



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

THE REIGN OF AHAB



Read 1 Kings 20–22; 2 Kings 1 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever heard of a Rube Goldberg machine? This is a contraption that uses a chain reaction to do a very basic job in a complicated way. You drop a marble, and it rolls down a ramp, knocks over a domino, which falls into a cup. The cup pulls a string, and that makes a toy car move, which bumps into another thing, and finally the machine does the job it was supposed to do—like turning off a light or popping a balloon!

A Rube Goldberg machine is humorous, but the point is that something simple can be made rather complicated. As we look at the life of Ahab, we see God's power and faithfulness on display. Even though Israel's army was much smaller than Aram's, God gave Israel victory—not once, but twice.

It was clear that God was willing and able to help His people, but Ahab's selfish actions after the battle revealed his heart. Instead of obeying God completely, Ahab made a series of greedy and sinful choices. His decisions were like a chain reaction that went from bad to worse to disaster!

This story reminds us that trusting God always leads us to victory. In the most important battle against sin, God provided Jesus to offer salvation and eternal life to sinners. Even when it's hard, we can trust in His promises.

Ahab was a disobedient, greedy, and stubborn king who refused to lead Israel in the ways of the Lord. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, always obeyed God and laid down His life for us. Anyone who follows Him will dwell with God forever.

***Pray:** Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness, even when we don't deserve it. Help me to trust Your Word and obey Your instructions so that my life reflects Your power and love. Amen.*



Family Worship Experience

— LEARN SCRIPTURE —

The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.



**May all the peoples of the
earth know that the LORD is
God. There is no other!**

1 Kings 8:60



Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Ask God for guidance as you prepare for the day. Ask Him to help you trust and obey His Word as you interact with people and make decisions today.

Evenings

Praise Jesus for being the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep and who is always present to comfort them when they need it most. How have you felt comfort or safety in knowing Jesus?



Family Activities

For Fun

Set up a relay race where one person is the shepherd, and the other is the sheep. The sheep wears a blindfold, and the shepherd must guide them through an obstacle course using only their voice. Talk with kids about how we can trust Jesus to guide and protect us, even when we can't see the way clearly, because He is the Good Shepherd.

To Serve

Go through your closets and storage to collect clothing to donate to a local charity organization. Encourage kids to think of other items that can be donated like books, toys, or canned goods. Retell the story of Ahab's greed and how it led him to disobey God. Talk with kids about how Jesus gave of Himself to save sinners. Remind kids that Jesus' sacrificial love is both the example and motivation we need to love and serve others.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

ELISHA THE PROPHET



Read 2 Kings 2; 4-5 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

One of the most popular events in track & field is the 4x100 meter relay. Each team has four runners who each run 100 meters. Runners pass a baton to the next runner—hopefully without dropping it. The fourth and final runner for the team is the anchor. The anchor is typically the fastest and most experienced runner, and it is their job to finish the race for their team!

Just as God had called Elijah to speak His words to the people, God also called a man named Elisha to be His prophet. The work Elijah had started was going to be passed on—like a baton in a relay race—to Elisha. Elisha asked for the same spirit that had powered the work of Elijah, and God honored this request by giving Elisha the power to perform many miracles—like healing the sick, dividing the water, and even making an ax head float up from the bottom of the river! These miracles were proof that Elisha was a prophet of God. The people saw that Elisha had the same spirit and same power as Elijah, and they believed Elisha was God's prophet to share God's words with them.

Before returning to heaven, Jesus commanded His followers to carry on with the mission of making disciples and baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus passed the baton to His followers and told them to continue sharing the message of the gospel. All believers have this mission, and they have the Holy Spirit to help them. The Holy Spirit is God living with us and in us. The Spirit helps us to follow God and carry on the mission of spreading the good news of Jesus to the world!

Elisha spoke the truth of God and performed miracles. Jesus taught with the authority of God and performed miracles as well. Elisha was a prophet, but Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior.

Pray: *Jesus, You are the Son of God! Thank You for the miracles that prove You are who You say You are and that You always keep Your promises. Help us trust in You as the Son of God and the Rescuer who can save us from our sin. Amen.*



Family Worship Experience

LEARN SCRIPTURE

The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.



**You must follow the LORD your
God and fear him. You must
keep his commands and listen
to him; you must worship him
and remain faithful to him.**

Deuteronomy 13:4



Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Ask God to give you opportunities today to tell others about Jesus. Ask Him for boldness and for His power to help you do the work of sharing the gospel. How does the promise of God's power help Christians have boldness in sharing about Jesus?

