



# EAT THIS BOOK

## CHALLENGE

JOURNEY THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

Getting kids into the Bible, and the Bible into kids.



NAME:

# INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing to take part in Eat This Book Challenge. Hopefully, by the time you complete the challenge, you will have a greater love for the Bible and most importantly, the Person who inspired the Book.

Expect God to speak to you through the Bible. It is His love letter telling you about Himself and His plans for your life. As you begin this challenge, think of the Bible as God's present to you. When you read and understand a verse, it's like opening gift. Each verse and each story is a special message of God's love to us. A little present!

## PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of your Holy Word—the Bible. We commit ourselves to love Your Word, to read and study it, and to put it into practice.*

*Since Your Word is living, active and full of power, help us to expect a miracle every time we open the Bible. Give us Your strength to complete this challenge and as a result, fall in love with the Bible more than ever before.*

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*Sign your names to indicate your agreement*



# RULES

- This challenge is primarily designed for Elementary age kids, however, families with non-readers only are welcome to use this guide for their family devotions.
- Ideally, each child in the family will go through the challenge on their own. However, families are welcome to tackle the challenge as a unit.
- There are three readings per week, and then there are some extra options listed below:
  - Memory Challenge (each month we suggest one passage for you to memorize.)
  - Family Reading (each week we suggest a portion of Scripture for families to read and discuss together.)
  - Read Aloud Challenge (a weekly opportunity for a child to read a Bible passage to a younger sibling, grandparent, or anyone else who would be willing to listen.)
- The Eat This Book Challenge starts on January 1 and ends on May 27. You can join the challenge any time between January and May.
- Mark your progress after each reading by placing an “x” in the designated space. Each “x” equals 1 point.
- Each Family Reading and Read Aloud Challenge is worth 5 points.
- For some weeks there are extra challenges; each one is worth 15 points.
- Each memorization challenge is worth 50 points.
- Check out the Super Challenges page for the list of extreme assignments with super big rewards.
- After the workbooks have been submitted, they will be reviewed and the ones with the highest number of points will be awarded prizes.
- Winners will be notified via email.

***Parents, please initial each challenge that your child has completed.***

## Where is the best place for me to have MY time with God?



It takes two to have a friendship. You get to know people by talking with them and sharing your thoughts and ideas, and by hanging out together. It's the same way with God. You can get to know God by spending time with Him.

Did you know that God wants to spend time with you? He wants you to know who He is and learn as much as you can about Him. Spending time with God is most often called quiet time or devotions.

It's called "*quiet time*" because we choose to focus all our attention on God and what He wants to tell us. When you are quiet and listen to God, you will be able to hear and understand what God is saying to you.

It's called "*devotions*" because we devote time and attention to God. Through our regular times with God we show that we are devoted to Him and that He means a great deal to us.

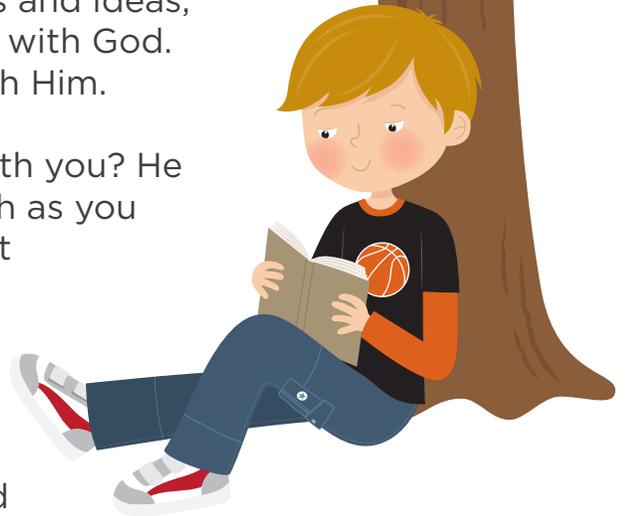
Spending quiet time with God takes concentration; so you'll need to find a place where you can focus on Him and His Word. Think about these things as you decide:

- Is the place quiet so I can focus on what I am learning?
- Is the place private enough so I can read, write, and listen to God without someone interrupting me?

My quiet time place will be \_\_\_\_\_

Now that you have determined the place, decide on the best time for reading your Bible. A good time for it might be first thing in the morning, before your day begins. After school or supper can also be great options.

I will have my quiet time (when?) \_\_\_\_\_





# WEEK 1

## January 1-7

**Matthew 2:1-12**  
*The Three Wise Men*

**Matthew 3**  
*John the Baptist*

**Matthew 4:1-11**  
*The Temptation of Jesus*

### Livin' It!

Satan had the perfect plan. First, he would try to get Jesus at His weakest moment—after He hadn't eaten anything for 40 days—to see if He'd sin. When that didn't work, he tried getting Jesus to show off and prove He was God's Son. Again, Jesus stood firm. Then Satan offered Him the world, if He would just bow to him. But Jesus won the battle.

Notice anything about each of Jesus' words to Satan? What did they have in common? Yes, they all came from the Bible. Jesus fought Satan using the truth of God's Word, and that's exactly how we should fight him, too. We can't outsmart Satan and his crafty temptations on our own, but God gives us wisdom through His Word that can help us defeat the devil in every area of our lives. That's why we should work hard to memorize what God has said. (Check out page 13 for fun ways to memorize Scripture.)

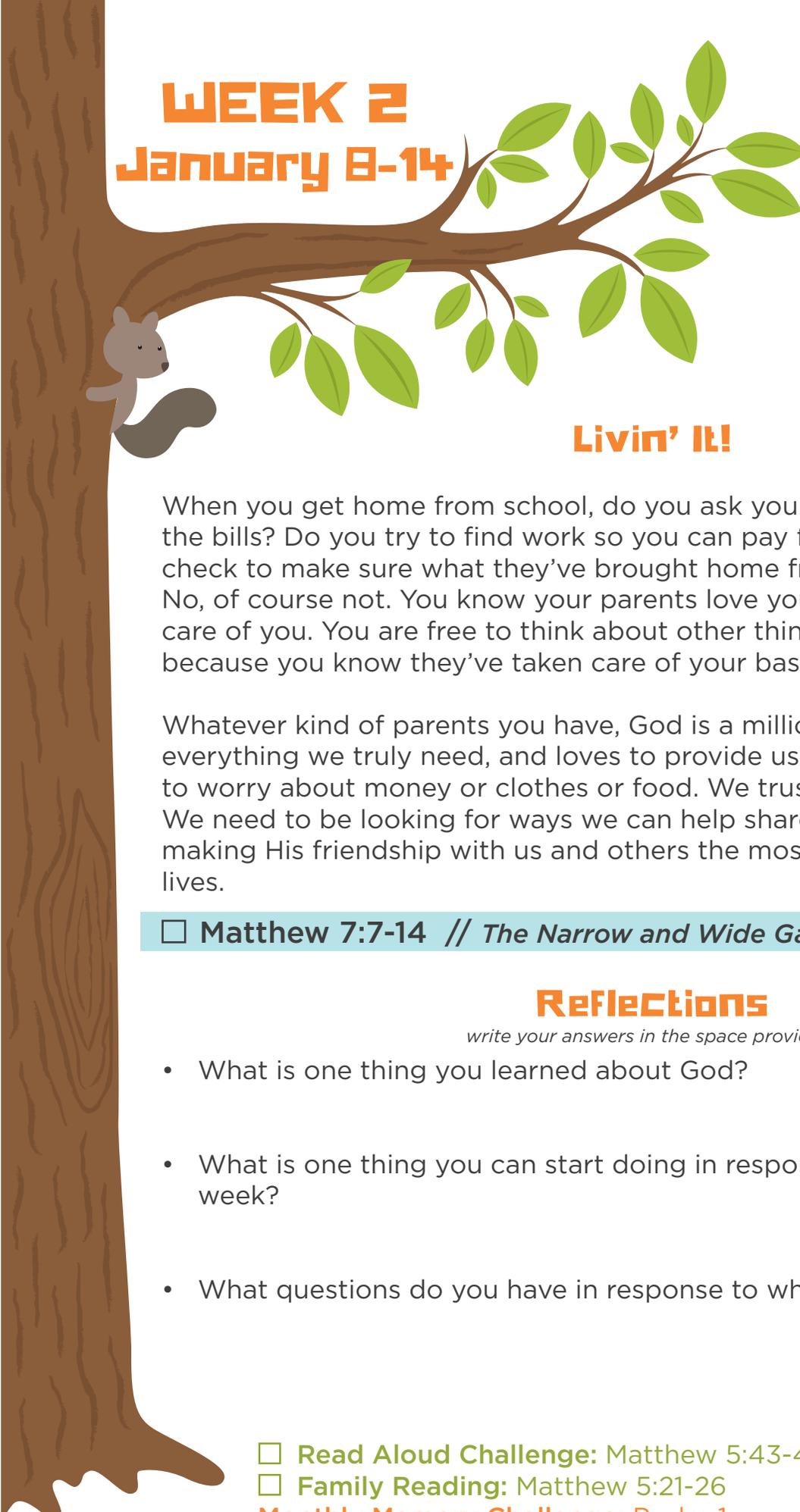
### Extra Challenge

Draw or paint a picture about one of this week's readings. Staple your art to this page to qualify for the points.

