



# THE STORY



Chapel Hill Church | Fall 2015

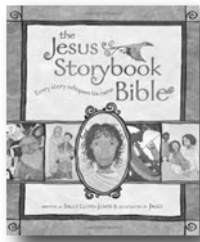
## ADDITIONAL 'FAMILY TIME' RESOURCES



**SEEDS FAMILY WORSHIP** | [www.seedsfamilyworship.com](http://www.seedsfamilyworship.com)  
Seeds Family Worship is a music-based ministry that creates modern, relevant word for word scripture songs for families. God's Word. Great Music.



**WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE** | [www.whatsinthebible.com](http://www.whatsinthebible.com)  
What's in the Bible? is the 13-DVD series from VeggieTales® creator Phil Vischer. In his first new project since VeggieTales, Vischer has set out to teach kids (and parents!) the story of the Bible – God's great rescue plan! We know the stories of Moses, Noah, David, and Jesus, but in this groundbreaking new Bible DVD series, we learn how they all fit together to tell one big, redemptive story.



**THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE**  
The Jesus Storybook Bible tells the Story beneath all the stories in the Bible. It takes the whole Bible to tell this Story. And at the center of the Story, there is a baby, the Child upon whom everything would depend. From Noah to Moses to King David, every story whispers his name.



**THE ACTION BIBLE: GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE STORY**  
Here's the most complete picture Bible ever! And it features a captivating, up-to-date artwork style—making it the perfect Bible for today's visually focused culture. This compelling blend of clear writing plus dramatic images offers an appeal that crosses all age boundaries. Let this epic rendition draw you into all the excitement of the world's most awesome story.



# THE STORY

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# Committing to the Journey

As a church family we are embarking on a 31 week journey through the greatest story ever told. Before we set out on this adventure we are encouraging every family to make four commitments over the coming weeks. Take a moment and read through these commitments as a family and check the box next to each commitment you are willing to make.

## ◆ READ THE STORY

☐ We commit to reading a chapter of *The Story* each week.

## ◆ HEAR THE STORY

☐ We commit to attending weekend services to hear *The Story* each week.

## ◆ DISCUSS THE STORY

☐ We commit to doing a weekly *Family Time*\* to discuss *The Story* as a family.

☐ We commit to attending a weekly Home Group to discuss *The Story*.

## ◆ LIVE THE STORY

☐ We commit to finding our place in *The Story* through ministry and/or service and inviting others to join us in this journey.

## \*What is Family Time?

*Family Time* is the practice of setting aside one evening every week to intentionally train and disciple your children in a fun and engaging environment.

For thousands of years *Family Time*, or what is often referred to as *family worship*, has been one of the most important aspects of home life for the Christian family. However, in recent years *Family Time* has become a neglected practice within many Christian homes. As your church family we are committed to inspiring, equipping and supporting you as you disciple your kids at home. We believe that *Family Time* is one of the most effective rhythms you can practice as you seek to effectively pass your faith on to the next generation. (*Deuteronomy 6, Psalm 78, Ephesians 6*)

# Getting Started

This guide was designed to help families like yours begin the discipline of weekly *Family Times* by providing discussion questions, activities, and ‘Live It Out’ exercises for each week of *The Story* journey. Whether *Family Time* is a new practice in your home, or something you have been doing for years, we pray that this guide will be a tool to help your family abide in Christ through weekly *Family Times* over the coming weeks.

## We encourage families to use the “3W” approach to Family Time:

**Worship:** Begin with prayer as you start your time together. Pray for God’s help. Each time you open the Bible, ask God to help you understand and believe what you read in His Word. See Psalm 119:18 for an example. Then spend some time singing praises to God. Whether this is listening to your favorite worship CD, singing a-cappella or dusting off the guitar that has been sitting in your closet, worship God together as a family.

**Word:** Spend some time reading and discussing God’s word together using the Family Discussions and Activities provided in this guide. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you think about how to approach this time with your children:

*Find the verses together.* Many elementary-age children are still learning how to navigate the Scriptures. Help them gain these skills and the confidence to use them by demonstrating how to look up a verse or passage and letting them practice.

*Read “The Story” together.* In addition to The Story for adults there are four age appropriate version to help your family discovery *The Story* together:

- The Story for Little Ones
- The Story for Children
- The Story for Kids
- The Story for Teens

*Live It out.* Use the ideas and activities provided in this section to help your family take the next step towards living out the truths you are discovering together.

**Wonder:** Each week during *Family Time* take a moment and ask your children if there is anything they are wondering about, or any questions they might have about God, what you have been reading or about life in general. Don’t skip over this section as time spent in these discussions will likely produce great relational fruit in the months and years to come.



When your family has completed this week's activities let a child punch out the card for Chapter One and attach it here

You will find the cards for this set of Family Guides located after lesson 12.

## THE STORY: CHAPTER ONE

# CREATION

## THE BEGINNING OF LIFE

### Key Truth:

**Humans are God's crowning creation.** God made everything there is. He made me to know Him. Man's sin brought death and suffering to God's good creation.

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 1–9:17

**Remember Verse:** Genesis 1:27, NIV

So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female.

**Read:** *The Story*, Chapter 1

## FAMILY TALK

### For Younger Kids

- If you could live a day as any animal, what animal would you be? What are some of the good and bad things about living as that animal?
- What are some ways people and animals are different?
- Are people or animals more important to God?

*Explain that people are worth way more than animals, because we're the only part of Creation made in God's image. We were made to have a relationship with God. Even Jesus said in Matthew 10:31 that we're "worth more than many sparrows."*

### For Older Kids

- What are some things you really like about yourself? (*Could be eyes, hair, clothes, sense of humor*)
- Hollywood actors and models always talk about how they'd like to change their appearance, yet they're considered the pretty people. Is there anything you'd change about yourself?
- Do you think God would change anything about you?
- Why do you think the culture is so consumed with looks and fame?

### For Couples

- What does this story say to you about the nature of men and women?
- What do you think God meant when he referred to Eve as a "suitable helper"?
- What is the one thing you are most grateful for in your relationship?
- In what areas would you personally like to grow as you journey through The Story together?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

*Spend a few moments one evening going on a family treasure hunt around your house. You can write your own clues or copy the ones given on Post-It notes or scraps of paper. End your hunt at a mirror (either handheld or in a bathroom) so your family can discover God's greatest creation—you!*

When you find the mirror, ask your children to identify the treasure. (They should say it's them.) Remind your children that they are created in God's image. Let them know how proud you are of them. Talk about some of the things you appreciate about them and tie that into how those characteristics are from God. Tell them you expect a lot from them and have high standards because they are God's perfect creation. Encourage them to always follow God and His will for their lives.