Evenings

Praise Jesus for the miracles He did while on earth. Make a list of miracles and praise God for how they prove Jesus as the promised Messiah. How do you see Jesus' power and compassion through the miracles He performed? How do the miraculous things Jesus did help us to trust in the future things He has promised to do?



Family Activities

For Fun

Take your family to a local track for a fun run. Time each family member running a lap around the track or practice passing a baton while running. Retell the story of Elijah and Elisha. Remind kids that Jesus has passed on the mission of making disciples to all His followers, and He has promised the Holy Spirit to help believers complete that mission.

To Serve

Sit down as a family and talk over the Bible story. Explain to your kids that Elisha needed God's Spirit to help him do the work God called him to do. Take some time and write a short list of ways your family can share God's love this week: invite some neighbors to church, make a sick friend a meal, invite the new neighbors on the street to play, share the gospel with a friend at school, etc. Pray together and ask God to help you live these things out with the help of the Holy Spirit.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

JONAH, PROPHET TO NINEVEH



Read the book of Jonah from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

If you were a Jew in 900 B.C., the last place on earth you wanted to visit was the city of Nineveh! Nineveh was full of Assyrians—a group of wicked and violent people who did not follow God. Going to Nineveh to tell them about God was a dangerous—and maybe even deadly—mission. No wonder Jonah didn't want to go!

The real reason Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh, however, was because he felt like these wicked people didn't deserve God's forgiveness. They were wicked and cruel, so how could God show them mercy? What Jonah didn't understand is that God cared for the people of Nineveh as much as He cared for the rest of the world.

God wanted the Ninevites to turn away from sin and trust in Him—so much so that God used a big fish to get Jonah back to Nineveh when he tried to run away. Finally, Jonah reluctantly preached the message God had given and warned the people about God's judgment. The people repented, and God spared their lives.

The Bible tells us that God shows mercy on whomever He wants to show mercy. Jonah didn't think the Ninevites deserved God's mercy, but the truth is that none of us deserve His mercy. But God loved the world so much that He showed us His mercy through Jesus. Unlike Jonah, Jesus willingly accepted the mission God gave Him. Jesus came to save the sinners who God cared to much about.

Jonah spent three days in a fish so that the people of Nineveh could hear God's message, turn from sin, and be saved. Jesus was in the tomb for three days so that we could hear and trust the gospel, turn from sin, and be saved.

***Pray:** God, thank You for showing mercy we do not deserve. Thank You for sending Jesus to make Your mercy available to those who believe in Him. Help us to remember that Your mercy is great and extends to all who repent and believe. Amen.*



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Deuteronomy 13:4



Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Ask God to help you see people the way He sees them. Instead of judging them for their wrong behaviors, ask God to help you see them as loved by Him and in need of a right relationship with Him. How does seeing people this way show us the greatness of God's mercy?

Evenings

Thank God for the ways He has shown His patience, mercy, and loving kindness to your family. Thank Him for the ultimate display of mercy when Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sin. How has God shown His mercy to you? How does God's mercy compel you to show mercy to others?



Family Activities

For Fun

Take your family fishing or simulate fishing using sticks, string, magnets, and paper clips. See who can catch the biggest fish. If you catch a fish, release it back into the water to lead into a discussion on mercy, emphasizing that, while a fish doesn't deserve to die, all sinners do deserve death, but—through Jesus—God doesn't give believers what they deserve. Ask kids to retell what they remember from the story of Jonah. Discuss how Jonah did not want God to show mercy to the people of Nineveh, but God's mercy is greater than anything we can imagine. Talk as a family about ways God has shown mercy to you.

To Serve

Host a meal or dessert party for the people in your neighborhood. Invite everyone to come and eat for free. Give each family member a job to help make the night a wonderful experience for others. After the party, talk about the hard work, sacrifice, and time it took to love others, but how it was worth it because of the relationships you made. Remind kids that God often calls us into hard things but it always worth it to serve God.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

HOSEA, PROPHET TO ISRAEL



Read the book of Hosea from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel for at least forty years. God sent Hosea to tell Israel of God's hatred toward sin and of His coming judgment. God also sent Hosea to bring a message of love—a love that never gives up.

