus is all-powerful, He rules over sin.** Sin has been a constant problem but Jesus is all-powerful and rules over sin. When four men took their friend to Jesus to be healed, they ran into obstacles that may have discouraged many. But these men were not discouraged and found a way to get their friend to Jesus for healing. Upon first meeting, Jesus did something completely unexpected and instead of healing the man, Jesus forgave the man's sins.
- **Religious leaders react.** Once Jesus forgave the man's sins, the religious leaders responded harshly. By forgiving the man's sins Jesus was claiming equality with God. The religious leaders from that moment forward had decided that blasphemy against God by this man, Jesus, was something they could not tolerate. Jesus not only forgave the man's sin, He also healed the man and sent him home.
- **Jacob, the deceiver.** Jesus showed He was God by forgiving the man's sin. God accomplishes His purposes despite people's sin. God's plan cannot be thwarted, no matter how people's choices seemingly affect those plans. Jacob was encouraged by his mother to forsake tradition and surreptitiously steal a blessing that was intended for Jacob's older brother. Jacob's choice severed the relationship between him and his brother Esau. For fear of his life, Jacob had to leave his home and run to the land of his uncle Laban. Although Jacob's choice did not honor God, God's plan was not stopped.

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 9, 2018



BIBLE STORY:

Mark 4:1-20

BIBLE VERSE:

Mark 4:9

BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus used stories to help people learn.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God's Word changes us. (YK)

God's Word transforms our hearts and minds. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Genesis 28:10-22

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 28:15

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 27:41-46*

MONDAY: *Genesis 28:1-9*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 28:10-22*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 29:1-12*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 29:13-20*

FRIDAY: *Genesis 29:21-30*

SATURDAY: *Genesis 29:31-35*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Mark and Genesis together as a family:



- **Jesus the teacher.** Jesus was a master teacher. As a matter of fact, teacher was one of the most common words used to describe Jesus by His disciples. Jesus modeled teaching in everyday life and used stories as a way to get His points across to His audience. Jesus' favorite teaching technique was to use parables. Parables are stories that use metaphors to relate spiritual truth with everyday life.
- **God's Word is alive.** Jesus told a story of a farmer. This parable would have made sense to the people where Jesus taught since farming was a big business for the residents of the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus began with a story of a farmer sowing seed. In Bible times, farmers would walk through their fields and scatter the seed on top of the soil, then return after the seed was scattered and turn the seed under. Jesus used the analogy of soil types to make a connection to people's hearts.
- **Four soils.** Jesus mentioned the hard path where people walked. This soil would not allow the seed to take root and to be picked away by the birds. The rocky soil near the edges of the field was not very deep and would allow the seed to grow quickly but the roots would not take hold. Some seed fell on the thorny soil and the hearty thorns and thistles grew quickly and choked out the crops. Finally, the good soil accepted the seed and the seed flourished. For His disciples, Jesus showed that the seed was God's Word. The soil represented people's hearts. Some hear the word and ignore it. Some receive the word, but it doesn't take root. Some people succumb to the influences around them, and the word is choked out. Others hear the word and accept it, making it profitable for their lives.
- **God reveals His purposes.** Jesus revealed for His disciples the meaning of His parable and helped them see the kingdom of God. God revealed His purposes to Jacob as Jacob slept on his way to his uncle's homeland. God's assurances to Jacob transformed the way he lived his life, much like God's Word changes us today.

