



HOW TO TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT GOD

Includes Videos & Discussion Guide

 **LIVING™**
ON THE EDGE



How to Teach Your Kids About God
Family Devotional with Video and Discussion Guide
© 2018 by Living on the Edge™

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ABOUT LIVING ON THE EDGE

Living on the Edge exists to help Christians live like Christians.

It was established in 1995 as a radio ministry of pastor and author Chip Ingram. It has since grown into an international discipleship ministry with a clear vision: to be a catalytic movement of Christians living out their faith in ways that transform families, churches, and communities for the common good and the glory of God.

Living on the Edge creates biblical teaching and tools that challenge and equip spiritually hungry Christians to become mature disciples of Jesus.



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Way to Go!

The fact that you have this resource in your hands proves that you care about the spiritual life of your family. Let's face it, it's difficult to have significant and intentional conversations. This devotional can help.

Make it a goal to **RECLAIM ONE DINNER A WEEK**. Watch a short video and talk about it over dinner as a family. Then, throughout the week, we've provided you with a ton of ideas that will help your family engage that week's topic.

You may not realize it, but your entire life is built on a single foundation. Every thought and attitude, decision and goal; your relationships and hobbies and career choices; even how you handle success and deal with setbacks ... all of these things rest upon one thing.

The truth is, what you think about God is the most important thing about you. Here are two questions for you to consider:

Who do you think God is?

What do you think God thinks about when He thinks of you?

It's impossible to be human and not have some concept of God, and the thoughts we have about God make a real difference in our lives. If you think God wants to punish humanity, you'll live in constant fear. If you believe God is good, you'll trust Him even when life gets tough.

What you think about God shapes your whole relationship with Him. In addition, what you believe God thinks about you determines how close you will grow toward Him. This is true for you, and for everyone in your family.

In this devotional, you'll explore seven characteristics of God and get to know Him as He really is. The teachings in these videos are based on God's Word—not popular opinion or clever ideas. In addition to the videos, this guide will help you have meaningful conversations with your kids as you explore God as He really is.

Praying for your family's spiritual growth,

LIVING ON THE EDGE TEAM
Helping Christians Live Like Christians



HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

Pray

God wants to hear from you, and He wants to help! Come to God in humility, ask Him to soften your heart and clear your mind so that you can hear Him speak.

Prepare

1. BEGIN WITH THIS GUIDE.

Plan on spending 10 minutes each week to prepare for your time together as a family to watch and then talk about the video. Read through the lesson and take some time to consider how the ideas and questions in this guide will work best for your family.

2. FIND THE VIDEOS ONLINE.

These videos can be found at:

<https://get.livingontheedge.org/teach-kids-about-god/>

3. SCHEDULE YOUR DINNER TOGETHER.

Life is busy! Homework is tough! Truth is, if you don't schedule a time as a family for this devotional, it probably won't happen. Turn intentions into action and pick a time that is best for your family (it doesn't have to be dinner, of course). Build consistency by sticking to the same time each week.



Keep in Mind

1. RELAX AND BE REALISTIC.

You don't need to be perfect—no parent is.

Neither do you need to be an expert on the Bible—no parent does.

Ask God for His help! The Creator of the universe will help you. As a parent, you are the primary influence in your kids' spiritual life. This is a big time responsibility, but don't let that stress you out! YOU WERE MADE FOR THIS! Literally, God chose you to be a parent to your kids. God will be with you as you grow closer to Jesus and help your kids do the same.

2. OWN IT.

Use your own words. Don't feel like you need to read the questions off the page. It's more natural to ask questions how you want to ask them!

3. DON'T GIVE UP.

Don't be discouraged if your kids don't "get it" right away. Parenting, and learning about God, is a process! Much of what you do today will plant a seed for the future. If you have preteens or teens, they often show very little even when they are engaging on the inside. Don't be discouraged if a conversation or activity doesn't go well—that's ok! It's difficult to have significant conversations and they aren't all going to be "perfect."

4. BE CONSISTENT.

The best learning happens when we fall into a predictable rhythm. Life is busy, but don't let that keep you from your family devotions. There will always be a million reasons to skip a week. To put it simply, don't.

5. HAVE FUN!

Keep things upbeat and positive. If your conversations wander away from your plans, that's ok. The goal is to have great conversations about our great God!

