



A 52 Week Study for the Whole Family

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(click to link to jump to the correct week)



Details & Instructions

WEEK 1 – The Bible is God’s word.

WEEK 2 – The Bible does not have any mistakes in it.

WEEK 3 – There is only one God, and we know him mostly through the Bible!

WEEK 4 – There is only one God... but he is three persons!

WEEK 5 – Our God is Omnipotent.

WEEK 6 – What is God’s name?

WEEK 7 – Who created God? Where did he come from?

WEEK 8 – Adam and Eve were real people.

WEEK 9 – Sin came into the world through Adam and Eve.

WEEK 10 – Sin brought death to all.

WEEK 11 – Jesus takes away the consequence of sin.

WEEK 12 – Who is Jesus?

WEEK 13 – Jesus never sinned.

WEEK 14 – Jesus rose from the grave.

WEEK 15 – Is Heaven a real place?

WEEK 16 – Am I going to Heaven?

WEEK 17 – Is Hell a real place?

WEEK 18 – Do bad people go to Hell and good people to Heaven?

WEEK 19 – So all I have to do is believe in God?

WEEK 20 – What is baptism?

WEEK 21 – What is Communion?

WEEK 22 – Who else is in the Trinity?

WEEK 23 – What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

WEEK 24





THE LOW DOWN

STOP – A few minutes to slow down one day each week and look at Biblical truths that will help you and your kids have a solid, Biblical World view. Each study consists of:

SCRIPTURE – A scripture we’ve printed in a kid-friendly version

TALK – A topic to discuss

OWN IT – An activity to encourage your kids to be not only hearers of God’s word, but doers. (James 1:22)

PRAYER – Prayer time as a family

Suggestions for **STOP**:

- a. Choose a regular day each week to do STOP as a family.
- b. Make it a priority! When the family has guests on STOP day, invite them to join. If you go out to eat, do STOP time when you get home. Keep it regular.
- c. Have all members of the family participate in each part of STOP, including mom, dad, and grandparents if they are around. Teens too.
- d. Some days have suggestions for older kids. You can also inbox Suzy for suggestions with different age groups if you are stuck.
- e. Parents, lead together. Take some time to look at the week’s lesson a day or two before STOP. Study up on the concept and ask questions if necessary. But it’s always ok to tell the kids “I don’t know. I’ll find out.” if they happen to ask a stumper.
- f. Remember, the best answer to ANY question, when possible, is found in God’s word, not someone’s opinion rolodex!
- g. STOP focuses on Biblical doctrine so BOTH you and your kids have a solid foundation. You won’t likely find gray areas or controversial societal issues addressed here.
- h. Remember, you are responsible for what you know. Not everything will be spelled out for you here and it is understood we all have differing levels of Biblical expertise. But keep studying God’s Word so you grow, and so your kids see your example.

Let's Get Started



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 1

The Bible is God's word. It is the most important book we own.

SCRIPTURE: *Every Scripture passage is inspired by God. All of them are useful for teaching, pointing out errors, correcting people, and training them for a life that has God's approval. 2 Timothy 3:16 (God's Word Translation)*

TALK: How do mom and dad/grandma and grandpa use their Bibles for study? What is the hardest thing about reading the Bible? (Think about available time, distractions, difficulty understanding the words, etc.)

OWN IT: Round up all the Bibles in the house and look at them together. How are they different? How are they similar? Go shopping for a kids Bible this week if your kids are ready to read and need one of their own.

PRAY: Pray that desire to read the Bible will grow. Pray that everyone will understand the Bible well when reading it and during DC Family. Invite God to guide your family through His Word.



52 weeks of DC Family



Week 2

The Bible does not have any mistakes in it.

SCRIPTURE: *Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. 2 Peter 1:20*

God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through? Numbers 23:19 (NLT)

TALK: Where did the words in the Bible come from? What does it mean to not make any mistakes? Do you know any human beings who have NEVER made a mistake? God is the only one who is perfect. And his Word is, too.

OWN IT: Everyone think about one thing they know the Bible says. (It can be as simple as God created everything, or Jesus loves me.) One at a time, share the thing you thought about and then cheer as a family because it is true. If you want to make it extra fun for little ones, bring New Years or party store noisemakers to the table ahead of time.

*For older kids skip the cheering and teach them to write a logical statement:
If all boys are smart and (insert son's name) is a boy, then (insert son's name) is smart!
If all snow is cold and there is snow on the ground, then that snow is cold!