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Family Reading:** Luke 2:41-52

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Psalm 1



## WEEK 2

### January 8-14

**Matthew 6:1-14**  
*The Lord's Prayer*

**Matthew 6:19-34**  
*Don't Worry. Be Happy.*

### Livin' It!

When you get home from school, do you ask your parents if they've paid the bills? Do you try to find work so you can pay for your food? Do you check to make sure what they've brought home from the store is healthy? No, of course not. You know your parents love you and are going to take care of you. You are free to think about other things and enjoy your life, because you know they've taken care of your basic needs.

Whatever kind of parents you have, God is a million times better. He knows everything we truly need, and loves to provide us with it. So we don't have to worry about money or clothes or food. We trust Him to meet our needs. We need to be looking for ways we can help share God's love with others, making His friendship with us and others the most important part of our lives.

**Matthew 7:7-14** // *The Narrow and Wide Gates*

### Reflections

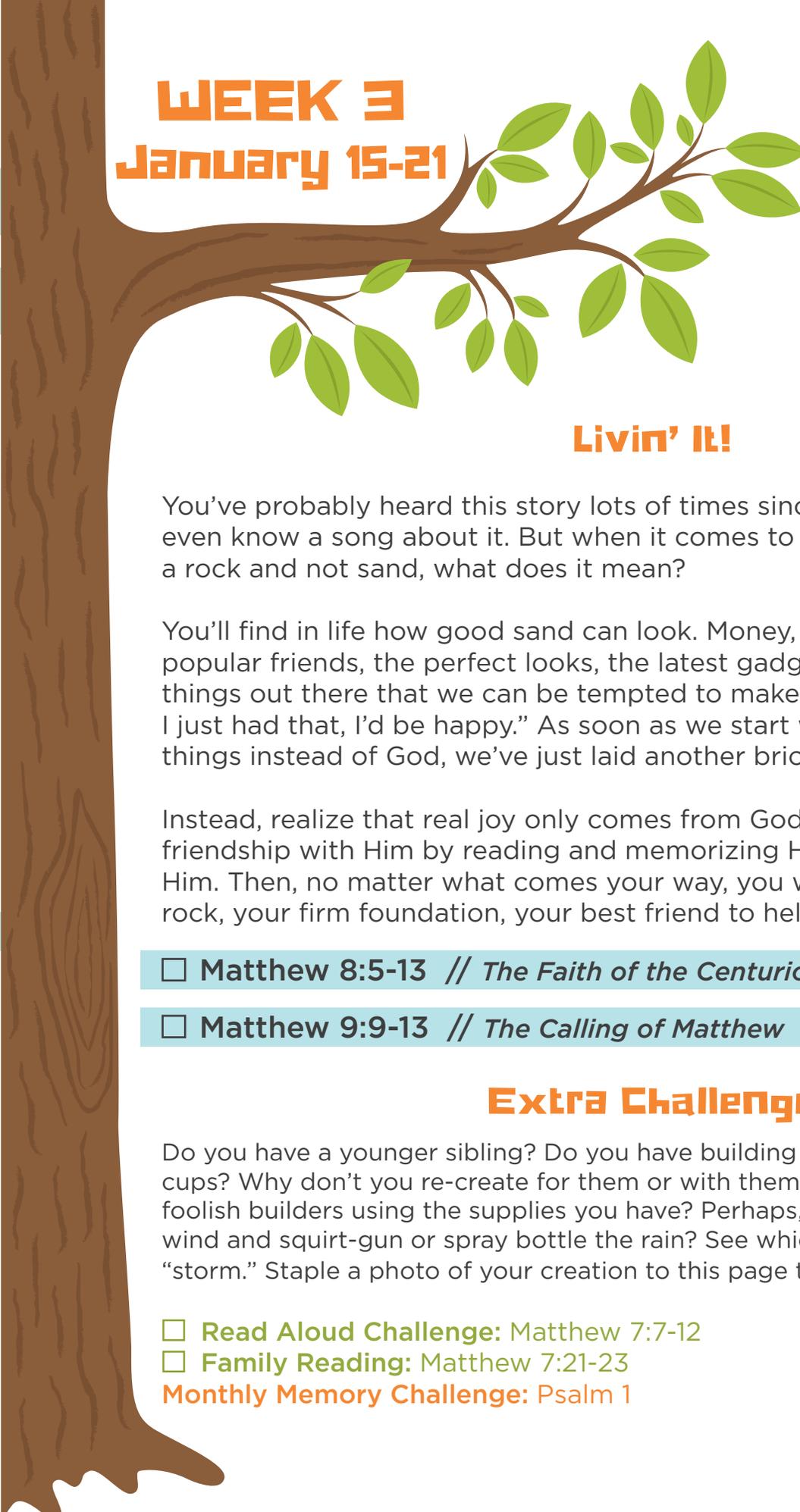
*write your answers in the space provided*

- What is one thing you learned about God?
- What is one thing you can start doing in response to what you read this week?
- What questions do you have in response to what you read this week?

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Matthew 5:43-48

**Family Reading:** Matthew 5:21-26

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Psalm 1



# WEEK 3

## January 15-21

**Matthew 7:24-29**  
 *The Wise and Foolish Builders*

### Livin' It!

You've probably heard this story lots of times since you were a child and even know a song about it. But when it comes to really building your life on a rock and not sand, what does it mean?

You'll find in life how good sand can look. Money, the cool clothes, the popular friends, the perfect looks, the latest gadgets—there are so many things out there that we can be tempted to make important. To think, "If I just had that, I'd be happy." As soon as we start wanting and hoping for things instead of God, we've just laid another brick on the sand.

Instead, realize that real joy only comes from God. Work to strengthen your friendship with Him by reading and memorizing His Word and worshipping Him. Then, no matter what comes your way, you will have Him as your solid rock, your firm foundation, your best friend to help you.

**Matthew 8:5-13** // *The Faith of the Centurion*

**Matthew 9:9-13** // *The Calling of Matthew*

### Extra Challenge

Do you have a younger sibling? Do you have building blocks, LEGOs or plastic cups? Why don't you re-create for them or with them the story of the wise and foolish builders using the supplies you have? Perhaps, a fan could represent the wind and squirt-gun or spray bottle the rain? See which house will stand after the "storm." Staple a photo of your creation to this page to qualify for extra points.

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Matthew 7:7-12

**Family Reading:** Matthew 7:21-23

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Psalm 1



# WEEK 4

## January 22-28



**Matthew 13:1-23**  
*The Parable of the Sower*

**Matthew 14:22-36**  
*Jesus Walks on Water*

**Matthew 16:21-28**  
*Jesus Predicts His Death*

### Extra Challenge

In this week's parable, Jesus compared God's Word to a seed and us to soil. What kind of ground are you? The hard soil? The shallow? The weedy? Or the good? Guess what? You're one of them. How have you treated God's Word? Do you believe it and put it into practice? Or are you just playing games? To help you remember this parable, grab the following supplies:

- Paper towels
- Clear plastic cups or jars
- Assorted dried beans—pinto beans, navy beans, red beans, etc.
- Permanent marker
- Measuring cup
- Water

#### *Instructions*

1. Wet a paper towel and put it in the bottom of each of the cups/jars. (The paper towels should be kept damp, but not dripping wet.)
2. Drop 3 or 4 beans of one type into each jar/cup.
3. Mark the cup with the type of bean using the marker.
4. Wet a second paper towel and put it on top the beans in each cup/jar.
5. You should be able to observe the beans from the outside of the cup.
6. Put the cups/jars on a windowsill.
7. Wait a couple of days and you'll soon see sprouts. Observe what happens over the two weeks. Keep the paper towels damp by adding water occasionally.
8. Take a photo of your "garden" and attach it to this page to qualify for extra points.

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Matthew 11:25-30

**Family Reading:** Matthew 10:27-33

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Psalm 1

## How can I get the most out of MY Bible reading?

Just as you need to get yourself ready each morning before starting your day, so you need to prepare your heart before you journey through God's Word. The best way to do this is to spend a few minutes in **silence** (letting your thoughts and feelings quiet down) and in **prayer** (inviting God to speak to you.)