HOW TO TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT GOD

Session One
**SEEKING
GOD**

Preparation

READ THROUGH THE LESSON AND WATCH THE VIDEO TO DECIDE HOW THIS GUIDE WILL WORK BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY.



Big Idea

GOD LONGS FOR US TO SEE HIM—AS HE REALLY IS.

The goodness of God means He wants the best for us. God is generous, kind, and caring. God is good all the time, even when life is difficult.

Key Verse

JEREMIAH 29:13 (NLT)

If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

Understanding the Character of God

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD ABOUT HIS CHARACTER



Goodness: God is good, all the time.

"The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation." Psalm 145:9 (NLT)

Sovereignty: God knows everything and is in complete control.

"He (God) existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together." Colossians 1:17 (NLT)

Holiness: God is set apart from His creation, perfect and independent.

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below." 1 Kings 8:23

Wisdom: God's perfect knowledge always leads to the best decisions.

"Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!" Romans 11:33 (NLT)

Justice: Life is not always fair; God is.

"Then let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge." Psalm 50:6 (NLT)

Love: God's love will always find us.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10

Faithfulness: God never breaks His promises.

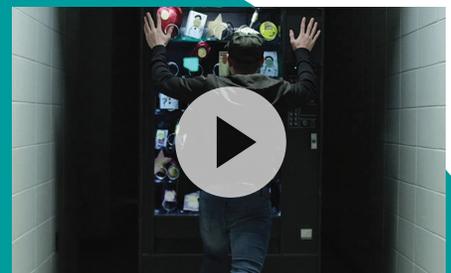
"For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does." Psalm 33:4

VIEW



SET UP THE VIDEO FOR YOUR FAMILY

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



Play video:
"VENDING MACHINE"



LET'S TALK



CHOOSE A FEW QUESTIONS TO BEST HELP YOUR FAMILY TALK ABOUT THE VIDEO



- What did you like most about the video?
- What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- Even though the first two kids got what they wanted from the vending machine, they ended up being very frustrated. Why do you think this happened?
- Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- Who do you imagine God is? Pick five words that you think best describe God and write them down. Tell us what they mean and why you picked them.
- If God loves to give us good things, why isn't He like a vending machine?
- If God is always there for us, why does it sometimes feel like He's far away?
- The narrator ends the story by saying, "Maybe it's better if we let God tell us who He is and base our picture of Him on what He says about Himself." In your opinion, how can we let this happen?
- What do other people think is true about you? Why does that matter to your relationship with them?
- The narrator said, "What you think about God is the most important thing about you." Why do you think this is true? Why did he say this? *(This may be a tough question for your kids. Take a moment to let it "soak" in and then share your response. The truth is, what we think about God impacts every attitude, thought, and action we take. If we believe God is loving, then we won't let our guilt keep us from him. If we believe God doesn't care about us, we'll live according to our own standard.)*



HOW TO TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT GOD

Session Two

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Preparation

READ THROUGH THE LESSON AND WATCH THE VIDEO TO DECIDE
HOW THIS GUIDE WILL WORK BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY.



Big Idea

GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME.

The goodness of God means He wants the best for us: God is generous, kind, and caring. God is good all the time, even when life is difficult.

Key Verse

PSALM 145:9 (NLT)

The Lord is good to everyone.
He showers compassion on all His creation.

Understanding the Goodness of God

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM THE BIBLE ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER



All of God's actions are good. God cannot be tempted to do evil. When we experience pain and loss, it can be difficult to see that God is good. When we trust in His goodness, He becomes our anchor in the storm.

"You are good, and what you do is good." Psalm 119:68

As the Creator, God wants everyone to experience His goodness, offering blessing and refuge to all who will come to Him.

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." Psalm 34:8

Every good thing in our life comes from God. He's not an angry father or an unfair judge. God wants the very best for us because He is good.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father..." James 1:17

God's goodness means He teaches us to do right. No one is perfect. In spite of our brokenness and rebellion against God, His goodness draws us closer to Him.

"Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways." Psalm 25:8

VIEW

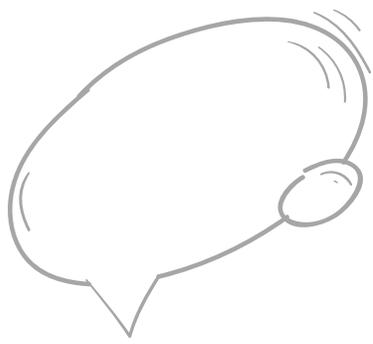


SET UP THE VIDEO FOR YOUR FAMILY

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



Play video:
"LOST DOG"



LET'S TALK



CHOOSE A FEW QUESTIONS TO BEST HELP YOUR FAMILY TALK ABOUT THE VIDEO



- What did you like most about the video?
- What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- How was the story of the lost dog an example of God's goodness?
- What does it mean that God is good?
- Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- Describe a difficult or challenging time in your life when it was hard to see God as a good, loving father.
- If God is always there for us, why does it sometimes feel like He's far away?
- Is God good all the time? What if the dog never made it back home, or if God doesn't answer our prayers in the way we want?
- What are some situations when it's hard for you to be good toward others? Who are some people that make it difficult for you to treat them with goodness?
- When we believe that God is good, we trust in Him. On a practical and personal level, what does it mean to trust God? *(Depending on the age of your kids, you may not get much of a response. After a few minutes of letting the question "soak in," answer the question. Tell your kids what it means for you and your family to trust God.)*



HOW TO TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT GOD

Session Three

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

Preparation

READ THROUGH THE LESSON AND WATCH THE VIDEO TO DECIDE
HOW THIS GUIDE WILL WORK BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY.



Big Idea

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING AND IS IN COMPLETE CONTROL.

As the Creator of the universe, nothing escapes God's attention or is beyond His power. God is never surprised or out of control because He is the King of the universe.

Key Verse

COLOSSIANS 1:17 (NLT)

He (God) existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together.

Understanding the Sovereignty of God

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD ABOUT HIS CHARACTER



**God's sovereignty is the attribute by which
He rules His entire creation. To be sovereign, God
must be all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely free.**

1. God created all things, both in heaven and on earth, both visible and invisible. He sustains all things, holding them together.

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Colossians 1:16-17

2. God is all-powerful and He can do all things. Nothing is too difficult for Him. Nothing—not anything—is impossible for Him.

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

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

3. God knows all things; He isn't limited. God knows everything completely before it happens.

"Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely." Psalm 139:4

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:13

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Understanding the Sovereignty of God

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4. God is absolutely free; He doesn't owe anyone anything. No one has any power over God. It's impossible to give something to God He doesn't already possess because everything belongs to Him.

"This is what the LORD says— Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God." Isaiah 44:6

"Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours." 1 Chronicles 29:11

"For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes." Deuteronomy 10:17

VIEW

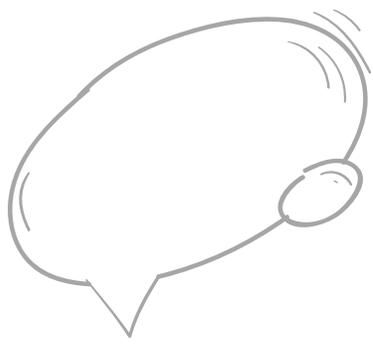


SET UP THE VIDEO FOR YOUR FAMILY

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



Play video:
"MICRO MACRO"



LET'S TALK



CHOOSE A FEW QUESTIONS TO BEST HELP YOUR
FAMILY TALK ABOUT THE VIDEO



- What did you like most about the video?
- What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- "Sovereign" means holding a position of power and authority, like a king or president of a country. Can you name other examples of "sovereignty?" How do these positions impact and control your life?
- When it comes to "human sovereignty" (for example, a teacher at school or a boss at work), what are some healthy ways to respond to authority? What are some poor or unhealthy ways to respond to authority?
- How is human sovereignty different from God's sovereignty? How is human control and leadership different from God's control and leadership?
- How do you typically respond when things are out of your control ... when stuff happens you don't like but can't do anything about?
- God knows everything about our lives. He knows about the good things and the bad things like worry, fear, and doubt. On a practical level, how can the sovereignty of God help us through the bad things?
- Since God is both good (session #2) and sovereign, why does God allow bad things to happen? *(Parents: this is a HUGE question, but an important one to explore as a family. For more information on this topic, check out The Real God by Chip Ingram)*



HOW TO TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT GOD

Session Four
**THE HOLINESS
OF GOD**

Preparation

READ THROUGH THE LESSON AND WATCH THE VIDEO TO DECIDE
HOW THIS GUIDE WILL WORK BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY.



Big Idea

GOD IS SET APART FROM HIS CREATION, PERFECT AND INDEPENDENT.

The holiness of God divides Him from everyone and everything in His creation.