If the Bible says (insert what he/she knows the Bible says) and the Bible is without error, then (reinsert what he/she knows about the Bible.) Show your older child this can be done with any Bible verse.

PRAY: Thank God that if the Bible says something... it is true!!



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 3

There is only one God, and we know him mostly through the Bible!

SCRIPTURE: *You were shown these things so that you would know that the LORD is God. There is no other god.* Deuteronomy 4:35
(God's Word Translation)

TALK: People believe in different gods. Some people believe there is NO god. Some believe there are many gods. But what did we learn last week? (God's Word is true.) How many gods does the Bible say there are? Let's all share one thing we know about God from the Bible... (share, including adults). If God's word is true, and we know it is, then these things we just shared about God are true. *Allow your kids to ask questions about friends who may have different beliefs. With older kids you may want to do some on-line research together so you can pray specifically for those friends.

OWN IT: Memorize Deuteronomy 4:35 this week. Set a reward of some kind for completed memory verse.

PRAY: Thank God that he is real, that we can get to know him through the Bible, and promise to remember that there is only one God. He is not one of many. He is the only God.



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 4

There is only one God... but he is three persons!

SCRIPTURE: *So wherever you go, make disciples of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19 (God's Word Translation)*

TALK: How many Gods are there? (One!) Talk together about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and some things each of them are seen doing in Scripture. Point out that the trinity is a mystery... what is a mystery? Talk about how it's important to know that all three are God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, because some people believe Jesus was just a good man. Others believe there is no Spirit. What does the Bible say?

OWN IT: Show the kids a hard boiled egg and ask what it is. They will likely all say egg. Ask them why they didn't call it a shell or a yolk? Dissect it together, setting aside all three parts. Talk about what each part does. But they are all the egg, right? This is somewhat like God. We know him by ONE name... God. But he is three persons, all with a specific job.

PRAY: Pray to each member of the Trinity. Show the kids that they can even pray "Dear Holy Spirit"... we'll learn a lot more about each part of the trinity as we go along!



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 5

Our God is OMNIPOTENT (No one is more powerful).

SCRIPTURE: *"I am the LORD, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?"* Jeremiah 32:27

TALK: Let's all name something we think is hard. Now let's all name something too hard for us to do. Point out that there are things too difficult even for mom and dad. But nothing is too difficult for God. Let's name crazy, silly things that are not too hard for God.

OWN IT: Parents, go ahead of time to a huge rock somewhere near your house... one that no man could possibly move, but one you would be allowed to write on. Write this verse in paint or permanent marker on the rock. Ask each family member to sign the rock as a confession (agreement) that God can do ANYTHING. He could move this rock with one word.

PRAY: Ask God to surround your family by his mighty omnipotence. Thank him for being strong and for doing things that people cannot do.



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 6

What is God's name?

SCRIPTURE: *God replied to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you." Exodus 3:14*

TALK: Everyone has a name, right? Even our pets! We even name fish! And sometimes we name bikes or cars! Take a moment to tell each child why you named them what you did. God's name is (yah-way) YHWH (Have this written in advance on a note card.) What looks funny about God's name? (No vowels. Missing letters.) Israel knew that God's name was special... so special they were afraid to say it out loud. They would write it like this so they remembered to honor it. Yahweh means I AM. What do you think that means? (Help them see that God's top characteristics are being real, present, and unmovable.) I AM.

OWN IT: Watch this clip together

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZpYMr-Ed0Q> (4 minutes)

PRAY: Ask God to help you remember and honor his name. Several times this week, begin prayer by addressing God by his Hebrew name, Yahweh.



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 7

Who created God? Where did he come from?

SCRIPTURE: *Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, you were God. You are God from everlasting to everlasting.* Psalm 90:2 (God's Word Translation)

TALK: How old are you? How old are mom and dad? How old are grandma and grandpa? The dogs and cats? Just like everything has a name, everyone has an age... except for Yahweh. He is I AM. He has always existed! He has no birthday. How do we measure time? (Seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, years...) When did we BEGIN to measure time?? (When God created the earth). Before God created everything, he existed, but time did not.

OWN IT: Give each child an old penny. Help them find the year on the penny and as a family see if you can list several things older than the penny. Look out the window at a tree, mountain, etc and remind the kids God has always been... even before that mountain or tree came to be. Now give each child a brand new penny. Tell them God was there when the old penny was new, and he'll be there when this new penny is old! *Extra creative points if you have holes drilled in pennies and put them on chains to be worn as necklaces!!