Your prayer doesn't need to be long—a simple sentence saying “Hi” to God and welcoming Him to speak to you will do. Each time you journey in God's Word, ask Him to open the ears of your soul so you can clearly hear Him speak to you.

Let's do a little exercise. Grab a timer, set it for 90 seconds and see if you can be silent for that long. Take a deep breath or two, close your eyes and watch the whirlpool of your thoughts slow down. If your thoughts continue to race all over the place, add 30 more seconds of silence. Did they slow down? Talk to your parents about your exercise and ask them to share with you how they prepare their mind before they open the Bible.

Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still, and know that I am God.” It takes time to get perfectly still, shove all the busy thoughts out of your mind, and focus your heart on God. After a few moments of silence pray for a sense of peace and God's help in understanding the Bible. Here is a good prayer to pray each time you are getting ready to open your Bible:

***Jesus, thank You for Your Word—the Bible. I invite You to speak into my life. I ask that Your Word will guide me, correct me, change me and make my faith in You stronger than before. Amen.***



**WEEK 5**  
**January 29 -**  
**February 4**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

- The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant*

**Matthew 19:16-30**

- Jesus and the Rich Young Man*

**Mark 2:1-12**

- Jesus Heals a Paralytic*

## **Gotta Know!**

*What does it mean to be paralyzed?*

Many paralytics were brought to Jesus for healing because doctors didn't know how to help. Even today, many people become paralyzed through accidents, or they are born with the problem—and doctors can't always help.

When you are paralyzed, you are unable to move certain parts of your body because the connection between those muscles and the nerves in your brain has been broken. Your spinal column (backbone) holds very delicate bands of nerves that send messages to and from the brain to every area of your body. If the backbone gets damaged and the nerves inside it are also hurt, often the brain can no longer tell the rest of the body what to do. Scientists today are trying to find ways to help the broken nerves grow back together and heal, but they still have more work to do.

Jesus didn't need a doctor because He is the Great Physician. He healed the people just by speaking the word.

## **Extra Challenge #1**

Ask your parents to help you visit [www.joniearecksonstadastory.com](http://www.joniearecksonstadastory.com) and together listen or read about how God took the tragedy in her life and turned it into triumph. You can also learn more about Joni at [www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org). What did you think of her story? What inspired you about her life? In what ways would you like to follow her example? On a separate piece of paper, write a few paragraphs about how Joni's story affected you. Attach the paper to this page to qualify for extra points.

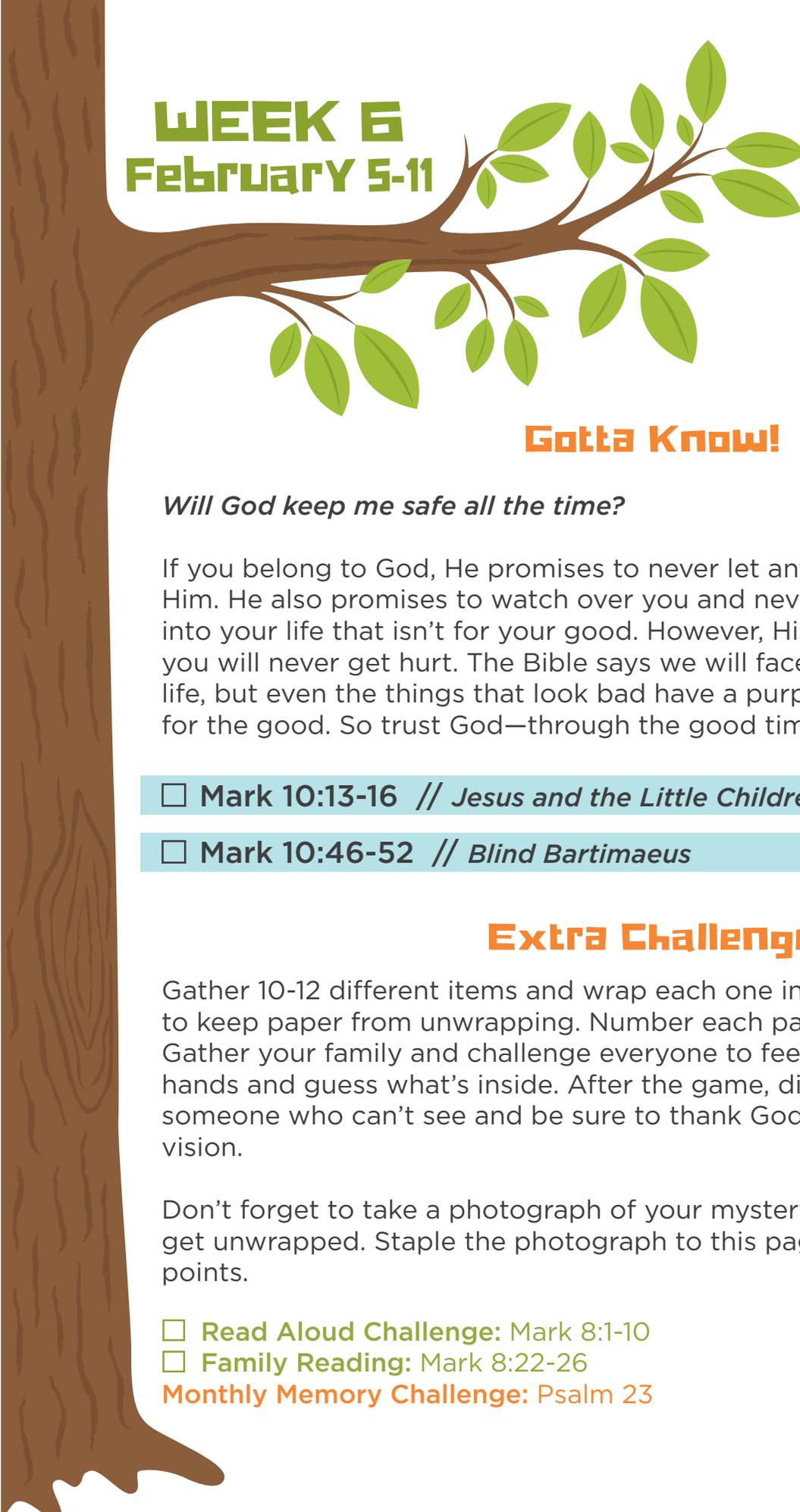
## **Extra Challenge #2**

Gather your family and act out the parable of the unmerciful servant. Take a photo of your play and attach it to this page to qualify for extra points.

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Matthew 22:1-14

**Family Reading:** Mark 1:40-45

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Psalm 23



## WEEK 6 February 5-11

**Mark 4:35-41**  
*Jesus Calms the Storm*

### Gotta Know!

*Will God keep me safe all the time?*

If you belong to God, He promises to never let anything separate you from Him. He also promises to watch over you and never allow anything to come into your life that isn't for your good. However, His promise does not mean you will never get hurt. The Bible says we will face trials and troubles in this life, but even the things that look bad have a purpose for changing our lives for the good. So trust God—through the good times and the bad!

**Mark 10:13-16** // *Jesus and the Little Children*

**Mark 10:46-52** // *Blind Bartimaeus*

### Extra Challenge

Gather 10-12 different items and wrap each one in newspaper. Use tape to keep paper from unwrapping. Number each package with a marker. Gather your family and challenge everyone to feel the packages with their hands and guess what's inside. After the game, discuss what life is like for someone who can't see and be sure to thank God for the wonderful gift of vision.