### **Clue No. 1**

*I'm no simple box with doors and a light.  
I will keep your food cold, both day and night.*

### **Clue No. 2** (hide in refrigerator)

*Yawn. If you're tired, you're coming to me.  
For safety and warmth, I'm the place to be.*

### **Clue No. 3** (hide in a bed)

*I'm pretty and make oxygen for you.  
Give me water—it's the right thing to do.*

### **Clue No. 4** (hide in a plant)

*With four wheels and an engine, I go fast.  
But without any gas, I cannot last.*

### **Clue No. 5** (hide in car)

*Your search is almost over, so be glad.  
You wipe your eyes with me when you are sad.*

### **Clue No. 6** (hide in tissue box)

*Come to me when you want to sit around.  
Lift up my cushions and treasure you've found.*

## LIVE IT OUT

For added emphasis on this week's themes, try one of these *LIVE IT OUT* activities:

Grab a family photo album that has some shots of you enjoying the outdoors.

Ask:

What do you remember most about this experience?

What are some of your favorite things about God's creation?

How can you see God's handiwork in the outdoors?

Where are some places you'd like to visit?

*If the conversation leads, plan a fun family outing or your next family vacation.*

Remind your children that all people are important to God by taking some food to a local food bank or going through your closets and making a donation to a homeless shelter. Remind your kids that helping the less fortunate shows them God's love.

Punch out and  
attach the card for  
Chapter 2 here  
after this week's  
Family Time.

## THE STORY: CHAPTER TWO

# ABRAHAM

## GOD BUILDS A NATION

### Key Truth:

**What sin changes, faith overcomes.** Like Abraham we have to be willing to make sacrifices to follow God.

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 12-35

**1st Waypoint Verse:** God said, "I will give you all of the land that you see. I will give it to you and your children after you forever. I will make your children like the dust of the earth." Genesis 13:15-16, NIV

**Read:** *The Story*, Chapter 2

## FAMILY TALK

### For Younger Kids

- How do you see God working in your life? (*Could be finding something that was lost, feeling better after being sick, answered prayer.*)
- What are some of the ways God worked in Abraham's life? (*Giving him land, children, etc.*)
- Would you have had the faith Abraham displayed by moving to a place you knew nothing about?
- Why is it so hard to move or adjust to new things? What does God do to help you feel better when things change? (*Give you new friends, love of a family, etc.*)

### For Older Kids

- According to Genesis 18:12, Sarah laughed when she overheard that she would have a baby. What would you do if you believed God was leading you to do something and people laughed?
- Have you ever read something in the Bible and thought, That's impossible! Is anything impossible for God?
- How does our faith play a role in God's "impossible" plans for our life?
- After Abraham passed God's test, did God give Abraham "descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand" (Genesis 22:17) right away? What can you learn from Abraham about waiting for God's plan to come true? Why is it so hard to wait?

### For Couples

- God promised Abraham that He would bless the whole earth through Abrahams offspring. What promises of God have you taken to heart? What has God promised that you still have difficulty accepting? How does accepting or rejecting these promises effect your relationships?



## FAMILY ACTIVITY

Gather your family outside or in the living room. For this activity you'll need something to mark boundaries and items to set up an obstacle course. You can use pillows, empty 2-liter plastic bottles, stuffed animals, baseball bats, etc. Break family members into pairs. If there's an odd number, have one person rotate in. Explain that one member from each team will stand on one side of the obstacle course wearing a bandana so he can't see anything. The other team members will stand on the other side and call out verbal directions to guide their partner. Only verbal directions, such as "Two small steps forward," "One step left" or "Lift your foot really high and take a big step" are allowed. All teams go through the obstacle course at the same time, so it can sound pretty chaotic. If the blindfolded person steps on an obstacle, knocks one down (you can lean two bats together to create a teepee) or goes outside the boundary, then he has to be guided back to the beginning and start again. Take turns being blindfolded and giving directions, and always rearrange the obstacle course once a person has made it through.

***When you decide to stop playing, ask these questions:***

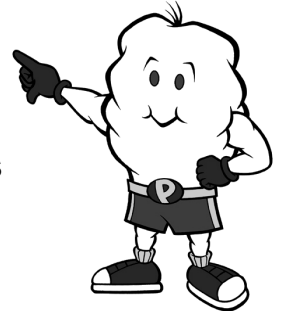
- What was the hardest part about being blindfolded? (Couldn't see; hard to hear directions from teammate because of all the noise.) Explain that the blindfolded person had to totally trust the directions to stay safe and make it to the destination.
- Do you think Abraham may have felt the same way when God called him to go to Canaan?
- Is it harder to obey when you can see the destination or when you're walking blind?
- How does faith help you trust God in your life, even when you can't see the next step?
- What was the hardest part of giving directions? (Had to shout; had to put yourself in other person's shoes to guide left or right.)
- Does God ever mess up in the directions He gives us?
- Because we can always trust God, what should we do when we hear His leading?

## LIVE IT OUT

### POP ON!!!

Use popcorn to help your family learn the first Waypoint verse of the year. To get ready, pop the popcorn your family received from Children's Ministries on Sunday or make some popcorn of your own.

Begin by reading or saying the verse below all together 3 times. Next let the youngest person put a piece of popcorn on a word in the verse. Everyone says the verse with that person again. Go around the circle letting each person cover a word and then all say the verse together. Repeat until the verse is completely covered with popcorn. Can everyone now say the verse? Celebrate by enjoying the rest of the popcorn.



**God said, "I will give you all of the land that you see. I will give it to you and your children after you forever. I will make your children like the dust of the earth." Genesis 13:15-16, NIV**

Punch out and  
attach the card for  
Chapter 3 here  
after this week's  
Family Time.

## THE STORY: CHAPTER THREE

# JOSEPH

## FROM SLAVE TO DEPUTY PHARAOH

### Key Truth:

**Though man fails, God's plan prevails.** God worked things out for Joseph's good. Through the difficult times in life, God is with me and has a purpose for my life.

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 37-47:11

**Remember Verse:** Genesis 50:19-20, NIV  
Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. ... You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good."