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 16, 2018



BIBLE STORY:

Mark 5:21-43

BIBLE VERSE:

Mark 5:36b

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus made sick people well. (BT)

Jesus healed sick people. (P)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus has power over sickness. (YK)

Jesus is all-powerful. He rules over sickness. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Genesis 29:16-30

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 29:35

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 30:1-13*

MONDAY: *Genesis 30:14-24*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 30:25-36*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 30:37-43*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 31:1-13*

FRIDAY: *Genesis 31:14-21*

SATURDAY: *Genesis 31:22-35*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Mark and Genesis together as a family:



- **Jesus is all-powerful.** Jesus has power over everything because He created everything. While Jesus lived on the earth He had many opportunities to show His power. Jesus used this power to help people understand that He truly was the Messiah, sent from heaven, to rescue people from their sin. In many instances Jesus performed miracles on people the crowds may have felt were insignificant. That was the case in Mark 5 when Jesus healed a woman and a girl.
- **Girls rock!** Unfortunately, during New Testament times, females were not viewed very highly. This might be difficult for us to understand in our society, but the two females in today's story would have seemed insignificant to the men pressing Jesus for signs of His claims. The woman would have been ceremonially unclean and unable to participate in worship or other religious experiences. The girl was a child, and children sometimes were not even recognized by society. Jesus threw off societal confines and healed both the woman and the girl.
- **Faith reigns.** Jesus healed the girl and the woman because of the faith placed in Him. Jairus, a religious leader, knew Jesus could heal his daughter, and because of Jairus's faith, his daughter was healed. Similarly, the woman had so much faith that she believed even touching the hem of Jesus' robe would heal her. Her faith was also rewarded with healing. Jesus helps those who have faith!
- **Sin brings brokenness.** Because of sin, the world is broken. Because of sin, people have symptoms like those described in the stories of Jesus' healings. Sin not only breaks relationship with God, it also breaks relationship with those we sin against. Jacob experienced a broken relationship because of his sin and was living in a foreign land. Jacob worked for his uncle Laban, so he could receive Laban's youngest daughter, Rachel, as his wife. After working for seven years, Laban tricked Jacob and Jacob had to work another seven years to marry Rachel. Through his work, Jacob remained faithful to God and trusted God's future promise.

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 23, 2018



BIBLE STORY:

Luke 2:1-20; Mark 1:14b-15,35-45

BIBLE VERSE:

Luke 2:11

BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God sent Jesus to rescue us from our sin.

(YK)

Jesus is the good news—God sent Him to rescue us from our sin. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Luke 1:26-38

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 1:33

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 31:36-42*

MONDAY: *Genesis 31:43-55*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 32:1-12*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 32:13-23*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 32:24-32*

FRIDAY: *Genesis 33:1-10*

SATURDAY: *Genesis 33:11-20*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

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



- **God's plan for Mary.** Mary was a young woman living in Nazareth, a small town on the western end of the Sea of Galilee. One night, an angel appeared to Mary and announced that she had been favored by God. The angel, Gabriel, announced that Mary would become the mother of the promised Messiah. Mary did not understand this greeting and message since she was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.
- **God's plan for Joseph.** Joseph, a carpenter from Nazareth, was engaged to Mary. When Joseph discovered Mary was pregnant, he decided not to shame Mary and planned to privately divorce her. That night, Joseph was also visited by an angel who told Joseph to marry Mary since the baby was to be the Savior of the world. Joseph was obedient and married Mary.
- **God's plan for Jesus.** Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem, a town about six miles south of Jerusalem. Bethlehem was the hometown of Joseph's ancestors and he had to return. Taking Mary along with him, Joseph looked for accommodations for the evening. When they arrived in Jerusalem for the census, all of the lodging places were full and Joseph and Mary had to seek lodging in a place where the animals slept. That night, Jesus was born, just as God promised. God's Son, the Savior of the world, had been born in Bethlehem, fulfilling Old Testament prophecy.
- **God's plan for shepherds.** On the night Jesus was born, shepherds were in the fields tending their flocks. These shepherds were different from the shepherds of King David's time. These shepherds were probably outcasts and separated from others in society. Jesus came for everyone and the angel's announcement to the shepherds was an indication of the ministry Jesus would have.
- **Jesus grows and begins His ministry.** Jesus grew just like other boys and girls. Mark 1 tells of Jesus' movement into His early ministry where He fulfilled God's plan for Him. John, Jesus' relative, baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted. Jesus later went to Galilee where He chose men to accompany Him in the mission God had called Him to. Jesus is the good news!