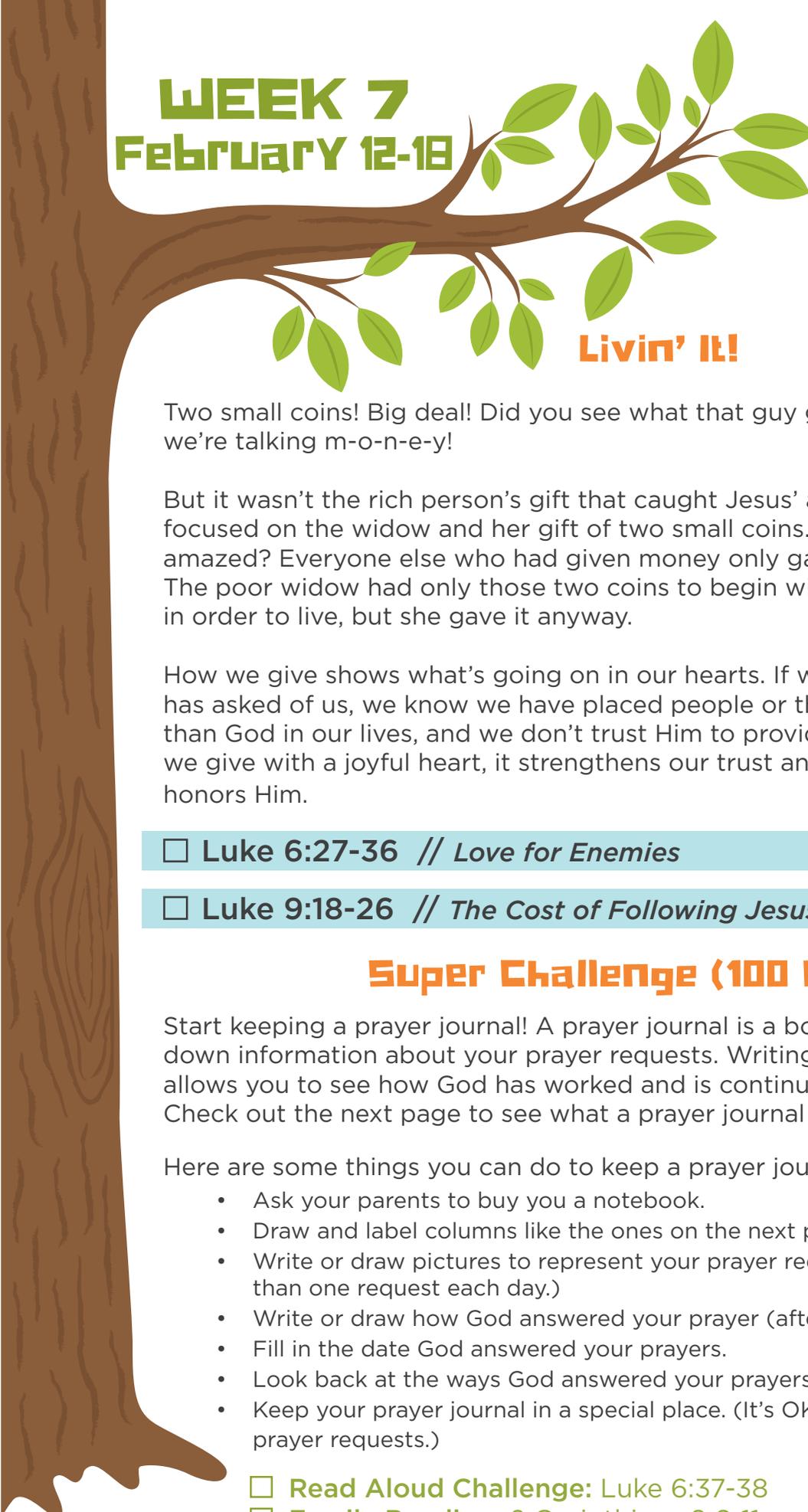
Don't forget to take a photograph of your mystery packages before they get unwrapped. Staple the photograph to this page to qualify for the points.

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Mark 8:1-10

**Family Reading:** Mark 8:22-26

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Psalm 23





# WEEK 7

## February 12-18

**Mark 12:41-44**  
*The Widow's Offering*

### Livin' It!

Two small coins! Big deal! Did you see what that guy gave in front of her? Now we're talking m-o-n-e-y!

But it wasn't the rich person's gift that caught Jesus' attention. His eyes were focused on the widow and her gift of two small coins. So why was Jesus so amazed? Everyone else who had given money only gave what they had left over. The poor widow had only those two coins to begin with. She needed that money in order to live, but she gave it anyway.

How we give shows what's going on in our hearts. If we hold back from what God has asked of us, we know we have placed people or things as more important than God in our lives, and we don't trust Him to provide what we need. When we give with a joyful heart, it strengthens our trust and friendship with God and honors Him.

**Luke 6:27-36** // *Love for Enemies*

**Luke 9:18-26** // *The Cost of Following Jesus*

### Super Challenge (100 Points)

Start keeping a prayer journal! A prayer journal is a book in which you write down information about your prayer requests. Writing down your prayer requests allows you to see how God has worked and is continuing to work in your life. Check out the next page to see what a prayer journal may look like.

Here are some things you can do to keep a prayer journal:

- Ask your parents to buy you a notebook.
- Draw and label columns like the ones on the next page.
- Write or draw pictures to represent your prayer requests. (It's OK to have more than one request each day.)
- Write or draw how God answered your prayer (after He does so).
- Fill in the date God answered your prayers.
- Look back at the ways God answered your prayers.
- Keep your prayer journal in a special place. (It's OK not to let anyone read your prayer requests.)

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Luke 6:37-38

**Family Reading:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Psalm 23

# PRAYER JOURNAL EXAMPLE

Remember God answers prayers in three ways:

- **YES** - He will give you what you asked for.
- **NO** - He will not give you what you asked for.
- **WAIT** - You will have to wait for Him to answer you.

DATE	MY PRAYER REQUEST	HOW GOD ANSWERED	DATE GOD ANSWERED
Monday 3/2 ★	I need help learning to spell the words for my spelling test.		
Tuesday 3/3	Lily is going to visit her aunt and uncle this weekend		
Tuesday 3/3 ★	My grandpa's shoulder surgery is tomorrow.	Grandpa didn't have any problems with his surgery. ✓	3/5
Wednesday 3/4	Grandpa's shoulder surgery	Grandpa is feeling much better. He should get to go home Saturday.	3/6
Thursday 3/5	Spelling test is tomorrow. I'm nervous.		

Notice the boxes under “How God Answered” and “Date God Answered” are not filled in for three of the requests. These events have not taken place yet. After the test, these boxes can be filled in to show how God answered the prayer. When Lily returns, information can be written about her trip.

# WEEK 8

## February 19-25

Luke 10:38-42  
*Mary and Martha*

Luke 11:1-13  
*Jesus' Teaching on Prayer*

### Living It!

Have you ever wondered why Jesus prayed? Jesus said that He only did the things His Father told Him to do. The many times we see Jesus waking up early in the morning, or escaping the crowds to pray, shows how important it was to Jesus to stay connected to the Father. Even in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus worked so hard in prayer that He sweat blood.

Prayer is not just a nice idea or something we do when we want God to give us something. It's the main way we stay connected with our Heavenly Father, just like Jesus did. He gives us prayer to help us see the sin we need to confess. It also helps us do unseen work by lifting up other people's needs to God—as well as our own.

Prayer keeps us listening to God's direction for our lives. The Bible says we should always be in an attitude of prayer to God.

Luke 15:1-10 // *The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin*

- Read Aloud Challenge:** Luke 12:13-21
- Family Reading:** Luke 12:22-34
- Monthly Memory Challenge:** Psalm 23