To get the message across to the Israelites, God used Hosea's own life to show Israel what a never-gives-up kind of love looks like. The entire book of Hosea beautifully mirrors the love Hosea showed to his unfaithful wife to the way that God loved the unfaithful Israelites.

Hosea obeyed God's instructions to marry a woman named Gomer. Gomer was unfaithful to Hosea and ran away from him. Hosea loved Gomer as his wife, even though she wasn't faithful. When she ran away, Hosea brought her back and even paid what she owed others.

It would have been easier for Hosea to end his marriage covenant—to throw up his hands and say, "Enough! I'm done with you!" And it would have been easier for God to end His covenant with the Israelites when they were unfaithful to Him.

But God's love never gives up. We see His beautiful love in Hosea 11. God gave Hosea a love for his wife that compelled him to pay her debts and bring her back home. In a similar way, God sought after His unfaithful people even after all they had done. God paid a high price—the life of His Son, Jesus—to bring them back to Himself.

Israel was not faithful to God, but God was faithful to Israel, just as Hosea loved his wife even when she didn't love him. God is faithful to save all sinners who repent and trust in Jesus.

***Pray:** God, thank You for being faithful to us even when we were unfaithful to You. Your love is better than anything we can imagine. Help us to rest in Your love and know that nothing can separate us from You if we have faith in Jesus. Amen.*



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Deuteronomy 13:4



Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Ask God to help you listen to His voice and trust in His plan for your life—even when you might not understand everything that is happening. How does the character of God—His goodness, love, faithfulness, and power—help you to trust Him when things scary or hard to understand?

Evenings

Ask God to help you see others the way He sees them. Ask Him to give you a compassionate heart that remembers how we are all in need of God's love and grace.



Family Activities

For Fun

Talk about or show photographs from a wedding—yours or the wedding of a family member or friend. Talk about the ceremony, the vows, and the love expressed on that day. Talk with kids about how God's love for us is the greatest love of all and how His love lasts forever.

To Serve

Gather some items for care packages that can be shared with those in need. You can create simple care packages for homeless shelters, nursing homes, or even families in your community. Talk with kids about ways you can show God's compassion found in the story of Jonah by serving others in the community. Just as God showed compassion to Jonah, the people of Nineveh, and us, we are called to extend kindness to others.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM WAS DESTROYED



Read 2 Kings 17 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

We've all done something wrong or disobeyed because we thought it was the better option. Time and time again, the Israelites chose to disobey God. And even though God loved them like a father, the Israelites forgot about God.

Sin separated them from God. But God created people to know and love Him, and God was working out a plan to bring His children back to Himself. God had been very patient with the Israelites. He had helped them in times of trouble and delayed their punishment because He is gracious and compassionate. But God knew His people would not love Him with all their hearts.

Finally, God had had enough. Evil King Hoshea ruled over Israel, and God allowed Israel's enemies to send the people into exile. The king of Assyria attacked Israel and laid siege to Samaria. Assyria captured Samaria and forced the people to leave the city and walk hundreds of miles to Assyria. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the people were scattered, just as God had said would happen.

Israel's exile was God's judgment on their sin, but God was not finished working among His people. God was still working out His plan to keep His covenant promises. When the Israelites disobeyed God again and again, God punished them by removing them from their land. We disobey God, but Jesus took the punishment for our sin upon Himself. Jesus brings us into God's presence and keeps us there.

The kingdom of Israel was destroyed because of their sin. We all sin against God and deserve death, but God sent Jesus to die in our place. Because of Jesus, those who trust in Him will never be removed from God's presence.

Pray: God, we know that You always keep Your promises. Help us to trust in You even when we don't see how You're working. Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross and to save all who believe in Him. Amen.



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Pray for the leaders of your city, state, and country. Ask God to give them knowledge to do their work and wisdom to obey Him. How did the sins of Judah's kings affect the people? Why is it important for us to pray for our leaders?

Evenings

Thank God for His promises and His faithfulness to always keep those promises. Make a list of the promises you can remember from the Bible. Make note of the promises God has already fulfilled. How do these fulfilled promises help us to trust in His ability to keep all His promises?



Family Activities

For Fun

Play "Simon Says" as a family. However, when "Simon" says to do something, everyone should do the opposite. Make the motions easy for smaller kids but work to harder actions as the game progresses. Talk about how the Israelites faced consequences when they didn't listen to God. End the discussion by reminding kids that Jesus took our punishment and provided us a way to be brought back to God's presence!