**Read:** *The Story*, Chapter 3

## FAMILY TALK

### For Younger Kids

- Can you remember a funny or weird dream you've had recently? (*If nobody remembers one, share one of your own to get the conversation started.*)
- Do you think that dream has any chance of coming true? Would you like it to come true?
- What do you think is the difference between your dreams and Joseph's dreams?
- What are your hopes and dreams for your life? (*Let children share and then tell them some of your hopes: that they'll always follow God; that you'll always have a strong relationship with them; that they'll use their talents to serve God.*)

### For Older Kids

- Has anybody told lies about you and gotten you in trouble, like Potiphar's wife did to Joseph?
- What did it feel like? Did you do anything to get even?
- Has anybody made promises to you and then not followed through, like the drink-tester did to Joseph? How did that make you feel?
- What can you learn from Joseph about patience and continuing to believe in God's plan during difficult times?

### For Couples

- Read Genesis 50:19-21. How does Joseph's story reveal the truth of this passage. How have you seen the reality of those verses play out in your own story? Both individually and as a couple.
- Joseph withheld judgement on his brothers knowing that God is the only one qualified to judge others actions. Instead of judgement he choose forgiveness. When recently have you been tempted to replace God in judging others? In judging yourself?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

Instruct each family member to bring his or her favorite possession to the living room. It must be only one thing, such as a toy, golf club, stuffed animal, photo, Wii gaming system or car (of course, this would require a trip outside). Once everybody has chosen something, start with the youngest family member and have him/her explain why that item is him/her favorite. Continue around the room until each person gets to share about his/her possession.

After everybody is finished explain that it's natural to have a favorite thing. Some items just fit your personality and specific tastes better than others. Some things have more sentimental value and mean more to you. But when it comes to families, favoritism can cause some problems.

### **Ask:**

- How did it make Joseph's brothers feel that Jacob "loved Joseph more than any of his other sons" (Genesis 37:3)?
- Were Joseph's brothers justified in selling him into slavery?
- Who was more at fault—Jacob or Joseph's brothers—for what happened to Joseph?
- If Jacob would've acted differently, do you think Joseph's life would've been different?
- Have you ever been in a group or team where somebody else was the favorite?
- Have you ever been treated as the favorite? How did that make you feel?

*At the end, pray for God to give your family the wisdom and ability to love each other fully and unconditionally without showing favoritism.*

## LIVE IT OUT

*God gave Joseph wisdom to prepare for the coming famine. Through God's provision, people were saved when there was no food.*

For added emphasis on this week's themes, try one of these *LIVE IT OUT* activities:

As a couple, schedule a date night at your favorite restaurant. During your time together discuss your current budget. (Print it out and bring two copies along with you.) Take some time to look over your budget and look for places that you can save over the next year. Even if it is a small amount each month, decide together how to use that money to be generous with others in times of need.

Take an evening as a family to go door-to-door in your neighborhood to gather nonperishable food for a community or church food bank. Have your children explain to the neighbors exactly where the food will go and who it will benefit. Make sure to visit houses of people you don't know. Bring a wagon or shopping bags to collect food donations.

*After you deliver the items to the food bank, write a thank-you note to the neighbors that contributed and revisit those homes to let them know the results of your family food drive.*



Punch out and  
attach the card for  
Chapter 4 here  
after this week's  
Family Time.

## THE STORY: CHAPTER FOUR

# MOSES OUT OF EGYPT

### Key Truth:

**God is the ultimate Deliverer.** God sent Moses to bring His people out of Egypt. God is the God over all gods. He can overcome any power on earth to help me.

**Bible Basis:** Exodus 1-16:15

**Waypoint Verse:** *Moses answered the people. He said, "Don't be afraid. Stand firm. You will see how the LORD will save you today"*  
**Exodus 14:13, NIV**

**Read:** *The Story*, Chapter 4

## FAMILY TALK

### For Younger Kids

*God provided for Moses through his entire life, and He provides for our family today. Share a story of God's provision in your life and then ask:*

- How did God care for Moses when he was a baby? (*Pharaoh's daughter finding him in Nile River; being raised by his own mother as an infant; growing up in the palace*)
- How did God provide for Moses when he was asking Pharaoh to let the Israelite people go? (*He protected Moses and gave him his brother Aaron to speak.*)
- How did God provide for the Israelites when they left Egypt? (*Guiding them with a pillar of fire or cloud; parting the Red Sea; manna in the morning.*) How does God provide for you?

### For Older Kids

- *Pharaoh was very stubborn and hardened his heart against God. Share a story where God was working in your life or trying to get your attention, but you didn't see it until later, then ask:*
- Do you know someone who has hardened their heart against God and refuses to see Him?
- Why do you think people stubbornly refuse to see God when He makes himself known in creation and everyday circumstances? What can you do to open people's eyes to God's truth?
- If somebody totally refuses to acknowledge God, what should you do? (*Pray that the Holy Spirit softens their heart; continue to show them God's love.*)

### For Couples

- The Israelites were trapped between an impassable sea and a pursuing army from which only God could rescue them. What is the one "pursuing army" that you are facing personally, or as a couple, that you need to rely on God for rescuing? What one battle would you like God to fight for you this week?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

Grab a flashlight and bring your family to a dark room or into the basement. This activity can also be done outside on a dark night. Explain that according to the Bible, God led the Israelites at night with a pillar of fire (Exodus 13:21). By following the pillar of fire at night and the pillar of cloud during the day, God's people always knew exactly where to go.

Tell your family that you're going to play a game of "Reverse Hide and Seek." Instead of one person counting and everybody hiding, the person holding the flashlight will hide and everybody else will count. Have a parent hide first. After everybody counts to 20, let them search for the person hiding. Once that person is found, let him/her hide again. This time after everybody has counted, wait a couple minutes and then turn on the flashlight before anybody finds you. With the flashlight on, allow every family member to get to you. Let other family members take turns hiding.



### ***When you're finished, ask:***

- Were you ever scared being stuck in the dark and not knowing where to go?
- Was it easier to find the hidden person when the flashlight was on or off?
- How does God shine His "flashlight" today, so it's easier for us to follow Him? (He gave us the Bible; instruction from parents; youth leaders at church.)
- How does God's light deliver us and keep us safe?
- God's "flashlight" is on all the time. How does it make you feel to know you can go to Him whenever you're in need?
- The Bible says, "You are in the light because of what the Lord has done. Live like children of the light" (Ephesians 5:8). What are some ways we can live as children of the light?