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 30, 2018



BIBLE STORY:

Mark 6:45-52

BIBLE VERSE:

Psalms 56:3

BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus cares and helps. (BT)

We know God's Son, Jesus, can help us. (P)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus has power over creation. (YK)

Jesus is all-powerful. He rules over creation.

(OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Genesis 31:2-16

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 31:3

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 34:1-12*

MONDAY: *Genesis 34:13-24*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 34:25-31*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 35:1-15*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 35:16-29*

FRIDAY: *Genesis 36:1-8*

SATURDAY: *Genesis 36:9-43*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Mark and Genesis together as a family:



- **Jesus—fully God.** Jesus did many things to prove that He was indeed the Son of God. Jesus was fully God and at the same time fully human. That's hard for us to think about and it was equally as difficult for the disciples to think about. Jesus proved when He walked on water that He was not bound by laws of nature. Jesus has power over creation.
- **Walking on water.** It is fascinating to think about the time Jesus walked on the water. Many have speculated at the purpose of this event and why Jesus even walked on the water. A common response is, it was easily the quickest way across the Sea of Galilee. We all know the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. While true, Jesus clearly walked on the water to show His disciples that He cared for them and that He also was truly the Messiah.
- **Faith in the living God.** The element of faith is prominent in most New Testament stories. Jesus healed the woman and girl because of faith. Jesus healed the lame man brought to Him by friends because of their faith. The disciples had a little problem with their faith sometimes, as we do, and Jesus helped increase their faith in Him by rescuing them from a violent storm and by walking on the water.
- **God is with His people.** Jesus showed the disciples that He was always with them, God also made it known that He was always with His people. After Jacob had sojourned with his uncle for quite some time, God let Jacob know that it was time to return to his home and his brother. Jacob remembered God's promise to him that God would bless Jacob's family. Jacob had seen God work in his family and Jacob vowed to follow God, who was always with him. Jacob gathered his family, said goodbye to Laban, and began his journey back to Bethel. Jacob believed God had his best interest in mind. Our faith in Jesus helps us see God's plans for us.

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 6, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

1 Timothy 1–6

BIBLE VERSE:

1 Timothy 4:12

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Paul chose Timothy to be a church helper.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

We are not too young to be an example of Jesus in our words and actions. (YK)

We are called to know the gospel and live our lives as an example of it. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Genesis 32:24-32

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 32:28

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 37:1-4*

MONDAY: *Genesis 37:5-11*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 37:12-22*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 37:23-36*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 38:1-11*

FRIDAY: *Genesis 38:12-18*

SATURDAY: *Genesis 38:19-23*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study 1 Timothy and Genesis together as a family:



- **Timothy, the young man.** Paul mentioned in his first letter to Timothy, that Timothy was young. While we have no idea what this really means about Timothy's numerical age, we know that Paul was adamant that Timothy be well admired in spite of his youth. God uses people of all ages and experience to accomplish His purposes. Like Timothy, God can use young and old alike, and boys and girls can be encouraged to serve God in any way He calls them
- **Family is important.** Timothy had been raised in a home where people talked often about spiritual things. We don't know if Timothy's father was part of the picture or not, only that he was a Greek. Timothy's mother and grandmother were important in shaping Timothy's understanding of Scripture. An intentional sharing of Scriptures is important for helping kids know Christ.
- **Discipleship is important.** Understanding Timothy's young age and respecting the commitment of Timothy's mother and grandmother, Paul took time to continue to disciple Timothy. The Book of 1 Timothy is Paul's letter of instruction to the young Timothy who was leading the church in Ephesus. Timothy's task as pastor was difficult as the church in Ephesus struggled. Paul encouraged Timothy to be strong in his faith and to not let others look down on him. Paul spent a great deal of time focusing on the gospel and its importance for believers. Paul told Timothy to stand by the gospel and never waver.
- **God transforms people.** Timothy's life is a picture of the transforming power of God. As Timothy grew in his faith, God used Timothy to encourage others. In Genesis 32, the Bible records a story of a wrestling match between an unnamed man and Jacob that transformed Jacob's life. Jacob was returning to the land of his father, and while he spent the night on a riverbank, he wrestled with a man all night long. Jacob understood the man to be God, and was eventually renamed Israel. Jacob erected a memorial to God as a way to remember the transformation in his life. God can transform our hearts and minds.

