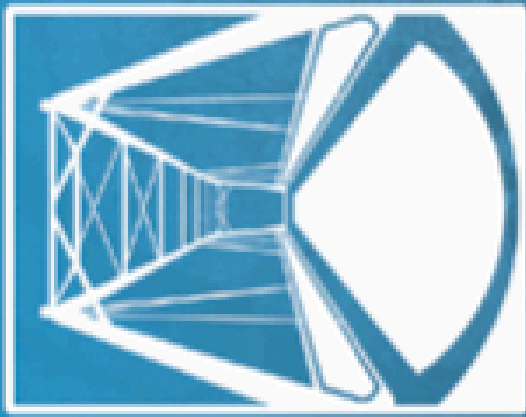


Four Week Devotional

for the family



**GOD
IS
ABLE**

TRUSTING HIM FOR TOMORROW

Warsaw's Chinworth Bridge (constructed in 1897) spans the Tippecanoe River.

Devotional for the family

Hey Families!

Thank you so much for going through this spiritual journey with us at First Christian Church! I truly believe you all (adults and littles) will benefit from these devotionals and the activities involved. This is meant to be used in addition to the Four Week Devotional that was distributed to adults. This gives you an extra two days to learn together as a family.

We desire for all ages to learn and grow during this time at FCC! Feel free to use this at your pace, but carving out about 10 minutes two days a week is the goal!

I am praying for each member of your family to grow in their worship of our great God throughout this! I am also praying for this to start a new habit or to add to an existing one within your family. Kids need to see their closest adults leaning into God, even more than they need to attend weekend services! Hopefully this sparks great conversation in your home!

 Megan Schroeder

Children's Minister

Day 1 gratitude

Read Joshua 4:1-3 & 6-7

After the whole nation had gone across the Jordan River, the Lord spoke to Joshua. He said, "Choose 12 men from among the people. Choose one from each tribe. Tell them to get 12 stones from the middle of the river. They must pick them up from right where the priests stood. They must carry the stones over with all of you. And they must put them down at the place where you will stay tonight."

The stones will serve as a reminder to you. In days to come, your children will ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' Tell them that the Lord cut off the flow of water in the Jordan River. Tell them its water stopped flowing when the ark of the covenant of the Lord went across. The stones will always remind the Israelites of what happened there."

God made a way for the Israelites to cross the Jordan River. He then told them to make a reminder of what He had done.

Talk about it: Have you ever seen something really cool...then forgot about it? Or received an awesome Christmas present...but cannot remember what it was now? Ask your kids if they can remember any of their favorite Christmas presents from last year.

It is really easy to forget. So God made a way for the Israelites to remember! Whenever they saw the stones, they would remember how God helped them. This would be a reminder for them, but also a prompt for them to tell the story to their kids and grandkids and so on so that the story would never be forgotten. We still get to hear about this story today because Joshua eventually wrote it down for us!

Define it: We are going to be spending a few weeks learning and growing together! This week, we are learning about the word GRATITUDE. Ask if your kids already know what it means. Gratitude is the feeling of thankfulness that leads you to action.

The Israelites were thankful that God helped them, so they obeyed His request to stack up the stones.

We have so much for which to be thankful to God! We are going to talk more about that next time. But for today, we have a rock. We are going to write the word gratitude on our rock and set it somewhere we will see it and be reminded that God helps us! When you see the rock, simply say the prayer, "God, thank You!"

Day 2 gratitude

Read Luke 17:11-19

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. He traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men met him. They had a skin disease. They were standing close by. And they called out in a loud voice, "Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!"

Jesus saw them and said, "Go. Show yourselves to the priests." While they were on the way, they were healed.

When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back. He praised God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Weren't all ten healed? Where are the other nine? Didn't anyone else return and give praise to God except this outsider?" Then Jesus said to him, "Get up and go. Your faith has healed you."

In today's true story, Jesus does something amazing! He heals ten people from a really bad disease called leprosy. This disease was so bad that these men would not have been allowed to be near their families or friends. Jesus completely CHANGED their lives that day! How awesome!!

Talk about it: How did Jesus change their lives? How did they respond?

Think of a time that someone did something REALLY nice for you. How did that make you feel?