To Serve

Have family members take turns serving the rest of the family during dinner time. The chosen servant should prepare the table, serve the food, take drink orders, refill cups when needed, and clean up for the family after the meal. Discuss the sacrifices the chosen family member had to make to serve the family. Take time to talk about the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus to serve us and save us from sin.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

JUDAH'S GOOD KINGS



Read 1 Kings 15; 2 Kings 18–19; 2 Chronicles 14–15; 22–24; 29–35 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

The mimic octopus is a very interesting creature. It has the amazing ability to change color and shape to look like other sea creatures. When the octopus feels threatened, it often mimics the appearance of a toxic animal like the lionfish or sea snake to scare away predators. When the danger has passed, the mimic octopus returns to her normal colors and goes on about her day.

Judah was blessed to have some good kings who chose to follow God and pointed the people back to God. Unfortunately, after these kings passed away, many of the people in Judah once again turned away from God and continued in their sinful ways. This cycle continued for many years.

Much like the mimic octopus, a person's ability to change their sinful hearts is only temporary. We might try to do better and make wiser choices, but the sin in our hearts is too pronounced to hide.

The only real, lasting change for our hearts must come from Jesus. His death and resurrection have broken the power of sin. Everyone who believes in Jesus is forgiven and has been forever changed by His grace!

Judah's good kings led the people to God and away from sin. Yet when they died, the people returned to their sinful ways. Jesus is our good King who died and rose again, and always leads us to God and away from sin.

Pray: God, help us to not trust in our own ability to change our hearts, but to trust in what Jesus has done to change our hearts. Help us know the eternal forgiveness and joy that comes from knowing Jesus as Lord. Amen.



Family Worship Experience

— LEARN SCRIPTURE —

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**The LORD is good to everyone;
his compassion rests on
all he has made.**

Psalm 145:9



Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Ask God to help you trust in Him in all situations today. Ask for His help in remaining faithful to Him as you interact with others. What did the good kings of Judah do to keep their attention on God? Why is important to trust in what God's Word says is true rather than trust in what others might say?

Evenings

Thank God for His faithfulness to us even when we are not faithful to Him. Praise Him for the patience He showed the people of Judah when they turned away from Him and for the patience He has shown to you. How was God patient with the people of Judah? Why does God show patience to those who turn away from Him?



Family Activities

For Fun

Play hide-and-seek as a family. After the game, talk with kids about how our sin cannot be hidden from God. The good kings helped the people follow God, but it was only temporary. In a greater way, Jesus has come to reconcile us to God. When we place our trust in Him, He forgives our sin, changes our hearts, and gives us eternal life.

To Serve

Work as a family to plant evergreen shrubs in flower beds or your yard. You may also want to add seasonal plants or flowers to beautify the property. Afterward, talk as a family about the differences between plants and how evergreen shrubs will remain green throughout the year. Talk about the way our good works might make us feel better, but that is only a temporary change. Jesus is the only one who can eternally change our hearts.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

PROPHETS TO JUDAH



Read all or parts of the books of Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

In 1962, superhero fans were introduced to the character of Dr. Bruce Banner, but you probably know him as The Incredible Hulk! Dr. Banner was a shy, quiet physicist who transforms into a raging muscular green giant every time he gets angry. You didn't want to make Hulk angry because the comic always said, "The madder Hulk gets, the stronger Hulk gets."

God sent many prophets to Judah to warn them of the consequences for sin. One of those prophets was Nahum. While many prophets spoke of the punishment for sin, Nahum preached a message about God's patience.

When we read how the prophet Nahum describes God as jealous, avenging, and wrathful, it can make us think God is like The Incredible Hulk—a guy who just gets angry and destroys things. That's not how God is at all! Nahum also describes God as "slow to anger and great in power." While God must punish sin, He is patient and desires to show mercy to all who will trust in Him.

God is jealous for our worship because He alone deserves it. He doesn't want to share His glory with anything else, and He rightly gets angry when He sees people worship anything other than Him. The prophet Nahum reminded God's people that He will punish sin, but He will bring peace and protection to those who love and worship Him.

God sent prophets to His people to warn them to repent of their sin and turn to God. Jesus gave the same message, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." When we trust in Jesus, we are restored to a right relationship with God and have the hope of eternal life.