## What's the point of memorizing Bible verses?



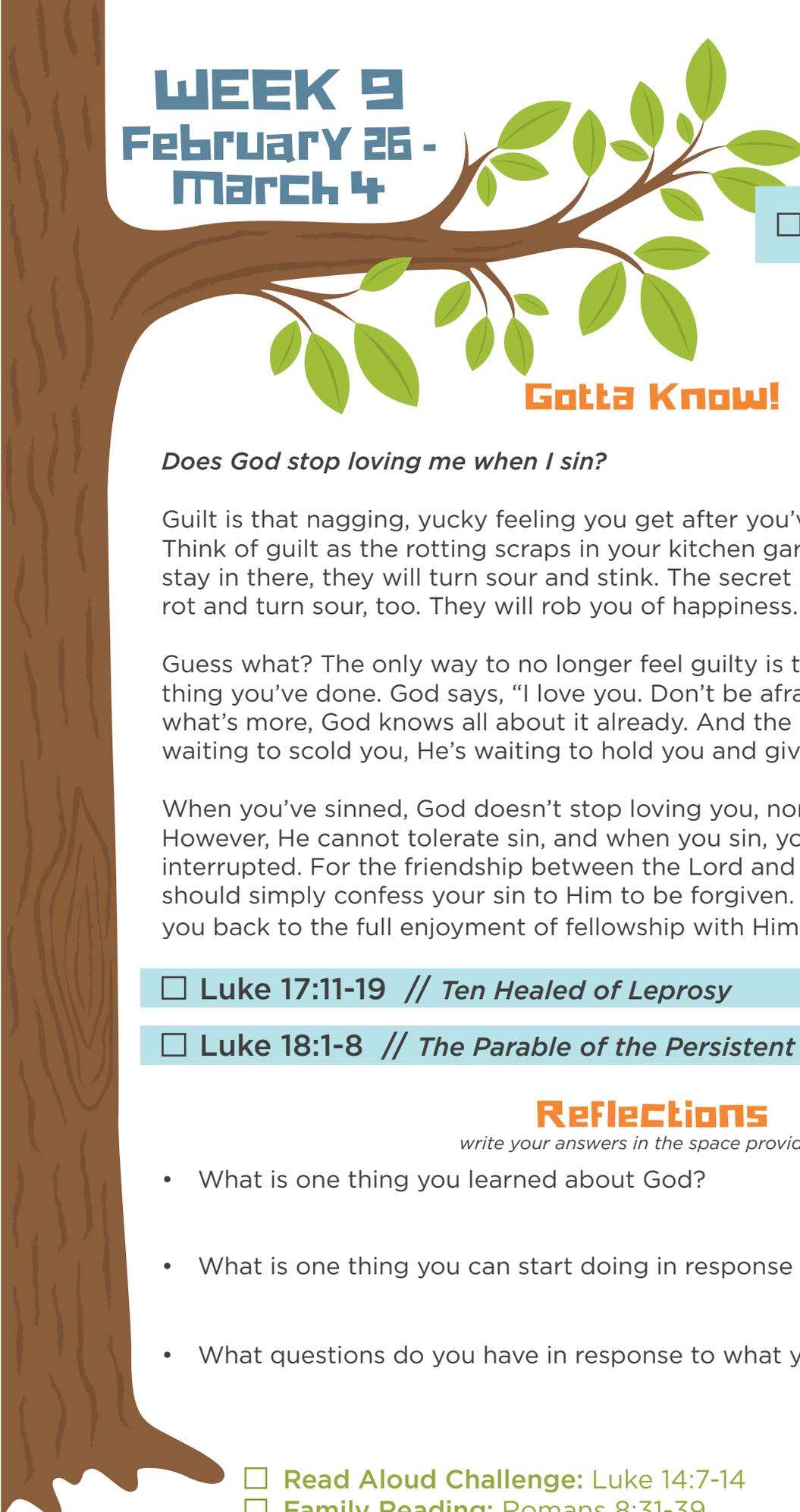
When you memorize a Bible verse, you are carrying the Word of God in your head and in your heart. This is a very good and helpful thing. Why? Because if, for example, you are feeling worried, you can remember that God's Word promises, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) Or if you are facing a task that seems impossible, you can remember that God's Word promises, "Everything is possible for him who believes." (Mark 9:23)

Life is full of ups and downs. The Bible says that God's Word is like a light that shines in the dark to show you the way (see Psalm 119:105). The more familiar you are with God's Word, the easier it is for you to hear His loving voice (see Isaiah 30:21).

But what if you're not good at memorizing? Don't worry. Memorizing Bible verses is fun and easy to do. Everyone learns in different ways. Some of us can look at a short Bible verse and remember it right away. Others have to work a little harder. With a little practice, you will find the way that works best for you.

### 11 Fun Ways to Memorize Scripture

1. Write the verse(s) you want to memorize on a printer paper, and put it on the bathroom mirror.
2. Repeat your verse(s) before every meal.
3. Pray your verse(s) back to God.
4. Memorize a verse at the dinner table with your family.
5. Write the verse(s) down in a notebook as many times as you can.
6. Sing your verses. Here are some great music resources for putting the Bible in your heart:
  - [www.seedsfamilyworship.com](http://www.seedsfamilyworship.com)
  - [www.slugsandbugs.com](http://www.slugsandbugs.com)
  - [www.therizers.com](http://www.therizers.com)
  - [www.stevegreenministries.org](http://www.stevegreenministries.org)
  - [www.psalty.com](http://www.psalty.com)
7. Write the verse with sidewalk chalk outside really big. Hop on the words as you say them.
8. Play "Cavemen" and draw pictures of stick figures and silly drawings that represent each word or idea.
9. Play catch with a ball. You say the first word when you throw, your parent/sibling says the second word and throws it back. Continue until you've completed the verse, then let someone else start it.
10. Write out the verse on a sheet of paper, then cut it into puzzle pieces and see how long it will take you to put it together.
11. Buy an inexpensive dry erase board. Write out the verse, then erase each word when you know it, till they're all gone.



**WEEK 9**  
**February 26 -**  
**March 4**

**Luke 15:11-32**  
*The Parable of the Lost Son*

## **Gotta Know!**

*Does God stop loving me when I sin?*

Guilt is that nagging, yucky feeling you get after you've done something wrong. Think of guilt as the rotting scraps in your kitchen garbage pail. If you let them stay in there, they will turn sour and stink. The secret sins you hide in your heart rot and turn sour, too. They will rob you of happiness.

Guess what? The only way to no longer feel guilty is to no longer hide the wrong thing you've done. God says, "I love you. Don't be afraid to tell Me about it." And what's more, God knows all about it already. And the best news is that He's not waiting to scold you, He's waiting to hold you and give you His peace.

When you've sinned, God doesn't stop loving you, nor does He love you less. However, He cannot tolerate sin, and when you sin, your fellowship with Him is interrupted. For the friendship between the Lord and you to be restored, you should simply confess your sin to Him to be forgiven. This simple practice brings you back to the full enjoyment of fellowship with Him and of His love.

**Luke 17:11-19** // *Ten Healed of Leprosy*

**Luke 18:1-8** // *The Parable of the Persistent Widow*

## **Reflections**

*write your answers in the space provided*

- What is one thing you learned about God?
- What is one thing you can start doing in response to what you read this week?
- What questions do you have in response to what you read this week?

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Luke 14:7-14

**Family Reading:** Romans 8:31-39

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Psalm 100

# WEEK 10

## MARCH 5-11



Luke 18:9-14  
*Two Kinds of Prayers*

Luke 19:1-10  
*Love for the Unworthy*

John 2:1-11  
*Jesus Saves the Wedding*

### Gotta Know!

#### *Why doesn't everybody believe the Bible?*

Believing the Bible requires more than just reading words and agreeing with them. To believe what the Bible says means that you have to admit that you're a sinner, and you must have Jesus to save you from your sins. Many people don't want to surrender to God because they don't want Him to be their boss (master). Their pride and stubbornness keeps them from actually understanding what the Bible says. Unless God changes their hearts and gives them understanding (faith), they cannot see the truth. That's why it's so important to pray for the people who don't follow Jesus, that God Himself would open their eyes to His truth.

### Extra Challenge #1

Write a note to your mom telling her how glad you are to be her kid and list a few things you love about her.

### Extra Challenge #2

Ask your friend if he or she has any prayer requests. Pray for those concerns and later check with your friend to see how things are.

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Acts 3:1-10

**Family Reading:** Philemon

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Psalm 100



# WEEK 11

## March 12-18

John 2:12-25  
*Jesus Clears the Temple*

### Livin' It!

Jesus drove away money-changers and merchants from the temple reminding people that it was meant to be a house of prayer. You and I are designed to be a living house of prayer, which means that we were made to live in fellowship with God. Look over your life—are there any distractions that need to be driven away from your daily routine to help you better focus on God? Write some of the things/activities that you should cut out or minimize to strengthen your connection to God.

John 6:1-15 // *Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand*

John 11 // *Jesus Raises Lazarus*

### Gotta Know!

#### *Who made God?*

Nobody! God was never created. He does not have a beginning at all. He has always been in existence, and He will always be here. It's impossible for us to understand because everything else we know of had a beginning. But not God. He's eternal, and everything that is has come from Him.

### Extra Challenge #1

Make a card for each brother and sister that tells them how special they are.

### Extra Challenge #2

Think of three specific things that make your parents happy and then do them.

- Read Aloud Challenge:** John 3:14-21
- Family Reading:** Jude
- Monthly Memory Challenge:** Psalm 100

# WEEK 12

## MARCH 19-25



John 12:1-11  
*Mary Anoints Jesus*

Luke 19:28-40  
*The Triumphal Entry*

John 13:1-17  
*Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet*

### Livin' It!

His followers must have thought He was nuts when He wrapped a towel around Himself and began washing His disciples feet. But the picture made His point. Jesus, the Creator of the world, thinks serving others is extremely important. If He did it, so should we.

So how can you be a servant today? Service happens in the little things. Like when you open the door to your room and see the mess that drives your mother crazy. Clean it up—as a service to her and to God. Or helping your little sister reach the water fountain. Or bringing the paper to your neighbor's doorstep. Just ask God to make you notice the needs around you, and then give of yourself to meet them.

### Extra Challenge #1

Help your brothers and sisters with their chores all week long.

### Extra Challenge #2

Have a foot washing ceremony as a family. Take turns washing each family member's feet and encourage them by speaking things you like about them.

- Read Aloud Challenge:** Matthew 25:31-46
- Family Reading:** Philippians 2:3-10
- Monthly Memory Challenge:** Psalm 100



# How did we get the Bible?



In ancient times, many people didn't know how to write or read. They didn't have books. They didn't have TV or computers. They didn't even have paper and pencils! Instead, they told stories.