PRAY: Thank God for ALWAYS being there. Before your family. Before America. Before the dinosaurs.



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 8

Adam and Eve were real people.

SCRIPTURE: *The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit.* (I Corinthians 15:45)

TALK: The Bible begins with a book called Genesis. Everyone say Genesis. That word means BEGINNING. The first thing God did was to create the world. Let’s list some things He made. (Let the kids list.) The story of Adam and Eve is in the first book of the Bible. (Quiz: What is the name of that book?) But our verse today is from 2000 years later just after Jesus rose from the grave. The first book of the Bible tells us that Adam and Eve were real people. 2000 years later, the Bible still teaches that Adam (and Eve) were “living people”. Why? Our faith, both Old and New Testament, is based on real people and real events!

OWN IT: Get out some old photos of the family. Try to find pictures of people the children have never met (because they are no longer living) and tell a story or two. Remind them that history is full of people we have never met, but we know them by their true stories.

PRAY: Thank God for creating people, beginning with Adam and Eve. Thank him that even though people sin, God has loved us still. (This may be a good time to briefly share Gospel with any children who have not yet been adopted into God’s family or have not yet been baptized.)



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 9

Sin came into the world through Adam and Eve.

SCRIPTURE: *When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.*

Romans 5:12

TALK: Who was Adam? What is sin? (Sin is missing the mark... anything less than perfect. Anything less than a bullseye. It can be DOING something bad, it can be NOT DOING something good we know we should do.) We all sin. Mom. Dad. Grandma. Your pastor. We all sin. When did sin begin? (Bring an apple to the table and help the kids recount the story of Adam and Eve.) But what is perfect? How do we know what is good and what is bad? (Have Bible at table... explain this is the standard.)

OWN IT: Do some family target practice. You can use any of the following: Shoot some baskets, shoot nerfs or actual arrows at a bullseye target, play cornhole indoors, go to ice rink and shoot pucks at net, make snowballs (if snow is available) and a target to try to hit, put rice in socks and try to toss rice-filled socks into laundry basket at varying distances. The point? No one will hit the mark every time. Everyone misses. Everyone messes up. All sin.

PRAY: Teach the kids how to confess sin. It's simple. Confess means to agree. What do you agree you messed up, missed, or left out this week?



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 10
Sin brought death to all.

SCRIPTURE: *The payment for sin is death, but the gift that God freely gives is everlasting life found in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (God's Word Translation)*

TALK: We talked last week about what sin is. And who did we say sins? (Everyone) Sin has a consequence. What is a consequence? (Review a few consequences that are unique to your family... for instance, when I was a young driver if I missed my curfew the car was taken from me.) Our verse today tells us what the consequence for sin was. Since everyone sins, at some point everyone dies. Let the kids ask any questions they may have about death, but end with this little teaser: Does our verse end by talking about death or about life? Next week we'll talk about how God takes away sin's consequence!

OWN IT: Take flowers to the grave of someone beloved, send a sympathy card, cut down a dead tree in the yard... Do an activity as a family that reminds us death (even the death of trees and pets) is ultimately a result of our sin.

PRAY: Pray for people who are saddened by the loss of someone they love. Thank God that death is not the end and tell Him you are looking forward to talking about life next week!



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 11

Jesus takes away the consequence of sin.

SCRIPTURE: *For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

TALK: What did we talk about last week? (Read the verse from last week out loud again.) What does last week's verse say God's gift to us is? From the very beginning God planned to rescue us from sin's consequences. We made death happen. How? (Sin) But he makes life happen. What gives us life? (God's love, Jesus' death on the cross, and belief are all things the kids may say.) What does eternal mean?

OWN IT: Show the kids a nutshell. How big is it? What would fit in it? (Not very much!) John 3:16 is what we would call "The good news in a nutshell"... we still have so much to learn about our faith! But if we had to share our faith in a little package, we could share John 3:16. We're going to memorize this verse this week. Help kids make a Bible memory card for their bathroom mirror or bedroom. If they already know the verse, have them memorize Romans 5:8.

PRAY: Thank God for Jesus and salvation. Thank him for rescue from death!



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 12 Who is Jesus?

SCRIPTURE: *“The Father and I are one.”* John 10:30

“Why do you call it blasphemy when I say, ‘I am the Son of God’? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world. John 10:36

TALK: Jesus says he is two different things. He can do this because he is part of the Trinity. (Review the Trinity, the egg lesson, and His three persons.) What are the two things Jesus says he is here? (God in vs 30; God’s son in vs 36) Jesus said himself that he is God, because he is part of the Trinity. He also named his place in the Trinity... he is God’s son. Some people say Jesus was God’s son but not God. Would Jesus agree with that? Jesus, though he is God’s son... is also God.