***Pray:** God, You deserve all our worship, and You will not allow Your glory to be shared with anything else. Help us to remember that You are right to punish sin, but You are patient and want to show mercy to those who trust in You. Amen.*



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Pray for those who may misunderstand God's character. Ask God to show them His love and mercy to help them believe in Him. Why does God want people to worship only Him? How can God's character be jealous and loving at the same time?

Evenings

Thank God for showing us His character through the Bible. Make a list of the attributes or the stories that teach us who God is and what He is like. How can we know God better? How does knowing more of God's attributes help us to trust Him?



Family Activities

For Fun

Play a game of Hungry, Hungry Hippos together as a family. Play the board game or research online how to play a real-life version of the game. Remind kids that the point of the game is to get as much food for your hippo as possible. After the game, talk about how God desires all our worship for Himself. While God will one day punish those who choose to worship anything other than Him, He is patient and wants to see all people come to know Him.

To Serve

Write a letter or send an email to a missionary family. Use the letter to encourage them as they share God's message of hope to people. Make a card or piece of artwork to include with the letter that references the words of Nahum 1:7—"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him."



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

GOD PROMISED A NEW COVENANT



Read all or parts of Jeremiah 17; 31 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever seen one of those TV shows where people buy an old, run-down house and make it look totally new again? It's always fascinating to see how they can take something that everyone believed was ruined and make it into something beautiful and special. But that is nothing compared to the work God does to bring dead hearts back to life!

The prophet Jeremiah warned the people of Judah about the consequences that would come because they were disobedient and had broken their covenant with God. But with those words of bad news, Jeremiah also shared a message of good news. He told the people about a day when God would forgive sin and change people's hearts. Jesus made these words come true!

God forgives our sin through His Son, Jesus. He changes us and gives us power through His Spirit to obey His commands. Jesus did not come to get rid of the law. Through His sinless life, Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the old covenant. When we trust in Jesus, we are credited with His righteousness and our changed hearts enable us to want to follow in Christ's footsteps and obey God as well.

Like God's people, we all have sinful hearts that do not obey God or love Him rightly. Through Jesus' death on the cross, God made a new covenant. Those who trust in Jesus have their sin forgiven and have the law written on their hearts.

***Pray:** Thank You, Father, for sending Jesus to bring us a new covenant. Through His sacrifice, we can be redeemed and can live in a loving relationship with You forever. Amen.*



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Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Ask God to help you understand His Word—the Bible—so you can live in a way that glorifies Him. How can spending time in the Bible help you to see God’s love and provision for your life?

Evenings

Thank Jesus for living a life of perfect obedience and giving those who trust in Him a righteousness they could never earn on their own. Because Jesus credits us with His righteousness, we can now have the desire and ability to follow God’s commandments.



Family Activities

For Fun

Plan a trip to a flea market or secondhand store. Work as a family to select an item you think you can “flip” into something new and better. It could involve putting a new coat of paint on a lamp or a completely re-purposing of an old coffee table. Over the next few weeks, work on the renovation project and discuss how Jesus gives the ultimate restoration and renovation by giving us new hearts when we believe in Him!

To Serve

Use multicolored construction paper to cut out large hearts. Use a hole punch to place a hole at the top-center of each heart. Work as a family to write the words or phrases of Jeremiah 31:33-34 on the hearts. Weave string or yarn through the holes in each heart to make a pennant string flag. Make several sets and gift the pennant string to neighbors or church members.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

JUDAH WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE



Read all or parts of 2 Chronicles 36 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Time and time again, the kings of Judah chose to disobey God. And even though God loved His children like a father, the people did not listen to His warnings, and they forgot about their God. God judged the people of Judah for their sin. They were attacked by the armies of Babylon and lived as exiles in a foreign land.

The northern kingdom of Israel was attacked and conquered by the Assyrians. The southern kingdom of Judah was attacked and conquered by the Babylonians. Because they had disobeyed, God's people were exiles in other countries for centuries. But what about God's promise to Abraham to bless all nations through his descendants? What about the promise to David that his descendants would sit on the throne forever? Had God forgotten about these promises?

Of course not! Isaiah 40:8 says, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." These words remind us that every promise God has spoken is true, and He will always keep His promises. When God poured out His judgment on the people for their sin, the kingdom of Judah was no more. But even then, God was working out His plan to send a greater king to save His people. God would send His own Son, Jesus—who was from the family of Abraham and David—to bring forgiveness and peace to all who trust in Him.