The Bible begins with the oldest stories about how God created the universe, earth, plants, animals, and the first human beings, Adam and Eve (Genesis 1-3). It tells the story of Noah's ark (Genesis 6-9). It tells the story of Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9). These very early stories in the Bible were first passed down orally from generation to generation. The word orally means by mouth. Parents told their children who told their children.

Since God's stories were so important, people made a special effort to write them down. But in ancient times, the only people able to read and write were called "scribes." The word scribe comes from a Latin word which means to write. Most books of the Bible were copied down by scribes on papyrus scrolls (Jeremiah 36:2). Later they were written on parchment. Thanks to the scribes' hard work, the message of God's love spread all over the ancient world. (Ezra 7:12; Psalm 45:1)

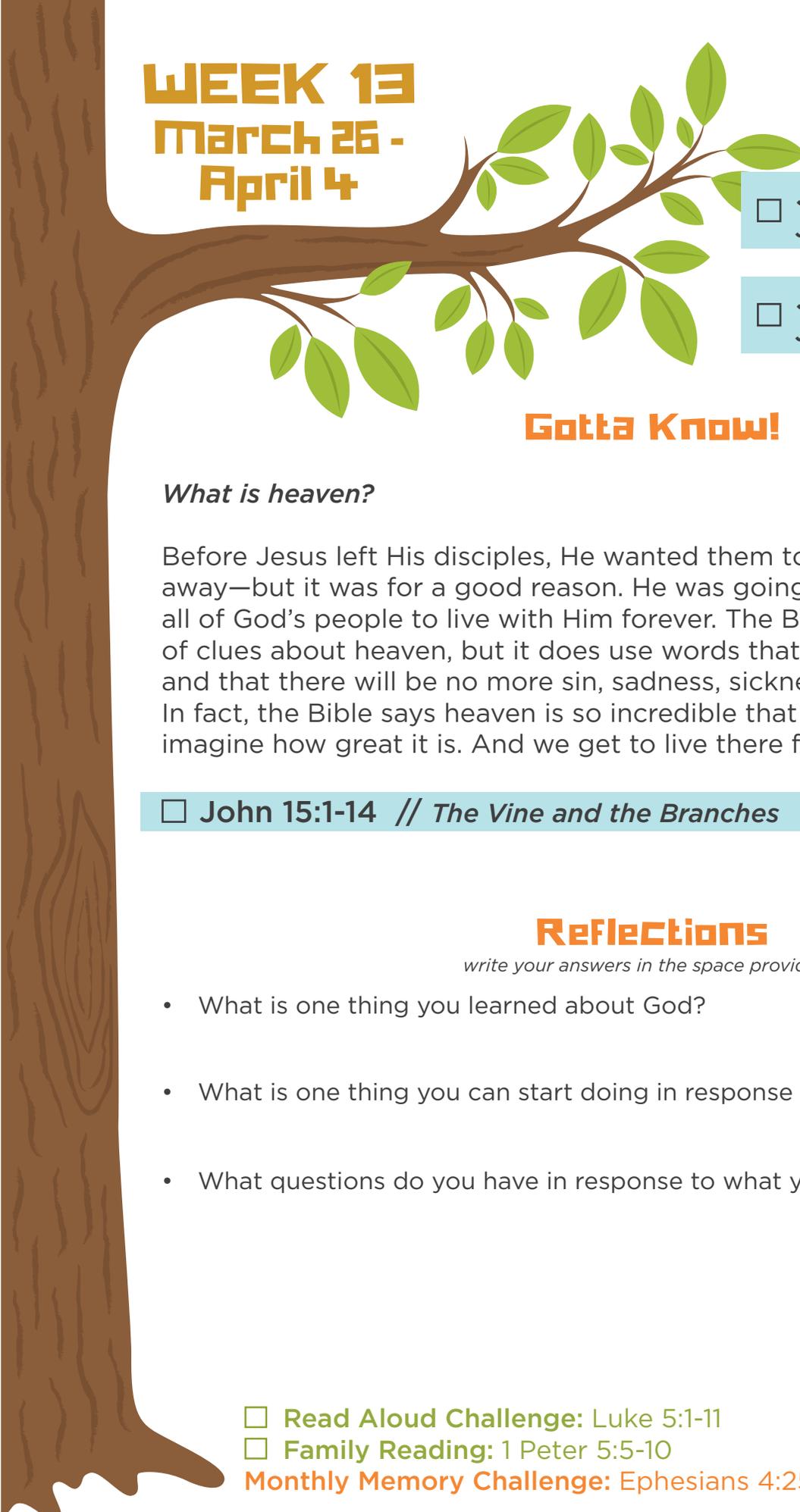
In the early church, people who loved God had special meetings called councils to decide which books would be included in the final version of the Bible. Before each council, they prayed for the Holy Spirit to help them choose just the right books.

Then, in the fifteenth century, the mechanical printing press was invented by a man named Johann Gutenberg, in Germany. In 1457, Gutenberg's Bible was written in Latin, the language of the church. It was printed in two big volumes of 1,282 unnumbered pages!

The word Bible comes from the Greek word *biblios*, which means book. But here is an interesting fact: the word Bible is not found in the Bible! This is because the term came into use long after all the books of the Bible were completed and selected.

Today the Bible is the world's best-selling book. Over the years, billions of Bibles have been printed. The Bible has been translated into more than two thousand languages!

Thanks to the Bible people everywhere on earth can learn about God's love!



**WEEK 13**  
**March 26 -**  
**April 4**

**John 13:31-38**  
*Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial*

**John 14:1-6**  
*Jesus Comforts His Friends*

## **Gotta Know!**

### ***What is heaven?***

Before Jesus left His disciples, He wanted them to know that He was going away—but it was for a good reason. He was going to prepare a place for all of God's people to live with Him forever. The Bible doesn't give us a ton of clues about heaven, but it does use words that indicate that it's "up," and that there will be no more sin, sadness, sickness, or anything else bad. In fact, the Bible says heaven is so incredible that we aren't even able to imagine how great it is. And we get to live there forever with Jesus!

**John 15:1-14** // *The Vine and the Branches*

## **Reflections**

*write your answers in the space provided*

- What is one thing you learned about God?
- What is one thing you can start doing in response to what you read this week?
- What questions do you have in response to what you read this week?

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Luke 5:1-11

**Family Reading:** 1 Peter 5:5-10

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Ephesians 4:25-32

# WEEK 14

April 2-8



Luke 22:39-53  
*Jesus Arrested*

Luke 22:54-65  
*Peter Denies Jesus*

Luke 23  
*Jesus' Death*

## Gotta Know!

*Why did Jesus have to die?*

He didn't have to. He chose to, out of love. All of us have sinned (broke God's law). Sin comes with a high price—eternal separation from God. Jesus didn't want us to be apart from His Father, so through His death on the cross, He took our punishment and paid the price for our sins. (It's like a parent paying for a toy their child broke in the store.) Because He rose again, He is able to forgive us and accept us into God's family.

By dying on the cross, Jesus showed us three important things:

1. how ugly and costly sin is;
2. how loving and merciful God is;
3. how special and wanted we are.

## Extra Challenge

Together with your parents think through this important question: *Couldn't God just forgive us without Jesus dying?* Write your thoughts below.

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Romans 5:6-8

**Family Reading:** Isaiah 53:1-11

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Ephesians 4:25-32

# WEEK 15

April 9-15

John 20:1-18  
*The Empty Tomb*

John 20:19-30  
*Jesus Appears to His Disciples*

## Gotta Know!

### *What is a disciple?*

Another name for disciple is “a learner.” A disciple is anyone who follows the teachings of Jesus, not only by studying Jesus’ words, but also by following them with his life. Jesus spent an extra amount of time with 12 men He chose specifically to be His disciples. But the Bible also uses the same word to describe others who obeyed Jesus’ teachings, including women. (Check out Acts 9:36.) If you have accepted Jesus and are doing your best to obey Him, you are His disciple.

John 21 // *Jesus Shows Forgiveness to Peter*

## Extra Challenge: The Art of Forgiveness

Just like Peter, we all mess up and hurt people we love the most. Once a relationship is damaged, it can only be restored through forgiveness. Repentance or apology is how we rebuild and keep friendships with God and other people. So what exactly does a real apology look like?

True repentance starts in the heart, when you realize you really goofed up. Then, with a humble attitude, you go to the person you hurt and tell them what a bad thing you did, and take the blame for the problem. Then, simply say, “I’m sorry for [whatever it is that you did],” followed with, “Will you please forgive me?” No matter how they respond, you can rest knowing you’re forgiven by God and have done all that you can do.