Last time, we talked about gratitude. Can you remember what gratitude means? A feeling of thankfulness that leads you to act. The one man in the story that was healed was so thankful, he went back and worshipped Jesus. He worshipped by saying thank you and praising God!

Define it: The man worshipped God. What does it mean to worship? Praising God for who He is and what He has done! Let's make some lists together to better understand all the types of worship.

Work together to come up with ways to worship...here are some examples. singing, dancing, reading the Bible, praying, memorizing Scripture, fasting, giving, communion

Perhaps, practice a few of these forms of worship together now or this week!

Gratitude is a form of worship, because it causes us to thank God for what He has done!

We have a special paper that we can hang up in the house (maybe on the fridge). We are going to start making a list this month of things for which we can say thank you to God! Ways in which we are grateful to God!

Pull out the page and go around your family and each add at least one thing today. Then at meal times or bedtime throughout the devotional series, be sure to add items to the list!

Each time, say "Thank you God for your good gifts!"

Day 3 faith

Read the account of Noah from a story book Bible or scan the QR code to listen to the Jesus Storybook Bible



In today's true story, God told Noah to do something that sounded a bit crazy. Noah had to believe that God was telling the truth, even when it did not make sense.

Talk about it: What did God tell Noah to do? Why would that have been a weird command? Did Noah obey?

Noah obeyed, without question. He had never felt or seen rain, let alone a flood. But He believed God. He had faith in God's words.

Define it: Oh, there is another word that we hear a lot, but do not always understand. Faith. Noah had faith that God was telling the truth. That means he believed without seeing. He trusted God. He acted on that trust. Faith is believing without seeing and placing your trust in that belief.

We cannot see God. But we believe that He exists and we worship Him and listen to Him.

Sometimes, God tells us to do things that feel a little scary. Like tell people about Jesus. Befriend the school bully. Give some of our birthday money to the less fortunate. Help people. Pray for people who are mean to us.

As a family, keep brainstorming ways that you can act in faith this week. Choose one way and write it down. Pray together over that every day this week, until you have all done it, then thank God!

Day 4 faith

Read these promises from God together!

1. God Will Always Be With Us — Joshua 1:9

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

God promises to always be with us, even when we're nervous or afraid.

2. God Will Take Care of You — Philippians 4:19

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

We can trust God to provide everything we truly need.

3. God Loves You No Matter What — Romans 8:38-39

“Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

God's love never changes and nothing can take it away.

4. God Gives Us Peace — John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

When we feel worried, God promises to give us peace.

Last time, we talked about faith. Faith is believing God, even though you cannot see Him and sometimes it does not make sense. If we have faith in God, we can believe His promises. Noah believed that God would protect him from the flood. And God did! Then he made another promise--to never flood the whole earth again. The sign of that promise is a rainbow. We can remember God every time we see one in the sky!

In the Bible, God makes LOTS of promises.

Talk about it: Have you ever made a promise to someone that you did not keep? Has anyone ever made a promise to you that they did not keep? How did that make you feel? Would you trust that person to keep a promise next time?

God ALWAYS keeps His promises. He literally cannot break a promise. When we read these promises, we can have faith that He will never let us down.

Let's look at our list of promises again and choose one to pray over this week. Can you guys help make a drawing of this promise for us to hang up? When we see it this week, we can remember that God takes care of us and keeps His promises!

(You can also look up other promises too if your kids are still engaged or you want a different option to draw)

Day 5 Vision

Read the account of Paul's conversion in a story book Bible or scan the QR code to watch the Jesus Storybook Bible version



Paul thought that following Jesus was a mistake. He actively went against those who did. Until one day, He met Jesus. He saw Jesus. He changed because of Jesus.

Talk about it: Why did Paul change? What in his life was different after meeting Jesus? Who do you know that needs to meet Jesus?

The goal of building a church is not to look fancy. It is not to be cool. It is not to have new things. The goal is for more people to meet Jesus. For more eyes to be opened to the truth that most of us already know. Jesus loves them and wants to be with them for eternity!

We are told to go and tell people about Jesus! Paul obeyed that command and told TONS of people. He built churches wherever he went. Not buildings, but people. He encouraged people in each city to do the same. To boldly go out and tell the world about Jesus!