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 13, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

2 Timothy 1–4

BIBLE VERSE:

2 Timothy 3:16

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Learn from the Bible. (BT)

Help others learn from the Bible and know about Jesus. (P)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

The Bible helps us love and obey God. (YK)

God gave us the Bible to help us know, love, and obey Him. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Genesis 33:1-15

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 33:11

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 38:24-30*

MONDAY: *Genesis 39:1-6*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 39:7-15*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 39:16-23*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 40:1-8*

FRIDAY: *Genesis 40:9-15*

SATURDAY: *Genesis 40:16-23*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study 2 Timothy and Genesis together as a family:



- **The last will and testament.** Clearly Paul's letters to Timothy highlight the love that Paul had for Timothy. This second letter, another letter of encouragement, was very personal and is likely the last recorded correspondence of Paul before he was executed. Soon, Timothy would be on his own as the pastor of this church. Paul told Timothy how proud he was, and how excited he was about Timothy's spiritual growth.
- **Qualities of a leader.** Paul wanted to make sure that Timothy understood what a good leader looked like. Paul told Timothy that he should not argue; he should avoid useless talking; preach the truth; and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and patience. Above all, Paul encouraged Timothy to be genuine and preach the gospel without wavering. Paul used his current circumstances as an indication of what a life lived for Christ would be like. Paul was genuine in his faith and preached it boldly, even though he was in prison awaiting execution for sharing his faith. Even while he was facing death, Paul continued to share the gospel and encouraged Timothy to continue as well.
- **The word in pictures.** Paul employed word pictures to help make his point. Paul compared the Christian life to a soldier who was fully committed to his task. Paul also compared the Christian life to an athlete who wins a prize by following the rules. Paul finally compared the Christian life to a farmer who toiled greatly and in the end found a great harvest.
- **Reconciled relationships are a blessing from God.** The advice Paul gave to Timothy was not something new. For all time, the Bible has given admonition for people to be genuine and to pursue righteousness, faith, love, and patience. An example taken from Genesis 33 shares the same advice. Jacob returned to his brother and approached him with humility, desiring forgiveness, and was welcomed back home.

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 20, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

Titus 1-3

BIBLE VERSE:

Titus 2:14

BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Paul helped church leaders know what is right.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

Because of His mercy, God saved us from our sin. (YK)

We cannot earn salvation. It is a gift of God because of His mercy. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Genesis 1:27; 9:1-7; Matthew 5:21-22

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 1:27

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 41:1-8*

MONDAY: *Genesis 41:9-14*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 41:15-24*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 41:25-32*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 41:33-38*

FRIDAY: *Genesis 41:39-45*

SATURDAY: *Genesis 41:46-52*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *Titus*, *Genesis*, and *Matthew* together as a family:



- **God values people.** Paul was a well-traveled man. God had called Paul to share the gospel message with many people, and Paul was faithful to do what God had called him to do. Paul was called to share the gospel with Jews and Gentiles. Before Paul, the gospel had been shared almost exclusively with the Jews. Paul knew that God's message of love was for all people because God values people.
- **Paul's companions.** On Paul's journeys, he traveled with many men. Timothy, whom we previously studied, was one of these men. Titus also shared in Paul's missionary journeys. Titus was left on the island of Crete to administer the churches that had been started on the island during previous trips.
- **Preach the truth.** Paul shared with Titus that there were still many false teachers who were infiltrating the church on Crete. Paul's message to Titus was very much the same message he sent to Timothy. The church on Crete needed to be reminded and warned that false teachings were not to be tolerated. Paul admonished Titus to find the truth and preach the truth in spite of false teachings.
- **People are created in God's image.** Genesis 1:27 announces God's creation of people. People were created in the image of God, and as such bear the qualities and characteristics of who God is. People, unlike God, are sinners, and even being made in the image of God, we are imperfect. After the flood account of Genesis 6-9, God entered into a covenant with Noah. As part of God's covenant with Noah, God gave Noah a specific command to protect human life. In the case of murder God required payment and sought the sacrifice of an animal to pay the penalty for sin. Ultimately, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was offered as the perfect sacrifice for all people. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God's wrath for sin was satisfied. The truth of the gospel message was shared with all those Paul taught and continues to be shared today.

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 27, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

Amos 1–9

BIBLE VERSE:

Amos 5:4

BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Obey God and love Him.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God wants us to love Him. (YK)

*God wants His people to be faithful to Him.
(OK)*

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Genesis 35:1-15

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 35:11

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 41:53-57*

MONDAY: *Genesis 42:1-8*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 42:9-17*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 42:18-26*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 42:27-38*

FRIDAY: *Genesis 43:1-10*

SATURDAY: *Genesis 43:11-14*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Amos and Genesis together as a family:



- **Amos, prophet to Israel.** By seeing his title, we might be led to assume that Amos was a professional prophet. This, however, was not true. Amos was actually a farmer who grew and harvested figs. Amos lived in the small town of Tekoa, which was about 10 miles south of Jerusalem. Amos also shepherded sheep on his farm, and these two things uniquely qualified Amos to share God's message with the kingdom of Israel.
- **A kingdom divided.** At this point in Israel's history, the nation had been divided. Two of the original twelve tribes of Israel were living in the south and were called by the name *Judah*. The remaining ten tribes kept the name *Israel* and lived in the northern part of the land. Judah and Israel had different kings. Some of the southern kings were God-honoring but none of the northern kings were.
- **Amos shares God's message.** Amos, while a resident of Judah, had been called by God to minister in the land of Israel. As is typical with prophetic warnings, Amos told Israel to follow God in everything. Both Israel and Judah were experiencing financial prosperity, and Amos warned that reliance on financial prosperity instead of reliance on God would lead to a lack of concern for spiritual things and ultimately would bring God's wrath.
- **God desires faithfulness because of His example.** Genesis 35 shares a wonderful story of God's faithfulness to Jacob. After leaving Laban, Jacob journeyed back to Bethel, the land where God promised to bless Jacob and make his family great. This promise had been fulfilled. As Jacob stood on the same ground where he had originally received this message, he worshiped God, once again, but this time with his family—the fulfillment of God's promise. Jacob set up a monument so future generations would see it and remember God's faithfulness to His people.

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

Hosea 1-14

BIBLE VERSE:

Hosea 12:6

BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

Love and obey God. (BT)

Love and obey God because He loves us. (P)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God loves His people. (YK)

God loves His people even when they do not love Him as they should. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Genesis 37:5-11,19-27

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 37:11

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 43:15-22*

MONDAY: *Genesis 43:23-28*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 43:29-34*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 44:1-9*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 44:10-17*

FRIDAY: *Genesis 44:18-26*

SATURDAY: *Genesis 44:27-34*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Hosea and Genesis together as a family:



- **Hosea, prophet to Israel.** Hosea was also a prophet to the kingdom of Israel. Hosea ministered in Israel around the same time as Amos, but his message was very different. Amos encountered an Israel that was filled with people who relied on their financial blessing instead of God. Hosea encountered an Israel that was filled with people who continually ignored God and sinned without seeing their sin as a problem. God's message to Israel, through Hosea, was an ongoing message for the people.
- **God is faithful even when we are not.** God loves all people and God is a God of second chances. God gave Israel many chances to turn back to Him, but Hosea's message made that more clear in a far different way. Hosea was sent to marry a woman named Gomer, who in turn, was unfaithful to him. Gomer even left home and Hosea had to go find her and pay men money to get her back. Hosea's life with Gomer gave the people of Israel a clear picture of their relationship with God. Gomer represented Israel and their lack of love for God. Hosea's love for Gomer, no matter what she did, mirrored God's love and compassion for the people. God loved Israel, even when Israel did not love God like they should.
- **Dream, dream, dream.** Families come in all shapes and sizes, and many have varying degrees of interaction. Jacob had returned home with his 12 children in tow. Joseph, the first son born of Rachel, and the second youngest, was Jacob's favorite. Jacob lavished Joseph with special gifts, which caught the eye of his siblings. One night, Joseph dreamed an odd dream which he shared with his brothers. The brothers assumed the dream meant that Joseph would one day rule over them and Joseph was sharing the dream to make himself much more important. The brothers sought to do harm to Joseph and sold him to traders going to Egypt. Loving others may often be difficult, but we can love others and love God because He loves us.

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 10, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

Jonah 1-4

BIBLE VERSE:

Jonah 2:9b

BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

God said to tell people about Him.

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*God offers forgiveness to everyone. (YK)
No one deserves God's forgiveness, but He offers it to all people. (OK)*

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Genesis 39:3-12,19-21

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 39:21

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 45:1-8*

MONDAY: *Genesis 45:9-15*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 45:16-28*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 46:1-7*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 46:8-27*

FRIDAY: *Genesis 46:28-34*

SATURDAY: *Genesis 47:1-12*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Jonah and Genesis together as a family:



- **Jonah, prophet to Israel.** Jonah was a professional prophet. God had called Jonah to prophesy to the nation of Israel, and Jonah actually prophesied that Israel would experience great financial blessing. God fulfilled that prophecy during the reign of King Jeroboam II. The Book of Jonah, however, focuses on a different mission God had for Jonah.
- **Jonah, prophet to Nineveh.** God's plan was for Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach repentance. Jonah, being from Israel, did not like Nineveh. Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria and the Assyrians were ruthless savage people who fought against Israel on many occasions. Jonah did not want the Assyrians to repent, so he ran in the complete opposite direction from where God wanted him to go. God pursued Jonah and Jonah was thrown overboard from a ship and swallowed by a great fish. Inside the fish, Jonah had time to consider God's message, and when the fish spit Jonah back onto dry land, Jonah went to Nineveh as God asked. Jonah did preach to the people of Nineveh, who repented of their sin and were spared by God. Jonah did not like this new situation either and was angry at God. God helped Jonah see that God was a compassionate God. God's love for all people was evident when the people of Nineveh repented.
- **Human faithfulness honors God.** Eventually Jonah did what God wanted him to do. Even though he was reluctant to fulfill God's mission for him, Jonah was faithful to preach and people repented. The Book of Genesis tells a different story that highlights a man's faithfulness to God. Joseph was known to be faithful to God in everything he did. Once, Joseph encountered a situation which landed him in prison even though he had done nothing wrong. Instead of being indignant, Joseph remained faithful to God, trusting God's plan for His life.

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 17, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

Nahum 1-3

BIBLE VERSE:

Nahum 1:3a

BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

God cares for people. (BT)

God cares for people who obey Him. (P)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

God is our refuge. (YK)

The Lord is a refuge for those who trust in Him. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Genesis 41:15-21,33-40

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 41:16

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 47:13-17*

MONDAY: *Genesis 47:18-26*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 47:27-31*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 48:1-12*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 48:13-22*

FRIDAY: *Genesis 49:1-12*

SATURDAY: *Genesis 49:13-21*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Nahum and Genesis together as a family:



- **Nahum, prophet to Judah.** The kingdom of Judah was all that remained of God's people. True to His word, the nation of Israel, or the Northern Kingdom, had been attacked and the people had been taken away as captives. The nation ceased to exist. Judah may have been worried that their capture was imminent because Assyria was still a major power. Assyria's power had diminished, but they had returned to their old ways of terrorizing the surrounding people. Judah was scared. God sent Nahum with a message of hope.
- **Nahum, prophet to Nineveh.** Nahum carried a message of warning to the people of Nineveh. Previously, Jonah had preached and the people of Nineveh repented. As often happens, after the people repented and began to follow God, they eventually forgot all about God and returned to their evil ways. Nahum's message told the people of Nineveh that this time Nineveh would be destroyed and there was nothing they could do about it. God was going to send another nation to destroy them, and that's exactly what God did. After Nahum's message, the people of Nineveh were attacked by the Babylonians and their city and nation were destroyed and burned so completely that remnants of the city were not found until the 1800s AD.
- **A dreamer of dreams.** Joseph had been used by God to interpret several dreams while in prison. One of the men whom Joseph helped remembered Joseph when Pharaoh had a troubling dream. Joseph, through God's power, was able to interpret the dream of Pharaoh and warn him that seven years of hard famine were coming. Joseph convinced Pharaoh to plan ahead, and Joseph was placed in charge of collecting the grain to keep the people of Egypt alive. This plan also was part of God's plan to bring a group of people, specifically Joseph's brothers and father and their families, to live in the land. God's plan was to save a remnant of people who one day would leave Egypt and return to the land God promised Abraham as the nation of Israel.

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24, 2019



BIBLE STORY:

Joel 1-3

BIBLE VERSE:

Joel 3:16b

BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

God will help us. (BT)

God will help us when we turn to Him. (P)

KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

Sin has a price and God wants people to repent. (YK)

Sin has consequences, but God will renew those who repent of their sin. (OK)

ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Genesis 45:1-15

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Genesis 50:20

FAMILY READING PLAN:

SUNDAY: *Genesis 49:22-28*

MONDAY: *Genesis 49:29-33*

TUESDAY: *Genesis 50:1-14*

WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 50:15-21*

THURSDAY: *Genesis 50:22-26*

FRIDAY: *Mark 1:1-8*

SATURDAY: *Mark 1:9-15*

FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Joel and Genesis together as a family:



- **Joel, prophet to Judah.** Almost nothing is known about the prophet Joel. The Bible describes very little about his personal life, and the Book of Joel gives few clues as to the people to whom Joel wrote and when he wrote. That aside, the Book of Joel is a book of warning for those who ignore godly leading. As well, Joel brings a bright message of hope for those who repent of their sin and put their faith in God. Sin has consequences, and God wants people to repent. Repentance comes with God's blessing and a renewed relationship with Him.
- **Warning for four groups of people.** Joel shared specific messages for four groups of people. The first group was the elderly. God was concerned because the elderly had not been faithful to share the message of God's blessing, so the younger generations did not benefit from God's blessing. Joel had a message for the drunkards. This group represented the people who enjoyed personal pleasure instead of relying on God for salvation. The third group Joel addressed was the farmers. The farmers were hit hardest by a plague of locusts that consumed everything in sight. The farmers had no income and no hope. Their only hope would come through faith in God. The final group Joel addressed was the priests. God warned the priests that the coming calamity was partly their fault, as they had not been faithful to teach the people the truths that God commanded.
- **God brings reconciliation.** The story of Joseph in the Book of Genesis ends with a wonderful picture of the reconciliation God desires for His people. Joseph was approached by his brothers. Though he recognized them, they did not recognize him. Joseph discovered that his brothers had changed in the years since they sold him into slavery. Joseph identified himself as their brother and assured them that God had sent him to Egypt in order to save a remnant of people from starvation to become God's chosen people. Both the Book of Joel and the story of Joseph share a message of hope and reconciliation for those faithful to God.