The people of Judah continued to sin and were destroyed by Babylon. Even though God was patient, all sin deserves judgment. God's patience is meant to lead us to repentance. Those who repent and trust in Jesus will escape God's judgment.

***Pray:** God, we know You always keep Your promises. Help us to trust in You even when we don't see how You're working. Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross and to save all who believe in Him. Amen.*



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Take a moment to confess sin. It could be getting angry at a sibling, lying or disobeying your parents, or other ways you've failed to do what God has asked you to do. Ask God to help you turn away from those sins and walk with Him.

Evenings

Thank God for His patience and grace, even when we fail. Praise Him for giving us the opportunity to return to Him. Ask God to remind you of His mercy and to help you never take it for granted.



Family Activities

For Fun

Make a list of physical challenges like push-ups, sit-ups, or running in place. Compete as a family to see who can outperform others in each challenge. When a family member gets tired or fails to properly do the task, they are eliminated from the game. Play until all family members are out of the game. After a few rounds, talk about the game's consequences for not perfectly completing the challenge. Remind kids that eventually every person failed in the challenge and was eliminated. Discuss how we have all sinned and fallen short of perfection that God requires. Talk about the fact that God must punish sin as an act of his fairness and justice. Be sure to emphasize how God punished sin by sending Jesus to the cross so that we could receive forgiveness and have new life through Him!

To Serve

Contact a prison chaplain or a ministry that serves incarcerated individuals in your state. Ask for a list of items that can be donated to bless inmates. Work as a family to purchase or collect the items. Make cards to remind the inmates that God has not forgotten them and His grace is always available in Jesus.



Family Worship Experience

— READ THE SCRIPTURE —

EZEKIEL GAVE HOPE



Read all or parts of Ezekiel 37 from the Bible.



Family Worship Experience

- TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE -

Have you ever been to a museum that has a skeleton of an extinct animal? It's incredible to see how the creature might have looked when it was alive. The museum usually puts the animal skeleton in an exhibit that shows where it might have lived and what it might have eaten. But no matter how hard people try, they can never bring that set of bones back to life. It's just not going to happen!

Ezekiel was a prophet who spoke God's message to the people who were exiled. Although this was a hard job for Ezekiel, God gave him a vision. In this vision, God showed Ezekiel a valley of dry bones. The bones represented the people of Israel. Ezekiel prophesied that God would put muscles, tendons, and skin on the bones. He would put breath in them so they would come to life.

Ezekiel encouraged the exiles. Apart from God, they were dead in their sin. But God was offering them life. He would restore their future. We too are dead in our sin. Apart from Jesus, we are like the dry bones Ezekiel saw. God showed Ezekiel His power to make dead people alive. We see God's power at the cross, where Jesus died to save sinners. God raised Jesus from the dead, and He gives us eternal life to those who believe in Him.

God breathed life into dead bones in front of Ezekiel. The apostle Paul said that we are dead in our sins, but God gives us new life in Him when we trust in Jesus. God will forever be the God of all people who trust in Jesus.

Pray: God, thank You for giving new life to those who trust in Jesus. We know that sin leads to death—both physical and spiritual—so we praise You for sending Your Son to save us from sin. Amen.



Family Worship Experience

— LEARN SCRIPTURE —

The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.



**The LORD is good to everyone;
his compassion rests on
all he has made.**

Psalm 145:9



Family Prayer Time

Mornings

Ask God to give you hope and strength in the areas where you are struggling to trust Him. How does knowing what God through Ezekiel help you to trust Him in your circumstances—good or bad?

Evenings

Ask God to supply unity and hope for your church. Ask Him to give the people a passion for His Word, a love for others, and a commitment to the church's mission of making disciples.



Family Activities

For Fun

Use play dough or modeling clay to create people or animals. Ask each family member to describe the creature they made and any details they'd like the family to know about them. After everyone has shared, discuss how these are just play dough creations and don't really have any life. Explain how the Bible calls our hearts dead in sin—lifeless and without hope—but that Jesus' death and resurrection bring new life to all who believe in Him. It is God breathing new life into dead hearts to make them come alive!

To Serve

Visit a retirement home or rehabilitation facility. Lead in a game of bingo, sing songs, teach a craft, or just visit with residents. Talk as a family about how your visit can bring joy and hope to others. Before you leave, pray for the residents and ask God to bring hope to their days.