He is perfect and independent in every way. God's holiness is total freedom from all evil. Literally, there is nothing like God. He is the ultimate.

Key Verse

1 KINGS 8:23

LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below.

Understanding the Holiness of God

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD ABOUT HIS CHARACTER



1. God's holiness makes Him utterly incomparable to anything we know or experience. Our minds are too limited to understand our unlimited God.

"Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?" Exodus 15:11

2. The holiness of God is powerful and shocking, His absolute purity reveals our impurity. In Isaiah 6, the prophet has a vision of God sitting on His throne, the angels were singing:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined!" Isaiah 6:3-5

3. Without holiness, no one can see God. He is perfect and our imperfection cannot exist in His presence. We are made holy and perfect by faith in the sacrifice of Jesus. Our response to the free gift of salvation is to pursue a life of holiness. God is calling His children to be holy like He is holy. This means living according to God's standard, not our own or the standards of the world.

"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

"For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy." Hebrews 10:14

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:14-16

VIEW



SET UP THE VIDEO FOR YOUR FAMILY

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



Play video:
"THE ARROW"



LET'S TALK

CHOOSE A FEW QUESTIONS TO BEST HELP YOUR FAMILY TALK ABOUT THE VIDEO



- What did you like most about the video?
- What was the point of the story? What did it teach about God and His Son, Jesus?
- Ask your kids to explain the symbolism of the story. If needed, use the following prompts:
 - How does the story describe the High King?
 - What was the High King's requirement?
 - How did the people respond to the High King's requirement?
 - Why didn't the last archer take the shot?
 - Why did the last archer get to see the King?

••• EXPLAIN

1. Only God is perfect (holy). Imperfect (sinful) people can't have a relationship with a perfect God. In the video, everyone would die in the presence of the king unless they passed the test.
2. People have no way to become perfect on our own. In the video, no one could hit the target because it was an impossible shot.
3. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and defeated death through the resurrection. In the video, this is shown by the Son hitting the target, perfectly in the middle.
4. Our response is to accept the free gift of salvation by believing in Jesus. By faith, we can take credit for His perfection. In the video, this is shown by the fourth archer refusing to take the shot and asking the Son for mercy.



- Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- What does it mean to be a Christian?
- What does it mean to have faith in Jesus?
- How does a person enter God's family and gain eternal life?



HOW TO TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT GOD

Session Five
**THE WISDOM
OF GOD**

Preparation

READ THROUGH THE LESSON AND WATCH THE VIDEO TO DECIDE
HOW THIS GUIDE WILL WORK BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY.



Big Idea

GOD'S PERFECT KNOWLEDGE ALWAYS LEADS
TO THE BEST DECISIONS.

Wisdom is the application of knowledge to real life.

Key Verse

ROMANS 11:33 (NLT)

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge!

Understanding the Wisdom of God

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD ABOUT HIS CHARACTER



“What is wisdom?

**It is the skill to achieve the most perfect ends
by the most perfect means.”**

Tozer, A. W., *The Attributes of God* (VOL. 2, p. 130)

1. The wisdom of God is infinite, perfect, and complete. There is nothing God doesn't know. It is impossible for God to be surprised.

“His wisdom is profound, his power is vast.” Job 9:4

“Do you know how the clouds hang poised, those wonders of him who has perfect knowledge?” Job 37:16

“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” Romans 11:33-34

2. God is the ultimate source of wisdom, He didn't need to “learn” from anyone or anything.

“Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?” Isaiah 40:14

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Understanding the Wisdom of God

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3. God has revealed His wisdom in Jesus, His Son. We are made right with God—have a relationship with Him—through faith in Jesus.

“It is because of [God] that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.” 1 Corinthians 1:30

4. God calls us to live a good life according to His wisdom. Wisdom begins with reverence for God. We must genuinely respect God if we are going to learn from Him.

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. [...] But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” James 3:13; 17

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.” Proverbs 9:10

VIEW



SET UP THE VIDEO FOR YOUR FAMILY

“We’re going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let’s pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God.”