## LIVE IT OUT

For added emphasis on this week's themes, try this *LIVE IT OUT* activity:

On a Sunday night (or early on a Monday morning, if you wake up before your kids), tell your family that you're going to eat breakfast like the Israelites did when they escaped Egypt. The Bible says that thin flakes of bread appeared on the ground every morning (Exodus 15:15-16). The Israelites would gather up enough for their family and eat it throughout the day. The next morning a whole new crop of manna, which comes from the Hebrew words "What is it?" would be waiting for them to eat.

Instead of manna, explain that your family will eat oatmeal every morning this week. Calculate the cost savings of eating oatmeal instead of cereal, doughnuts or eggs (whatever is your family's normal breakfast food) and have your children donate that money to the church the following Sunday to do God's work.

*At some point during the week, have a discussion with your family about what the Israelites must have felt like after eating manna every day for years.*



Punch out and  
attach the card for  
Chapter 5 here  
after this week's  
Family Time.

## THE STORY: CHAPTER FIVE **NEW COMMANDS AND A NEW COVENANT**

### **Key Truth:**

**Following God's laws results in righteousness.**

God gave us commands so that we can know him. I can know God by learning His laws that lead to right relationship.

**Bible Basis:** Exodus 19-25:22

**Remember Verse:** Exodus 24:3, NIV

"[God's people] answered with one voice. They said, 'We will do everything the Lord has told us to do' "

**Read:** *The Story*, Chapter 5

## **FAMILY TALK**

### **For Younger Kids**

- Why did God's people need rules?
- Those rules are pretty old now. Do they still apply today? Why?
- Which one of the 10 Commandments is the hardest for you to follow?
- What are some other important rules that the 10 Commandments don't cover?

### **For Older Kids**

- What do you think is the most important of the 10 Commandments? Why?
- When Jesus was asked that same question, what did He say? (Read Matthew 22:36-40) Why did He answer this way? Do you agree?
- The third commandment talks about not misusing God's name. Does that apply to words such as "Gosh", "Geez" and "OMG"?
- What do the 10 Commandments show us about God's character? (*He's a jealous God; He cares about life; He wants us to look to Him for our needs.*)

### **For Couples**

- Take a moment and read through the Ten Commandments together taking time to discuss the meaning of each. Then discuss how/if your current household rules match up with God's rules for his people. If you haven't already done so, this might be a great time to write out your family rules and discuss them as a family.
- What "other gods" (objects, activities, goals, people) have crept into your home. How might you go about removing them from your home and schedules.

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

Play the “Two Truths and a Lie” game as a family. In this game, each family member has to think up two real things and one falsehood to say out loud. Then everybody guesses which thing is the lie. Try to make the lie sound believable. Parents will have an easier time stumping their children, but be aware about what you reveal about yourself. Also, try to have the true statements sound outrageous, then you can share the story behind your “truth.” (Example: “I never had detention in high school; I once hit a golf ball and broke a car’s windshield; I made my little brother drink pickle juice.” In this case, if the lie was about detention, then the truths could lead to interesting stories.)

### Ask:

- What was the hardest part about this game? Did you learn anything new about your family?
- Was it easy to disguise a lie in the truth?
- How come it’s easy for little lies to slip out in everyday life?
- What are some ways that we can always strive to be truthful.

## LIVE IT OUT

For added emphasis on this week’s themes, try these *LIVE IT OUT* activities:

- Get a deck of cards and remove all the face cards (jacks, queens, kings and jokers). Shuffle the deck. Bring out a Bible and review the 10 Commandments in order. Put the deck on the table. Have the youngest family member start by drawing a card and trying to say the corresponding commandment (example: 8=Do not steal). If the person says the correct commandment, he gets to keep the card. If it’s incorrect, the card is put face up next to the deck. Go through the entire deck of cards. The person who ends up with the most cards gets a prize, such as being able to choose a special dessert the following night.
- Look up “The Ethics of American Youth—2008 summary” online. Based on a random survey of 30,000 high school students, this study found that 35 percent of boys and 26 percent of girls stole from a store in the past year. Twenty-three percent stole from a parent or relative, and 20 percent stole from a friend. Lying was an even bigger issue. Eighty-three percent admitted to lying to a parent about something significant. Cheating is also a problem that appears to be getting worse in that 64 percent of students cheated on a test in the last year. High schoolers couldn’t even be totally honest on this anonymous survey—26 percent said they lied on one or two questions.



### Ask:

- Do these numbers on lying, cheating and stealing seem about right in your school and among your friends? Would you say the problem is larger?
- Why do you think so many students lie, cheat or steal?
- Is cheating the same thing as lying? Why or why not?
- What’s one way that teenagers could be encouraged to lie, cheat and steal less?

## WANDERING

Punch out and  
attach the  
Chapter 6 card  
here after this  
week's Family  
Time.

### Key Truth:

**Faith in God's promises will be rewarded. Doubt will be punished.** Joshua and Caleb were confident in God's promise. Stand up for God against the majority, and you will enjoy the fullness of God's promises.

**Bible Basis:** Numbers 13-14, 20:1-13, Deuteronomy 34

**Remember Verse:** Numbers 14:8, NIV

[Joshua and Caleb] said, "If the Lord is pleased with us, he'll lead us into that land. ...He'll give it to us"

## FAMILY TALK

### For Younger Kids

*This week The Story tells us how 12 spies went in to look at God's promised land and 10 came back scared. Only Caleb and Joshua were excited about going into the Promised Land.*

- Why were Joshua and Caleb so confident they could defeat people who were bigger than they were and lived in strong cities? (*They trusted God; they had faith in His promises.*)
- Were the other 10 spies focused more on God or on the situations?
- By focusing on earthly things, the 10 spies were too scared to trust God. What are some things in your life that scare you? Does your fear ever keep you from doing something you want to?
- How can you overcome that fear? What are some of the benefits of overcoming that fear?

### For Older Kids

- The Israelites chose to listen to the 10 fearful spies, instead of Joshua and Caleb—who trusted God. Because of that, they missed out on the fruits of God's promises. Name a time that you followed worldly advice. What was the consequence? Talk about a time where you followed God despite strong opposition. What happened?
- What was God's punishment to the people, because of their lack of faith? Do you think God's punishment was too harsh? What are some of the punishments or judgments people face today because of an unwillingness to stand strong for God?
- How can you live more boldly for God? Name one way you can trust God more in your life.

### For Couples

- Within reach of the promised land, the Israelites pull back from their goal. Why do you think they do this? Have you pulled back from a goal God has called you to? When it comes to your family what "giants" are you afraid of? How can giving in to these fears harm your relationship?