OWN IT: Bring a few ice cubes and a cup of water to the table. Hold up ice cubes first. What are these? What do we use ice for? Ice can be used for several things, but it only works when? (when frozen) Now hold up water. What is this? What does water do for us and for our world? But both are water, right? Water and ice are the same thing, but depending on their form they do different things. God the Father and God the Son are both God... but they take different forms. Jesus, on earth, took the form of a human. But he was God.

PRAY: Thank Jesus for coming to earth to save us. God came to earth. God walked with us! Give him lots of praise today!



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 13:
Jesus never sinned.

SCRIPTURE: *This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.* Hebrews 4:15

TALK: Here's a trick question... was Jesus human or was he God? (Both!) Since he was human he experienced everything that humans do. Let's try to name some things every human experiences (Help kids find answers like hunger, sleepiness, sickness, maybe boredom, potty training, learning to talk and read, etc. Be sure any suggestion of sin is caught and corrected.) Did Jesus' parents have to correct him for running into the street? Teach him not to touch a fire? Yes. Did they have to correct him for doing bad things? NO! Jesus never disobeyed, lied, stole, cheated, or any other thing that "misses the mark" (remember when we had target practice?) Jesus may have been tempted to sin... but he never did! No one else has ever been without sin.

OWN IT: Set up one Styrofoam cup for each family member on the table. Put a name on each cup. You can add cups for pastor, teachers, grandparents, etc if you would like. Make the last cup in the line one labeled Jesus. In advance, pour water in each cup, but only 2/3 full. Make sure the last cup (Jesus') contains at least 1/4 cup bleach. Using iodine, explain that iodine will stain our clothes and our hands, just as sin has stained each of our lives. As you put a bit of iodine in each cup the water will turn rusty. Ask kids with each cup, "Has (name of person on cup) ever sinned?" When you ask the question with Jesus, the kids will answer "NO"... but his water will not stain. Then pour a bit of water from the Jesus cup into each of the stained cups to remind kids that only a savior without sin can take away the stain of our sin.

PRAY: Thank Jesus that he is able to clean up our stained lives because he was able to say NO to sin his whole life.



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 14

Jesus rose from the grave.

SCRIPTURE: *He was placed in a tomb. He was brought back to life on the third day as the Scriptures predicted.* I Corinthians 15:4
(God's Word Translation)

TALK: Quick review questions. Who has sinned? (Everyone) What is the cost of sin? (Death) Who paid that price for us? (Jesus) Why was Jesus the only one able to pay it? (He never sinned.) But Jesus dying on the cross is not the end of the story. (Get a calendar and look at it together). Jesus died on a Friday. Can you find Friday on the calendar? For the Jews, and Jesus was a Jew, Saturday was church day. Where is Saturday? God was not going to raise Jesus from the grave on church day. But the next day was Sunday. Where's Sunday? On Sunday, God raised Jesus from the grave. He was alive! Can you think of two or three ways his disciples knew he was alive? (He told them he would rise, the scriptures said so, the tomb was empty, he appeared to over 500 people, they saw him, they ate with him, Thomas touched the holes in his hands.) If Jesus was still in the grave, why would that be bad news instead of good news? (Death had to be DEFEATED!)

OWN IT: Even though it's not Easter, hide a plastic egg (or another container, maybe a small box) in each child's bedroom. In each box have a printed message "He is not here; he is risen!" and a treat of some kind, candy or money. The good news that Jesus defeated death is a treat of HUGE importance. It's not just a piece of candy... it means we won't stay in the grave either.

PRAY: Sing "Christ is Risen" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IExdrZGQVeI>) as a family prayer.



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 15

Is Heaven a real place?

SCRIPTURE: *And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. (Revelation 21:2-3)*

TALK: When mom and dad buy an airline ticket, what can they do with it? They can go places! Where have you gone as a family? Talk about how those tickets (or gasoline for the car) are purchased... also hotel rooms and food. When Jesus died for us and then rose from the grave, he purchased a new home for us! We will live forever in heaven.

OWN IT: Spend some time letting the kids ask questions about heaven. Here (<http://www.seanmcdowell.org/index.php/theology/what-will-heaven-be-like/>) is some excellent help with a quick, biblical picture of heaven. Some of this may even be appropriate to read aloud to children. Don't be afraid to say "I don't know" if a question is posed that you cannot answer. Let younger kids draw pictures of heaven as you talk.