Play video:
“FROZEN MOMENT”



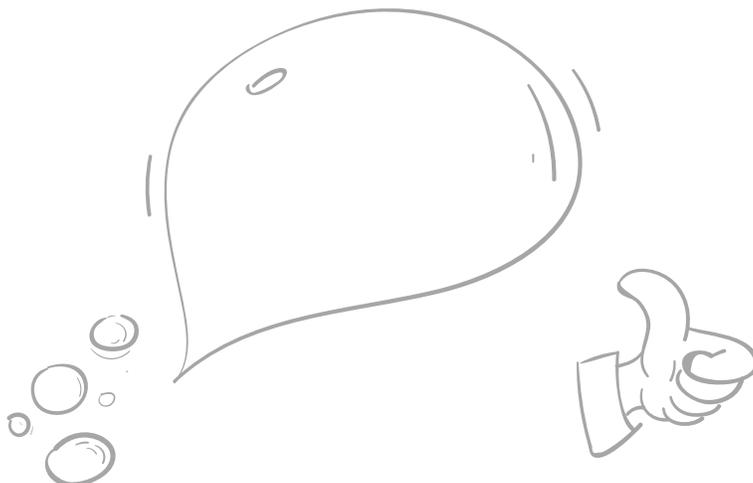
LET'S TALK



CHOOSE A FEW QUESTIONS TO BEST HELP YOUR
FAMILY TALK ABOUT THE VIDEO



- What did you like most about the video?
- What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- What good came as a result of the car accident? What happened to the man walking on the sidewalk due to the accident? What would he go on to achieve with his life?
- Do you think the driver ever saw the good that happened? How do you think the driver felt about the accident?
- Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- In your opinion, was the car accident a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
- Can God really know everything since bad things happen? Why doesn't He stop them from happening?
- We are called to grow in wisdom and make increasingly better decisions. What can a person do to gain God's wisdom?



HOW TO TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT GOD

Session Six
**THE JUSTICE
OF GOD**

Preparation

READ THROUGH THE LESSON AND WATCH THE VIDEO TO DECIDE
HOW THIS GUIDE WILL WORK BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY.



Big Idea

LIFE IS NOT ALWAYS FAIR. GOD IS.

God's justice gives evil what it deserves; every wrong will be made right. Justice is not a standard God follows, He IS the standard. Truth is, bad things happen to people who don't deserve it. We can trust God because He will set all things right, and His justice will be satisfied.

Key Verse

PSALM 50:6 (NLT)

Then let the heavens proclaim His justice, for God Himself will be the judge.

Understanding the Justice of God

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD ABOUT HIS CHARACTER



1. God's justice means that people are going to get what they deserve based on God's clear and full understanding of what they did and why they did it.

"Your eyes are open to the ways of all mankind; you reward each person according to their conduct and as their deeds deserve." Jeremiah 32:19 (NIV); See also Colossians 3:25

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:13

2. God's justice is impartial and fair. He can not be bribed, tricked, or coerced into passing biased judgements.

"For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes." Deuteronomy 10:17

3. We do not always understand God's justice. While life is not always fair, we know that He does not treat people unfairly.

"The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power; in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress." Job 37:23

4. God's heart is for everyone to receive mercy and enter His family through faith in Jesus. Therefore, God may delay His justice.

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

VIEW



SET UP THE VIDEO FOR YOUR FAMILY

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



Play video:
"CLOSED CIRCUIT"



LET'S TALK



CHOOSE A FEW QUESTIONS TO BEST HELP YOUR
FAMILY TALK ABOUT THE VIDEO



- What did you like most about the video?
- What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- Can you relate to Ellie, the girl who was bullied? Have you ever had something happen to you that was totally unfair? What happened? Did it ever get resolved?
- Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- In your opinion, what does it mean that God is just?
- When you are treated unfairly, how do you feel? What is your natural impulse?
- Do you feel like you've treated anyone unfairly in the last week? If so, what happened? Is there anything you can do to make it right?
- In the video, the narrator says, "God sees you. He watches over you. He knows your good days and your bad days. You are never forgotten, never left alone. And He promises in the end, He will make all things right." How does this make you feel? What could it look like for you to trust God's justice?



HOW TO TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT GOD

Session Seven
**THE LOVE
OF GOD**

Preparation

READ THROUGH THE LESSON AND WATCH THE VIDEO TO DECIDE
HOW THIS GUIDE WILL WORK BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY.



Big Idea

GOD'S LOVE WILL ALWAYS FIND US.

God's love for us is perfect. We can't gain more of God's love—He loves us fully, it's not possible for Him to love us more. We can't lose any of His love—He loves us unconditionally, no strings attached. Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love: He sent His Son to live a perfect life, die for our sins, and defeat death through the resurrection—all so that we might be found and have a relationship with God.