- Is there someone you need to forgive?  
When and how will you do that?
- Is there someone you need to ask forgiveness from?  
When and how will you do that?

- Read Aloud Challenge:** Luke 24:1-9
- Family Reading:** Matthew 27:62-28:10
- Monthly Memory Challenge:** Ephesians 4:25-32

# WEEK 16

April 16-22



- Matthew 28  
*The Resurrection*
- Acts 1:1-11  
*Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven*
- Acts 3:1-16  
*Peter Heals the Crippled Beggar*

## Livin' It!

Some people can sing. Others dance. Some are really smart, while others are hilarious. And then there are those people who don't seem to have any real talent or gift to offer at all. Maybe you feel that way, or you know someone who does. Peter and John, Jesus' famous disciples, could even relate.

As they passed by a crippled man who begged them for help, they admitted that they didn't have money or anything natural to offer the man. But what they could give him was power from God. When they restored his legs, his whole soul was healed.

No matter what your gifts are (or aren't), God can use you to do mighty things for His kingdom when you allow His Spirit to work through your life. Remember that there is nothing better you can bring to the world than the message of hope and love found in Christ Jesus.

## Extra Challenge

How long can you go without watching TV or playing video games? Give yourself 25 points for each screen-free day. (Maximum 7 days. **Only days in a row can be counted**, not a day here and there.)

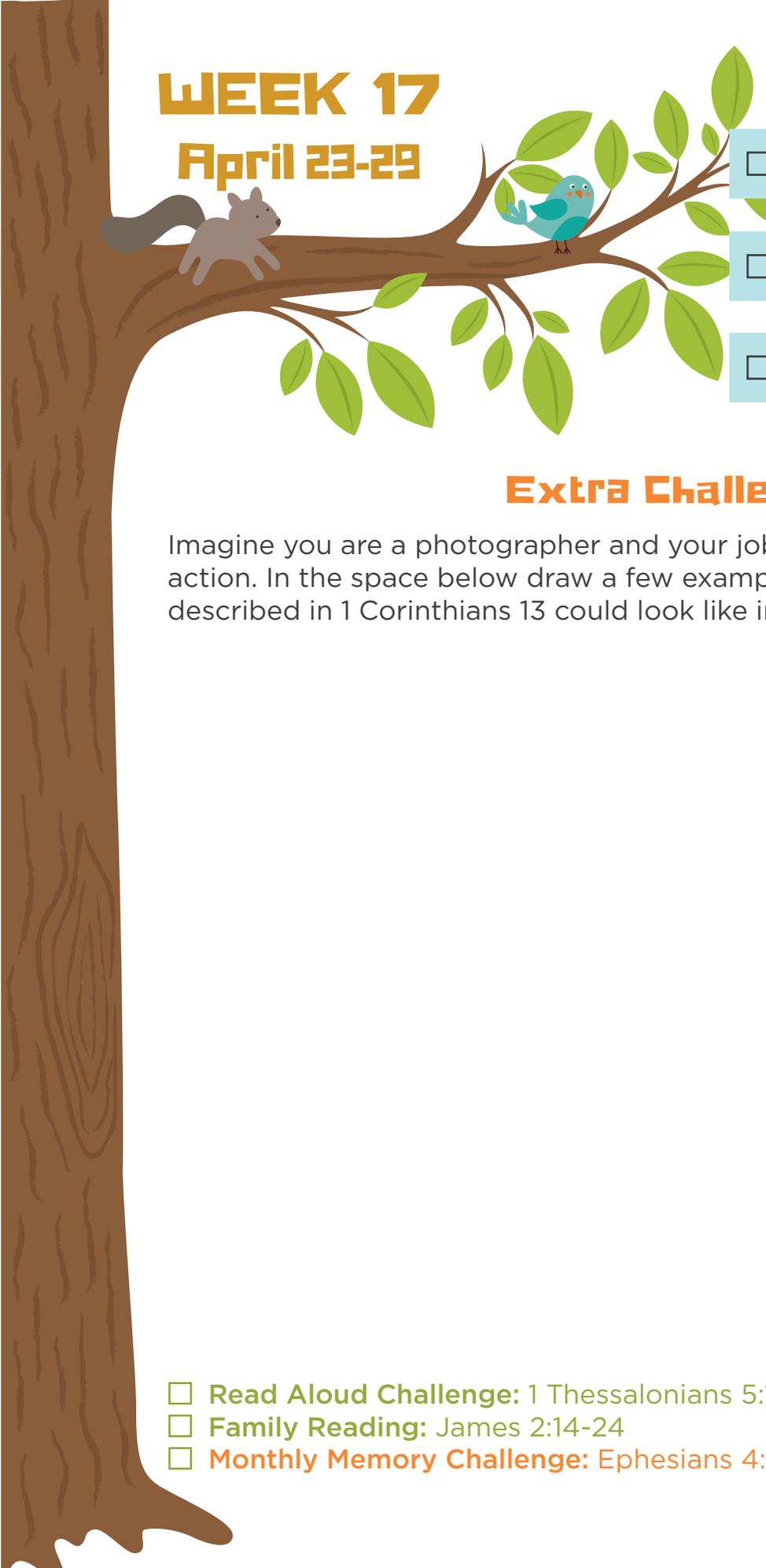
Record the number of your screen-free days here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Matthew 25:31-46

**Family Reading:** 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Ephesians 4:25-32





**WEEK 17**

**April 23-29**

Acts 9:1-22  
*Saul's Conversion*

Romans 12  
*Christian Living*

1 Corinthians 13  
*What Real Love Is*

### Extra Challenge

Imagine you are a photographer and your job is to take snapshots of love in action. In the space below draw a few examples of what God's kind of love described in 1 Corinthians 13 could look like in your family setting.

- Read Aloud Challenge:** 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18
- Family Reading:** James 2:14-24
- Monthly Memory Challenge:** Ephesians 4:25-32

## How do I know the Bible is true?



The Bible is different from any other book in the world. Why? Because it is written by many different people who wrote under the inspiration of God. This does not mean that God dictated His words to the writers. This means that *God breathed His truth into the hearts of the writers*. Through His Holy Spirit, God inspired the writers so they would know just what to write.

God's Holy Spirit speaks today through the pages of every Bible (Hebrews 4:12). The Bible has the power to speak God's truth to the hearts of all human beings. The Bible has the power to speak God's truth to you. That is why the Bible is often called "God's Word."

Here is an interesting fact: The Bible is the most documented and reliable book in the world. Scholars of the Bible have more than thirteen thousand manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament, which they continue to study and learn from this very day! Ongoing new discoveries by biblical archeologists also help to prove the Bible's remarkable historical accuracy.

# WEEK 18

April 30 -  
May 6

Galatians 6:1-10  
*Don't Get Tired*

Ephesians 4:25-32  
*Living as Children of Light*

Philippians 2:4-15  
*Shining as Stars*

## Gotta Know!

### *What do missionaries really do?*

Missionaries are people who tell others the Gospel (the Good News of Jesus). All of God's people are missionaries in a way, since we all need to tell others of God's truth. But some people are called by God to make it the focus of their work. They may remain at home, but many move to other countries around the world so they can reach people who have never heard the Gospel. Often they offer a service to the people, such as teaching English or providing medicine or food. As they meet basic needs and build friendships, people are open to what they have to say about Jesus. Missionaries rely on people like us back at home to provide the money they need to keep spreading God's Word.

**Read Aloud Challenge:** Ephesians 6:1-4

**Family Reading:** 3 John

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Matthew 6:9-15



# WEEK 19

## MAY 7-13

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22  
*Living for God's Glory*

1 Timothy 1:12-19  
*Fight the Good Fight*

Titus 3:1-8  
*Doing What Is Good*

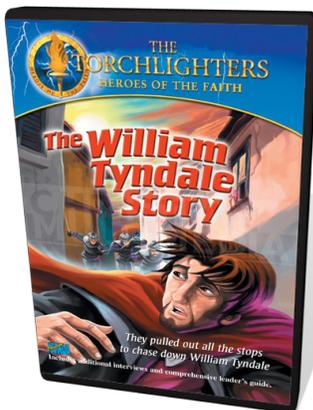
### Gotta Know!

#### *What is a Christian?*

The word *Christian* means “belonging to Christ” and includes any person who believes that Jesus—the Son of God—came to earth, lived a perfect life, was killed on a cross, rose again, and now lives in heaven. They trust that Jesus’ work on the cross will save them from the judgment their sins deserve. Christians enjoy friendship with God now, and they will spend eternity in heaven with Him. They love God and do what it takes to obey Him.

### Extra Challenge

Buy or rent *The William Tyndale Story* DVD (The Torchlighters series) and have a movie night!