## FAMILY ACTIVITY

Set up two obstacle courses in your living room, backyard or a park. Be creative in using items around your home. Make one course long and difficult. Keep the other course rather simple and short. Ideas include: doing a hula hoop 10 times, putting your forehead on a bat and spinning around 10 times, jumping rope, running around a trash can, crab walking, climbing over the couch or fence, crawling on your hands and knees, skipping, etc. Once the courses are set up, bring a Bible and ask the first racer a question based on this week's reading from The Story.

### **Sample Question Ideas:**

- Who buried Moses in Moab when he died? (Answer: God.)
- Where did the Israelites want to go, instead of going into the Promised Land? (Answer: Egypt.)
- God made water pour out of what object? (Answer: A rock.)

If the racer gets a question correct, allow them to race the short course. If he misses the question, have him run around the longer course. Let each family member try to answer a question and complete a course. Try to make the questions age appropriate using the chapters mentioned in the above "Bible Basis."

### **When everybody's finished, ask:**

- Which course was faster to complete? (the short one) What allowed you to run that course? (*Knowing God's Word*)
- In what ways do these obstacle courses compare to the Israelites in the desert? (*God has a more direct plan for your life, but allows for you to choose. Sometimes those choices lead to a harder path and punishment. Knowing God's plan and following it makes life better and results in fewer roadblocks.*)
- Why is doing something God's way the first time important?

## LIVE IT OUT

For added emphasis on this week's themes, try this *LIVE IT OUT* activity:

Do trust falls with your family (*just make sure your children are big enough to catch you*). Have one person stand facing away and with their arms crossed in front of them. Instruct them to close their eyes, remain stiff and fall backwards. Have another family member or two "catch" that person before they hit the ground. Take turns falling backwards and catching each other.



### **Ask:**

- What was the scariest part?
- Was it hard to trust that you'd be safe when you fell backward? Why?
- Why is it hard sometimes to trust God and His Word?
- Can you always trust your family to be there for you?
- Can you always trust God to be there for you?

## **JOSHUA**

### **THE BATTLE BEGINS**

Punch out and  
attach the  
Chapter 7 card  
here after this  
week's Family  
Time.

**Key Truth:**

**God's power, not our own, wins the battle.** God's power can break down any wall. God wants His followers to be strong and not make compromises in their lives.

**Bible Basis:** Joshua 1-6

**Waypoint Verse:** ***"Be strong and very brave. Make sure you obey the whole law. ... Then you will have success everywhere you go"***

**Joshua 1:7, NIV**

**Read:** *The Story*, Chapter 7

### **FAMILY TALK**

**For Younger Kids**

- Why do you think the Israelites had more faith this time than when the spies were sent into the Promised Land years before? *(All of the people from before were dead; God showed His consistent power in the desert as they wandered.)*
- Read Joshua 3:15-17. How did God show His power before the Israelites even got to Jericho? When did God show His power to part the water before this?
- Do you think God's people felt silly walking around Jericho for six days while being completely silent? How does this show they had faith in God?
- What do you think the people inside Jericho were thinking as they watched the Israelites march around? How much confidence do you think God's people had after they watched the walls around Jericho tumble down under God's mighty hand?

**For Older Kids**

- God used Rahab, a woman with a sketchy background, to help His people in a big way. What does this tell you about God?
- Rahab lied to the king's men to save the Israelite spies. Was it wrong for her to lie? *(Yes, lying is always wrong. Rahab was not a Jew, but she did have faith that the God of Israel was the one true God—read Joshua 2:11.)* Will God forgive past sins, such as lying?
- God blessed Rahab for her faith and for helping His people—not for lying. What are some ways you can show your faith in God and help other Christians?

**For Couples**

- Rahab's actions spare her family. What can you do to help insure the salvation of your family? What "scarlet thread" (or life-line) will you hold out, and hold onto as a couple?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

Gather a glass bowl filled halfway with water and a peppershaker or pepper mill. Make sure the bowl is totally clean and free from soapy residue. Put the bowl and the pepper on the kitchen table. Hide some liquid dishwashing soap near the table. Bring your family together at the table and ask one family member to sprinkle pepper on the entire surface of the water.

*Say: The pepper is like the wall around Jericho. It protected the city by holding out enemies and couldn't be broken.*

Have a child dip their finger into the bowl. Did anything happen?

*Say: There was no way that the Israelite army could break through the wall by its own power. Only with God's help could they take the city.*

As you say this, secretly put some liquid dishwashing soap on your finger and dip it into the bowl. Watch as the pepper is immediately slammed against the sides of the bowl, leaving much of the water clear.



Explain how you did this trick by getting a new bowl or thoroughly washing out the one you used. Show how the detergent lowers the surface tension of the water and forces the pepper to the side. Allow your kids to sprinkle pepper on the water and then watch it being drawn to the sides by adding detergent.

*Say: From the beginning of time, God designed the water to react the way it does in this trick. He knew exactly what the reaction would be when the detergent hit the water. In the same way, God's power brought down the wall around Jericho. He knew it would crumble when the Israelites blew their horns and shouted out to Him.*

## LIVE IT OUT

For added emphasis on this week's themes, try this *LIVE IT OUT* activity:

God brought people together to help the Israelites. In Jericho, Rahab helped the spies and encouraged them by saying, "Everyone in this country is weak with fear because of you." God used one person, Rahab, to make a big difference for the Israelites. Rahab even shows up in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5), which demonstrates how God had a great plan for somebody who the world may have viewed as a castoff.

As a family, decide to make a difference in one person's life by showing them God's love in a tangible way. If you don't know of anyone to help, talk to your pastor, friends, neighbors, a local charity or community organization to find an individual who needs help. Maybe it's an elderly person who needs yard work (*grass cut, leaves raked, sidewalk shoveled or weeds pulled*). Perhaps it's a single mother who could be blessed by a bagful of groceries or a gift card to a grocery store. Maybe it's a military family who has a spouse overseas who would delight in a card of encouragement and dinner out. Be creative as you seek to serve one person in your community. Make sure this per-

## JUDGES

### A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

Punch out and attach the Chapter 8 card here after this week's Family Time.