Key Verse

PSALM 23:6 (NLT)

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life.

Understanding the Love of God

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD ABOUT HIS CHARACTER



“God’s love is His holy disposition toward all that He has created that compels Him to express unconditional affection and selective correction to provide the highest quality of existence, both now and forever, for the object of His love.” (Chip Ingram, *The Real God*, p. 213)

1. Holy disposition—Holy means “other” and “set apart.” God doesn’t love like people love. His love is perfect and infinitely better. God’s love is unconditional. This is difficult for us to understand because human love is all about, “ifs,” “maybes,” and “becauses.” I love you if you do this...or I love you because you...God loves us because of who He is, not for what we do for Him.

“For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.” Psalm 117:2

2. Affection and correction—God is affectionate and gracious when we are good, and He is affectionate and gracious when we are evil.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

3. Highest quality of existence—God sent His Son, Jesus, so that we might have eternal life through faith in Him. Jesus lived a perfect life, died for crimes He didn’t commit, and defeated the grave by raising from the dead.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

VIEW



SET UP THE VIDEO FOR YOUR FAMILY

“We’re going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let’s pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God.”



Play video:
“LOST & FOUND”



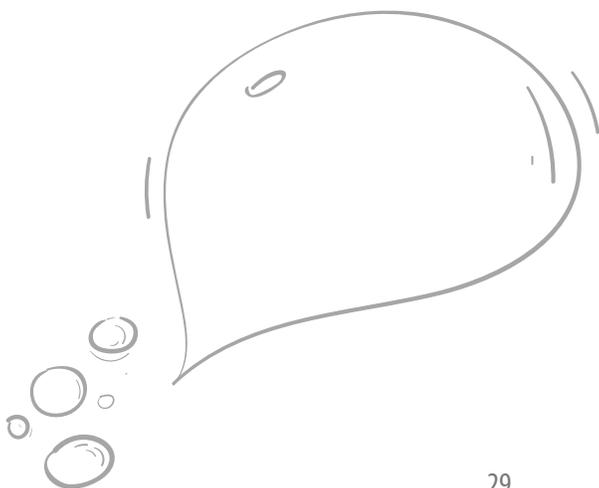
LET'S TALK



CHOOSE A FEW QUESTIONS TO BEST HELP YOUR
FAMILY TALK ABOUT THE VIDEO



- What did you like most about the video?
- What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- This video is a beautiful story of a boy searching for his lost toy. After much searching, he finds it! How do you think this story relates to God's love and what He has done for us?
- Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- What's your favorite possession, the thing you love the most? What would you do if you lost it? How far would you go to get it back?
- The Bible says, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10) How does this verse relate to the story in the video?
- God's love for us is constant, and it's not based on anything we do—good or bad. How does this concept help with your faith?
- God loves the lost, people who don't believe in Jesus, so much that He sent His Son so that anyone who believes in Him will have eternal life. What could it look like for you to be loving to people who don't believe in Jesus?



HOW TO TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT GOD

Session Eight

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Preparation

READ THROUGH THE LESSON AND WATCH THE VIDEO TO DECIDE
HOW THIS GUIDE WILL WORK BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY.



Big Idea

GOD NEVER BREAKS HIS PROMISES

Every relationship is built on trust. You trust the pilot to fly the plane, so you get on board. You trust the bank to protect your money, so that's where you deposit your paycheck. The world promises a lot more than it actually delivers. The truth is that God has been making promises since the beginning of time, and He has kept every one of them. God is faithful; we can trust in Him because He never breaks His promises.

Key Verse

PSALM 33:4 (NIV)

For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all he does.

Understanding the Faithfulness of God

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD ABOUT HIS CHARACTER



1. We all depend on something or someone to “hold us up” on the inside—this is our hope. When that thing or person is “coming through” for us, we experience a sense of optimism about the future. When our hope is disappointed, when we are “let down,” we experience a sense of anxiety, dissatisfaction, and ultimately, despair. Hope is the oxygen of the soul.

“Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, [...] without hope and without God in the world.” Ephesians 2:12

2. We can put our hope in God because His actions and words are consistent. There is one thing God cannot do. He cannot cease to be what He is—the perfect God. We can always trust God, no matter what, because He will never let us down. The world will fail us. It will devastate us when it breaks its promises, but God is faithful.