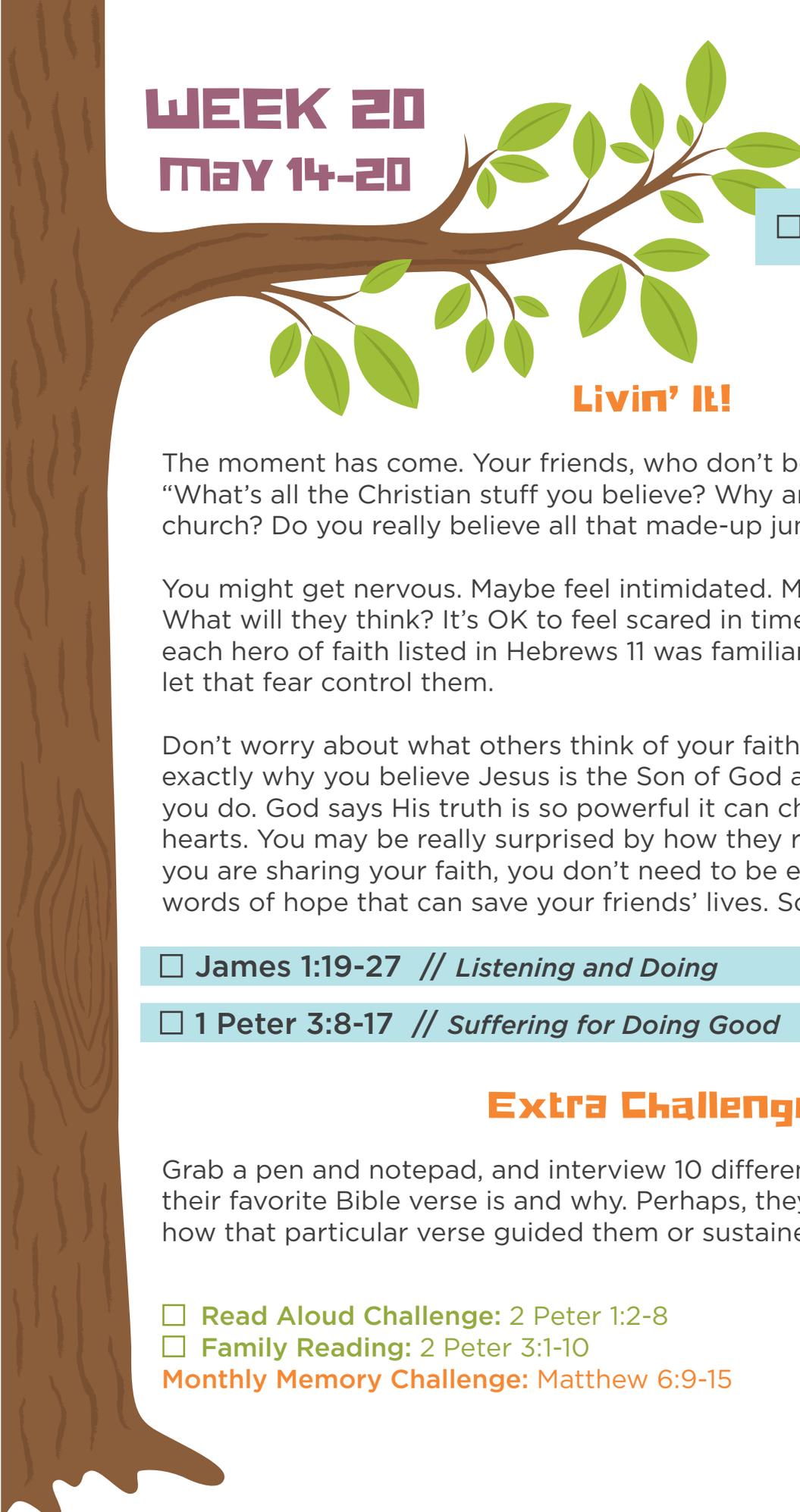
#### *About this animated 30-minute film*

William Tyndale topped King Henry VIII’s “Most Wanted” list in 1535. What is his crime? Murder? Theft? No, none of these. His crime is translating the Bible into English for the common people.

**Read Aloud Challenge:** 2 Timothy 3:13-17

**Family Reading:** 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Matthew 6:9-15



**WEEK 20**  
**MAY 14-20**

**Hebrews 11**  
*Heroes of Faith*

## **Livin' It!**

The moment has come. Your friends, who don't believe in Jesus, finally ask, "What's all the Christian stuff you believe? Why are you always going to church? Do you really believe all that made-up junk?"

You might get nervous. Maybe feel intimidated. Most likely a little afraid. What will they think? It's OK to feel scared in times like these. No doubt, each hero of faith listed in Hebrews 11 was familiar with fear; they just didn't let that fear control them.

Don't worry about what others think of your faith. Be bold and tell them exactly why you believe Jesus is the Son of God and why you believe what you do. God says His truth is so powerful it can change even the hardest hearts. You may be really surprised by how they respond. Remember, when you are sharing your faith, you don't need to be embarrassed. You have the words of hope that can save your friends' lives. So speak up!

**James 1:19-27** // *Listening and Doing*

**1 Peter 3:8-17** // *Suffering for Doing Good*

## **Extra Challenge**

Grab a pen and notepad, and interview 10 different people. Ask them what their favorite Bible verse is and why. Perhaps, they will have a story about how that particular verse guided them or sustained them in difficult times.

**Read Aloud Challenge:** 2 Peter 1:2-8

**Family Reading:** 2 Peter 3:1-10

**Monthly Memory Challenge:** Matthew 6:9-15

**WEEK 21**  
**MAY 21-27**

1 John 3:11-18  
*Loving One Another*

Revelation 1:9-20  
*Jesus Appears to John*

Revelation 21:9-22:5  
*Everything Is New*

## **Gotta Know!**

*How do you know you're going to heaven?*

Do you just hope God will give you a break? Do you try to be good enough for God to like you? If you worry at all whether or not you're going to make it through the pearly gates, then let John 3:16 remove your doubt.

God makes it really clear that salvation—being saved from the power of your sins and the punishment they deserve—is a free gift. When we receive God's gift, which is Jesus Christ, we don't have to worry any more. Anyone who is trusting in Jesus alone to get to heaven will go there.

- Read Aloud Challenge:** 2 John
- Family Reading:** 3 John
- Monthly Memory Challenge:** Matthew 6:9-15



# SUPER CHALLENGES

## Send a Bible (70 points)

There are still thousands and thousands of people in the United States and beyond who don't have a Bible. You can make a difference by giving the gift of God's Word that can change someone's life for eternity. Here are several organizations that help you give the gift of the Bible to orphans, troops and veterans, disaster victims, persecuted Christians and more:

- [www.americanbible.org](http://www.americanbible.org)
- [www.biblesunbound.com](http://www.biblesunbound.com)
- [www.biblesenders.org](http://www.biblesenders.org)
- [www.crossway.org](http://www.crossway.org)
- [www.sendtheword.org](http://www.sendtheword.org)
- [www2.gideons.org](http://www2.gideons.org)

## Support Bible Translation (70 points)

The Bible is God's Word to us—something that everyone should be able to understand in their own language. But up to 1,800 languages around the world are still waiting for a translation project to begin. When people finally get the Bible in their own language, lives often change in amazing ways. People are transformed as they are led to Jesus Christ and a right relationship with God. Visit [www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org) and find a translation project that calls your name. Then, support it with your prayers and dollars.

## Read Biographies (50 points for each person researched [articles, documentaries, etc also acceptable])

We didn't always have the Bible in English. There were many brave people who risked their lives and some of them even gave their lives so that we will be able to read the Bible in our language. Here is a list of key people that played part in bringing English Bible to life.

- John Wycliffe
- John Hus
- Johann Gutenberg
- Thomas Linacre
- William Tyndale
- John Foxe
- John Calvin
- John Knox

# FAREWELL MESSAGE

**Congratulations on completing the challenge! We hope that through this 5-month journey, your faith in God has grown stronger and your love for Him has grown bigger. Don't forget to add up all your points and write down the total on the back cover.**



**TOTAL POINTS:**

***The Lord said to me, "Eat this scroll. Then go and speak to the people of Israel."***

**(EZEKIEL 3:1)**

Parts of this guide have been inspired by and adapted from the following sources: MAGNIFY™ The Complete New Testament by Thomas Nelson, Inc and I'M A CHRISTIAN NOW WHAT? by LifeWay Press. This guide has been created by children's ministry of LEFC for free distribution among the families in Lancaster Evangelical Free Church. Contact LEFC KidMin Pastor Dema Kohen at [kohen@lefc.net](mailto:kohen@lefc.net) with any comments or questions.