**Key Truth:**

**Spiritual compromise can be overcome by turning back to God.** Just like the Israelites, God calls us to be set apart.

**Bible Basis:** Judges 2:7-8, 4 and 16

**Waypoint Verse:** *[Samson] said, "LORD and King, show me that you still have concern for me. God, please make me strong just one more time" Judges 16:28, NIV*

**Read:** *The Story*, Chapter 8

### FAMILY TALK

**For Younger Kids**

- Why did God have to raise up judges such as Deborah and Samson?
- How does this show God's love? *(God gave Israel a second chance—actually lots of chances—to come back and follow Him. He didn't give up on the Israelites.)*
- How does God show His love to us today? *(By sending His Son to die for our sins; by forgiving the bad things we do and allowing us to have a relationship with Him.)*
- God gave Samson great strength. What are some gifts God has given you?
- How can you use these gifts to help others follow God?

**For Older Kids**

- When God allowed the Midianites to rule over His people and treat them badly, he raised up Gideon to get the Israelites back on track (Judges 6-8). What kind of man was Gideon? *(He was the least important person in his weak family.)*
- Gideon wasn't popular, strong or a natural leader—he didn't even trust God at first and made God prove himself. What does this tell you about God?
- Gideon raised an army of 32,000 men, but only 300 went to attack the Midianites. Why?
- How would you like to be more like Gideon? Does he have any character traits that you would or would not want to emulate?

**For Couples**

- What do you see as the most tragic thing about Samson's life? What do you see as the most redeeming thing about Samson's life?
- Like Samson, if you could pray for just one thing to happen, what would it be?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

Gather masking tape, a package of 100 straws and several eggs. Work in teams to create a casing that will protect an egg when it's dropped. Each team can only use tape and straws. When you've finished your designs, go outside and see which egg protector works best. You may need to get a ladder or chair to stand on as the eggs are dropped on a hard surface. The losing team has to clean up the mess.

Explain that the Israelites followed God as long as Joshua and the elders lived (Judges 2:7). God's people were like the egg surrounded by the protective casing of God's commands. The casing protects the egg. Without protection, the egg breaks. Chapter 8 of *The Story* shows what happened to the Israelites after they strayed from God's commands by worshipping idols and following the world's customs instead of God's. God judged His people and they had to suffer the consequences of their actions.

### Ask:

- Could the egg survive the fall without the protection of the straw casing?
- How does God's Word protect us?
- Why is it important to know and follow God's commands?
- What happens to us when we decide to get outside the protection of God's commands? (We sin and have to suffer the consequences.)

## LIVE IT OUT

For added emphasis on this week's themes, try this *LIVE IT OUT* activity:

### Younger Kids:

Practice the Waypoint verse together. How does learning this verse together show that we care for each other and for God?

### Older Kids:

If you have older kids, gather them around the computer and watch Tim Hawkin's video on parenting found at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-tuxp9RFb0\\_](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-tuxp9RFb0_) When you're done watching the videos as a family, discuss these questions about discipline.

- How is God judging the Israelites like a parent disciplining a child?
- What was God's purpose in the judges? (*To bring His people back to Him, to stop them from sinning and to help them live a more abundant life.*)
- Did God's judgment seem harsh or loving? Was it both?
- Why did God's children disobey so frequently? (*They forgot what God had done. They followed the world's practices, not God's.*)
- What can your family learn from this chapter of *The Story*?

**Write down one thing below that your family will do differently after studying Judges together:**



Punch out and  
attach the  
Chapter 9 card  
here after you  
complete this  
week's Family Time.

## THE STORY: CHAPTER NINE

# RUTH

## THE FAITH OF A FOREIGN WOMAN

### Key Truth:

**God rewards unselfish love.** By loving God first, you can better love others.

**Bible Basis:** Ruth 1-4:17

**Remember Verse:** Ruth 2:12, NIV

"May the Lord reward you for what you have done. May the God of Israel bless you richly"

**Read:** *The Story*, Chapter 9

## FAMILY TALK

### For Younger Kids

- When Naomi's husband and sons died, why did she want to move to Bethlehem? *(That's where she was from. She had family there and had heard the Lord was helping His people.)*
- Did Naomi want Ruth and Orpah to come with her? *(No, she encouraged them to go back to their parents' homes and marry different men.)*
- Why did Ruth stay? *(She loved Naomi and wanted to serve her and her God.)*
- How did God bless Ruth's actions? *(He provided food for her and Naomi. He allowed her to marry Boaz.)* How does God bless us when we do nice things for people?

### For Older Kids

- Boaz and Ruth's relationship teaches a lot about dating and the characteristics of a future spouse. What first attracted Boaz to Ruth? *(She was hard-working. He had heard about the kindness she showed Naomi.)*
- What attracted Ruth to Boaz? Was it his awesome biceps? *(No. He offered her protection by having her glean in his field. He provided for her.)*
- As parents, tell your children what first attracted you to your spouse. Ask them what characteristics are most important to them in a future mate.
- How does Boaz marrying and redeeming Ruth mirror what Jesus did for us?

### For Couples

- How does Ruth's loyalty to Naomi, and Boaz's loyalty to Ruth reflect God's loyalty to your family?
- Who do you know that needs to be reminded that God still loves them? What can you do this week, as a couple, to demonstrate such love?



## FAMILY ACTIVITY

Have a kindness competition. Depending on the ages of your children, you may have to make teams of two. If every family member is old enough, make it an individual competition. The idea

behind this game is to show kindness to each other without expecting anything in return. Ruth showed great love and kindness toward Naomi, even though she couldn't give her anything in return. In a similar way, Boaz showed amazing kindness toward Ruth. God blessed both Ruth and Boaz for their actions.

Encourage your family to show kindness to each other in tangible ways. Maybe it's a kind word or a back rub. Maybe it's something done in secret. You can tape special notes to the mirror in your kids' bathroom. Your daughter can organize the garage. Your son could offer to baby-sit for free or drive a younger sibling somewhere without complaining. A child could clean up the family room or vacuum without being asked. A husband could buy flowers for his wife. The ideas are endless. At the end of a week, reconvene as a family and talk about what meant the most. Discuss what it was like being the giver and what it was like being on the receiving end of the kindness.

- Did being kind to each other change any family dynamics?
- What was the best part?
- How can kindness and unconditional love be shown all the time?
- How does intentionally showing kindness improve family relationships?
- *Read Ephesians 4:32.* What does it teach about kindness and how we should treat each other?