Spend a few minutes as a family talking about people you may know at school, in your neighborhood, in your family...who do not yet know Jesus. Pray for them together by name. Then the next FCC Kids family event that we host, invite them to attend with your family!

Day 6 Vision

Read the account of Jesus healing the paralyzed man in Luke 5 or scan the QR code to watch the story from Saddleback Kids



The people had been hearing wild stories about Jesus. They were curious who this man was who could heal. The space to hear about Jesus was too crowded. But the friends in the story knew that their friend needed to be by Jesus. So they made a way. When people have a vision from God--a desire to share Him with others--they can do some pretty wild things!

Talk about it: Remember back to the list of people you know who do not know Jesus as you talk together. What did the friends do that was a bit wild in this true story? Why did they do that? Brainstorm ways that you could “bring your friends/family members to Jesus”. (examples: pray for them by name, invite them on a Sunday morning, invite them to a special event, tell them about what you learned at church, share a verse that you memorized)

When people begin to catch the vision of sharing Jesus with those around them, the places where we hear about Jesus can get crowded. Let’s tell so many people that our building gets too crowded!

We are already on the road to that in some of our kids’ spaces. Close your eyes and picture your space on a Sunday morning. How would it feel if 5 more kids were there? 10 more kids? 20 more kids? Would it feel a little crowded? That is what we want! So many more kids learning about Jesus that it starts to feel a little crowded! That is when we get creative and do some wild things to bring our friends to Jesus! Pray together for God to give you courage to do wild things to bring people to Him!

Day 7 commitment

Read the parable of the talents from Matthew 25 or scan the QR code to watch the story from Saddleback Kids



God has given us each gifts, talents, belongings to use for Him! We have a choice to make. We can use them to worship Him and help others know Him or we can keep them for ourselves.

Talk about it: In Jesus' story, who used their talents or coins wisely? Who used them selfishly? Why do you think the master was upset with the third servant?

The third servant chose to be selfish out of fear. He was afraid to lose what he was given. Because of that, he did nothing and lost everything.

Let's make a list of some items or talents we have on this page. Once you have all listed a few things, draw an arrow next to each one. Now, let's brainstorm how these can be used to worship God. (example: extra toys or clothes--donated to a foster closet or sold in a garage sale with earnings being donated, computer skills--help run the slides at church, caring for hurting people--make cards and deliver them to a nursing home)

Define it: Our word for this week is commitment. Do you know what it means? It is sticking with something, even when it is hard.

Letting God use our gifts and belongings can be hard. We can worry that we will not have enough for ourselves. Or we can worry that we won't do a good enough job, like the third servant.

But the only way that we can not do a good enough job, is to not do anything. To hide away and keep everything to ourselves. God is asking us to work with Him in order to tell more people about Jesus.

A lot of times when you make a commitment, it involves writing your name. If you want to commit to working with and for God, let's sign our names on this page together to say that we will be a family who will use what God has given us, no matter what that is!



Day 8 commitment

Read the story of the widow's offering from Mark 12 or scan the QR code to watch the story from Saddleback Kids



Giving to God is simple. You give what you can out of faith that God will do way more than you could!

Talk about it: How much did the widow give? Why did Jesus say she gave more if the amount of coins was so much less? Why would we say she gave out of faith?

The widow was committed to letting God use her. She was committed to giving of what she had. She had very little. It was likely scary to even give two coins, because she may not have had enough coins left to buy food. But she knew that giving to God came first.

God owns everything that we have. He simply lets us use it, like the servants with their master's coins. We can use it wisely or selfishly. How can we use things wisely?

As a family, what is something that we can commit to in this generosity initiative that would be giving so much it feels a little scary?

(Hold a garage sale and give all of the earnings to God, make a lemonade stand and give out drinks for free and tell everyone Jesus loves them, donate your old clothes to a shelter, make bags of socks for the car to give to people who are asking for help on the side of the road, decide an amount you want to give from your birthday money before you know how much you will get)

Pass around your gratitude rock as you pray for God to help you make these commitments out of love for Him and people. Pray to have faith and generosity like the widow!