PRAY: Spend time thanking God for Heaven and all of the exciting things it has to offer!!



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 16

Am I going to Heaven?

SCRIPTURE: *Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.*

1 John 5:12-13

TALK: Our verse today is very simple. If you HAVE the Son of God you have life. But what does it mean to have the Son of God? Let's look at it this way: Where is your home? Did you choose your home? How much did you pay for it? How much will you be charged to live here this month? Our salvation is not based on what we have done or how we feel, and we don't have to pay for it; just like this is your home even though you did not choose it or pay for it. To have the Son of God means to believe... because "to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12) When we believe, God writes our name into his family album... it is called the Lamb's book of Life. (Have the kids repeat that name.)

OWN IT: Heaven is our inheritance. Show the kids your will with their names on it, or have them help you create one on a site such as Legal Zoom.com (this will cost \$50 or so). Or... perhaps each of the kids could be shown one thing they will inherit one day – just as God shows us through the Bible many things we will inherit in eternity.

PRAY: Thank God together for your current home, and your eternal home. Thank him you can know for SURE that you are part of his forever family.



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 17

Is Hell a real place?

SCRIPTURE: *He will come with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.* I Thessalonians 1:8-9

TALK and **OWN IT:** This is a scary topic, and because it is scary, a lot of people won't talk about it. Some people don't want to believe Hell is real because these words in the Bible are so scary. But we are going to talk about Hell because the Bible talks about it 162 times in the New Testament alone! We don't know what Hell looks like so we won't even bother with that... but here are the few things we do know:

- a. Hell is real.
- b. Hell is final. It's not where we wait for a second chance.
- c. Hell is sad. It's being separated from God for forever.
- d. Only God judges those who have the Son of God and those who do not. We should never tell someone they are going to hell.
- e. What we can tell people is that we **KNOW** our name is written in the Lamb's book of Life and they can know it too. If they have the Son of God they have life. If they believe, he gives them the right to become his child.

PRAY: Thank God again for his good news. Thank him that we don't have to know too much about Hell... only that Jesus has rescued us from such a fate.



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 18

Do bad people go to Hell and good people to Heaven?

SCRIPTURE: ...As Scripture says, “Not one person has God’s approval.
Romans 3:10

TALK: So, people who go to Heaven have their names written where? (Lamb’s book of life.) Does that mean they are good and people who go to Hell are bad people? Here are some people we know (put 5 names your children will know, from family members to people at church to celebrities on index cards.) Put them in order from best person to worst. (Be ready for funny moments.) But according to our verse today, which of these people have God’s approval?? None! Not one person is good enough by God’s standards. That means we are all, technically “bad”. But that’s not God’s standard for Heaven or Hell. What is his standard? (Believing in him. Faith. Name written in Lamb’s book of Life. Etc)

OWN IT: Let’s see how this works. Get out a kitchen scale and label one side “good things” and the other side “bad things”. Give each child stones, marbles, dried beans, or candy. Each child should have his/her own color. Have kids take turns drawing slips of paper from a large bowl... these should be labeled with a variety of “good” and “bad” things such as (helped mom with dishes, got an A in school, cleaned up after play time, said a bad word, got out of bed after being told to stay in bed, told a lie, etc...

more >



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 18 Continued

Do this in advance and come up with 10 good and 10 bad... more for larger families!) If child draws a “good” behavior, they place it in good side of scales. If child draws “bad” behavior they put it in bad side. This will create fun tension, but then empty the scales and say, “That is how most people think Heaven and Hell work. It’s not accurate. Let’s try to do it accurately.”

Read: We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

Isaiah 64:6

Do the activity again, but this time remind the kids that even the “good” behaviors are like filthy rags... they can’t save us. Only the bad side of the scale will fill up this time. Talk about how only faith in Jesus separates Heaven from Hell... because no one is able to earn it by doing good things.

PRAY: Thank Jesus for being our righteousness, so we can be with him forever.



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 19

So all I have to do is believe in God?

SCRIPTURE: *So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. James 2:17*

TALK: A lot of people say they believe in God. But believing is only part one. The devil has servants called demons, and they believe in God, too! But they don't obey him. And they definitely don't do good things! Each parent/adult take time to tell the kids at least one way that faith has changed your actions. Older kids may be able to give an example too. How does our behavior show other people who we belong to?