## LIVE IT OUT

For added emphasis on this week's themes, try this *LIVE IT OUT* activity:

Get together as a family and look at the lives of your neighbors and your children's friends. Chances are you know another family that's going through a difficult time, whether it's divorce, serious illness, job layoff or death. If you can't think of anybody who's struggling, call your church and ask for the name of a child who needs to feel loved and encouraged. Once you find a child who's going through a hard time, come up with a plan to show him/her love and acceptance—just like Boaz showed Ruth love and acceptance. Invite this child over for dinner. Offer to pick him or her up and pay for them to join a sports team or club with your child. Bring him/her to the amusement park with your family. Make him/her a consistent part of your family during a difficult time in his/her life. Be the hands and feet of Jesus for this child. Boaz changed Ruth's life forever, and your family can do the same thing!

Punch out and  
attach the  
Chapter 10 card  
here after you  
complete this  
week's Family  
Time.

THE STORY: CHAPTER TEN  
**SAUL**  
**STANDING TALL, FALLING HARD**

**Key Truth:**

**God uses willing hearts to serve him.** God answered Hannah's prayer. God hears me pray, too. Just knowing *about* God leads to failure, while personally knowing God helps you stand tall.

**Bible Basis:** 1 Samuel 1, 3, 8-10:9

**Waypoint Verse:** *"The Lord has filled my heart with joy. He has made me strong"*  
**1 Samuel 2:1, NIV**

**Read:** *The Story*, Chapter 10

**FAMILY TALK**

**For Younger Kids**

- Hannah made a very big promise to God by telling Him she would give her first son to serve Him. When Samuel was born, do you think it was hard for Hannah to hand over her son to Eli at the temple?
- Have you ever made a promise so big that you didn't want to keep it? What did you do?
- How did God reward Hannah? (*She had three more sons and two daughters. Plus, she got to see Samuel grow up to mightily serve the Lord.*)
- Later in chapter 10, it says the people of Israel wanted a king, even though God was supposed to be their king. God let Samuel anoint Saul to be king. If you were king, what decisions would you make?

**For Older Kids**

- Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas grew up in the temple, but didn't honor God. They took for themselves what was God's. Is there an area of your life that you're holding onto, instead of giving it to God? They knew a lot *about* God, but didn't truly know, love and fear Him. How can you show God that you know, love and fear Him?
- What do you think it means in 1 Samuel 10:9 when it says, "God changed Saul's heart?" How has God changed your heart? Saul was 30 years old when he became king of Israel. Is that too young to be king? Do you think his age played a part in Saul sinning against God?

**For Couples**

- If you are parents, take a moment to evaluate your parenting style. Do you tend to be too strict or too permissive/lenient? Read 1 Samuel Chapter 2 together. As parents, what can you learn from Samuel's example?



## FAMILY ACTIVITY

God calling Samuel in the middle of the night is one of the most well-known stories in the Bible. When Eli finally figures out that it's the Lord speaking to Samuel, he tells Samuel to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). What great advice! The Lord wants us to be ready and eager to hear him anytime—day or night.



Construct an old-school "telephone" by using plastic or paper cups, string and tape. Kite string or yarn works well. Once you gather the needed materials, poke a small hole in the bottom of each cup with a pencil. Thread the string through each hole, tie a large knot and then tape the knot on the bottom of the inside of the cups. When you pull the string tight, you'll be able to hear each other when one person speaks softly into the cup and another person listens with the cup to his ear. See if you can say special messages to each other around the corner of a wall or down the stairs. Put the string under furniture or through the banister and see if it works. How long can you make the string and still communicate with each other?

### ***When you're done experimenting, ask:***

- What was the hardest part of communicating using the old-fashioned telephone?
- God doesn't speak to us through cups (*although He could*). What ways does God speak to us today? (*Through the Bible; through godly advice from parents or pastors; through our prayers; through circumstances.*)
- Because of the way that God communicates with us today, does it make reading the Bible and going to church more important? How can you make these two activities more of a priority in your life?
- What do you think you'd do if you heard a voice in the night calling your name?
- What do you think God wants you to do for him?

## LIVE IT OUT

For added emphasis on this week's themes, try this *LIVE IT OUT* activity:

In this part of *The Story*, the Philistines defeat Israel in battle, kill 30,000 soldiers (including Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas) and capture the Ark of God (1 Samuel 4:10-11). Although King David brought the Ark back to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6), it was eventually lost. Movies, including *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, have been made regarding the quest to find God's lost ark. Go to YouTube.com and search for "Ark of the Covenant." Then watch the History Channel special that goes into detail about the Ethiopian Orthodox church having the Ark of Covenant. The video is in four parts and takes about 35 minutes to watch. Discuss as a family what you learn. What do you think about what you saw? Does this video give you more faith that what the Bible says is real?

Punch out and  
attach the  
Chapter 11 card  
here after you  
complete this  
week's Family  
Time.

THE STORY: CHAPTER ELEVEN  
**YOUNG DAVID**  
**FROM SHEPHERD TO KING**

**Key Truth:**

**Total trust in God brings great courage.** David fought in God's strength. God will give me courage when I am afraid.

**Bible Basis:** 1 Samuel 16-17; Psalm 59:1-5, 9-10, 16;  
2 Samuel 2:1-6

**Remember Verse:** 1 Samuel 17:45, NIV  
"I am coming against you in the name of the Lord who rules over all"

**Read:** *The Story*, Chapter 11

**FAMILY TALK**

**For Younger Kids**

- Goliath's enormous size (about 7 feet tall) and strength intimidated Israel's army. Why wasn't David afraid of this big bully?
- Would you have been afraid?
- Are there any bullies at school that scare you? What's the best way to treat a bully? (Note: The correct answer isn't to hit him in the head with a rock.)
- Saul thought David should fight Goliath in the traditional way and dressed David in his armor. Why was that a problem?
- How did David show faith by facing Goliath wearing his regular clothes and using rocks as a weapon?

Note: Young readers will enjoy hearing this story in *the Jesus Storybook Bible* on page 122.

**For Older Kids**

- In King Saul's eyes, Goliath was a massive, immovable force. What are the Goliaths in your life? In other words, what areas of your life do you need God's power to help you overcome?
- Are there any things in your life that mock God? Maybe you're focused more on video games than God. Perhaps it's the music you listen to.
- How can you defeat these Goliaths?
- What's the main lesson you walk away from after reading about David's faith and trust in God?