“The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.” Psalm 145:13

“Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23

“So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.” Hebrews 6:18

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

Understanding the Faithfulness of God

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

3. We can trust God's Word, the Bible, because God is faithful.

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:10-12

4. We can trust God to be faithful when we face difficult struggles. When we put our hope in Him, He provides a way out.

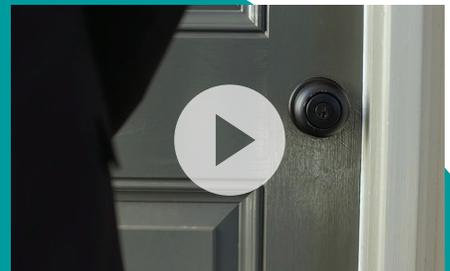
"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide way out so that you can endure it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

VIEW



SET UP THE VIDEO FOR YOUR FAMILY

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



Play video:
"EXPLODING PROMISES"

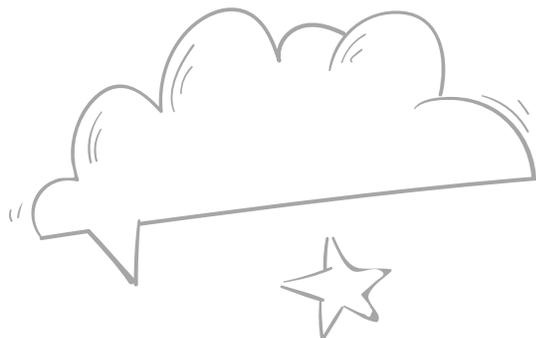
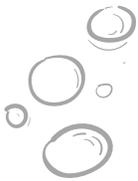
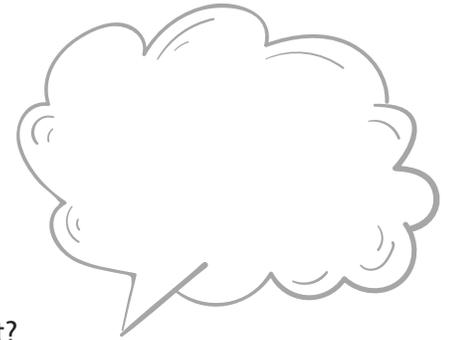


LET'S TALK



CHOOSE A FEW QUESTIONS TO BEST HELP YOUR
FAMILY TALK ABOUT THE VIDEO

- What did you like most about the video?
- What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- Would you trust anything Jack Thomas had to say? Why or why not?
- Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- Why do you think it is important that God is faithful?
- Jack Thomas was not faithful to his promises. How do you feel when a person breaks a promise to you?
- What are some things a person can do to build trust with a friend?
- God promises to never break one of His promises. Can you think of another promise God has made?
- There are four practical ways we can trust in God's faithfulness. Which one do you think you might be able to do this week?
 1. Put your past behind you by saying sorry to God.
 2. Bring your problems, pain, and mistakes to God.
 3. Put your hope for the future in God rather than the world.
 4. Share with someone about God's faithfulness in your life.





Seven Promises of God

In this devotional, we have looked at seven characteristics about God. These aren't just interesting facts; these are promises we can trust, no matter what happens in our lives. Which of these promises means the most to you right now?



GOOD: God is good, all the time.

"The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation."

PSALM 145:9 (NLT)

SOVEREIGN: God knows everything and is in complete control.

"He (God) existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together."

COLOSSIANS 1:17 (NLT)

HOLY: God is high and holy, set apart from His creation in every way.

"LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below."

1 KINGS 8:23

WISE: God's perfect knowledge always leads to the best decisions.

*"Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge!
How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!"*

ROMANS 11:33 (NLT)

JUST: God is always fair, even when life isn't.

"Then let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge."

PSALM 50:6 (NLT)

LOVING: God's love will always find us.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

LUKE 19:10

FAITHFUL: God never breaks His promises.

"For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does."

PSALM 33:4



Acknowledgements

Any project like this family devotional requires many dedicated hands to successfully complete it. Living on the Edge would like to thank the following people for the many hours they put into this tool for parents.



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Matt McGill for fine-tuning and shaping the final form of the devotional.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We encourage you to send us feedback of how these faith conversations impacted your family:

How did this resource work in your family?

What creative ideas did you use? Did you come up with any of your own?

What worked really well, and what could we improve?

EMAIL: info@livingontheedge.org • **ONLINE:** LivingontheEdge.org/story



More Resources



For more resources about
the character of God,
check out **The Real God** series
on LivingontheEdge.org.