OWN IT: Bring out 3-4 different types of fruit. Ask kids to identify the fruit, but also tell you the name of the tree on which it grows. Now ask... if we are Christians, what kind of fruit should be growing on us? Can an apple tree grow oranges? Can an orange tree grow limes? *Reinforce the fact that good deeds don't save us... they tell others who we belong to.

PRAY: Have each child ask God to produce good deeds in his/her life that looks like it comes from a "Jesus tree."



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 20 What is Baptism?

SCRIPTURE: *That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Romans 6:3-4 (The Message)*

TALK: Have you been baptized? Why have mom and dad done this? Do mom and dad need to be baptized? Would you like to be baptized? Why do we do it? The Bible says 1) Believe and 2) Be baptized. ** Be sure kids know salvation is 100% by faith in Jesus. Baptism is not necessary for salvation. It is, however, what we are told to do once we believe.

OWN IT: Go to our Centre Church Facebook photo albums and look at the four pictures in the Baptism photo album. Read the captions together and discuss. Anyone want to be baptized? Give Jonathan a call tonight!

PRAY: Thank God for baptism, an outward sign that we follow Jesus both in death, and in LIFE!!



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 21 What is Communion?

SCRIPTURE: *What you must solemnly realize is that every time you eat this bread and every time you drink this cup, you reenact in your words and actions the death of the Master. You will be drawn back to this meal again and again until the Master returns. 1 Corinthians 11:25*
(The Message)

TALK: Once a month (sometimes more often) we have communion at Centre Church. What do you see in the front of the church on those days? (The table, the bread, the cups.) Talk about each element (table, bread, wine) and what it symbolizes in our memory (the last supper, the body of Christ, Jesus' blood). Jesus told us to do this often. Why do we do certain things over and over? (To remember, to practice, to be obedient, etc) Talk about why we must always take communion with a serious heart. (Perhaps look at verses 27-34 together.)

OWN IT: Have communion as a family. Again, anyone who is a follower of Christ can serve the bread and the "wine" as we are a royal priesthood. **As with baptism, remind kids we are not saved by taking communion. It, too, is something we do to be obedient as followers of Jesus.

PRAY: Thank Jesus for his body and for his blood which rescued us from being separated from him. We belong to him. We do not belong to sin.



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY



Week 22

Who else is in the Trinity?

SCRIPTURE: *However, the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything. He will remind you of everything that I have ever told you. John 14:26*
(God's Word Translation)

TALK: What is a "person"? The Holy Spirit is a person of the trinity. He is not an idea or a thing. He is a person. He does not have a body as Jesus did, because he is not a human being. He is God. Where does he live? He is the only one of the Trinity who lives IN us. Where does God live? (God is ruling from Heaven) Where is Jesus? (He sits at God's right hand.) The Holy Spirit is now God with us. According to our verse, what does the Holy Spirit do for us?

OWN IT: Give each child a "promise card" for the week. It may be "good for one backrub", or "good for a pre-dinner snack", etc. Explain that the Holy Spirit remains with us as a promise that one day we will receive our inheritance from God. He is our promise that we will be sons and daughters of the king.

PRAY: ** Remember, we can pray TO the Holy Spirit. He is God. Thank the Holy Spirit for being with us... until the very end!



52 WEEKS OF DC FAMILY

Week 23

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

SCRIPTURE: *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.* Ephesians 5:18-19

TALK: What does a person who has had too much alcohol to drink act like? Why do they act that way? Once alcohol is in a person it begins to CONTROL how they behave. So what might the Holy Spirit begin to do once he is inside a person? What does our verse suggest the Holy Spirit causes us to do? (Pray, praise, give thanks, sing, etc) Alcohol, because it controls a person's behavior, is often attached to other sins or bad decisions. Likewise, being filled with/controlled by the Spirit is often attached to good actions.

OWN IT: Have a helium balloon or two at the table, as well as a birthday candle and a saltine cracker. We want to show that what goes IN affects all that comes out. Have the children chew a saltine cracker and then try to blow out a candle or whistle. It will be next to impossible as the cracker sucks up all their saliva. Now show them how to take a tiny hit of helium (you can skip this illustration if this scares you, but small amounts from a balloon are pretty harmless) and the resulting speech alteration. Why does this happen? The body uses this inhaled helium to form words instead of its normal exhaling gasses, and helium moves wayyyyyy faster than oxygen or carbon dioxide through the air, making the pitch much higher. Easy version of the lesson: What we put in us affects what comes out of us.

PRAY: Have the children follow your example of asking the Holy Spirit to fill you. Remind them this should be done daily!