**For Couples**

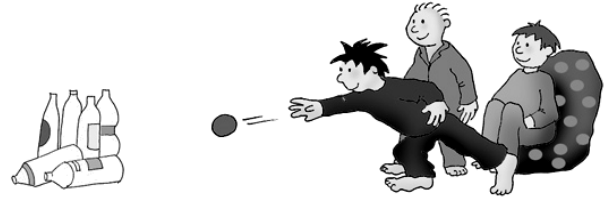
- What "Goliath" are you currently facing both personally and as a couple? How might you encourage one another as you rely on God for a victory?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

How could a teenager defeat the greatest warrior of his era? Two words: God's power. David trusted God to give him the strength to defeat Goliath. He knew he couldn't defeat the ultimate soldier in his own power; David needed supernatural power, not to mention great aim.

Goliath was decked out in more than 125 pounds of armor. David probably weighed just a little more than that. Goliath had a 15-pound spear. David had five smooth stones. Odds were David would end up as a shish kabob. Instead Goliath ended up on his back.

Have your family practice their aim by playing this game. Collect eight to ten 2-liter plastic bottles. Put a couple of inches of water in the bottom of each bottle for stability and set them up as bowling pins. If you're playing the game inside, take turns throwing a pillow at the pins. Each person gets one throw. Count how many pins are knocked down. If you play outside, take turns kicking a soccer ball or throwing a ball at the pins. Play several rounds, keep a running score and declare a winner.



When you're finished, talk about the difficulty of knocking down the pins. Now think how difficult it would've been for David to sling a stone into Goliath's forehead. According to historians, military equipment was pretty advanced at this time. Goliath most likely wore a helmet with a thin slit or visor. The giant probably underestimated David and didn't lower his visor or failed to wear a helmet. With God's help, David made a perfect shot to give Israel the victory.

### **Ask:**

- Do you think people still underestimate God's power today?
- What are some ways to show God's power to the people around you?

## LIVE IT OUT

For added emphasis on this week's themes, try this *LIVE IT OUT* activity:

The contents of the Bible often make their way into the fabric of society. Nearly everyone knows the Golden Rule, which can be found in Luke 6:31. This week's story also has made it into the English lexicon, especially when it comes to sports. Announcers love to talk about a "David versus Goliath" scenario as an underdog team faces a seemingly unbeatable opponent.

Tell a story about a "David and Goliath" type story you have either personally experienced or have witnessed. After telling your story, talk about what it took for a "David" to beat a "Goliath." Ask members of your family if they still believe God gives "Davids" the ability to do the impossible today. Discuss any "Goliaths" your family might currently be facing. Then come up with a game plan for how you might rely on God for a victory.

## KING DAVID THE TRIALS OF A KING

Punch out and  
attach the  
Chapter 12 card  
here after you  
complete your  
Family Time this  
week.

### Key Truth:

**God is just...and forgiving.** God forgave David's sins. Just like David, God will forgive me when I admit that I have missed the mark and sinned against God.

**Bible Basis:** Psalm 51:1-12, 1 Chronicles 29:1-20, Psalm 23

**Waypoint Verse:** *"Wash away all of the evil things I've done. Make me pure from my sin"* **Psalm 51:2, NIV**

**Read:** *The Story*, Chapter 12

### FAMILY TALK

#### For Younger Kids

- King David was called a man after God's heart, but made a huge mistake and tried to cover it up. Is hiding sins ever a good idea? Why?
- The prophet Nathan came to let David know that God knew about David's sin. David was totally embarrassed and felt awful. Have you ever sinned and tried to hide it? What happened? *(As a parent, if you have a story to tell about your childhood, please share it here.)*
- Talk about what it feels like when you're trying to hide something bad that you've done. How does it make you feel?
- What wrong actions do you battle with the most? *(Stealing, lying, anger.)*
- What's the best thing to do when you mess up?

#### For Older Kids

- God forgave David, but there were still consequences for his sin as David and Bathsheba's first son died. Can you think of any consequences you've faced after doing something bad?
- Later, David's son Absalom rebelled against him. Absalom was very proud of his hair, which ended up getting caught in a tree and led to his death (Can anyone say, "Pride comes before getting your hair stuck in a tree"?). Why is pride such a big deal to God?
- Are there any areas of pride that you need to look at in your life?
- Talk about some of David's greatest accomplishments and mess-ups. What can you learn from his life?

#### For Couples

- Read David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:10-20. What aspects of this prayer could be useful for your family? How could having David's perspective on life change your daily lives?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

You'll need waxed paper, a tube of frosting, a rolling pin and sugar cookie dough for this activity. The slice-and-bake dough from the store will work or you can make dough the night before and have it chilling in the refrigerator.

When you're ready, gather your family in the kitchen and ask: "Have you ever done something and then said, 'I wish I could take that back'? David certainly did. Sometimes he did bonehead things and wished he could turn back time."



Put out the waxed paper, tube of frosting and rolling pin. Ask for a volunteer. Have that family member try to get all the frosting out of the tube and onto the waxed paper. They can squeeze it, crush it and use the rolling pin on it. When they are finished, say, "OK, now get all the frosting back in the tube."

Just like it's impossible to reverse time and take back sin, it's impossible to get the frosting back in the tube. Talk about the importance of thinking before you act and trying to always follow God's will and teaching with your words and actions. As you talk, take out the cookie dough. Roll and bake cookies, using the frosting to decorate them. Point out that God can use the mistakes in our life to make something sweet. God will always forgive when we honestly ask Him for forgiveness. He wants us to serve Him with our whole heart.



## LIVE IT OUT

For added emphasis on this week's themes, try one of these *LIVE IT OUT* activities:

**Idea #1:** David did everything with gusto. He served God with passion, and when he messed up—he did it big time! After one especially painful mistake, David poured out his heart to God in Psalm 51.

Go to YouTube and look at these two videos that feature songs based on Psalm 51.

- "Create in Me a Clean Heart" by Keith Green  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzTMnDQFMgw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzTMnDQFMgw)
- "Create in Me a Clean Heart" by Donnie McClurkin  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILRjmPGvVB8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILRjmPGvVB8)

Are any specific lyrics especially meaningful to you?

- Have you ever journaled or written a poem about a time you've messed up? If it's appropriate, share it with the family.
- How are these songs different?

Each person's relationship with God is unique, because He knows our hearts. He knows what will work best to sculpt us to be more like Him.

**Idea #2:** Get to know the Psalms better by reading the one that corresponds to today's date. Go the extra mile by reading all the Psalms that are multiples of the date (example: 17, 34, 51, 68, 85, 102, 119 (watch out for this one!) and 136. Do this for an entire week as a family.